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### Lafayette Civic News

**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Monday, June 10, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

Monday, June 17, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**

Monday, June 10, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, June 5, 7:30 p.m.  
Del Valle Education Center, 1963  
Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek.  
[www.acalanes.k12.ca.us](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us)

**Lafayette School District**

Thursday, June 20, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
District Office  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
[www.lafsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lafsd.k12.ca.us)

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

**City of Lafayette:**

[www.ci.lafayette.ca.us](http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us)  
Phone: (925) 284-1968

**Chamber of Commerce:**

[www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org)

**Please submit Letters and Opinions:**  
[letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)

## More Streetscape Issues for East End

By Cathy Tyson

The islands are shrinking, not due to climate change, but because of public feedback. After a productive special workshop that gathered input on the proposed east end medians a few weeks ago, the Lafayette City Council recently discussed the new revised median layout that incorporated suggested changes. Council members were surprised at the degree of consensus among residents and business owners for the center section of Mt. Diablo Boulevard from First Street to Brown Avenue. The new plan shrunk some of the proposed medians and eliminated one particularly troublesome island.

With input from the East End Coalition, merchants came together and were able to consolidate a wish list for medians that would beautify the street, but also make for convenient access to the businesses along both sides. Changes unanimously

agreed upon by city council members include shortening the east end of the median in front of Sterling Cleaners and other adjustments. Staff was directed to proceed with final construction documents for pedestrian, bike and streetscape improvements.

While the plans for medians in the middle of the street were mostly finalized, there was plenty of controversy about property owners' frontage on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Some establishments, like Boswell's, pre-date city incorporation; the city has little leverage to encourage changes on those parcels. In addition, vintage sidewalks on the east end have seen better days. One long-time resident complained that while it's the property owner's responsibility to maintain the sidewalk, at this point they are ready for replacement. In her opinion, that should be the responsibility of the city.

Part of the problem is the "ap-

pearance of inequity" said city manager Steven Falk. "As we learned with the median islands, it's always better to be inclusive."

Historically, it has been the property owner's responsibility to maintain landscaping to the curb. If some new standards are eventually adopted, one of the biggest challenges will be installing irrigation, said Tony Coe, engineering services manager. Newer buildings have, as a condition of approval, requirements to plant and maintain a landscaped frontage. Currently the city maintains landscaping that was installed with public money, more commonly found on the west end of Lafayette.

Near the end of a very lengthy meeting the public works subcommittee, composed of council members Mark Mitchell and Brandt Andersson, was directed to work with city staff to lay out a proposed structure and return to the city council in late July with a schedule for community workshops involving the business and property owners in the downtown core area which stretches from Oakwood Athletic Club to the Lafayette Park Hotel.

A couple of preliminary options include the possibility of property owners' contracting as a group with the city for maintenance, or contracting with an outside landscape firm for upkeep.

A Core Area Assessment District is already in place, "so there is funding," said Mayor Mike Anderson, "but not enough to do all the things that we'd like to do." The council wants to make clear that the obligation to landscape to the curb has always existed but the city has, out of the goodness of its heart, helped out with some maintenance in the past. "You've been sleeping and now we're going to wake you up," said Anderson.

## New City Website in the Works

By Cathy Tyson



Looking for improved functionality with an updated look and feel, Lafayette city staffers are seeking to provide a portal to the city with easy and intuitive navigation that delivers complete government transparency. Because the current site dates from 2000, there was room for improvement. After diligently working to hone a new website with host Vision Internet, an award-winning government website developer, the city recently launched final beta testing.

Beta testers, including yours truly, were asked to take a spin on the new draft site to find the information we needed intuitively and check to see if links worked properly and to make suggestions for any additions to make the site more useful. With links to all things civic and beyond, at first glance, it looks ready for prime time. Features include seasonal colorful photos that rotate through the homepage and buttons for city hall, residents, business, visitors and services – each with a drop-down menu of choices to easily find what you're looking for, from permits to the library to parking to public transportation. One of many out of the ordinary features is the Map Room that includes traffic counts, FEMA flood maps, fire severity zones, trails and more.

... continued on page A11

### Lafayette Police Department Crime Statistics

**May 12-26**

**Alarm responses (76)**

**Traffic Stops (266)**

**Auto Burglary (28)**  
Del Rey St  
Silver Springs Rd (13)  
Mt Diablo Blvd  
Moraga Bl  
Lafayette Cr

El Curtola Bl  
Beechwood Dr  
Sweet Dr (3)  
St Mary's Rd  
Monroe Av  
Hamlin Rd  
O'Connor Dr (2)

**Commercial Burglary (6)**  
2nd Street  
Mt Diablo Blvd (5)

**Residential Burglary (3)**

Glenside Dr  
Redwood Ln  
Los Palos Dr

**DUI (2)**  
Pleasant Hill@Stanley Bl  
Oak Hill Rd

**Armed Robbery (1)**  
Mt Diablo Bl

**Grand Theft (2)**

Pleasant Hill Rd  
Pine Ln

**Petty Theft (5)**

S Silver Springs Rd (2)  
Mt Diablo Ct  
Mt Diablo Bl  
Walnut Dr

**Prowler seen (1)**  
Happy Valley Rd

**Promiscuous shootings (2)**

St Mary's Rd  
Old Tunnel Rd

**Vandalism (2)**

Springbrook Rd  
Los Palos Dr

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