



Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, April 28, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, May 5, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, April 28, 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, May 7, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room at 1212
Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, May 14, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Stanley Library
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

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Rethinking City Survey Options

By Cathy Tyson

City leaders recently asked for information on more technology options they could use to survey residents' priorities. Originally city staff had requested approval to spend approximately \$25,000 for a voter attitude survey from a professional pollster, but in light of upcoming budget realities, thought it best to wait until budget estimates become more firm in the coming weeks to look at potentially more economical survey options and more focused questions.

"This is the year you will see the true impact of the pension situation," said city manager Steven Falk. The city contracts for police services through the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department. Currently 45 percent of the entire city budget is spent on police services. Because the sheriff's department allows retirement

at age 50 after 30 years of service, it's passing on the cost of the unwieldy pension burden, along with increasing health care costs. What's more, crime is up 33 percent in Lafayette; the city manager would like to slightly increase staffing of the police department to address that situation.

We're considering a two part process, explained City Council member Brandt Andersson, looking at preferences and concerns of citizens, and looking at all of those things that cost money – asking what are people willing to pay for, prioritizing concerns such as road repair, police, fire and emergency medical service, preserving open space, parking and more.

Mayor Don Tatzin added that "it's clear we're likely to have a budget problem."

City staff will have a clearer

picture of what actual costs will be as they prepare for the annual May budget workshop, and some research can be done on alternate survey methods in the next few weeks, so the City Council unanimously voted to pause. The

mayor and vice mayor will work with staff to investigate the breadth of different survey technology and come back to the council with a rough draft of possible questions.

City Website Wins Award

A survey isn't needed to measure the success of the city website, which was just awarded the California Association of Public Information Officers Award of Distinction for Excellence in Communication for 2014. City manager Steven Falk describes it as, "One of the top awards that a public website can receive in California." Staffers took two years to hone and refine www.Love-Lafayette.org into a well thought out resource that clearly organizes civic meetings, e-notification and an Open Government button on the homepage that links to a variety of information. The logical layout is so easy to use it has received over 78,000 visitors since it debuted last summer – that's about 300 visitors per day. "I'm really proud of staff and the website," said Falk. "We believe in transparency and we think this website does a good job of promoting transparency."

The End is Near – of Failed Roads

By Cathy Tyson

While the condition of roads is usually a hot, or at least warm, topic in Lafayette there wasn't a huge turnout at a recent Planning Commission meeting to discuss the multi-year plan, which is addressed biannually, for asphalt maintenance and upgrades to be completed between 2015 and 2019. "Staff is projecting that by the end of this five-year cycle, all failed roads in Lafayette will have been repaired except for the 20 streets that received a stopgap cape seal treatment last year," wrote city engineer Tony Coe in a staff report for the April 7 meeting.

The Five-Year Capital Improvement Program will prioritize how the city spends money on public infrastructure renewal and improvements within Lafayette. The plan has already been vetted by the Capital Projects Assessment Committee and the Circulation Committee; this pit stop at the Planning Commission was the last opportunity for

feedback prior to being presented to the City Council for final approval in May.

There are several funding sources that will pay for the capital improvements scheduled to be made during this 5-year cycle, including gas tax revenue, General Plan money, and Measure J sales tax.

Coe said the plan focuses on the City Council's highest priority item – failed roads. There had been a total of over 120 failed roads in Lafayette, but the city is "now down to 61 failed streets as of January of this year."

That the backlog of failed roads is finally being addressed is reason to celebrate. "Staff is excited about that prospect," said Coe. "We've been working on this issue a long time." To reach that milestone, an additional \$1.2 million more is requested for the Capital Improvement Program spread over the next five years, that is over and above the historical \$1 million per year funding.

In addition to city-provided

revenue for road repair, grant programs will provide money for several transportation projects within the 5-year cycle. Springhill and Happy Valley elementary schools will receive revenue to enhance safe routes to school by providing better pedestrian and bike access, via new walking paths in the public right of way and pathway improvements. The intersection of Pleasant Hill Road and Olympic Boulevard will see a refurbishment, and options are being looked at for Reliez Station Road and Olympic Boulevard.

The Capital Improvement Plan has to be found consistent with the General Plan before it can be adopted by the City Council and funded by the municipal budget. The Planning Commission did just that and approved the 5-year plan with minimal discussion. It may be a bit premature at this moment, but residents can say goodbye to potholes in the future.



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report, March 30 to April 12

Alarms	40
911 calls	32
Auto Burglary	
Oakwood Athletic Club	
20 block Lafayette Cr	
3500 block Mt. Diablo Bl (2)	
Battery	
McDonald's	(2)
Residential Burglary	
20 block Tolan Way	
1000 block Lorinda Ln	
4000 block Happy Valley Rd	
DUI misdemeanor	
Pleasant Hill Rd/freeway underpass	
1st St/24 onramp	
BART station	
Fireworks	
Old Millstone Ln/Las Huertas Rd	
Grand Theft	
3200 block Mt. Diablo Bl	
700 block Old Jonas Hill Rd	
Health & Safety	
800 block Moraga Wy	
Hit & Run	
Panda Express	
Marlene Dr/Carol Ln	

Missing Adult	
Lafayette Park Hotel	
1000 block Hampton Rd	
Panhandling	
Mt. Diablo Bl/Oak Hill Rd	
Petty Theft	
location not available (3)	
700 block Old Jonas Hill Rd	
Public Nuisance	
Silverado Dr/E Lowell Ln	
Rohrer Dr/Contessa Ct	
Reckless Driving	
Pleasant Hill/Springhill Rds	
Springhill/Blackhawk Rds	
Moraga Rd/Mt. Diablo Bl	
Suspicious Circumstances	23
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Suspicious Subject	12
Vandalism	
2nd St/Mt. Diablo Bl	
Panorama Dr/Happy Valley Rd	
3300 block Mt. Diablo Bl	
700 block St. Mary's Rd	
Warrant arrest	
Kohl's, Pleasant Hill	

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