

Civic News




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Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council NEW Meeting Location
Lafayette Library and Learning Center
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

City Council Monday, January 11, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission Monday, January 4, 7:00 pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room, 500 St Mary's Road

Design Review Monday, January 11, 7:00 pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room, 500 St Mary's Road

Circulation Commission Tuesday, January 19, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Lafayette: www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Chamber of Commerce: www.lafayettechamber.org

• **Police Report** •
will be back next time



Correction, issue date 12/09/09, Notorious House for Sale: This article contained a factual error. The phrase "never been lived in" is inaccurate. According to Daniel Horowitz, the property owner, the home in Hunsaker Canyon has been occupied for over two years. The article has been corrected in our online archive, <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0320/Notorious-Home-for-Sale.html>.



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Happy Holidays
Tuesday-Saturday 10-6

A Celebration of Mayors in Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



The Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church performs with Lafayette Mayor Brandt Andersson Photo Erik Andersson

After a substantial number of accolades from his constituents, Lafayette's five-time Mayor Don Tatzin finished his term and welcomed former Vice Mayor Brandt Andersson to his new job as Mayor. Fellow City Council Members, along with friends and family, filled the new Community Hall at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center for the festivities at the December 14th City Council meeting that culminated with a choir performance that included Andersson. Carl Anduri was appointed Vice Mayor.

Having served a total of twenty-four years on the City Council, Tatzin has seen the city through thick and thin. Many in the audience came forward to point out what a wonderful job he's done this past year, especially with the completion of a project near and dear to Lafayette – the Library and Learning Center. Alternating between sincere praise and poking fun, Library Foundation members Gwen Lennox, Kathy Merchant, and Anne Grodin, along with Maeve Pessis of the Lafayette Homeowners Council, effusively congratulated him for a job well done while gently roasting him. For example, Marechal Duncan of the Lafayette Historical Society had everyone laughing when he commented, regarding the Mayor's

longevity, "Our gift to Don Tatzin is that we'll put him in our archive." Even incoming Mayor Brandt Anderson quipped about having to make remarks after Tatzin spoke, "It's tough to follow the 19th, 24th, 29th, 34th and 41st mayor." Fellow Council Members commented that only now do their combined years of service equal the years Tatzin has put in.

Tatzin remarked that over the years he's always looked for the positive compromise – and that during his tenure this past year the city has completed a substantial amount of roadwork, had the library open and adopted the Parks and Recreation Facility Master Plan. He talked about a virtuous circle, building trust, being open and inclusive. "Think grandly and spend carefully," he advised. In 2009, "We learned that measurement is useful, and that construction takes time. This has been a successful and fun year."

City staff presented a gift, a plaque made out of teak with a granite inset – both materials from the exterior of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, and of course a gavel.

New Mayor Andersson said of his new position, "A good friend asked, 'Who in their right mind wants to be Mayor?'" He responded, "Your initial premise is

probably faulty." Andersson sees the coming year as full of problems and opportunities, with the number one problem being street improvements. Opportunities include balancing the need to preserve open space against pressure for development and with the help of the Downtown Strategic Plan – making plans

for the amenities that most want. Hearty thanks were given to Andersson's family and city staff who, "Keep the city running and make it better every day for the people that live here. I also want to recognize colleagues...it's always a joy to come to these meetings."

Audience members were treated to a first in the Community Hall, Mayor Andersson is a member of the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church Chamber Choir. He penned new lyrics for two compositions and sang both songs with the choir, which made a special appearance. The very timely "Downtown Strategic Plan," highlighting Lafayette's current struggle with the Plan, was written by Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612) and "Money Worries" was written by Karl Heinrich Graun (1703 -1759). Both tunes had the packed house in stitches.

Spike in Crime in Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



This car parked in Lafayette had its window smashed. Photo provided

No one enjoys a visit by the Grinch who stole Christmas gifts out of the back seat of your car. Although there has been no confirmation of actual Grinch sightings, the damage is still the same. Lafayette residents have seen a spike in the number of property crimes lately. Sergeant Gwen Brady of the Lafayette Police Department explains, "We are a safe community but not a secure community. There's a big difference. People forget that not every person in town is a resident. While there's very little violent crime, there's a fair amount of property crime."


She offers the following advice: "Put packages and purses in the trunk, lock your car and your house. If you have an alarm - set it. Keep aware of your surroundings, if you see something unusual, jot down the license plate number and call the police."

Maybe it's a sign of the times, but it's unlikely that this trend will stop on New Year's Eve. In November, the most recent month that data became available, there were eleven residential burglaries, five vehicles stolen and fourteen petty thefts, mostly smash and grab incidents from addresses all over the city. "Be smart, these are normal common sense things," said Brady.

Dirty House?



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