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Lafayette

Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, April 11, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Monday, April 4, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, April 11, 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

Prime time crime, 3/14/11 Criminal Minds burgled a flat screen TV from a Lafayette home. They kicked in a door and boosted the set. Law & Order took the call and recorded \$500 in stolen goods and twice that amount in damages.

Put this on my bill, 3/11/11 Eating out can be very expensive when two of your credit cards are stolen. A Lafayette diner discovered this when she received a call informing her that over \$17,000 had been charged to her account in Modesto and Stockton. The greedy thieves then attempted purchases in Walnut Creek but were denied; police are reviewing store videos to ID the perps.

Delivery and pickup, 3/14/11 A Silverado Drive resident reported the recent theft of a UPS parcel valued at \$46 from her front porch.

In broad daylight, 3/7/11A mid-afternoon burglary on Windsor Drive caused \$400 in damages to the home. The intruder stole \$200 in jewelry. After the home alarm was set off, the burglar set off on his merry way. No leads yet.

School of hard knocks, 3/13/11 A thief garnered \$425 in an afternoon purse heist from a vehicle parked along School Street. The vehicle was unlocked.

City Housing Element Conditionally Approved

By Cathy Tyson

Just last week the Department of Housing and Community Development in Sacramento conditionally approved Lafayette's draft Housing Element that was submitted back in January. A number of earlier drafts had been submitted that were not in compliance. Like all municipalities in California, Lafayette is required to provide a plan to accommodate its fair share of low income housing. For the current planning period, that is 361 units. City administrators prefer to locate those units in the downtown core, close to shopping, services and transit.

The January draft of the Housing Element spells out reasoning behind

that preference: "Affordable housing projects require funding from outside sources, whose criteria now almost universally require development projects be located near a variety of services. Projects not meeting the location requirements do not get funded. Therefore, to locate multifamily housing away from services into the more rural areas of the City would actually produce the opposite effect: it would mean affordable housing would NOT be built."

"(City Manager) Steven Falk and I are extremely happy to receive the letter from the State Department of Housing and Community Develop-

ment stating that our element will comply with State housing element law when adopted and submitted to HCD. I am proceeding immediately with the adoption of the revised element," said Niroop Srivatsa, Planning and Building Services Manager.

"The element now includes sufficient programs to encourage redevelopment of underutilized sites," said Glen Campora, Assistant Deputy Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development in a letter to Srivatsa. The letter goes on to outline six conditions necessary for approval - from adoption of the Downtown Specific Plan to ensuring sufficient capacity

of suitable sites for the development of emergency shelters.

Not everyone is thrilled with the conditional approval. "The result is disappointing but not surprising," said Mike Henn, former Planning Services Manager. "Affluent cities like all the Lamorinda cities provide no more than lip service to the State Fair Share housing requirements. A small staff of State planners in Sacramento, responsible for over 500 cities and counties, have no idea if a city's representations are honest. The State law is fairly toothless, in that it provides for no real penalties and there is no enforcement."



MAYOR ANDURI HOSTS COMMUNITY MEETING: "HOW BAD IS YOUR ROAD?"

Cell Tower in a Bell Tower Conundrum

By Cathy Tyson

Who knew adding eight feet to a bell tower could be so controversial? St. Anselm's Episcopal Church on Michael Lane already has a tall, slender bell tower that conceals Verizon Wireless telecommunications antennas. T-Mobile, another wireless provider that is in the process of being acquired by AT & T, wants to join the party. With conditions, city planning staff recommended approving the project. Rather than constructing new structures, the City encourages co-location.

After a false start with an unpopular fake tree design on Glenside Drive, T-Mobile proposed locating transmission antennas within the St. Anselm's bell tower and increasing its height, currently at 48 feet, to 56 feet.

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Harp Concert Hosted by Newly Re-Named Senior Services

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

The Windsong Harp Ensemble provided a heavenly concert for seniors recently. In addition to music, the winner of the "Give us a name" contest for Lafayette Senior Services was announced. "Lafayette Lively Seniors," which will eventually be shortened to "Lafayette Livelies" was the winning entry submitted by Amy Goodheart. In addition to bragging rights she won an overnight stay at the Lafayette Park Hotel and dinner for two at Yankee Pier.

Six women with six very large double action pedal harps, led by Jessica Siegel-Tonti of Harps Etc., enchanted seniors with their soothing, ethereal music. The theme of the show was, "Everything I need to know about life, I learned from a harp." The musicians took turns prior to each piece sharing a life lesson they had learned. Samantha Garvey was first up, "If you're going to make a mistake, make it loud." She explained that then you'll notice and learn from it. Next, "If you don't have blisters you aren't working hard enough." Siegel-Tonti clarified, "We're not getting blisters, we're really getting calluses - we're tough broads."

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