

Lamorinda Community

Calendar, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, March 24	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, March 20	
Thursday, April 3	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, March 25	
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road	
Wednesday, April 9	
Circulation	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, April 7	
Emergency Prep.	9:15am
City Offices 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 265	
Wednesday, April 9	
Senior Services	3:30pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, March 27	
check online: Town of Lafayette: http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us	
• all meeting notes	
• calendar updates	
Chamber of Commerce: http://www.lafayettechamber.org	
• local businesses	
• upcoming events	



In the wee hours, 3/02/08
Unknown suspect sprayed graphic images, of the masculine gender, in mustard all over a Lafayette woman's driveway sometime early in the morning. Even after the driveway was cleaned, damage from the mustard was still evident. Eight Safeway-brand mustard containers were taken from the scene as evidence and checked for fingerprints. No witnesses or suspects at this time.

Too tired, 3/04/08
A suspect used a "tire iron" to break the window and take property from the back seat of two different vehicles parked at an apartment complex on 3279 Mt. Diablo Blvd sometime before 6 am.

No more music, 3/05/08
Around dawn an unknown suspect smashed the rear door window of a parked utility vehicle on Augustine Drive and reached in to grab two black cases with musical instruments inside. No suspects or witnesses.

Faked it and fled, 3/06/08
An unknown suspect attempted unsuccessfully to use a counterfeit \$100 bill at Oasis Cafe. Next, the suspect tried SWAD Indian restaurant, but when the manager of SWAD took the bill into the kitchen to examine it, the suspect high-tailed it to the BART station.

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Library Artists Wanted

By Cathy Tyson

Creative person or team of artists wanted to develop artwork for the currently under construction Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Must live or work within California, and apply before the Friday, April 11th deadline. There are two commissions available. The largest, with a budget of \$245,000 is for two site-specific pieces for the Outdoor Plaza Corridor that will hopefully not clash with the contemporary Bay Area Craftsman style of the building.

The Children's Activity Deck has a budget of \$82,500 for a permanent outdoor art project to beautify the enclosed outdoor area for younger patrons to blow off some steam, while their caretakers can read or relax while watching them.

According to the project scope, "finalists will be asked to develop a proposal that may include some of the following characteristics: tactile, playful or whimsical, kinetic, interactive, imaginative, practical, durable and easy to maintain." Easier said than done.

"No one has applied so far, at least last time I checked," said Carin Adams, Project Manager at the Oakland Museum of California.

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Meet Lafayette's Public Works Manager

By Cathy Tyson



Ron Lefler, Public Works Services Manager Photo Cathy Tyson

Who knew that the attractive trailer and large shed along Camino Diablo was Pothole Repair Central for Lafayette residents? Most citizens' only contact with Public Works is via the phone or e-mail when a tree falls across their street, or a storm drain is clogged. As Ron Lefler, Public Works Services Manager for almost nine years, explained one recent afternoon, that's just the tip of the iceberg.

"We maintain the city's infrastructure, keep it in good shape and keep within our budget," said Lefler, getting right to the point. He continued, "We basically maintain all the traffic signals and

street lights in town, and maintain all the street and median landscaping. In the wintertime we make sure all of the storm drains are open and keep the creeks flowing. With all the recent rain, we've done really well this year."

One of their least glamorous, but most common jobs is repairing potholes. A simple straight-forward Service Request order form to report potholes or streetlight outages is posted on the Public Works page of the city website. "Most potholes we fill in about 24 hours - that's our personal goal. We have a computerized database; we track everything that comes into the of-

ice, to make sure we follow up and get things done. We try to give people reasonable timelines for repair."

It's important to note that the Engineering Department is responsible for major roadway work, and sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner. As much as we would like to repair all of the roads in Lafayette, there's simply not enough money.

One of the best parts of the job, according to Lefler is "the satisfaction of getting things done and within budget - that's a big thing for me. We have not exceeded an operating budget in nine years."

"I think the worst thing about the job is not getting everything done you'd like to get done.

There's always a backlog of work requests. It's like doing laundry, it never ends. There's always potholes to fill, and long-term things you'd like to do like improving operations, often just can't get done because you're busy doing the laundry every day."

The department uses mostly herbicides and fertilizers and very little pesticide, all of course are EPA approved; they help keep the City's landscape investment green and healthy.

Parking Problems at Whole Foods

By Cathy Tyson

Lafayette residents wondering what is up with the new Whole Foods need only look as far as the parking lot to check on its status. A couple of weeks ago there was a meeting with the store's representative and their outside consultant, to discuss the parking issue. In a nutshell, there aren't enough parking places as the lot is currently laid out to meet the City requirement.

Lafayette, like all other cities has regulations based on

the type of land use that a building requires. Currently there are a total of 383 parking spaces on the non-Safeway side of the shopping center. The existing businesses, McCaulou's, Noah's, Jamba Juice and Peet's, to name a few, take up a substantial number of those spots.

The current Municipal Code requires one parking spot for each 250 square feet of net floor area for retail businesses. Unfortunately the Planning

Department has not been provided a floor plan as yet, to determine the exact amount of spaces needed. But it's safe to say, considering the size of the existing building, there won't be enough parking spaces as the lot is currently configured.

"I'm hopeful that we can work something out," said Ken Hines, Vice President of Store Development for the Northern California Region.

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