

Lamorinda Community

Calendar, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, March 9	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, March 5 Thursday, March 19	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, March 10	
Senior Services	3:30pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, March 26	
City of Lafayette: http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us Chamber of Commerce: http://www.lafayettechamber.org	



Missing Power Source, 2/12/09 – The Lafayette School District reported 52 solar panels stolen from the roof of a school. The unknown suspects also stole a district-owned van to transport the panels. The missing items are valued at \$87,016. There are no suspects or witnesses at this time.

Broken Window and Missing Briefcase, 2/18/09 – Another window was smashed in the parking lot of the Oakwood Athletic Club. The good news is the crime was caught on a surveillance tape and the bad news is the camera was too far away. A light blue sedan backed into the space on the passenger side of the victim's vehicle. A fuzzy suspect was observed exit the blue sedan from the passenger side and walk to the passenger side of the victim's vehicle. At that point, the victim's window washed smashed and several items, including a laptop and a briefcase, were stolen.

Broken Window and Missing Tools, 2/19/09 – A Monticello Road resident heard a loud smashing/crashing sound outside his home and went outside to investigate with a flashlight. The victim discovered the side front window of his truck was smashed and his garage door was up. The suspect had apparently smashed the truck window and opened the victim's garage door with the opener that was stored in the truck. The victim said tools are missing from the garage and he had not given anyone permission to take them. There are no leads or suspects at this time.

Shoplifting at Safeway, 2/19/09 – An alert Safeway clerk noticed a customer stuff several items into her purse and leave the store without attempting to pay for them. The clerk followed the suspect into the parking lot and told her to return to the store and empty her purse on the Customer Service desk. The suspect complied and the goods valued at \$48.53 were recovered. The brave clerk detained the shoplifter until Lafayette Police arrived. The Officer placed the suspect under arrest, read her rights and transported her to the Martinez facility. The suspect told the officer under Miranda that a "friend" had told her to shoplift from the Lafayette Safeway because it was easy. She also admitted to shoplifting at the store in the past. Did she not understand Miranda? Perhaps she thought it was Opposite Day.



Lafayette Stimulus Package – Taking Care of Business

By Cathy Tyson
City staff aren't just paying lip service when they say that Lafayette is open for business. In an innovative move to encourage business growth and make development more attractive during our current financial meltdown, they have adopted a number of cost reductions to entice businesses to locate here, their own Stimulus Package. "The City Council and the Lafayette Redevelopment Agency Board recognize that Lafayette has been negatively impacted by the economic downturn currently plaguing California; and

that this economic downturn has created a ripple effect across the community causing a slowdown in the development of property," said City Manager Steven Falk in a prepared statement.
Incentives in the Stimulus Package include:
- Waiving the fee for a sign permit
- Waiving the Waste Management performance security fee
- The cost of street trees required to be planted as a condition of development will be reimbursed if developer submits a building permit application by 12/31/09.

- The expiration date of hillside development permits, design review and land use permits will be extended for one additional year from the date of expiration.
- Walkway construction and improvements will be reimbursed up to \$50,000, if required as a condition of development.
The City of Lafayette is clearly making an effort to tempt businesses and development that in turn would strengthen the local economy. Given the current recession, only time will tell if it works.

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New Bus Route to Serve Downtown Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



County Connection Bus Photo courtesy www.motorbussociety.org

Commuters, especially those going to jobs on the east end of town, will be pleased with County Connection's upcoming route 25. Starting at the Lafayette BART station then travelling along Mt. Diablo Boulevard to Pleasant Hill Road, at which point it hops on the freeway to its final destination – the Walnut Creek BART station, this route will link workers all along the corridor to transit. Currently, the only option is walking from the BART station, which is convenient for Safeway workers. Those employed at the Lafayette Park Hotel – not so much.

Lafayette Transportation Planner Leah Greenblatt lobbied heavily for the increase in service. In part due to last summer's transportation survey, and after making the case that existing bus routes didn't connect to BART, this could be just the ticket to get commuters out of their cars.
Service starts March 22 at 7:30 a.m. and will run through 6:30 p.m. on an hourly basis. For more information go to www.ccta.org. This is just one of many systemwide service changes going into effect this spring. Due to budget shortfalls, a common refrain these days, fares will increase as of March 22. Adult tickets are now \$1.75 will be \$2.00 as of that date. Seniors and the disabled now pay \$.85, but will soon pay \$1.00. See website for additional fare increases. Bus to bus transfers will remain free.

Lafayette Continues to Wrestle with Specific Plan

By Cathy Tyson



Downtown Strategy and Specific Plan Community Workshop at the Veterans Hall Photo Cathy Tyson

The process of creating the Lafayette Downtown Strategy and Specific Plan marches on. In the final Community Workshop of this multi-year, multi-faceted project, citizens were invited to provide input on overall plan direction and specific recommendations and priorities. There has been an almost unprecedented public response so far, the Lafayette Homeowners

Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and past city council candidate Gabriel Froymovich have all urged citizens to get involved. Initiated in May of 2007 as a response to development pressure and antiquated 20-year old plans, the goal of this plan is to develop a vision and strategy for the long-term future growth of Lafayette. Mayor Don Tatzin in his opening remarks

at the recent Community Workshop reminded attendees that there will be many other opportunities to discuss the plan in the months to come. In addition to individual citizen input, during the first week of March the Circulation Commission, the Creeks Committee, Downtown Strategy Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission will all be discussing the draft plan.

More than a dozen round tables were set up in the Veteran's Hall to allow participants to discuss and provide input on five specific topics provided by organizers. Attendees were also asked if there are specific aspects of the Plan they liked, are unclear about or think need to be refined.
An introduction by Jim Stickley, Principal, at consulting firm Wallace, Roberts and Todd, included an overview of the discussion topics: community character/establishing districts, refining development regulations, adding downtown parks and creek greenways, improving downtown circulation and parking, and finally improving streetscapes.
... continued on page 6

THANKS TO THOSE WHO PLEDGED TO TRY LAFAYETTE FIRST!

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FREE Special Report From Realtor® **Lily Wescott:**

How to Sell Your Home
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As a community service to benefit area homeowners, Realtor Lily Wescott has put together a special report, entitled "How to Sell Your Home in a Buyer's Market (and Get the Best Price Faster Than Anyone Else Around)". This report is filled with information homeowners need to know to bring out the best in a home and get it marketed to the right audience. "You can't control the prevailing market conditions, but you can make sure your home is marketed to attract the right buyers—critical to getting your home sold quickly, at the best price possible." Before you sell your home in the current market, be sure to get your copy of this **FREE** and informative special report.

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City seeks volunteers for participation on the new City Charter and Communications Committee

The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to serve on a newly approved City Charter and Communications Committee.

This new five to seven-member committee will have two tasks, the first is to investigate the pros and cons of becoming a charter city and make a recommendation to the City Council on whether Lafayette should take this step. Existing nearby cities which operate under charters include Piedmont and San Ramon.

The committee's second task is to use the city charter investigation as a case study to develop more effective ways for the city to communicate with its residents and businesses. It is hoped that the methods of communication developed in this effort could be adapted to improve all future communication by the city with its constituents; on a wide variety of issues.

The committee will be asked to deliver its report regarding becoming a charter city in September 2009. Work related to communicating the findings and recommendations to residents may take longer.

Members of the committee will be appointed by the City Council on the basis of education, community involvement, training and experience in the fields of city government, communications, public outreach, finance, and related fields.

Questions regarding the committee may be directed to the Mayor at DTatzin@lovelafayette.org.

Individuals interested in this volunteer position may obtain an application from

The City's website at www.ci.lafayette.ca.us or
City of Lafayette Offices
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 210 or

Call the City's Clerks Office at (925) 284-1968 and an application will be mailed. Completed applications must be received by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 6, 2009.

The Lafayette City Council is also soliciting applicants to serve on a newly approved City Open Space Committee.