

Civic News



Lafayette

Public Meetings

NEW Meeting Locations

Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd
City Council: Community Hall
Planning Commission: Community Hall
Design Review: Arts & Science Discovery Center

City Council Monday, January 25, 7:00 pm
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission Monday, February 1, 7:00 pm
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review Monday, January 25, 7:00 pm
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center in the Arts & Science Discovery Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Circulation Commission Monday, February 1, 7:00 pm
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center in the Arts & Science Discovery Center at 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 •



Excessive Celebration, 1/1/10
 At 1:32 a.m., Lafayette Police stopped the subject's car on Mt. Diablo Boulevard at Dolores for failure to maintain lanes. The Acalanes student was taken to the Lafayette Police Department for breath analysis on suspicion of Driving Under the Influence. The teen was later released to the custody of her mother. Talk about starting the New Year off on the wrong foot...

Suburban Vandalism, 1/2/10
 A Glenside Drive resident called police to report that his Suburban had been severely vandalized in his driveway. The front window had been smashed and all four tires were slashed. We can only assume that such a moronic vandal completely dominates the Whack-a-Mole game at Chuck E. Cheese. There are no suspects, witnesses or leads.

Penny Thief, 1/4/10
 The subject entered the Oasis Café on Mt. Diablo Boulevard and asked the unknowing clerk for a cup of water. When the clerk went to get the water, the subject grabbed the tip jar off the counter and sprinted out of the café. Witnesses saw him run all the way to an apartment right above the café. The offender was arrested and booked at the Martinez Detention Facility. The tip jar containing \$4.45 was recovered and returned to the Oasis Café.

Smokin' and Drinkin' on a Saturday Night, 1/9/10
 Lafayette Police pulled the subjects over for failing to stop for a stop sign. The two Campolindo students were found to be in possession of marijuana, alcohol and tobacco. Perhaps the poor driver was having a little trouble seeing through all the smoke, dude. The teens were cited and released to their parents. No more Beasties for them.

Wrestling with the Downtown Parking Problem

By Cathy Tyson

Discussions continue on the Downtown Specific Plan; the Planning Commission took on Parking at last week's meeting. Talk focused on introducing and making recommendations toward a comprehensive parking strategy.

"Right now in Lafayette there are approximately 6,300 off-street parking spaces and 650 on-street spaces," said Niroop Srivatsa, Planning & Building Services Manager. In addition, she noted that four out of five employees in Lafayette drive to work alone. That was the major theme of the evening – that employee parking is a big problem. If more employees found alternate parking spots, then spaces in front of retail establishments would be available for customers.

"The Specific Plan has a comprehensive section about parking that identifies the target zone for a

parking facility. The Plan also identifies additional parking as funding priority. But the Specific Plan's intent, given its 20-year time frame, is to provide the policy framework for a future strategy," said Ann Merideth, Community Development Director.

City staff feel that in order to develop an effective parking strategy, a fair amount of data on existing parking is needed – everything from rates, to parking occupancy to number of employees who work downtown.

"Only after this data is collected and analyzed can the City begin to understand the real and perceived parking problems in the downtown core and develop effective ways to meet the parking needs of the businesses, employees, residents and patrons," noted a January 7, 2010, Staff Report.

... continued on next page

Rules for Protected Trees Slightly Amended

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

"I speak for the trees," is something Dr. Seuss's "The Lorax" might say, but in this case it's the language of the Lafayette Municipal Code. Chapter 6 – 17 "Tree Protection" was recently amended to clarify some minor changes that don't

substantially alter the purpose of the code. These regulations spell out what a "protected tree" is – a tree located on developed property that has a trunk diameter of twelve inches or more that is one of ten species, mostly oaks – see adjacent box for a complete listing. Adjustments also include replacement tree substitution ratios and in-lieu fees.

Many residents may be unaware that, "A category I or category II permit under sections 6-1706 or 6-1707 is required to remove or destroy a protected tree," according to the Municipal Code. Although, "When a hazardous or dangerous condition requires immediate action to protect life or property - the manager can grant an emergency tree removal permit."

In general, private property owners need a permit to remove a protected tree if it poses an imminent threat to private property. "We usually act on it on that day" said Michael Cass, Assistant Planner with the City of Lafayette. However there are some exceptions, when in doubt call the Planning Division at (925) 284-1976.

"Homeowners are responsible for maintaining their trees," said Public Works Serv-

ices Manager Ron Lefler. If there's a windy storm that causes a property owner's tree to fall across a road, obstructing traffic, "Call police dispatch at (925) 284-5010," said Lefler. "The police then call the foreman and someone from Public Works will respond." The homeowner is responsible for the cost, which could run from a few hundred dollars to much more if a crane is needed to remove a large tree.

However, if your tree or a large branch falls across a fence between you and your neighbor, damaging the fence or your neighbor's home – it's time to call your insurance carrier. "Depending on coverage, it could be covered by your homeowner's liability insurance," said Debbie Peters of State Farm Insurance.

Protected Trees in Lafayette

- Coast Live Oak
- Canyon Oak
- Blue Oak
- White Oak
- Black Oak
- Valley Oak
- Interior live Oak
- California Bay
- California Buckeye
- Madrone

The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to fill the following volunteer vacancies:



Banner Advisory Committee develops a street pole banner program providing announcement and promotion of special events that occur in Lafayette. This committee meets two to three times per year as needed.

Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging (CCACA) advises the County Area Agency on Aging on all matters related to the development and administration of senior programs throughout the County. The Advisory Council meets on the third Wednesday of the month, at 9:30 AM, in Concord.

Creeks Committee encourages beautification of Lafayette's more than 16-miles of creeks and improves residents' awareness of creek maintenance and pollution prevention policies. The Creeks Committee meets the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the City Offices located at 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 265.

Crime Prevention Commission studies safety issues in the City and works to educate the public on crime prevention. The Crime Prevention Commission meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the City Offices located at 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 265.

Design Review Commission advises the Planning Commission and City Council on matters relating to aesthetics and the physical appearance of Lafayette. The Commission typically meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7:00 pm in the Arts & Sciences Discovery Center at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Senior Services Commission works to enhance the well-being of Lafayette's older adults by identifying their concerns and needs; providing information about resources; and promoting community programs and services that enable them to live meaningful lives. The Senior Services Commission meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 3:00 pm in the Lafayette Senior Services Center at 500 St. Mary's Road (Alder Room).

Individuals interested in these volunteer positions may obtain an application on-line at www.ci.lafayette.ca.us or call the main office at 284-1968 and an application will be mailed to you. If you have questions related to these volunteer positions please call Joanne Robbins, City Clerk at 299-3210.

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