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# New Rules on Smoking

By Cathy Tyson

Taking a stand for public health, the Lafayette City Council strengthened and clarified existing smoking restrictions for the city. Lafayette joins several other cities in Contra Costa County and beyond that have expanded regulations governing smoking. The city is responding to evidence that shows there is no safe level of second-hand smoke.

and for events like the Farmers' Market now ban smoking.

Acknowledging that smoking is a legal activity, but it may be a nuisance, Councilmember Brandt Andersson noted, "If it's too restrictive, this might encourage people to quit."

The more challenging issues related to multi-family housing, specifically new and existing buildings.

A chart of 10 restriction options was presented to the City Council outlining distinct choices. Some items on the menu, like banning smoking at outdoor dining establishments, were an easy "yes" vote. Ditto the new rule that creates a buffer zone for smokers of 20 feet away from doors, window and vents. Overall the council showed some restraint, voting no on a ban throughout downtown Lafayette and not restricting smoking on public sidewalks. Existing rules already ban smoking inside of downtown businesses and on city-owned property. Public outdoor spaces, like the Plaza

As some apartment dwellers know, smoke can travel through electrical outlets, ventilation systems, and from the balcony of one unit to another in a complex. The new rules, when adopted, will ban smoking in common areas like hallways, doorways, balconies and car ports in existing buildings. In addition all newly constructed multi-family buildings, including buildings currently under construction, will be smoke free once the new regulations are adopted. When a new tenant moves into existing multi-family housing, the unit will become smoke free.



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# All the City News Delivered to Your Inbox

By Cathy Tyson

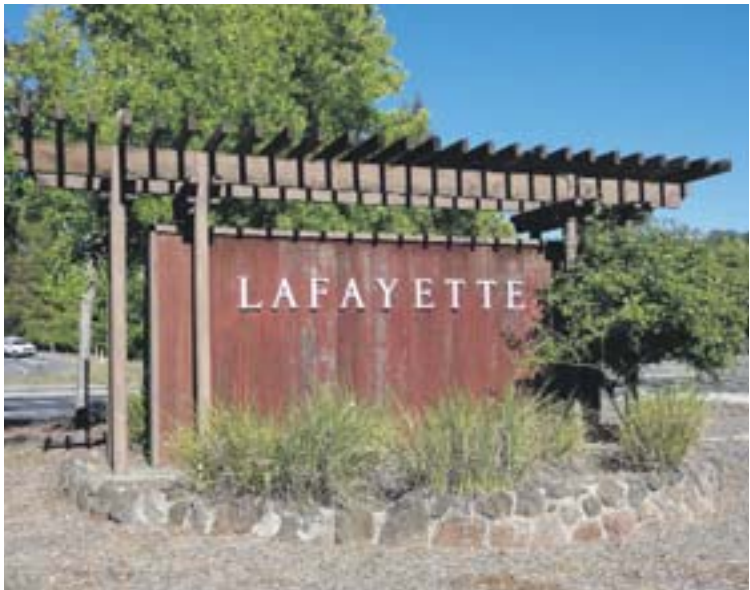
From the Lafayette City Council to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meetings and everything in between, residents wanting to be on the pulse of the city can easily do so by logging on and signing up for automatic notifications of civic meetings or to receive the always-informative City Manager's Friday Summary and more, simply and easily on the computer. Meeting notifications include an agenda and staff reports that describe the background of an issue and the city staff's recommendation.

have information and notices delivered to your inbox. It's easy to follow one entity or many, but interested parties need to enroll. Because the city has a new website provider as of July 1, existing subscribers need to re-subscribe to carry over preferences; new subscribers can simply sign up. Go to [www.lovelafayette.org/E-Notification](http://www.lovelafayette.org/E-Notification) or just go to the city homepage at [www.lovelafayette.org](http://www.lovelafayette.org), click on the City Hall tab and then choose E-Notification. You can unsubscribe at any time. In addition, for those who prefer to listen rather than read, streaming live audio for many meetings is also available via the city website.

The service is free of charge and it only takes a few clicks to

# Repair or Replace?

*That is the question*



Dated sign at the base of the Highway 24 off-ramp at the Acalanes Road exit. Photo Cathy Tyson

This is one of three aging signs that welcome drivers to Lafayette. Stakeholders, especially in the Acalanes area on the west edge of the city who originally brought up the need for repairs, are concerned that their idea has morphed into the replacement of all three city welcome signs. The directors and landscape committee of the Acalanes

Valley Homeowners Association have not liked any of the proposed contemporary designs put forth by the city, describing them as "stark" and "cold." The group and the city are meeting to discuss the matter – whatever direction that takes, a proposal for new signs would have to go through the Planning Commission. C. Tyson

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[debbie.johnston@pacunion.com](mailto:debbie.johnston@pacunion.com) or [lisa.geary@pacunion.com](mailto:lisa.geary@pacunion.com)  
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