



Dana Green
Lic. #01482454

Sarah Kellar
Lic. #01805955

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Lafayette

Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, July 25, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Monday, August 1, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, July 25, 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

Whooooo...are you? 07/02/11
A guy walks into a bank...and ends up walking into Lafayette P.D. When he tried to open his first account at Bank of America, an employee told him that an account already existed under his social security number. Uh oh... That wasn't his doing. He also learned of an overdrawn Wells Fargo account using the very same social security number.

Busted at the Bus Stop, 07/01/11
A female suspect, blonde hair and blue eyes, was arrested for being drunk in public. Make that blonde hair and bloodshot eyes. She had, among other things, slurred speech and watery eyes. A background check showed the suspect was on court probation with a "consume no alcohol" clause. The police officer, not playing Santa to her clause, reined her in and jailed her.

No Grass Grows under this Good Samaritan's Feet, 06/30/11
A gardening truck was involved in a hit and run on Sweet Drive. A witness dug up the truck's license, and the driver and suspect vehicle were later weeded out. He was cited and released on misdemeanor hit and run.

The Pocket and the Book, 06/27/11
Maybe he just forgot his reusable grocery bags, but a 36 year old male was caught putting store items into his jacket pockets at the Lafayette Safeway. He admitted he had no way to pay, so police arrested him and booked him into Martinez Detention Facility.

You Auto Know Better, 06/27/11
Someone shattered the front window on a vehicle parked in a Mt. Diablo Blvd. parking lot, causing \$300 damage and stealing a black backpack. The backpack was later returned to the victim, contents intact. Unfortunately, that still leaves the broken window expenses. No eye witnesses, but there were security cameras.

Bid Problems for Streetscape Project

By Cathy Tyson

Although bids for a project that would upgrade sidewalks opened on June 22 – the project has been bumped back to the fall after staff analyzed bid proposals. Engineering Services Manager Tony Coe recommended to the City Council to reject all of the bids received thus far and to start the process all over again in the fall anticipating lower job costs and finding a contractor that meets federal minority-owned business participation goals.

Originally \$350,000 was earmarked from the Downtown Streetlight Replacement Reserve to fix up the south side of Mt. Diablo Boulevard from the Round-Up Saloon to Bank of the West. City staff applied

for and received a federal grant under the Transportation for Livable Community (TLC) Program for \$1,290,000, enabling a substantial expansion of the project.

This allows dollars from city coffers to be leveraged, making the project significantly more affordable. While garnering federal funds definitely helps the bottom line, there are a number of very specific strings attached.

At issue are complicated requirements calling for participation of "underutilized disadvantaged business enterprises" (UDBEs). Caltrans dictates that bids must meet UDBE goals or "include evidence that a good faith effort has been made to meet such goals," according to a re-

cent staff report.

Unfortunately the lowest submitted bid, by Elite Landscaping, didn't meet the UDBE goal. The good news is that waiting to bid the job won't jeopardize federal funds – if a winning bid for the construction project is finalized by November.

"It's an awkward system – CalTrans and the Federal government are trying to make it fair," said Associate Engineer Matt Luttrupp. He added, "What would you do for a million dollars?" He explained that while it's possible that a general contractor is minority-owned, what usually happens is some of the subcontracting work is allocated to UDBE businesses – anything from trucking to

material suppliers.

According to the California Office of Business and Economic Opportunity, the UDBE program provides a vehicle for increasing the participation of disadvantaged businesses. The program seeks to ensure that small UDBE firms can compete fairly for federally funded transportation-related projects – essentially leveling the playing field. The disadvantaged enterprise must be a for-profit small business that is at least fifty-one percent owned by one or more individuals who are both socially and economically disadvantaged – those groups include women, African Americans, Native Americans, and Asian Pacific Americans.

"Fix Our Roads" One Step Closer

By Cathy Tyson

At just four hundred signatures short, with two weeks until the deadline, it looks a proposed \$89 flat tax may make it onto the November ballot. City Council members at the July 11 meeting were pleased that despite some unusual weather, campaign volunteers who had gone door to door and spent time in front of Diablo Foods were able to collect 1,200 signatures in support of this road repair tax.

The matter will be heard again at the July 25 City Council meeting where organizers hope to present 1,600 valid signatures to place a measure initiated entirely by citizens on the ballot. In addition to the \$89 per year for a period of ten years, the City Council intends to contribute \$3 million dollars of reserve funds toward the project.

"Although there has been very lit-

tle negative response it's difficult to find people who want to walk through their neighborhoods and collect signatures," said Guy Atwood, Co-Chair of the Fix Our Roads Campaign.

"I've watched the streets of Lafayette deteriorate since 1966," said Anthony Unger, who lives in the Burton Valley neighborhood. He collected thirty signatures and reports that only one person said no.

Look for a City Council vote to place the measure on the ballot at their July 25 meeting at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. With no organized opposition to date and endorsements from the Lafayette Taxpayers Association, the Lafayette Homeowners Council, Chamber of Commerce and the Acalanes Valley Homeowners Association – the future looks encouraging – at least so far.

As Seen in Lafayette...



Family paddle boat fun at the Lafayette Reservoir on a sunny Sunday. Mark Manuel, along with kids Christopher and Tess and Mark's mom, Jerilyn Tolentino, circled the whole reservoir in their trusty water chariot. "It's a great workout," said Mark. Little Christopher was happy to chime in that he liked the boat. They came from Pittsburgh for a family get together.
C. Tyson

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