

## Big Turnout for Budget Workshop

By Cathy Tyson

### Lafayette

A full house of concerned citizens participated in a budget workshop on May 27, letting Lafayette's City Council members know where they believe budget dollars should be spent. There will be a public hearing on the Proposed Budget at the June 9th Regular City Council Meeting.

Quite a few seniors in attendance persuasively made their case for increased funding for expanding senior programs including adding a second Spirit Van.

Clearly the public input made an impression on the Council, although there was an undercurrent of concern regarding maintenance costs of a second van going forward. "We're going to have to move to provide more

services. I see Spirit Van II as essential," said Carl Anduri.

City Manager Steve Falk summarized the situation, "The Council liked the recommendations made by the Senior Services Commission but indicated that it would prefer to wait until the Senior Needs Assessment is completed before it fully implements those recommendations. I thought it was a good meeting, and I was impressed by the members and organization of the Senior Services Commission. They have a mission – to advocate on behalf of the City's aging population and they do it well."

The City Manager's budget for the next fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2008 and runs through June 30, 2008 is only a recommendation; the City Council has ultimate authority in these matters, according to Falk.

Seniors will be happy to note that a Staff Report prepared

by Tracy Robinson, Administrative Services Director on June 2, 2008 states that the Council "instructed staff to change the Senior Services budget to reflect 49 hours of temporary personnel. The issue of adding regular, benefited staff to this program was deferred until after the Senior Needs Assessment is completed. This change resulted in an increase of \$7,045."