

**Calendar**

**City Council** 7pm  
Community Center, Manzanita Room  
500 St Mary's Road  
Monday, October 26

**Planning Comm.** 7pm  
Community Center, Manzanita Room  
500 St Mary's Road  
Thursday, October 15

**Design Review** 7pm  
Community Center, Manzanita Room  
500 St Mary's Road  
Tuesday, October 20

**City of Lafayette:**  
<http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us>  
**Chamber of Commerce:**  
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# Lafayette

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**\$949,000**

## Next Step for Specific Plan – Environmental Scoping

By Cathy Tyson



Mayor Don Taztin speaks to a diverse group of residents, and business/property owners at a breakfast meeting. Photo Andy Scheck

The Revised Draft Downtown Lafayette Specific Plan is inching ever so slowly forward and is poised to scope the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The goal of the EIR is to examine potential significant environmental effects of the plan and potential alternatives via a very thorough analysis of factors from aesthetics to noise to traffic.

Consultant Design, Community & Environment, Inc. (DC&E) will be crunching the numbers for three alternatives: first off, the “no project” alternative which sticks with the existing General Plan; the second option, the “low intensity” alternative, includes a 25 foot height limit by right, along with 35 foot height limit with conditions; and finally the “high intensity” alternative assumes the heights and densities described in the Revised Draft Downtown Lafayette Specific Plan.

In noting the range of possible alternatives, Steve Noack of DC&E said, “We look at them in a qualitative way and look at relative differences.” They try to be as conservative as possible in their assessments, anticipating a worst case scenario.

Height and density continue to be the most controversial aspects of the plan depending on perspective. Chris Watson, who along with partner Kurt Setzer owns three commercial properties on Lafayette Circle, said at a recent Planning Commission meeting, “I am cut off at the knees if a 25 foot height restriction is implemented – it makes the project not feasible. If you stick with 25 foot height limit – might as well call it a historic district – nothing will ever change or improve.” ... continued on page 7

**Renovated Happy Valley Treasure...**

3210 sq. ft. remodeled 5BD+office, 4.5BA w/ classic Italian kitchen ('09 Lafayette Juniors Kitchen Tour) in-law w/ full kitchen/bath. .44-acres w/ pool, fireplace, level lawn & gardens.  
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**1080 Upper Happy Valley Rd.**

**Gracious Upper Happy Valley Traditional...**

Spectacular 1.48-acre property w/ views, huge lvl lawn, pool & spa. Beautifully updated 3800 +/- sf 5+BD & 3.5 BA. Newly renovated chef's kitchen, master retreat and second family room/office.  
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By Appointment



**Hit and Drive Away Slowly, 9/22/09** A victim called Lafayette Police to report her car was hit by another car in the Trader Joe's parking lot on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. The offending driver was backing out of a parking space when he hit the victim's car. The victim offered a honking warning but the driver continued to back up. After he hit the victim's car, he slowly drove away. An alert Trader Joe's employee who recorded the offending license plate number witnessed the low-speed incident. The car is registered in El Centro, California. It is possible the suspect is both deaf and unable to process the feeling of impact with another vehicle. Perhaps crash-test dummy is a suitable future career?

**Counterfeit Registration Tags, 9/25/09** Lafayette Police stopped a vehicle on Mt. Diablo Boulevard at Lafayette Circle for an expired registration tag. The driver consented to a search of the vehicle and police discovered five counterfeit registration tags. The driver denied knowledge of the tags and stated they belonged to his brother who was in the hospital in Oakland. The driver was cited and the vehicle was towed. It is unknown how the driver got home or how his brother took the news.

**Anger Management Issues, 10/2/09** A Second Street resident parked and locked her vehicle and retired to her apartment for the night. When she returned to her vehicle the next morning, she immediately knew something was amiss. A closer look revealed four punctured tires, a smashed front driver's side window, smashed passenger window and a light dimmer switch that was pulled out of the dashboard. There are no leads, witnesses or suspects and the fingerprint dusting was negative. Let's hope the culprit will try using his words next time.

**Thieves Like Backpacks Too, 10/9/09** The victim parked and locked her car on Mt. Diablo Court. When she returned, she discovered an unknown subject had broken the passenger side window and taken the backpack she'd left in plain view. There are no suspects or witnesses. As an aside, there were an inordinate number of vehicle break-ins in Lafayette during the past two weeks; residents may want to take extra caution when stowing their belongings.

## Inaugural Policies on Renting Library Spaces

By Cathy Tyson

While the city will be opening the main doors of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center (LLLC) in November for patrons to check out books and materials, doors will also be opening on all of the rentable spaces in the facility: the Homework Center, the Technology Center, small meeting rooms, Teen Center, as well as the Community Hall, Art & Science Discovery Center and Amphitheater & Reading Court.

Developing policies and a pricing structure that is community friendly and covers the costs incurred of room rentals while at the same time striving for frequent usage was a challenge for the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation (LLLCF).

“We benchmarked against multiple venues, like the Veterans Memorial Hall, the Lafayette Park Hotel, LOPC, Temple Isaiah, Orinda Community Center & Library and San Ramon Community Services facilities. We put special focus on the Lafayette Community Center to achieve some continuity, though the facilities are quite different,” said Kathy Merchant, President of Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation Trustees.

Because larger spaces like the Community Hall, which has a maximum capacity of 229 people, are completely different from the Homework Center which has a capacity of 35, the LLLCF developed two policies to govern the facility - one for reserved rooms on the library main floor and one for larger spaces.

... continued on page 7



Lamorinda residents may have noticed the fresh coat of paint on the Park Theater and wondered what was going on. “We’re looking for something that’s economically viable in that location. Investors, along with the city and community, want something that will work best for all parties,” said Greg Woehrl who, with a group of investors, owns the Park Theater. C.Tyson

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**Presents**

**17th Annual LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR RUN**

**2009**

**Downtown Lafayette**

**N Sports Basement ELITE Mile W (8:00 AM) W**

**5K (8:30 AM)**

**10K (8:45 AM)**

**2 MILE run/walk (9:00 AM)**

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