

Supervisor Gayle Uilkema Loses Battle with Cancer

Services to be held at St. Perpetua's in Lafayette



Gayle Uilkema in Orinda's 4th of July Parade last summer. Photo Ohlen Alexander

Contra Costa Supervisor Gayle Uilkema passed away Saturday, May 19 after a two-year battle with ovarian cancer. She was 73.

In March, Uilkema was named Lafayette's Citizen of the Year. She served for 16 years on the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and 19 years on the Lafayette City Council. She always believed that local government is the most important government.

Uilkema announced last November that she would not seek reelection, saying, "I chose this time of Thanksgiving to announce my retirement because I'm so grateful and want to give thanks for the opportunity to hold the public trust all these years."

"Gayle's service to the residents of Lafayette and Contra Costa County goes beyond the number of meetings she attended and the decisions she made," said long-time friend and Lafayette City Council member Don Tatzin in March. "What distinguishes Gayle from others in public service is the manner in which she serves. She is always accessible, puts the needs of

constituents first, and trusts the judgment of citizens to know what is best for them and what they need and want from government."

Uilkema took an active interest in a variety of projects ranging from regional emergency preparedness to public finance, and keeping seniors safe from fall risks.

She is survived by her two daughters, of whom she spoke proudly on many occasions—one is a Deputy District Attorney and the other a family practice physician.

Services will be held at Saint Perpetua's Church, 3454 Hamlin Road, Lafayette. There will be a Rosary on Wednesday, May 23 at 7 p.m. and a Funeral Mass on Thursday, May 24 at 10:30 a.m. A reception will follow in St. Perpetua's Parish Hall.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 101 Ygnacio Valley Road, Suite 110, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

Flowers may be sent to Hull's, 1139 Saranap Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

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Lafayette Community Foundation is Giving Money Away

By Cathy Tyson

Who doesn't want to help out a service that provides a lift to get seniors to their doctor's appointments and more? Generous support of worthy local non-profits has been the Lafayette Community Foundation's (LCF) mission since 1999. Senior Helpline Services recently received a \$3,000 grant from the LCF. The non-profit charitable organization helps seniors in Lafayette and throughout Contra Costa County to safely age in place by providing free transportation, regular outreach to isolated elders through their

Reassurance Phone Friends Program along with information and referrals for a variety of services.

"I have never met a senior whose bucket list includes living in a nursing home," said a very grateful Elaine Welch, Executive Director of Senior Helpline Services. "Mobility equals independence," she added, explaining their escorted door through door service and help with packages or groceries can be a critical component of supporting the elderly who prefer to live at home, but may need some help.

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Farmers' Market Grand Opening on June 10



Shoppers at last year's Farmers' Market

Photo Andy Scheck

After finding a new market operator, a new location in the south BART parking lot—off of Happy Valley Road just past the Wells Fargo bank—and securing a new, more family-friendly day, Sunday, the Lafayette Farmer's Market will soon be open for business.

Starting on June 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. year round, roughly 60 vendors will offer a wide variety of produce, flowers, packaged and prepared foods—even a social area with tables and chairs to dine on recent purchases. The new location offers convenient parking—accessible via the lot at Town Center

III, behind Panda Express. The constrained location of last year's market at the corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Blvd., along with difficult timing on Thursday evenings, wasn't a great fit for customers.

"We are very excited that the Farmer's Market was approved at the BART lot," said Gina Dawson of Sustainable Lafayette; however she went to explain that the group is concerned about the City's sign ordinance - there's a restriction on directional signs. Since visibility is important, especially at their new and improved location, "We are working on ways to be creative to get the word out," said Dawson.

Organizers felt that the new operator, Urban Village Farmer's Market Association, offered a great mix of vendors and has a successful track record with markets in Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, the Temescal District and in Montclair Village. C. Tyson

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