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Lafayette

- Public Meetings**
- City Council** Monday, February 14, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd
 - Planning Commission** Monday, February 7, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd
 - Design Review** Monday, February 14, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center in the Arts & Science Discovery Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 - Tri-City Meeting** Thursday, February 10, 7:00 pm
Joint meeting with Moraga and Orinda at Saint Mary's College, Soda Center

• Police Report •



Playing games, 01/14/11 Someone stole credit card information and made an online purchase of an electronic game system. The card owner is temporarily out the refuted purchase amount and doesn't even get to play the game...

Does it come with matching heels? 01/17/11 A thief (perhaps a "bag lady") with expensive taste stole a high-priced handbag from inside a locked vehicle on Walnut Street.

Not a pretty picture, 01/15/11 \$2300 worth of stolen goods-- a

camera and lenses, electronic reader and clothing were taken from a car parked on St. Mary's Road.

Around the same time, 01/12/11-01/15/11 A laptop and headphones (valued at \$1250) were stolen from another car; the rear window of an SUV was broken out--the thief helped him/her self to a \$3,000 laptop; jewelry and a laptop valued at \$21,000 were taken in an overnight residential burglary on Las Trampas Road.

Have they lost their way? 01/18/11 Thieves snatched a GPS from a car parked in the owner's driveway overnight on Moon Court. If the directions say "go straight," will they turn themselves in?

The X5 is in!

Call Michael at 925-998-2150



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What's Happening with Redevelopment in Lafayette?

By Cathy Tyson

With Governor Jerry Brown's proposal to eliminate redevelopment agencies in California, cities across the state are scrambling to commit funds so they will be beyond the long arm of Sacramento.

Lafayette, the only city in Lamorinda that has a Redevelopment Agency, is not thrilled at the prospect. At the moment, it's unclear if Governor Brown's proposal will remain or may evolve. If adopted, and passed by the legislature it would save about 2% of the state budget.

In a nutshell redevelopment programs allow local governments to borrow against future property tax increases in designated redevelopment areas. That money can be used for projects that would spur economic development, create jobs and benefit the community.

It was just last November that California voters passed Proposition 22, which demanded an end to the raid of local government funds. The League of California Cities is looking into whether Brown's proposal is legal, especially just months after the passage of Prop. 22.

In Lafayette, Redevelopment money is responsible in part for the Mercantile Building, the Veterans Hall and the Library and Learning Center. Outside of Lafayette, redevelopment money helped pave the way for the new and improved downtown Pleasant Hill and IKEA, along with six other projects in Emeryville.

According to the City of Emeryville, "These seven major redevelopment projects have generated \$35 million in property tax revenue for the Redevelopment Agency, \$25 million in sales tax revenue, and have created 7,600 jobs. These revenues represent \$15 returned in tax revenue for every \$1 of Redevelopment Agency investment."

"The silver lining is this would be a lot worse if we were in the middle of a project," said Administrative Services Director Tracy Robinson. "Everything is very up in the air right now." Most of Lafayette's redevelopment money is committed to pay off bond debt and loans from the Library project.

Foundation Celebrates Fundraising Goal

By Cathy Tyson



Photo courtesy Kathy Merchant

There was champagne to celebrate reaching the \$4 million goal of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation's ("Foundation") Open Doors, Open Minds campaign. Even in a tough economy, generous donors contributed funds to literally keep the doors open of the one of a kind Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Longer hours, increased programming and the sustainability of the building were made possible by donations from individuals, foundation and corporate grants, room rentals, and special events. With 53% of the facility's total operating costs paid for by the Foundation, monetary support is critical to keep this public treasure open for business.

"Attendance at the library is mushrooming by the day" said Mike Gilson, newly appointed President of the Foundation Trustees. "Over 450,000 patrons have come through the doors in the first year -- an extraordinary achievement. Clearly it's had a positive effect on Lafayette."

"We're finding our expectation of participation is always exceeded," said Gilson, who is responsible for a variety of things including strategic planning. One of his tasks was to create his own job description: "help crystallize thinking and define 'what you want to be when you grow up.'"

Foundation Executive Director Kathy Merchant eagerly praises the new President, "Mike is very gracious, a voracious reader, a gifted writer and has great organizational skills - along with a financial background." He and his wife moved to Lafayette in 1990 and always had a passion for a new library. Gilson worked for many years in the corporate world and has been actively involved in quite a number of community projects.

Gilson feels he has a special obligation as President since so many friends and neighbors con-

tributed--over 25% of the households in Lafayette donated to the initial fundraising campaign--that the Foundation needs to manage the Library effectively and spend resources wisely.

Even before the official grand opening in November of 2009, it's been a learn-as-you-go process for Merchant. She stays ridiculously busy managing the day to day operations of the establishment.

"We need the community to understand we need them, can't do it without them," said Merchant. Both Merchant and Gilson credit a number of people with the success of the Library, Librarian Susan Weaver Librarian, Building Manager Brian Long and the Friends of the Library.

As the nature of learning has changed, so has this Library. By moving from a traditional building for quiet reading to a community living room and gathering space, this unique facility embraces the challenge of appealing to disparate groups of users. By offering a layout with a separate Community Hall, homework center, kids area and meeting rooms--everybody's happy and wants to come back for more.


In addition to fundraising, the Foundation manages the first of its kind Glenn Seaborg Consortium - a partnership of a dozen renowned education, science and arts institutions. These partners offer an array of specialty programs designed to appeal to a broad audience - from toddlers to seniors. In February look for events on Building the Hoover Dam, The Obama Effect: Where does the African American Community Stand Now and a special Sweet Thursday event with author Po Bronson. As the Library's popularity has snowballed, even more innovative groups want to hold events at the Library - like the World Affairs Council and the Gold Coast Players. For more information, go to www.LLCCF.org.

Art at the Library

Don't miss the brand new art exhibit in the Community Hall Gallery, "A Compendium of Birds," by Martin Lasack. The beautiful birds will be in residence until mid-March. The Gallery is open on Monday evenings from 6:30 and when there are public events scheduled at the Community Hall. Also look for the portrait of General Lafayette that was a generous gift from Gilbert Sonet and his son Noah--it's just to the right of the Information Desk.

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