

STILL #1 FOR A REASON


DANA Green
Lafayette's Best

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It's a Wonderful Life in Lafayette and we are grateful to be part of it!

Dana Green & Branagh Development are proudly joining the Chamber of Commerce in the 1st annual community tree lighting and holiday celebration.

Friday, December 6 from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Lafayette Plaza
(Tree lighting to take place at 5:30 p.m.)

Highlights will include Santa's arrival on Old Betsy (Lafayette's historical fire engine), children's activities, live entertainment, refreshments and a special wall of gratitude decorated by local third-graders!



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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
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

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room at 1212
Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Stanley Library
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

Send a letter to the editor:
letters@lamorinda
weekly.com

Real Estate Double Header

Two meetings on the same night, different results

By Cathy Tyson

It was a busy Monday night. The City Council decided to purchase the old library building and the Design Review Commission made a final recommendation to not approve the Terraces of Lafayette project – all on Nov 25.

While the 6,720 square foot structure is in a great location, it needs serious updating. The price tag of \$1.97 million is strictly “as is.” Council members discussed, ironically in the new library building, and ultimately approved the city’s purchase of the vacant old library property from Contra Costa County. The city was required to make the purchase under the terms of a settlement agreement between the now defunct Redevelop-

ment Agency and the county. Problems with the title contributed to the long delay in the expected change of ownership.

There are some strings attached – proceeds from the sale will be applied to reimbursing the county for costs associated with the sale along with attorneys’ fees related to the quiet title action and maintenance costs.

The city of Lafayette is going to pay for the library outright, with no mortgage, from existing revenue in its General Fund reserve account that will have an expected balance at the end of fiscal year 2013-2014 of over \$7.5 million. If within the next 10 years the city decides to sell the property, the

proceeds must be used for library programs.

The Old Library Reuse task force will be analyzing options during the first half of 2014 for what to do with the property. If their recommendation is to use the old library for city offices, “The general fund can be reimbursed from the City Offices Development Fund, which currently has a cash balance of over \$2.6 million,” said administrative services manager Traci Robinson in a staff report.

As expected, across town at the Lafayette Community Center the Design Review Commission unanimously voted to send a recommendation to the Planning Commission to deny the originally

proposed 315-unit Terraces of Lafayette project. At the last design review meeting, the developer took to heart significant design concerns and introduced a new conceptual plan for a revamped 208-unit project, to better reviews by the commissioners. At that time project manager Dave Baker acknowledged the 315-unit project was a “non-starter.”

While there is a 14-day appeal window available, it’s unclear if project representatives will pursue it. The original application called for 14 two- and three-story buildings spread out on the 22-acre site near Acalanes High School. A handful of speakers came forward to encourage commissioners to deny the project.

Popular Financial Services Manager to Retire

By Cathy Tyson

For 23 years Gonzalo Silva has been keeping the books, paying all the bills and making sure the city’s finances are running smoothly. Now he’s finally ready, at age 71, to retire. While he acknowledges that it is “easy to come to work every day,” with very friendly supportive staffers, “enough is enough.”

The long hours he spends as Lafayette’s financial services manager will be wrapping up in March. He’s been working since his days as a teenager; his first job was a paper route for the now defunct San Francisco Progress newspaper. He’s currently responsible for all of the day-to-day financial processing, accounts payable and receivable, maintaining cash flow, preparing state regulatory reports, coordinating audits, budget preparation and more. City manager Steven Falk has nothing but compliments for Silva, who he describes as “simply one of the nicest fellows you’ll ever meet” and who “brought discipline, high standards, an uncompromising eye for quality, and a strong work ethic to the office every single day.” ... continued on next page

Holiday Sale & Benefit

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Lauren & Gracia



Robindira Unsworth



Satya Jewelry



Carmen Q

DATE: December 3, 2013, 10am – 8pm
LOCATION: Lafayette Library, Community Hall Room

Benefitting

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