

# Lamorinda Community

## Calendar, Notes, News

# Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, July 14	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, July 3	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, July 8	
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road	
Friday, July 9	
Circulation	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, July 7	
Senior Services	3:30pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, June 26	

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



Car burglary, 6/10/08 A suspect broke into the rear drivers side window of car parked on Carol Lane in a carport. A DVD system including two roof mounted screens was stolen from the Toyota Sequoia.

Attempted burglary, 6/9/08 Two suspects, one male and one female broke the rear window in the master bathroom of a Silverado Drive home. When they removed the window screen an audible alarm was activated. They fled in a Chevrolet Trailblazer for a short distance then continued on foot. It turns out the get away car was rented from Enterprise. Perhaps the driver's license and credit card they used to hire the vehicle will lead to their arrest.

Petty Theft, 6/02/08 A young woman attempted to stop a theft in progress. An unknown suspect wearing a black hoodie was seen taking her purse from her car parked on Dewing Avenue. She yelled at him, causing him to flee on his bicycle down the street. The area was checked, but the cycling thief appears to have gotten away.

Burglary, 6/02/08 An unknown suspect entered a Bayer Circle home and took \$11,650 worth of jewelry and \$320 in cash. No suspects at this time.



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Tucked in Lafayette, this inviting 3BD/1BA is a true treat inside and out! Filled with character and warmth, a close look will reveal the many upgrades to this home plus professionally landscaped property!

### Senior Housing Coming to Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



Architectural drawing from Van Meter Williams Pollack, LLP

After one false start, it's full speed ahead for a potential senior housing project in downtown Lafayette. Eden Housing, a Hayward based developer of quality affordable housing communities was recommended by the Senior Housing Task Force and approved by the City Council as their recommended senior housing provider after extensive interviews with a number of developers.

Because of rising land values and a lack of available properties within the downtown area, it has been challenging finding a site for the project.

Back in November of 2007, the Butler Conti site was in negotiations with Eden but the two parties were unable to seal the deal. Luckily right next door, a 0.8 acre site owned by the Lemos Family Trust at 3426 Mount Diablo Boulevard became available and in late January of this year Eden entered into a purchase agreement.

"Currently they are in a due diligence research period with an option to purchase," said Glenda Warmoth Assistant Planner on the project. Recently there was a Study Session with Design Review Commission which comes before the formal application to the city. "This is an opportunity to get design related feedback. The DRC weighed the pros and cons of two possible design options of the building." She continued, "We would definitely like to see more senior housing in town."

A 53,619 square foot structure is proposed with approximately 47 units for seniors. The site has a few challenges that were discovered during the due diligence period, namely two storm drain lines, one electrical line and a portion of an EBMUD aqueduct. These utilities necessitated some adjustments, especially the 6'6" buried water line.

### Future of Chevron Station Uncertain

By Cathy Tyson

On June ninth an attorney representing Chevron applied for a permit to demolish the Chevron Gas station at the corner of Happy Valley and Mount Diablo Boulevard at a recent Redevelopment Agency meeting. The Agency adopted the resolution, subject to certain conditions.

This was an odd situation for the two parties involved, the land owner, a retired Republican political consultant based in Los Angeles and Chevron, who owns the improvements to the property: the pumps, the canopy, the building and the underground tanks. According to a recent staff report the owner wants to sell the property, and "requests removal of all service station improvements to provide a build-

able lot for prospective buyers." Due to its prime location, the land, just shy of half an acre, has surely grown more valuable over the years.

Despite the application for demolition, Chevron claims to want to work with the land owner. "We are negotiating in good faith. We have every hope to continue our relationship with the community. We intend to stay. I can't speak for the land owner, but we sincerely hope to re-up our lease," said Janli Degenhardt, of Chevron Community Relations. Then why get the demolition permit?

The strange thing is, according to Associate Planner Lindy Coburn, Chevron could just close down the station and cease operations if it wanted to. Wendy Borchardt, the land owner did not immediately return calls for comment.

### Martinis for a Cause

By Cathy Tyson and Jennifer Wake



From left, Amy Daggett, Kelly Mullane and Elisa Pimi enjoying their martinis Photo Cathy Tyson

Why the long line of parked cars in front of the Lafayette Park Hotel last Monday night? Is Obama in town, could it be our first same sex marriage? No, this reporter and colleague Jennifer Wake had the extremely difficult job of covering the Ninth Annual Best Martini in the East Bay Contest. Sponsored by Level Vodka by Absolut and the Lafayette Park Hotel, the event featured fourteen bartenders, shaking up their signature martinis.

Cars not only lined Mt. Diablo Boulevard, but neighboring streets as well. Patrons, many in high heels, hiked for blocks to get a chance to sample these martinis.

Literally hundreds of twenty to fifty-somethings donated \$20 for the event which benefits Project Second Chance, the Contra Costa Library program that helps adults learn to read. Although the final numbers aren't in, last year the event netted more than \$13,000.

"We want to thank everyone who attended, by doing so, you ad-

vanced the cause of adult literacy," said Program Manager Laura Seaholm.

Bartenders from local watering holes lined the patio area and large reception room duking it out pouring three ounce samples of their 'tini's in the hopes of winning two awards and bragging rights; the Best Martini title from a panel of judges and the People's Choice Award voted on by slightly sloshed attendees. Swinging background music on this lovely summer evening was provided by Generations in Jazz.

Judges gave Zio Fredo's

"Thai 'tini' first place, with Havana's "Tamarind 'tini' garnering second place and Yankee Pier bringing home third with their "Lady Bug" cocktail. The People's Choice award went to Morrissey's Chop House for their "Tiramisu 'tini."

Noting the preponderance of pear based beverages, Kelly Mullane said, "Pear is the new pomegranate." She and her pal Amy Daggett agreed that they are "down with drinking for charity." Ms. Wake and I couldn't agree more.

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