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Lafayette

Civic News

Public Meetings

Tri-City Meeting City Council

Thursday, February 9, 7:00 pm
Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda
next regular **City Council**
Monday, February 27, 7:00 pm

Planning Commission

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

Design Review

Monday, February 13, 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, February 1, 7:30 pm
Wednesday, February 15, 7:30 pm
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, February 8, 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

**Please submit
Letters and Opinions:**
letters@lamorinda
weekly.com

Police Report



Sign standoff, 1/14/2012 Someone collecting signatures for political issues claimed he was being harassed by the employee of a nearby business. The employee returned the compliment, saying the signature gatherer was blocking the business handicap access.

Ouch! 1/17/2012 Police think an 88 year old man may have mistaken his car's gas pedal for the brakes when attempting to park along Mt. Diablo Blvd. His car struck the plate glass window of a business.

And more ouch! 1/10/2012 An 89 year old man drove his car over several curb lines, struck a retaining wall, two street signs and a fire hydrant before colliding with a fence. The driver was unhurt; the wall, signs, hydrant and fence were a little worse for wear.

Hello...Goodbye, 1/17/2012 If there's one thing worse than having your car burgled, its having the burglar run right by and taunt you. A woman said she heard a loud smash, followed by the presumed burglar running by with a "see ya later!" comment. Her wallet was gone - cash and checks in the amount of \$1400 total were missing. Damage to car window: \$200. Hearing that cheeky comment: priceless.

Out past curfew, 1/17/2012 A mother filed a missing persons report when her child was not home by 8pm. The missing "child" was 38 years old, and showed up at the house just before midnight. Once a mom...always a mom.

After Delays, Senior Housing Project Ready to Roll

By Cathy Tyson

In 2008 this paper reported on Eden Housing's bid for a low income senior apartment complex along Mt. Diablo Boulevard. It was described as well on its way at the time; but it was only recently, at a January 23, 2012 City Council meeting that Woody Karp, Senior Project Manager said, "I'm really happy to report we obtained the final piece of funding in order to move project forward. We should be ready to start construction in the beginning of August. Thank you for your patience and support."

Karp explained the hold-up was all about the financing, "Affordable housing relies on very limited public funding sources to make it work." He added, "It's very competitive. Funding sources have been cut back significantly or eliminated altogether."

The original funding source was a federal program with applications taken only once per year. Eden applied three different times and ultimately tied for first place. But there was only enough money for one project, and it went to the other applicant.

Undaunted, Karp was finally able to secure funds from a state multi-



Rendering of the Senior Housing Project

Provided

family program administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. "It was pretty miraculous," said Karp.

With a great downtown location between Brown Avenue and Blackwood Lane, next to Bo's Barbeque, the almost one-acre site is very pedestrian friendly. The forty-five rental units exclusively for low-income seniors, with one manager's unit, were

designed by architect Van Meter Williams Pollack. The 52,000 square foot structure is set back from the street and has two inner courtyards for residents to enjoy.

Seventeen of the units are designed specifically for disabled residents. The building will feature a large living room style community space with comfortable sofas, a television and music, a full service

kitchen for residents who would like to host parties, along with amenities like a gardening club to work on the raised beds on the property, a computer learning center, and modest exercise room. Thirty parking spaces will be available underneath the building. The design hasn't changed since going through the Design Review process and gaining approval back in 2008.

Popular Chamber Director Receives Business Award

By Cathy Tyson

Known for his good humor and boundless energy, Jay Lifson, Executive Director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, was awarded the Marquis Business Person of the Year award at a celebratory dinner event at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa. By all appearances, Lifson's the most popular man in Lafayette. Beyond the charm however, is a dedicated, successful leader of the Chamber since 2005, who has increased membership by 42 percent and increased revenue by 65 percent.

In years past Lifson would disqualify himself, but this time around his objections were overruled. Kicking off the tribute/roast

with "hip hip hurray for Jay," Mo Levich led a packed house to honor the man who brings residents together with the Chamber-sponsored Art and Wine Festival, the Reservoir Run, Rock the Plaza, as well as the "Shop Lafayette First" campaign, and efforts to save the twinkle lights.

Family, friends and a veritable who's who of Lafayette movers and shakers raised a glass to the man of the hour. His friend for over forty years, Mac Carey lauded him as having "the rare quality of making those around him better. Everybody loves Jay." A parade of speakers highlighted his finer points including his love of the Grateful Dead, enthusiasm, and civic pride. Even a group from the City's Planning Department joined the fray with a hilarious top ten list; they bestowed upon him the first ever Honorary City Planner award.

The star of the night that literally sang Lifson's praises was City Manager Steven Falk, who stripped off shirt and tie in favor of leather jacket, t-shirt and funky wig for his own version, with adjusted lyrics, of the Bob Dylan



Jay Lifson

Photo Andy Scheck

classic, "Like a Rolling Stone." Clapping and singing along, the audience chimed in on the chorus, "How does it feel? To be right at home, to be so well known, to sit on that throne, like a Jay Lif-son."

When asked for a comment, Lifson replied, "How about the 'Hippie-Jock' -as my dear friend Mac Carey put it -makes good! I was able to

share a very special evening with my father, mother, family, friends and the wonderful people in Lafayette. The kid whose parents were told every year at report card time, 'He has so much potential, if only he applied himself,' got a chance to make his family proud. I am one of the lucky people who enjoys what they do, every day."



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