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# Lafayette

## Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Special Joint Meeting Agenda  
Lafayette City Council Lafayette School District Governing Board  
Thursday, June 23, 6:00 pm  
Lafayette Elementary - School Library 950 Moraga Road

#### City Council

Monday, June 27, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

#### Planning Commission

Monday, July 5, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

#### Design Review

Monday, June 27, 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

### Gone Missing

Someone lifted the words right off the pages of the Lafayette Police Incident Summary Report. The report, which used to include a paragraph or two outlining information from each call (on which we built our police blotter columns) has been streamlined to include only a time, call number, location and two-word incident description. Those wishing to investigate matters further must now file a Public Records Request, include their name and birth date, submit proof of ID (business card, California driver's license, letter of authorization) and declare ("under penalty of perjury") that this request is for scholarly, journalistic, political, governmental or private investigator purposes.

Battling deadlines for this issue, we can only tell you that during the week of June 5 to 11, there were 30 alarm responses (4 silent), 18 "suspicious" calls, 69 traffic stops (including 8 suspicious vehicles), 11 "disturbances" (including 4 verbal altercations, and 2 calls from the same block of Rahara Dr. about loud music), 4 welfare checks, a dozen instances of service to citizens, 1 grand theft, 1 reported battery, and a few reports of vandalism, identity theft, suspicious persons, and parked cars blocking drive-ways, among other things. There was one incident, which took place late in the evening of June 10 (the last school day of the year), listed only as "Shooting - Promiscuous" ...intriguing, however in this usage it means firing a gun randomly or indiscriminately.

## EBMUD Proposes Land Swap for Pumping Plant

By Cathy Tyson

The City Council took a preliminary step on Monday night agreeing in concept to a land swap for a new water pumping plant on the east end of Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Several important considerations will need to be ironed out before a final deal is approved.

It's easy to miss the vintage 1954 non-descript Diablo Vista Pumping Plant wedged between Ace Hardware and Svensson Automotive. The unremarkable, oversized shed is owned by the East Bay Municipal Utility

District (EBMUD) and houses pumping equipment that moves millions of gallons of water every day. The pumping plant was built when Dwight Eisenhower was president and has serious mechanical and electrical issues along with seismically unsafe construction. "We need to completely rehabilitate that site," said EBMUD representative Bill Kirkpatrick. "We can't spend time and money without an approval in concept, then we can go forward with a collaborative effort."

EBMUD has asked if Lafayette would consider a land swap to get the job done. Just down the street, near Diablo Court and adjacent to the cemetery, is a parcel of city-owned vacant land that could be used to construct a new and vastly improved, energy efficient pumping plant. When the new facility is operational, the tentative plan is demolish the old one and possibly turn it into a parking lot.

Building on this site offers a number of benefits to the city, moving it

outside the center of town is more cost effective, and easy accessibility means faster construction. Details like sidewalk improvements, the ultimate design of the exterior and screening from the street are all issues that will need to be addressed.

It's estimated the entire process may take up to three years. EBMUD wants to move quickly to avoid an incident like the fire and explosion that occurred at a pumping plant of about the same age on Geary Road in Walnut Creek.

## Commission Recommends Banning Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

By Cathy Tyson

While Oakland, San Francisco, Berkeley and other municipalities have chosen to allow medical marijuana dispensaries (MMDs), Lafayette prefers to decline. Because a temporary moratorium is set to expire on July 27, 2011, the Planning Commission recently approved a recommendation to alter the Municipal Code to ban the MMDs along with the cultivation of pot. Their recommendation will go to the City Council for final approval at the end of the month.

Although California voters approved Proposition 215 "The Compassionate Use Act of 1996" the U.S. Supreme Court, via the Controlled Substances Act, has ruled that possession and use of

marijuana is a crime. At the moment however, there seems to be a tepid truce. Just recently U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder suggested that the Justice Department will work with governors to reach a resolution. No word on exactly what that entails or when it will be addressed.

Lafayette Police Chief Mike Hubbard fully supports making the temporary moratorium permanent, "While not wanting to get into a debate with anyone regarding the medicinal uses for marijuana, there are certainly issues with regard to the dispensaries." He cites numerous cases in which an 18-year-old high school student obtains a medical marijuana card and ends up selling pot to younger students.

In the meantime, because the Lafayette Municipal Code doesn't have specific regulations on medical marijuana dispensaries, "The City has taken the position of prohibiting medical marijuana dispensaries due to the violation of federal law," said a recent staff report.

Since July 27, 2009 a moratorium on the establishment of MMDs has been in effect and was extended twice by Urgency Ordinance, reaching its maximum number. Lafayette isn't alone in its stance; Moraga and Orinda also adopted rules prohibiting the establishment of MMDs—their research found that MMDs have resulted in negative and harmful secondary effects such as an increase in crime

and an increase in driving while under the influence of marijuana.

Lafayette Planning Services staff analyzed sixteen local jurisdictions, looking at their land use regulations and likely impacts of MMDs. Staff recommends the adoption of regulations prohibiting dispensaries based upon the negative health, safety and general welfare impacts.

The recommendation will be sent to the City Council for approval on June 27. Because prior measures have been approved, it's expected that these proposed amendments that would prohibit cultivation or production along with establishing or operating of a medical marijuana dispensary will be approved.

## Meet the New Senior Services Coordinator

By Cathy Tyson



New Senior Services Coordinator Maureen Neumann in her office at the Lafayette Community Center. Photo C. Tyson

Seeking to enrich the lives of what she calls "seasoned" citizens, Maureen Neumann is the new Senior Services Coordinator for the City of Lafayette. In the job for just two months, she's had her hands full putting together the fall programming and running events. Neumann became involved with seniors during the many years she cared for her own aging parents and in her prior position working as the Community Relations Representative and

Wellness Coordinator at Diablo Lodge in Danville—an independent and assisted living facility. Neumann found she missed the seniors and "the joy that came from serving."

Just two people staff the entire Senior Services Department: Neumann, who logs 30 paid hours per week, and Molly Cohen at 19 hours per week. The pair do everything from field phone calls, assist seniors who walk in with questions and may need a refer-

ral, set up classrooms for a variety of workshops and weekly Tea Dancing. Although it's only June, Neumann is swamped putting together programs and confirming instructors for the fall guide; the deadline for publication is rapidly approaching. Look for similar class and workshop offerings this autumn, but when the dust settles she's interested in adding a variety of new events.

"We're always looking for volunteer presenters to speak about what they are knowledgeable and passionate about—someone who wants to share their expertise and give back to the community," she said.

With the goal of increasing participation in their programs, Neumann will be reaching out to Lamorinda churches to promote classes, hoping to connect with individuals who might not otherwise be familiar with all that's offered at the Senior Center.

Popular workshops this summer include "Making Friends with your Digital Camera" by photographer and graphic designer Rajshree and "The World Wide Web—Practical Knowledge for Today" by Nerd4Rent proprietor Edward Zeidan. Space is still available for these July work-

shops, call or visit the Senior Center to sign up.

Family has always been important to Neumann. She was born and raised in San Francisco, "the daughter of an Irish born father and a first generation Irish-American mother." It's no surprise that a favorite hobby was Irish step dancing, think "Riverdance," starting with lessons at five years old. She recently hung up her dancing shoes, but stays quite busy gardening, skiing, cooking and more.

Neumann's daughter, 26, is getting married in July; as the mother of the bride there's been no shortage of wedding related tasks to accomplish before the big day. She also has two sons, a 24-year-old who lives and works in Santa Rosa and the baby of the family, now 18, who lives at home and is attending Diablo Valley College. She adds that husband Dirk is "just the best guy—he has a great sense of humor and is the life of the party."

For more information on the Senior Center or to sign up for classes, call (925) 284-5050 or stop by Neumann's office at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road.

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