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Great Turnout at Downtown 'Sock Hop'

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Folks flocked to the checkerboard dance floor when the band, dolled up in red aloha shirts with cheetah insets, played "Johnny Be Good." Crowd pleasing songs like "Unchain My Heart" and "Stand By Me" set the tone for the relaxed vibe of the evening. Not too many poodle skirts in sight, but there was one young fellow who looked barely old enough to drive in an Acalanes jacket. Two charming kindergarten-age young ladies were impressive in frothy sparkly powder blue princess dresses.

Geane and husband Bill Simpson were tearing up the dance floor; they've been dancing together for 55 years. Geane's advice? "Keep dancing."

Maybe it's a millennial thing, but a cluster of Lafayette 'tweens had never heard of the classic song "Johnny Be Good," although they did enjoy sharing a shave ice cone. Eliza Cleaver said, "This is fun, I will drag my friends next week - we love square dancing." Some of the kids quipped they were there to avoid their parents.

Adding to the '50s theme, management from Lafayette Auto Body had a line-up of classic cars parked in front of Squirrels. Who couldn't appreciate a tricked-out turquoise hot rod with the license plate WHACKED29?

"I'm having so much fun, I'm going to invite everyone back to my backyard bomb shelter after the party," joked event co-host Jay Lifson, Executive Director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Attendees can thank the City of Lafayette and the Chamber, along with sponsors like Whole Foods, Itrium and Mechanics Bank for putting together the three month line up of entertaining, free events. For more information go to www.lafayettechamber.org or give them a call at (925) 284-7404.

Civic News Lafayette

Art Installations Coming to Downtown Projects

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Nope, the title does not refer to eggs. "It's a dynamically balance form conceived to reference the experience of travel...Over Easy will be visible to pedestrians and drivers alike from both roads. As one passes by, the sculpture will appear to wind and unwind presenting a different profile from each vantage point," said Berry in a description of the artwork.

The Merrill Gardens project is a mixed use development with 72 assisted living apartments, a 17-bed memory care unit and roughly 6,000 square feet of retail space on the ground floor, located on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Second Street.

This installation is a bit different from the Hungry Hunter townhomes; it's a functional divider that visually separates a portion of the inner courtyard closer to the building from the more public expanded sidewalk section fronting Mt. Diablo. A long curving pool will be the base for the sculpture elements, at six feet wide by 23 feet long, the pool is fairly substantial. Six silicon bronze wavy exclamation points ranging from 6'6" to 9'6" will have hand-textured surfaces and patinas, along with a cast stone seat that invites shoppers and residents to sit and relax.



Attention Art Lovers:

There's a new exhibit on display in the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center through mid-August - a poignant collection of black and white photographs by Lafayette resident Blake Farrington that document HIV/AIDS issues in a small community in Eastern Uganda.

Police to Get New Computers in Patrol Cars

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The new MDCs will allow police to write up a report from a patrol car and electronically send it in, similar to an iPad or iPhone, but with more bells and whistles.

Another selling point of the new and vastly improved computers is the identification components of the system. The Mobile ID program, about the size of a lipstick, can take a subject's fingerprint and transmit the image via the new MDC to connect with the County Identification Bureau to compare with records on file.

Finally, the old models don't support the Automated Regional Information Exchange System (ARIES) - a system that shares records, parole data, photographs, mugshots and more - the new computers do.

How much is this going to cost? The Chief has requested a maximum of \$60,000 from the Police Vehicle Replacement Sinking Fund. That account currently has a balance just short of \$350,000. Monthly service fees should be less than \$40 per month per computer.

"The computers include a touch screen monitor, the processor and the modem systems that allow us to access the County law network," said Christensen. Contra Costa County has an existing contract, and the City of Lafayette can take advantage of savings by piggy-backing on their economy of scale. The request was unanimously approved by the City Council.

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