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Lafayette

Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, August 13, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

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

Design Review

Tuesday, August 13, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
in the Arts & Science Discovery
Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

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

Police Report



Week of July 15-21

Lafayette Police Incident Summary Report, week of July 15-21 included the following:

Burglaries:

- 3300 block of Victoria Avenue
- 3100 block of Somerset Place
- 100 block of Camellia Lane
- 3600 block of Mt. Diablo Blvd. (commercial burglary)
- 1400 block of Sunset Loop (auto burglary)
- 3200 block of Palomares Street

Petty thefts:

- 4000 block of Mt. Diablo Blvd,
- 100 block of Lafayette Circle

Suspicious Circumstances/ Vehicle/Subject:

- 1000 block Upper happy Valley Rd.
- 3200 block Hillview Lane
- 100block of Middle Road
- 100 block of Silverwood Drive
- 3600 block of Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 900 block of Mountain View Dr. (vehicle)
- El Nido Ranch Road/Hwy 24 (vehicle)
- 3300 block S. Lucille Lane
- 100 block of Chapel Drive
- Edwards Court at McGraw Lane (vehicle)
- Black Hawk at Meadow Lark (vehicle)
- 3300 block Moraga Boulevard
- 3400 block School Street
- Hwy 24 at Mt Diablo Blvd
- 3800 block of happy Valley Road
- 1000 block of Oak Hill Road
- 600 block of Murray Lane (vehicle)
- 400 block of Tahos (vehicle)
- 100 block of Camino diablo (vehicle)
- 100 block of Camino Justin (vehicle)
- 100 block Lafayette Circle
- 3800 block Los Arabis Drive
- 500 block St. Mary's Road

Music/Party disturbances:

- 4000 block Mt Diablo Blvd
- Mt Diablo at Acalanes Road
- Valente Drive
- Diablo Creek at Hidden Valley Road
- Camino Colorados at St. Mary's Rd.
- Rohrer Drive at St. Mary's Road

Traffic Stops:

Over 141 traffic stops logged within the same week.

Changes Ahead for City Council

Anduri announces that he, like Federighi, will not seek re-election

By Cathy Tyson

At the July 23 City Council meeting, 10-year City Council Member Carl Anduri announced he won't be running for another term. He joins Mayor Carol Federighi in saying good-bye after years of volunteer service. Only incumbent Mike Anderson will seek re-election to the City Council in November. Accord-

ing to City Clerk Joanne Robbins as of July 24, Mike Anderson, Traci Reilly and Mark Mitchell have pulled nomination papers for the election, but she cautions, "Pulling papers and turning them in are two different things."

"I have a great day job," explained Anduri, adding that he logs

about 200,000 air miles a year as President of Lex Mundi, an association of global independent law firms. He noted that the current five members of the Council have a combined total of 66 years of service. Anduri is looking forward to more personal time and thanked residents for their support over the years.

Those considering a run for office should have a few extra days to prepare their papers. The rules say that if one or more incumbents do not file nomination papers by the August 10 deadline, the deadline is extended until August 15. Potential candidates should contact Robbins at (925) 284-1968.

Conflict Continues as Downtown Plan Wraps Up

By Cathy Tyson

Passionate discussion over the Downtown Specific Plan continued with last week's full house at the Community Hall. There doesn't seem to be much common ground between homeowner groups, especially the Lafayette Homeowners Council, and the City, mostly due to requirements to meet state mandated affordable housing numbers.

Themes that have been reiterated throughout the multi-year process once again were brought up to the City Council. Longtime opponent Eliot Hudson asked the Council, "What homeowners association has been before you that has supported the Downtown Specific Plan—none." Throughout the process, not a single homeowners group has come out in favor of the plan. This, coupled with

concern about traffic congestion, air quality and school funding made it unanimous – audience members are clearly not in favor of the Downtown Specific Plan (DSP).

At the prior City Council meeting considering the DSP in June, Council members asked staff to provide answers to specific questions related to a proposal prepared by the Lafayette Homeowners Council (LHC). Specifically, how will the LHC proposal impact the city's ability to meet the states regional housing needs allocation?

Niroop Srivatsa, Building and Planning Services Manager, answered those questions at length in her staff report prepared for the July 23 City Council meeting and verbally for the benefit of the audience. The

lengthy answers are best examined via the staff report available online, through the City's website, www.lovelafayette.com.

In its June 25 letter the LHC argues, "Increased density with its projected impacts on our downtown remains a threat to our small city's viability." They recommend a 25-foot height limit for properties fronting Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

The staff report prepared by Srivatsa responds in part, "a lowering of the height limit allowed by right will significantly reduce the City's ability to meet the State's regional housing needs allocations. The reduction in the height limit will likely be viewed by the State as a constraint on the development of housing for all income levels."

The report points out that this concern was examined by the Planning Commission during its analysis, back in 2010 and 2011. The bottom line: the Planning Commission believed the height question should be dealt with through design guidelines and the City's discretionary review process, and that lowering the height limit to 25 feet would discourage private investment in the downtown. "Greater height does not equal greater density," emphasizes the report, "the DSP's maximum of three stories guarantees this."

The public hearing on the DSP will continue at the August 13 City Council meeting, 7 p.m. at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall. A decision on the Plan is slated for September 10, 2012.

Vantastic New Vehicle for Lamorinda Seniors

By Cathy Tyson



The trio of Spirit Vans ready to serve seniors in Lamorinda. Because the van on the far right is so new, identification above the windshield isn't ready yet. Photo provided

With two vans that have racked up a combined total of over 430,000 miles, it seemed like the best birthday gift ever when the newest Spirit Van arrived at the Senior Transportation Program in Lafayette. Tricked out with a built-in grocery rack to help elders handle packages, a smoother ride and better gas mileage, the first-ever brand new van is already popular, providing rides to seniors for medical appointments, errands and the senior lunch pro-

gram in Walnut Creek. While Moraga and Orinda contribute to the cost of the program, Lafayette pays the largest share; inexpensive rides are available for any senior in Lamorinda, \$5 each way; or, for those going to the C.C. Café at the Senior Center in Walnut Creek, round trip rides are free and the lunch is only \$2. The program has been steadily gaining ridership and now boasts roughly double the amount of patrons who

were served in 2006, helping seniors independently age in place as long as possible.

Mary Bruns, Lamorinda Senior Transportation Coordinator, was able to get the van for a fraction of the purchase price; and over 88 percent of the cost, or \$54,889, was paid by a federal grant. Bruns had been patiently waiting for the grant to come through since she applied for it back in May of 2009 – apparently the wheels of the federal government turn mighty slowly.

The newest ride couldn't have come at a better time. The original van is a 1999 model that was donated to the Senior Transportation Program by County Connection. The second van is slightly newer – a 2002 model also from County Connection. The oldest van will now serve as back-up, in case of break-downs or maintenance.

It takes a village to run the program. "We have two new volunteer drivers in training which will bring us up to 13 volunteer drivers," said Bruns. "By September, 2012, we expect to have all the shifts covered and will be able to offer morning and afternoon service Monday through Friday."

She's always on the look-out for grants and donations to help with fuel and maintenance costs. In May, gas to keep the two vans busy ferrying seniors cost \$1,243. To schedule a ride or get more information call (925) 283-3534.

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