



**Dana Green**  
Lic. #01482454  
**(925) 339-1918**  
www.DanaGreenTeam.com



## CONTEMPORARY VIEW PROPERTY NEVER BEFORE ON MARKET!



### 2 Leeward Green, Lafayette

- Incredible 5BD/3BA, 3470 sq. ft. custom home w/panoramic views of Mt. Diablo on usable 3.05-acre parcel
- Private & serene yet part of the Burton Valley community
- Located just above Rancho Swim & Tennis Club

www.2LeewardGlen.com

Offered at \$1,445,000



## City Council Now Wrestling with Cell Tower Issue

By Cathy Tyson



View of the St. Anselm's bell tower from Michael Lane in Burton Valley  
Photo Cathy Tyson

**H**oping to get their appeal upheld, a roomful of concerned neighbors stayed at a recent City Council meeting until almost midnight for a final decision on locating a T-Mobile antenna in the St. Anselm's bell tower and an associated change in design and height. Noting that, "there are a lot of moving parts to this," Mayor Carl Anduri and the rest of the City Council agreed that more information is necessary before making a decision.

The matter was continued until September 26 so that the fire department can review the proposal from a fire safety angle and additional information from T-Mobile on their coverage gap can be documented.

How did a seemingly simple matter get so complicated and contentious? This is not an entirely new concept to Burton Valley - there's already a Verizon antenna within the existing bell tower structure at St. Anselm's.

Back in March, the Planning Commission had a public hearing about using the bell tower to house a T-Mobile antenna for cell phone service. Although the commissioners generally supported the idea there were concerns about the design, so they referred the matter to the Design Review Commission (DRC) to address aesthetic concerns. The DRC made specific recommendations that included painting the whole thing a dark color to match the church, and eliminating the horizontal trim and louvers.

In June of this year the Planning Commission agreed with DRC's recommendations and approved the application - subject to certain conditions. On July 1, Don Whiteside filed an appeal on behalf of a group of neighbors who are concerned that the Planning Commission decision was based on incomplete information and that more homes should have been notified. Lafayette's policy is to mail property owners within 300 feet of the subject property a notice of the public hearing along with an outdoor posting ten days prior in the immediate area.

"We have to stop this harmful project," said Whiteside at the City Council meeting, describing the damage via visual blight, possible lowering of neighborhood real estate values and questioning T-Mobile's claims of gaps in service.

"Does the existing tower diminish property values?" asked Council Member Mike Anderson. Whiteside replied he wasn't sure.

Opponents packed the Community Hall hoping to put a kibosh on the proposed cell tower due to overall negative impacts and the proposed bigger, bulkier bell tower. If approved, the structure portion of the existing bell tower would increase in height from 48 feet 3 inches to 56 feet.

One woman recommended "an emergency moratorium on cell towers right now." Ellen Marks, a real estate agent, reported that a World Health Organization report called cell towers "possibly carcinogenic." She feels the burden of proof is on the applicant to prove there is a significant gap in coverage.

Applicant Ann Welsh explained that T-Mobile anticipates a 700% jump in wireless data transmission by

2015 and that this technology has been in use for 160 years and can be found in baby monitors, radios, TVs and microwaves. They have produced six versions of the tower design to address aesthetic concerns and measured energy in the area from the existing tower. A licensed electrical engineer found that the current level of radio frequency energy is .023% - or 400 times below the FCC limit. He estimates that with the proposed T-Mobile antennas operating there would be 2.2% of the FCC limit - 45 times below the safety threshold.

She also explained that T-Mobile analyzed four alternative sites that didn't work for a number of reasons - lack of support by the Planning Commission, interference from trees, and more.

It will be a difficult decision one way or the other. Residents can find out for whom the bell tolls at the September 26 City Council meeting.



## Lafayette

### Civic News

#### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Monday, September 12, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, September 6, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

#### Design Review

Monday, August 22, 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

**Recipe for Trouble, 7/27/11** Take two teens; add an innocently parked truck; glaze/vandalize with flour and yogurt; interrupt when a good citizen confronts the vandals. Both teens take off on foot. One vandal was positively identified; his goose should be cooked; the other one will be in hot water soon enough.

**Adult Behaving Badly, 7/28/11** One dissatisfied customer was a bit heavy-handed at a local store. A Lafayette police report says he threw his fist on the counter and subsequently broke the business' ATM machine. They're calling it a "civil" matter; nothing "civil" about it, as the business suffered the loss of a \$600 machine.

**Leaf-less in Lafayette, 7/28/11** Someone called police to say his tree was cut down without permission. To add insult to injury, a retaining wall and sprinkler on the property were also damaged.

**Recently Burgled, 7/25-7/29/11** Missing: \$200, \$875 and \$1800; plus a wallet (contents valued at \$700) stolen from a parked car in a smash-and-grab, a '96 Nissan stolen outright and \$11.34 worth of batteries lifted from a store. It was a busy week for those with light fingers.

**An International Incident, 8/4/11** Lafayette Police say two flags, one American and one British, were broken off a flagpole. Really? Got nothing better to do? Flag values were listed at \$24.

**A Little Alchemy, 8/4/11** Atomic number 29\* (\*copper) was taken by two males. Its value was \$350, but it never went on sale. When Lafayette Police step in of course they'll save the day. And they'll clap those thieves in Fe cuffs and take the pair away.

**A Two-Town Bender, 8/6/11** A Walnut Creek resident was inebriated enough to make it all the way to Lafayette where he busied himself yelling at people. He was intercepted in Lafayette, where "due to his level of intoxication" he was unable to care for himself and placed in the pokey.

**Pearls for the Swine, 8/5/11** A car's passenger side window was smashed and the thief/thieves snatched a jewelry box with \$10,000 worth of jewelry inside. Now, what does one wear to an arraignment?

*Terry Riggins*  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
Holiday Mini Sessions  
Book Early For Great Savings

August: \$125  
September: \$150  
Includes Session & One Digital Image

(925) 631-1000  
info@terryrigginsphotography.com  
www.terryrigginsphotography.com

*Rosewood House*.com

FINE FURNITURE & ASIAN ANTIQUES SINCE 1969

CONCORD 4700 CLAYTON RD. (925) 827-9588  
OAKLAND 2523 BROADWAY (510) 451-7373

# \$50 FOR 30 DAYS OF UNLIMITED CLASSES\*

CELEBRATE  
THE BAR METHOD'S  
10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
WITH OUR LOWEST  
EVER PRICING FOR  
NEW STUDENTS!

Walnut Creek, CA  
1946A Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
925.933.1946

**the bar method**

www.barmethod.com

San Ramon, CA  
3211 Crow Canyon Place  
925.830.8825

\* Sale price is valid from Aug 15-31, valid on the New Student Unlimited Package only, package available to new clients who have not yet purchased it or clients who have not taken class in at least a year, limit one per customer, valid for 30 days from date of first class attendance