



Dana Green
Lic. #01482454



Sarah Kellar
Lic. #01805955

(925) 339-1918
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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, November 14, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Tuesday, November 21, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, November 14, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
in the Arts & Science Discovery
Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District

Wednesday, November 16, 7:30 pm
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 pm
LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org



Police Report

What Point Friendship? 10/23/2011 Someone visiting a friend upset a second visitor (the friend's friend) who pulled a knife and threatened the first friend. The friend of a friend is apparently not so friendly. The knife-wielder slipped away before police arrived.

Catch and Release, 10/28/11 Lafayette police arrested a 23-year old male from Los Angeles on a Santa Clara County warrant, and then released him.

A Dollar for your Thoughts, 10/11/2011 Who loans a rental car to his ex-girlfriend? Someone Thrifty? Or on a Budget? Apparently he never considered his Enterprising ex would take the vehicle without his permission. Now that just Hertz.

Unclaimed Luggage, 10/15/2011 What exactly does a "suspicious" suitcase look like, especially after it's been on the sidewalk for several hours? We can't answer that question, but we do know the contents were "miscellaneous clothing and items." Officers responding found no way to ID the suitcase or its owner, so they carted it away and put it into lockup.

I just can't wash my hands of this... 10/16/2011 Sometimes, washing your hands can be costly. Case in point: a woman who set a \$3500 gold bracelet down in the restroom, stepped away and returned to find it missing.

New Book Drop Coming to Library

By Cathy Tyson



A new book drop will be conveniently located along Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Photo Cathy Tyson

Free books for everyone – a good thing, but Lafayette Library and Learning Center's (LLLC) success in getting books in the hands of readers becomes an issue when it comes time to return those books – existing book drops are overflowing with 30,000 returns per month. The odd location of two book drops at the rear of the building along Golden Gate Way and an automated receptacle in the main entrance lobby that's only available during open hours aren't meeting

the needs of patrons.

A new driver-friendly option was recently approved by the City Council. A drop box will be located along Mt. Diablo near the edge of the sidewalk, just east of the bus stop. Special signs and curb markings will designate one spot for very limited parking, approximately two or three minutes, just enough time to get out of your car and deposit books. Certainly not enough time to collect children, grab a latte from the café or pick up books that are on hold.

"With the new building it's been a learn-as-you-go process," said City Manager Steven Falk, adding "people aren't naturally inclined to drive around the back of the building" to drop off books.

Plans call for a stainless steel structure that would be paid for by Friends of the Library. Mike Gilson, President of the LLLC Foundation, said they have been "considering a book drop for quite some time," the number of returns has "put a strain on their system."

Even when the library is closed, library staff is needed to manually handle the overflow.

"These are our customers" said Kathy Merchant, Executive Director of LLLC Foundation, "and we want to keep them happy." The LLLC Foundation funds 53% of the building's expenses, and has cited the need for increased visibility and convenience for library patrons returning books. Merchant said the Foundation is sensitive to safety concerns—there's plenty of room for a car door to open without impeding the bike lane or vehicles on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Immediate neighbors aren't pleased; representatives from Boswells and Caffino believe it will have a negative impact, calling it "disruptive to our business" and "already a bad situation."

The City Council encouraged staff to make signage and curb painting crystal clear that only parking for approximately two to three minutes was allowed. For readers dropping off books, they should feel free to briefly stop in the designated spot, then round the driveway and head into the parking lot next door for coffee and party supplies.

Vet's Building Re-Branding Itself as Events Center

By Cathy Tyson



Veterans Memorial Building

Photo courtesy Ed Stevenson

Opened just six years ago, the Veterans Memorial Building is now known as the Lafayette Events Center at the Veterans Memorial Building. New marketing efforts call it simply the Lafayette Events Center. Although Contra Costa County owns the building, the Veterans lease it and had been responsible for booking events as well as all the upkeep. The 9,500 square foot building replaced for two now-demolished crumbling Veterans buildings – one in Walnut Creek and one in Lafayette.

The name change is meant to reposition the facility as a great location for weddings, bar mitzvahs and corporate events. Ed Stevenson, former Marine and now Building Manager, said Lafayette War Veterans, Inc., a non-profit organization that manages the Veterans Memorial Building determined veterans "grossly underestimated" the costs associated with the sleek award-winning facility. "We needed to learn some lessons," said Stevenson, who gleaned life skills serving in Vietnam, but had no experience as an event planner.

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