

Lafayette

Lamorinda Community

Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, August 10	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, August 20	
August 6 cancelled	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, August 11	
Senior Services	3:00pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, July 23	
City of Lafayette:	
http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us	
Chamber of Commerce:	
http://www.lafayettechamber.org	



The Speeder and the Bird, 7/10/09 – A Rancho View Road resident called police to report that he'd been standing at the road when a neighbor stopped her car and threw a rock at his right foot. When police arrived, they learned the neighbors have a history of reciprocal offenses. The man lacks appreciation for the rate of speed at which the woman appears to travel down Rancho View Road and indicates this regularly by displaying his middle finger to her when she speeds by. On this particular day, Speeder had three other people in her car. It is possible that her passengers gave her the courage she needed to stop and exchange words with Bird Man. Speeder insisted that she did not throw a rock at Bird Man and there was no visible injury to his foot.

Tag Swapping is Not Acceptable, 7/12/09 – Lafayette Police routinely ran the plates of a Mitsubishi Eclipse traveling on East Bound 24 at Pleasant Hill Road. It turned out the tags were registered to a truck and the tags were expired. The officer believed the Eclipse may have been stolen so pulled it over and called for back-up. It turned out that the Eclipse driver owned both cars and had switched the plate from the truck to the Eclipse. The driver was cited and released at the scene.

Improper Waste Disposal, 7/13/09 – A S. Lucille Lane resident called police to complain that a neighbor was disposing of her yard waste by flinging it over the fence of the complainant. The physical description of the waste is not known.

Armed Robbery, 7/15/09 – Two unknown suspects entered the Hank & Frank bicycle store on Mt. Diablo Boulevard and robbed five people and the store register. The suspects were dressed in black hooded sweatshirts with the hoods tightly pulled. They were also wearing black sunglasses and gloves. One suspect carried a semi-automatic handgun. After taking \$1,165 in cash, the suspects fled in a late 1990s gold Chevrolet Tahoe.

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Hit Hard and Gassed Out in Lafayette

By Glenn Nosse



Construction site on the corner of Brown Ave. and Mt. Diablo Blvd. Photo Glenn Nosse

When John Ingram surveyed the gaping craters that up to two weeks ago held thousands of gallons of gasoline, he said, "I'll just have to tell my children the place got hit by an asteroid."

Ingram has operated the Lafayette station since 1977, located at the corner of Brown Ave. and Mt. Diablo Blvd. After years of attempting to compete with franchisees he has relinquished his claim as the last independent gasoline dealer in Lafayette. "Sad to see the big guys take over... I was unable to compete with their volume and prices. The tanks were still new and not leaking," said Ingram.

Ingram's Trans Am station began as an Atlantic Richfield station, "The one with the Red Flying horse," he proudly recalls. When the holes are backfilled, his station will join other independents like the Olympic station on the west end of town that was demolished and now stands as an empty lot.

Despite being forced out as a dealer, Ingram is able to look at the positive side. He says he will continue to operate Trans Am as a repair facility, expressing confidence in an economic rebound to the eastern commercial district of Lafayette.

A block away, the vacated Marx Brothers Motors, next to defunct Butler Conte Dodge, remains abandoned. Glenda Warmoth, an

assistant planner with the City of Lafayette, says the Marx Brothers land is under consideration for a forty-six unit, senior apartment complex to be owned and operated by Eden Housing. With construction scheduled for January, 2010, "It's too early to tell if the car repair will blend with future projects in the area," said Warmoth.

Across from the station, the newly remodeled Forge shopping complex is ready for tenants. "I would like to know what becomes of that gas station property," says Forge owner Tony Lukazewski, "Right now, it's been a lot of noise." Lukazewski hopes to attract a more upscale and vibrant crowd much like that of the redeveloped west end.

Ingram said his Trans Am gas station is the oldest station in Lafayette, built in 1922. He realistically reflects how his industry, like the economy, has changed since he originally opened. "I can remember an old blacksmith working behind the current Shell station down the street. You could ride down Mt. Diablo and get your horse shoe-ed. That was only thirty years ago."

Work on Ingram's site continues, paving over what once were the tanks and pumps. The repair shop remains open during the demolition. Ingram recalls the end of an era saying, "Just, no gas."

Trial Dates of Farmers' Market Approved

By Cathy Tyson
After much discussion the Lafayette Certified Farmers' Market got the official thumbs up for just three trial days, down from the originally proposed five. Look for some street closures around Plaza Park on three Thursdays in September - 3, 10, 17 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Although a number of sites were evaluated, City Council Members chose Plaza Park as the best location to enhance a sense of community and for a potential multiplier effect; for every dollar spent at the market, shoppers spend additional dollars at nearby establishments - perhaps getting a haircut at the adjacent barber shop, picking up some dog food, or grabbing dinner. Despite vocal community support, on-going concerns about parking lingered. Members of Sustainable Lafayette and Acalanes students volunteered to be crossing guards and monitor parking. One supporter said, "We do believe it will strengthen the community and you can make some good money from parking meters." Another enthusiastically chimed in, "It's high time! Wake up guys!" Noting the proximity of Chateau Lafayette, another supporter said, "I believe the centralized location is essential for seniors to walk there." Council Member Anduri said it's a "no-brainer" and was "amazed at the set of correspondence" the Council received - 63 letters in support of the Market. Other members weren't quite so sure; Council Member Carol Federighi said, "It's an interesting balancing act, but I'm willing to go along with a test." Council Member Mike Anderson, while noting he supports the market said, "I'm afraid it could be a disaster" and "We may regret it." An independent evaluation will occur after the trial program to see if future markets are warranted. At that time, location issues or a potential change in venue can be addressed.

Library Hosts First Ever Chess Tournament

By Cathy Tyson
Several residents answered the call to be part of the Lafayette Library's first ever Chess Tournament on July 25. This free event for players of all skill levels and ages drew many of the "regulars" from the library's Chess Club that meets once a month along with a handful of newcomers. Rebekah Brainich, Library Assistant, Teen Services, said that although no future tournaments are scheduled at the moment, "it was popular enough that we probably will do it again soon." The tournament couldn't have come to fruition without the help of Farhad Azimzadeh, a former professor at Lamar University with a doctorate in Civil Engineering. Every third Saturday of the month, he volunteers his time to teach chess to beginning and intermediate players as well as offer homework help at the library. "When I moved to Moraga about 10 years ago, I helped some children at the Moraga Commons to play chess as teams. I have a dream of creating local chess teams, who can explain their ideas to their teammates in a short amount of time. I would like to add more collaboration and teamwork to the game of chess," said Azimzadeh, who learned to play at the age of twelve. About five years ago he started the chess program at the Lafayette Library, and has continued to think strategically with ambitious future plans. "I would like to grow my tutoring/mentoring help into a community-based tuition-free University. So when I retire in next 10-15 years, I have my teaching hobby lined up for me. The community-based tuition-free University that I have in mind will be a hybrid of on-line and on-land University with no fees, focusing on the needs of the community." Free chess instruction for beginning through intermediate players is offered every third Saturday of the month from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. on a drop in basis. Azimzadeh also gives homework help on the third Saturday of every month from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call the Lafayette Library at (925) 283-3872.

Total Eclipse Coming to Plaza Park

By Cathy Tyson
Not of the celestial kind. Rock and "Bad Case (of lovin' you)" never go out of style, and who knew the sneakers would be trendy once again for the younger set. Maybe everything old really is new again. The following Friday, August 21, will feature the ever popular Spazmatics "Nerds that rock." Closing the series on August 28 is The Synthetics. For the first time ever, a very special, very mysterious (read: we couldn't find out who) local teen band will be performing at 5:30, prior to the headliner at 6:00. Hungry listeners can pack a picnic or pick up some delicious food and drink from the Lafayette Rotary Club on site. These three free concerts are sponsored by The Chamber of Commerce, the City of Lafayette and Red House Studios, Cedric Chang Design, Minuteman Press of Lafayette and others.

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