



Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m. canceled
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Stanley Library
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

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



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report, Nov. 9-15

Alarms	33
911 Calls	9
Battery	
3200 block Camino Diablo	
Burglary, Auto	
3200 block Mt Diablo	
Craigslist Snafu	
3600 block Cerrito Ct	
DUI	
Mt Diablo Bl/Moraga Rd	
Fireworks	
3400 block Lana Ln	
Sweet Dr/Walnut Ln	
Fire/EMS Response	
3200 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Found Adult	
Lafayette PD report	
Harassment	
3500 block Brook St	
Hit & Run	
Safeway	
Deer Hill Rd/Brown Av	
Petty Theft	
900 block Victoria Ct	
3400 block Golden Gate	
100 block Bacon Ct	
1300 block El Curtola	
Loud Party	
Shangri La/Silver Del Rd	
10 block Roxanne	
Promiscuous Shooting	
700 block Las Trampas	
S Pearldale Dr/Upper Happy Valley	
Dewing Av/Walnut St	
Reckless Driving	
Pleasant Hill Rd/Hwy 24	
Upper Happy Valley/El Nido Ranch Rd	
O'Connor Dr/Moraga Rd	
Moraga Rd/School St	
Suspicious	
Circumstances	8
Vehicle	15
Subject	4
Traffic Stops	65
Vandalism	
50 block Lafayette Cr	
Vehicle Theft	
3800 block Happy Valley Rd	

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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 2nd annual community tree lighting and holiday celebration.

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

Enjoy old-fashioned family fun, entertainment, childrens' activities, Santa (arrives at 4:20 p.m. on Old Betsy), local food trucks, and more!

DanaGreenTeam.com

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School District Asks for Rent-to-Own Deal for Old Library

By Cathy Tyson

Starting on Jan. 1 the Lafayette School District will rent the old library building and adjacent parking area from the City of Lafayette, at a monthly rate of \$8,229, if its request is approved. The lease will be on a month to month basis for a maximum of 28 months, expiring on April 1, 2017. The district will have the option to purchase the facility at any time, for the then-appraised value; accrued rent would be deducted from

the purchase price. City Manager Steven Falk was directed by the City Council at its Nov. 24 meeting to negotiate with the school district superintendent. He made it clear that, "The district would lease/purchase the building as-is, and therefore be responsible for any demolition or renovation needed."

The Old Library Reuse Task Force sought the highest and best use for two properties owned by the city

– the old library property and the parcel across the street at 949 Moraga Road. Ultimately the task force recommended that the old library building be used for a public purpose – either as a new location for the city offices or by the Lafayette School District. The property was purchased in 2013 for \$1.97 million and is currently uninhabitable.

City staff recommends clarification of a number of steps in order to

move forward. First, review the modifications the district needs to make and determine whether they are acceptable to the City Council. Next, get approval from the county to sell the property to the district. Finally, due to government regulations, offer the property to other public agencies; if there's no interest, draft a Lease-Purchase Agreement for consideration by the City Council and the school district governing board.

Reducing Traffic Congestion Gets High Marks

By Cathy Tyson

At a recent meeting of the collaborative Traffic Safety Task Force, the principals of Happy Valley and Springhill elementary schools reported major improvements in the twice per day traffic mess associated with student drop off and pick up. "We are light years ahead," said Teresa Gerringer, school board president, "from where we were to where we are."

Both schools took a comprehensive look at the problem with input from parents, teachers, police, city council representatives and the city manager, to make concrete changes to improve congestion.

At Happy Valley Elementary a pilot program will soon morph into a more permanent solution with inner and outer pick up lanes, to hopefully alleviate what had been a quarter mile back up on Happy Valley Road weekdays around the school bell schedule. Neighbors weren't pleased with the situation, and parents were frustrated at the gridlock just to pick up a child from school.

Over Thanksgiving break at Happy Valley Elementary, lines were painted on the front turn around by the main office to clearly mark double lanes, which will accommodate twice the volume of vehicles – and more parking spaces were added, in an effort to get cars off of Happy Valley Road. Parents are also encouraged to slightly delay their pick up time to alleviate the peak crunch period after school: there's an 18-minute window from 2:42 to 3 p.m. when students are supervised. Principal Shayna Peeff asked that families avoid picking up kids on Franklin Lane, and consider carpooling or having kids walk or ride a bike.

"Franklin Lane is kind of chaotic," said officer Larry Seliga at the recent meeting, describing it as a social event for parents and kids hanging out on the center island. Police want kids to know that they cannot hang out on the center island, and kids were given coloring books and pencils as a reward for getting off the island.

"It's been pretty friendly so far, but we have met with some resistance from parents," said Seliga, who started with gentle

reminders, but plans in the near future to be issuing citations.

An older gentleman representing the neighborhood who lives on Franklin Lane calls the situation "unsatisfactory," stating the school site itself is the proper location for student pick up and drop off.

"Our priority is that the kids are safe," said Peeff, acknowledging that the congestion on Happy Valley Road is a problem. She explained that with the new double lanes and 12 new parking spaces, more cars can get onto school property so fewer cars will be on the side streets.

According to City Manager Steven Falk, the city has spent over a million dollars over the past 18 years to install comprehensive walkways on Happy Valley Road and Upper Happy Valley. "It's way better than it was," he said.

Both Happy Valley and Springhill

elementary schools had a coalition of interested parties who methodically looked at constructive ways to solve their schools' problems, starting with goals, forming strategies to meet those goals, considering resources, timeline, and an evaluation process, and establishing a system to manage the improvements.

The focus at Springhill Elementary was the front parking lot; getting more cars efficiently into the student pick up zones, having a consistent staff team to facilitate the pick-up process, adding a crossing guard at the crosswalk on San Reliez Court, and moving the buses to a different area on campus, according to interim principal Pat Gargiulo. While it used to take 15 to 16 minutes to clear the Springhill parking lot, it's now down to seven minutes, a measureable improvement.

Ultimately a wish list that in-

cludes speed tables, bollards (short vertical posts to control traffic), asphalt marking, flashing lights and a permanent mobile speed sign will be generated by the school district that will need to go through the Circulation Commission then to the City Council for approval and funding.

Next up for traffic improvement are Burton Valley and Lafayette elementary schools and Stanley Middle School. While the general plan is similar to Happy Valley and Springhill - do a complete assessment, develop a list of priorities and so on, Lafayette Elementary and Stanley will be much more difficult to find solutions for, due mainly to Moraga Road. "It's a gigantic complicated system," said Falk, adding that he's not optimistic that it will be easily or cheaply solved. "It's one of the many reasons the city is embarking on the downtown traffic study."

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- Diablo Foods
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