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## New Name Wanted for Senior Services

By Cathy Tyson

Calling all wordsmiths! Lafayette Senior Services announces the "Give Us A Name!" contest. They are looking for a new and improved name instead of the current moniker for their city department as well as their online newsletter.

We think "Lafayette Senior Services" may say it all but doesn't

say it beautifully or well," said Manager of Senior Services Mei Sun Li.

With tempting prizes like "The Works Plus Wash" care of Lafayette Car Wash, a pair of tickets to any play at Town Hall Theatre and a gift certificate to Powell's Sweet Shop, organizers want to encourage entries. The contest is free

and multiple suggestions are permitted. The deadline is Tuesday, February 22nd; the first place winner will be announced at the Wind-song Harp Ensemble concert on Friday March 25th. Entries can be submitted in person, via mail or online at Seniors@lovelafayette.org. Feel free to call with questions, (925) 285-5050.

## Crime Prevention Advice

By Cathy Tyson, with Traci Reilly

There's nothing like a home robbery to spoil anyone's good time. Traci Reilly, Chairperson of the Lafayette Crime Prevention Commission, offers suggestions to stay safe. "Get to know your neighbors. Be the eyes and ears of your neighborhood. Work with the Lafayette Police Department and report any suspicious activity immediately by calling (925) 284-5010," said Reilly. She emphasized that crime prevention is a neighborhood concern.

If you plan to be away overnight, the Crime Prevention Commission recommends following these simple suggestions:

Call and notify a nearby neighbor that you trust. Let them know when you will be gone.

Ask a neighbor to pick up your mail and newspapers. If you

prefer, you can stop your mail by filling out a form at the Post Office, but we suggest that you don't stop your newspaper. While it is uncommon, we have experienced local burglaries that occurred due to newspaper vacation stops. Unbeknownst to the newspaper delivery person, the "do not deliver list" could get into the wrong person's hands. It's best to have a trusted friend or neighbor collect the newspapers for you.

Lock all doors and windows, and set your alarm if you have one.

Call the Lafayette Police Department ahead of time to request a "Vacation check." The police will periodically check on your home during your absence. They can be reached at (925) 283-3680 during business hours.

Residents should also be

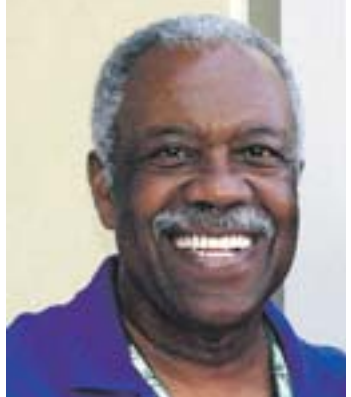
aware that Lafayette has a relatively new door to door soliciting ordinance, aimed at curbing solicitors with a criminal background. Any-one sixteen years or older who is selling items or services door-to-door must obtain a permit from the Lafayette Police Department. Reilly feels this is an important tool that will help prevent crimes in our neighborhoods.

Look for a permit, visible at all times, from legitimate solicitors who have passed a background check. They are required to avoid homes with a posted "No solicitors" sign.

"Crime prevention is a partnership, one between the residents and the Police Department. It is important that we all play an active role. We are the Police Department's eyes and ears," said Reilly.

## Lafayette's Business Person of the Year

(Information submitted by Jay Lifson)



Larry Duson Photo provided

Bank of the West Branch Manager Larry Duson has been named Lafayette's Business Person of the year for 2011.

According to Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson, "Larry (Duson) is the only chamber member to serve twice as president. He would probably step

up and do it again if asked. He has been our ambassador to dozens of businesses over the years."

Duson has had a long and prosperous career in the banking business, and has been the manager of the local Bank of the West branch in Lafayette for over ten years. "It is hard to believe that one of the kindest, gentlest people you will ever meet was once the 'axe man' for banks that needed to be closed or restructured," says Lifson, "Larry has set a very high bar for those of us who wish to excel in customer satisfaction. His desk is the 1st stop when you enter the bank. Don't think you can just come in and do a deposit. He will waive you over, ask how you are, and introduce you to the other bank customers he is visiting with."

"Our honoree must be in-

involved with a successful business, participate in local organizations or causes, give their time, and most importantly, be someone who models excellence and brings our community together," Lifson continues, "We are a lucky community to have leader like Larry. Larry Duson has also served as the Lafayette Rotary Club's president and has been involved with many of the charities that his bank is associated with."

The Chamber and community will celebrate Duson's honor, along with Mayor Carl Anduri's "State of the City" address and the introduction of the Chamber's 2011-2012 Board of Directors, on January 28th at the Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa. Reservation forms can be downloaded from the Chamber website, www.lafayettechamber.org.

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