



Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, May 27, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, June 2, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Tuesday, May 27, 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 21, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room at 1212
Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, June 25, 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@lamorindaweekly.com

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Best Practices to Prevent Burglaries Discussed at Town Hall

By Cathy Tyson



Lafayette police chief Eric Christensen and Dale Fredericks at the Happy Valley Elementary School Library. Photo Cathy Tyson

While the subject matter was serious, Lafayette police chief Eric Christensen couldn't have been more entertaining and reassuring to concerned residents who attended a town hall meeting at Happy Valley Elementary School in the wake of a robbery and recent burglaries in the neighborhood.

Kicking off the meeting, Rees Morgan, a member of the city's Crime Prevention Commission, introduced his fellow volunteer commissioners and described himself as a "federal prosecutor in a previous life."

He discussed the educational goal of the meeting – to spread crime prevention best practices to the community that, due to its proximity to the freeway and perception of affluence, is a potential target for bad guys. The commission is wrapping up its research on motion-activated cameras that currently are in use in a number of communities, are cost effective and produce crisp images of license plates. In August the group will present its findings to the City Council, which is investigating a collaborative effort of homeowner cameras and

city-owned cameras at key locations in Lafayette.

Christensen explained that the recent robbery was a random act; the alleged suspect has been connected to other robberies.

Focusing on proactive solutions, the charming chief had residents chuckling with clever asides, such as calling a jewelry box a "to-go container" for burglars. His advice – jewelry is a priority item when would-be burglars make the traditionally quick pass through a house so make sure expensive items are in an unusual place.

Fifty signs were recently printed up and are available for neighborhoods to display to send a clear message that cameras are in use. New technology options are being used to track bike thefts at the library and will soon be used on "bait" packages purposefully

left on front porches in plain sight.

Rear door window smash is the most common mode of entry – so the chief recommends locking side gates in order to discourage prospective criminals from selecting your home as a target.

"Who knows the neighborhood better than you do?" asked Christensen, who strongly suggested residents call or email whenever something is unusual at 94549tip@gmail.com or via 911 or dispatch at (925) 284-5010. He emphasized that this can be crucial information to help complete an investigation, if someone saw a questionable car or person – pass that information to the police as soon as possible. Residents can also sign up to receive alerts from the police department at www.nixle.com.

Going on vacation? Here are some tips from Chief Christensen:

- Lock doors and windows; never leave a house key hidden outside.
- Don't stop the newspaper, have a neighbor pick it up.
- Have the Post Office hold your mail.
- Make the house appear lived in; use timers on lights.
- Leave a radio on.
- Leave a locked car in the driveway.
- Leave your trip plans and an emergency phone number with a trusted neighbor or friend.

What Passage of Measure B Means

By Cathy Tyson

Voters in the Lafayette School District resoundingly passed Measure B on May 6 with 73 percent of the vote, well exceeding the two-thirds majority required. The \$539 per parcel tax extends two existing parcel taxes that were set to expire in June, 2015.

Unlike prior parcel taxes, Measure B has no sunset date; supporters argued that this provides sustained funding that the district can count on, and that funds are essential to maintain the district's

schools and educational programs.

"We are deeply grateful to the entire Lafayette community for their support of both Measures A and B," said Rachel Zinn, superintendent of the Lafayette School District. "Given that Measure B is 15 percent of the budget, or \$4.6 million for the Lafayette School District, its passage was critical to our ability to sustain important, quality programs for our students." She describes its passage as "huge," explaining the absolute need for a stable dependable source of funding. "The

fact that the tax doesn't sunset means, as one board member shared, we don't have to bet the farm every time we have to go out for a tax."

State funding has been reduced over the past five years by 22 percent, or \$1,433 per student. Lafayette's per pupil funding is well below the state average. Seniors aged 65 and older can apply to be exempt from the tax – applications are available from the school district's website at www.lafsd.k12.ca.us.

What about Measure A?

Measure A, the parcel tax renewal that supports the Acalanes Union High School District – made up of Lamorinda high schools, Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte, along with Las Lomas in Walnut Creek and Acalanes Center for Independent Study, was also approved with just over 75 percent of the vote. The \$112 per parcel tax has no sunset date.



Lafayette Police Department Incident summary report, April 27-May 10

Alarms	75
911 Calls	13
Auto Burglary	
3100 block Stanley Bl	
4000 block Mt Diablo Bl	
3400 block Solana Ct	
Acalanes High School (2)	
1000 block Carol Ln	
EB El Nido Ranch Rd	
Avalon Av/School St	
Residential Burglary	
1000 block Miller Dr	
3100 block Plymouth Rd	
Child Molestation	
3700 block Meadow Ln	
Death (non-criminal)	
800 block Mt View Dr	
Disturbance	
BART (fight)	
1st St/Mt Diablo Bl (fight)	
10 block Rancho Diablo Rd	
3200 block Quandt Rd (domestic)	
Topper Ct/School St (juvenile)	
Location n/a (juvenile)	
900 block Paulson Ct (domestic)	
3300 block Moraga Bl (juvenile)	
DUI Misdemeanor	
Upper Happy Valley Rd/El Nido Ranch Rd	
Mt Diablo Bl/Carol Ln	
Parsons/OLY	
Hit & Run	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl (3)	
Stanley Middle School	
Neighbor Dispute	
3300 block Lucille Ln	

Panhandling	
Safeway	
Trader Joe's (2)	
Post Office (3)	
Petty Theft	
Safeway (2)	
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Withers Av/Taylor Bl	
1100 block Woodborough Rd	
Lafayette School	
Grand Theft	
200 block St Mary's Rd	
3200 block Acalanes Av	
Reckless Driving	
Deer Hill Rd/1st St	
Moraga Rd/St Mary's Rd	
Mt Diablo Bl/1st St	
Olympic Bl/Pleasant Hill Rd	
Moraga Bl/2nd St	
Shoplift	
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Suspicious:	
Circumstances	12
Vehicle	22
Subject	16
Traffic Stops	36
Trespass	
1000 block Timothy Ln	
Vandalism	
3300 block Sweet Dr (3)	
3300 block Moraga Bl	
Lafayette Police Dept.	
Vehicle Theft	
Mt Diablo Bl/Lafayette Cr	
1400 block Pleasant Hill Rd	
Warrant	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl (arrest)	



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