

# Karen Mulvaney: Citizen of the Year

By Cathy Tyson



Photo submitted

Karen Mulvaney was stunned to learn about being selected as Lafayette's Citizen of the Year. She graciously acknowledged the many other Lafayette residents that work hard to make this a special and unique place to call home.

Mulvaney moved to Lafayette twenty-five years ago with husband Tom, son Mason and welcomed the arrival of their daughter a few years later. She credits her parents for her chari-

table point of view, "Leave a place better for having lived there and do your best to lighten the loads of others when possible." Both she and husband Tom try to live up to their respective parents' examples and honor them by how they conduct themselves.

She has been working for the last several years in support of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation where she is on the Board of Trustees. The Foundation is responsible for the majority of funding that keeps the doors open at the Library.

Prior to her Foundation work, Karen and Tom Mulvaney were busy volunteering for schools. "Together we were involved in five campaigns for the local parcel tax and bond measures. If it weren't for Tom, I'm not certain what would have happened to school funding given the economic disasters at the State level and the enormous impact it has on local schools," said Mulvaney.

The prior Citizen of the Year was actually Citizens of the Year – a group of hundreds of residents that brought the Lafayette Library and Learning Center to life. A dinner to honor Mulvaney will be held at the Lafayette Park Hotel on March 25; call the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce for ticket information, 284-7404.

## Students Star in Foundation's Jazz Festival

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It all started with charismatic Stanley Middle School Music Director Bob Athayde. "We brought the logs to the fire, but he was the fuel. We wanted to capitalize on a great resource," said Carter.

The Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop and the Mentorship Program with the Big Band of Rossmoor are sponsored by the Foundation. Students at the Summer Workshop participate in master classes and improvisation workshops in a close knit environment with other gifted middle school and high school youth. Money raised through the Foundation is funneled back to scholarships for students who otherwise would not be able to attend.

The students in the Mentorship Program truly enjoy working with the seniors in the Big Band. Many of the elder players actually traveled by train from town to town back in the 1940s to play with Big Bands. "It really completed the family," commented Carter about the relationship of young and old players; they happily pass along advice and support the students.

Originally spearheaded by professional musician Mary Fetting, who used to play with the Stan Kenton Orchestra, the Contra Costa County High School Honor Jazz Band is made up of very talented young people from fourteen high schools and fourteen middle schools.

The goal of the upcoming Jazz Festival is simply to bring music to the community and give talented young musicians an opportunity to play. Organizers just want to make enough to break even – that's why tickets are only \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Tickets are available through the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 284-7404 or www.lafayettechamber.org.

"Music changed my life," said Carter. He played a trumpet from fifth grade all the way through college. That trumpet collected dust in the closet for fifteen years, "I thought I was done after raising four kids, but I realized how much I missed it. It's kind of like riding a bike." The Generations in Jazz Foundation hopes to share and encourage that passion.

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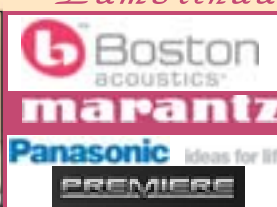
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