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## Living Longer and Loving it

### Lafayette City Council Honors Longtime Community Advocate

*Don Lively Turns 90*  
By Rosylyn Aragonés Stenzel



Don and Dorothy Lively await start of Lafayette City Council meeting  
Photo Rosylyn Aragonés Stenzel

In a break from the normal order of business, the Lafayette City Council recognized the 90th birthday of one of Lafayette's most colorful citizens, Don Lively, on December 14th at the Lafayette Library and

Learning Center.

Mayor Don Tatzin read a Proclamation stating many of Lively's contributions to Lafayette. When asked why the special recognition for Lively, Tatzin replied, "One because he's

90, and it's nice to celebrate people who do (turn 90). And because he has given lots of input at the city council meetings; sometimes he agrees and sometimes not, but he's always constructive. We consider him an unofficial member of the city family."

Lively first saw Lafayette in 1942 when he drove from Treasure Island - where he was stationed in the Navy - to Walnut Creek. The then rural town of Lafayette reminded him of the small town, Ojai, in Southern California where he grew up.

Lively, a WW II and Korean War veteran, worked for many years in the telecommunications and engineering fields including working for AT&T in Iran for four years. He transferred back to the U.S., living in New Jersey before moving back to Lafayette in 1961. Since then he has been very active through

the years in helping to steer the growth and vision for Lafayette. He has sat on several task forces and commissions; including the CATV Commission (assisted with franchise negotiations for the first cable television providers), Technology Task Force (advocating improvements in the city's technology) and the Library Building Committee, just to name a few.

In addition, he is one of the founding members of the Lafayette Taxpayer's Association and the Alliance of Contra Costa Taxpayers. The Lafayette Taxpayer's Association, formed in 1991, says Lively, "Works on both sides of the street; sometimes opposes taxes and other times on task forces to support and sell taxes." The Alliance of Contra Costa Taxpayers is county-wide coalition modeled after the Lafayette Taxpayer's

Association.

Lively and his wife Dorothy (also known as Casey) have been married for 67 years. He credits her as "making him whatever he is." They met while both working for Telco in Southern California. They are both avid painters and have several paintings with personal significance displayed in their home. One particular painting has special meaning. It depicts the 1936 Ford Sedan that he drove when he first saw Lafayette. He also jokingly refers to the Ford as the Loveboat, which he drove when courting Dorothy. Lively has also painted depictions of the USS Finback Submarine and USS Sperry, both of which he served on during WWII.

Although he is somewhat limited due to health issues, Lively continues to advocate for limited government and be a part

of the public dialogue. The best part of living in Lafayette? Lively says, "Its classical, small-town atmosphere. The wonderful role that its founding principals imposed on volunteer participation in the direction and governance of the city. Those people who laid down the 3 P's, public safety, planning and public works - confining local government's activity to just those areas. I think if that kind of strictness applied to every level of government, we'd have a much finer country and state."

Lastly, when asked what his secret is for a long life, Lively explains, "Good genes, an interest in life and all it offers - plus, joy of watching our three great kids carve out their places in the world. This includes trying to hang onto the great country we were fortunate to have been born into!"

## Community Service

### Moraga Movers Celebrate Christmas

Submitted by Lee Barker

The Moraga Movers Christmas Luncheon held on Monday, December 14, was one of the most important meetings of the year. With 135 residents in attendance, it was also the largest gathering since the senior group became the Moraga Movers.

The new Executive Board was introduced after a formalized election was conducted; the new President of the Moraga Movers is Phil Arth.

The SIRpremes from SIRs Branch 171 entertained the delighted audience. (George Fisher, the outgoing President, was part and parcel here.) This was full-voice, Glee Club quality, complete with a dancing snowman that performed during the professional rendition of "Frosty the Snowman." Then, there were the Starr Steppers from Rossmoor--true "Rockettes," tapping their beautiful hoofs and winning round after

round of applause, finalizing with the audience chiming in on a rousing rendition of "Jingle Bells."

Good food. Good friends. Good show.

The Moraga Movers next monthly luncheon, on Monday, January 11, will bring more delicious food, inspiring entertainment, and the opportunity to socialize with good friends and new people. The social hour begins at 1:00 a.m. and lunch is at 12:00 noon at Soda Center, St. Mary's College, Moraga. For reservations (only \$15--payable at the door on day of luncheon) be sure to call 376-6622 by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6, 2010.

To contact the Moraga Movers please call 376-6622 or go to <http://www.moraga.ca.us>.

### Santa Visits Lamorinda Senior Transportation

Submitted by Mary Bruns



Pictured is graphic artist John Otto, as Santa. To his right is Ruth McCahan, president of the Lafayette Senior Services Commission. To his left is Liz Patterson and drivers Eddie Carvalho and Craig Harbarth  
Photo provided by M. Bruns

drivers, representatives from both the Lafayette Senior Services Commission and the Lamorinda Senior Transportation Advisory Committee, as well as program staff. Coordinator Mary Bruns expressed gratitude for the wonderful service the drivers provide the Lamorinda senior community and for the support provided by staff and volunteers. Santa visited and handed out the 2010 Lamorinda Spirit Van Appreciation Calendar, filled with pictures and accolades of passengers and many of those who serve them.

If you would like to be one of the illustrious drivers, passengers, or donors, please call 284-5546 for more information. This is a door through door transportation service which makes it possible for seniors to live in their own homes longer. Contra Costa Yellow Cab and DeSoto Company, the Lamorinda Spirit Van, Orinda Seniors Around Town, and Senior Helpline Services Rides for Seniors are collaborative partners in Lamorinda Senior Transportation. Mobility = Independence.

The Lamorinda Senior Transportation Program held its fourth annual Volunteer Appreciation Gathering on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at Lafayette Senior Services. It was attended by the

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We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions can be sent to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

### Christmas Wrapped!

Submitted by Sherry Diestler



Photo provided

On December 19th, over a hundred local volunteers came to Willow Spring Church in Moraga to wrap more than two thousand presents for homeless and needy children served by the Bay Area Rescue Mission. Volunteers came from Lafayette Girl Scout Troops 33846 and 31983 (who also raise money throughout the year to buy presents for this event), the Miramonte REACH group, the National Charity League, Stanley Middle School's Opportunity Knocks, Campolindo, Acalanes, and Miramonte High School, Burton Valley School, and Willow Spring Blast Kid's Club. Other volunteers included families, individuals and church members who

want to help the homeless and to model a giving spirit to their children. The teen worship band from Northcreek Church provided jazzy Christmas carols, and volunteers enjoyed hot cider, hot chocolate and pizza while they worked. Many volunteers return every year and make the wrapping party part of their Christmas tradition. The consensus of the volunteers was that they appreciated the opportunity to serve the homeless in a local setting and that helping other children enjoy the blessings of receiving Christmas presents was both meaningful and fun. As nine-year Kiana Lew stated, "I want to help other children who are without toys."

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