

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, October 13	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, October 1	
Thursday, October 15	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, October 6	
Senior Services	3:00pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, October 22	
City of Lafayette:	
http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us	
Chamber of Commerce:	
http://www.lafayettechamber.org	



Vice Grip Throwing Hits Target, 9/4/09 After becoming enraged by the victim's driving on St. Mary's Road, an unknown suspect proceeded to tailgate and pass the victim before hurling a pair of vice grips out of his window. The vice grips hit the victim's driver's side door and the victim managed to get the last three plate numbers of the assailant's vehicle. The victim does not know the suspect but would recognize him if he saw him again. It is possible the suspect is an accomplished discus thrower with a gripping passion.

Missing Bench, 9/4/09 A Happy Valley Road resident was paid a visit by the Bench Bandit. The crafty bandit approached the residence and removed a teakwood bench valued at \$800. Perhaps he didn't make it to the Smith & Hawken closeout sale?

Juveniles Scramble Eggs, 9/4/09 Police were summoned to Happy Valley School to respond to an egg incident involving a car in the parking lot. Seven juveniles took responsibility for the egg. The owner did not press charges but wants the suspects to pay for damages to her car. The case is being handled through the Juvenile Diversion program. We hope the program will help the throwers learn that a plate is a more appropriate place to put an egg.

It's Always a Good Idea to Lock Your Car, 9/7/09 A Ridge Road resident forgot to lock her car. Guess what happened? A sharp-eyed and nimble-fingered thief spotted her purse in the backseat, opened the unlocked door and stole her purse. There are no suspects or witnesses although fingerprints were taken.

Please send storyideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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Discover the Pride of Lafayette

Town Center III Condominiums Fate Undecided

By Cathy Tyson



Artist's rendering of Town Center III project, courtesy of Heller Manus Architects

"We hope to show you some very positive changes. We'd like a good solid thumbs up to proceed with this project," said Ray Panek, Senior Vice President of KB Homes South Bay.

KB Homes South Bay is considering whether to go ahead with a proposed 82-unit condominium development on the 1.47 acre site behind Panda Express that is currently a parking lot.

The five story project received feedback early in the summer to gage city support at a joint meeting of the City Council, Planning Commission and Design Review Committee. At that point there weren't any fatal flaws, but definitely some constructive criticism. Heller Manus Architects came back at the September 14 meeting with some significant changes to the plans. The unpopular towers were removed, the number of units were scaled back from 89 to 82, and the lobby area was moved to align with Dewing Avenue, among other things.

The landscaping was also significantly improved; now it's much more pedestrian friendly with greater articulation of the walkway and enhanced connectivity. Landscape Architect Bill Smith explains the design, "We've created a more generous plaza area - now it feels like you're walking through a woodland."

At this point the ball, or rather the multi-family project, is in KB Homes' hands. Both the City Council and Planning Commission expressed their general support for the project, but now it's up to KB Homes to seek corporate approval as well as secure financing. As of press time a decision had not been made.

Panek reiterated what a perfect location this is for exactly this type of pedestrian friendly development, "Within a quarter mile of site are all the services you could want - Safeway, a drugstore, banks, restaurants."

"Staff supports high density multi-family at this location - it's

an ideal site," said Niroop Srivatsa, City of Lafayette Planning and Building Manager.

One particular sticking point with residents is concern about the height of the building. The homebuilders made a point of noting that, "the edge of the proposed condominiums is fifteen feet lower than existing adjacent Town Center apartments."

Public comment was similar to the last go-round. "It's far too high, far too bulky. I'd like to take a story off to begin with and I'd like to see story poles," said Guy Atwood.

"This is the site for more housing and more density. Any other use would be a shame. Clearly the fifth story is a challenge - balconies and set backs would make it more attractive," said Thomas Chastain, Vice Chair of the Planning Commission. "Everything I see and read points to this kind of planning - we have all got to make some sacrifices."

Help Wanted for Parks Commission Vacancy

By Cathy Tyson

Jennifer Russell, Director of the City of Lafayette Parks, Trails & Recreation (PT & R) Department, wants to encourage civic minded Lafayette residents with a strong interest in Parks to apply for an open volunteer spot on the PT&R Commission.

Right now PT & R is involved in quite a few interesting ventures. "The Commission serves as an advisory panel to the

City Council while playing a vital role in the development of parks, trails, and recreation facilities. Current projects include the completion of a Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan; the construction of a bike park; the development of a dog park; and the design of a trail that connects the Community Center and Community Park to the Burton Ridge," said Russell in a statement.

With a time commitment of just one evening meeting per month, serving on the Commission is not an overwhelming commitment. "The nine member body is divided into three subcommittees, Parks, Trails and Community Center," said Russell, noting the current opening is for the Parks subcommittee. "The Parks subcommittee reviews and supports effective

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Unique Art Project for Foster Youth

By Cathy Tyson



"Hope Matters," a 4' x 5' multi-media collage that local foster youth made with the assistance of Marcia Barrow Taylor

Talented Lafayette artist Marcia Barrow Taylor had just left a position as a children's museum of Modern Art, to spend more time in the studio, "but I felt a little guilty not working with kids."

Wanting to get involved with foster youth, perhaps donate

some of her art, she took a tour of a local facility, Anderson House.

One of the residents, a 14-year-old girl named Destynii, "happened to come home early from school that day while Taylor was taking a tour. "I came face to face with the limitations these kids have. I just couldn't shake it."

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