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Lafayette
Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission

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

Design Review

Monday, March 12, 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, March 7, 7:30 pm
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, March 7, 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
Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

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

Planning Commission Weighs Balloons vs. Poles

By Cathy Tyson



Photosimulation courtesy of KB Home for proposed Town Center III project.

How best to erect story poles on a constrained lot? Just behind Panda Express is a one and a half acre gravel BART overflow parking lot. Although it doesn't look like much

now, after a long, complicated history current developer KB Home has proposed a five story, eighty-one unit apartment complex for the site. Back in August of 2010, story poles were

determined to be required when an official application for this project was submitted.

"The problem is the guy wires, that's why they are proposing this al-

ternative," said Lafayette Senior Planner Christine Sinnette at a recent Planning Commission meeting explaining the rationale behind balloons. While it's not unusual to have story poles for neighbors and city staff to get a sense of how tall a second story home addition will be, because the proposed building is approximately seventy feet tall – the poles, either wood or metal, would need a substantial amount of support and anchoring to keep them steady. In researching the project, KB Home found only one construction company, Swinerton, that has ever erected story poles that tall using wood. After reviewing the plans a Swinerton representative commented, "I do not see how we can do it with conventional wood story poles."

Job Bennett, Project Manager for KB Homes, outlined his firm's preference for using large helium balloons and anchoring them with ropes to keep them in place on a non-windy day. ... continued on page A11

Lafayette's Police Officer of the Year



Officer Jacqueline Dennison

Photo Cathy Tyson

At a recent City Council meeting, Chief Mike Hubbard recognized Officer Jacqueline Dennison as Lafayette's Officer of the Year, "We couldn't be more proud of her."

She's been working in Lafayette for the past five and a half years, and has gone above and beyond the call of duty on more than once occasion. Residents may remember a dramatic car crash into a house on South Silver Springs Road a while ago. The driver had a medical emergency and there was a child in the back strapped into a car seat. Officer Dennison and her partner Officer Ryan Sullivan, rescued both individuals while gasoline was leaking all around. She selflessly volunteered to get the toddler out of the back seat, knowing that a single spark could cause a dramatic explosion.

A second incident occurred at 6:30 in the morning - the first call of the day, there was a medical emergency. "I responded with a Code 3 – sirens and lights." A 63-year-old woman had a heart attack. Dennison used her defibrillator and performed CPR for seven minutes until paramedics arrived. She saw the woman's son later at the Art and Wine Festival; he thanked her again for saving his mom's life.

"It's all part of the job," said Dennison. Look for her patrolling the streets of Lafayette in a four door Dodge Charger. With a wry smile, she notes, "it's very maneuverable." C. Tyson
(A letter of commendation for Officer Dennison appears in Letters to the Editor, page A8)

Police Report



Prescription for trouble, 2/10/12 Someone tried to unlawfully fill a prescription by phone. The doctor's office was called to

verify, and quickly put the kibosh on that.

Precursor for trouble, 2/8/2012 Police took a report regarding theft of narcotic prescriptions pad. Hmm...

Hit and run, 2/10/12 Police received a report of an accident causing property damage. The culprit fled the scene without notifying the property owner or police.

The good and not so good news, 2/7/12 The good news: it appears a burglar was stopped in his tracks. The not so good: some window screens at the residence involved were cut and on the ground. Fortunately, that was the only damage.

Double Smash and Grab, 2/9 and 2/12/12 Two separate auto burglaries in the space of three days, with a similar M/O. Each car's owner had a front passenger window

broken and a purse stolen. \$70 missing and \$100 damages in the first case; \$200 missing and \$200 damages in the second. Must have been a bigger purse.

Surf and Turf, 2/15/12 Two street bikes and a surfboard were taken from an Acalanes Road residence, just ahead of a long weekend. Someone had vacation plans...



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