



# Lafayette

**Public Meetings**

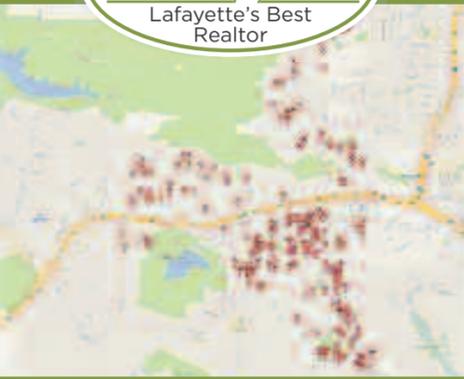
**City Council**  
Monday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**  
Monday, Jan. 5, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

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**Design Review**  
Monday, Dec. 22, canceled  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

**Lafayette School District**  
Wednesday, Jan. 14, 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. 30-Dec. 6**

<b>Alarms</b>	52
<b>911 Calls</b>	30
<b>Battery</b>	
St Mary's Rd/Moraga Rd	
<b>Burglary, Auto</b>	
Springhill Elementary	
1000 block Blackwood Ln	
30 block Crest Rd	
10 block Crest Rd	
<b>Defrauding an Innkeeper</b>	
reported to LPD	
<b>Hit &amp; Run</b>	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
<b>Petty Theft</b>	
Quandt Rd	
10 block Charles Ct	
3600 block Bickerstaff St	
10 block W Arbor Wy	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
<b>Loud Party</b>	
Glen Rd/Thompson Rd	
<b>Panhandling</b>	
CVS	(2)
<b>Public Nuisance</b>	
800 block Mt View Dr	(2)
900 block Reliez Station Rd	
900 block East St	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
<b>Suspicious</b>	
Circumstances	5
Vehicle	10
Subject	4
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	20
<b>Traffic Hazards</b>	9
<b>Trespassing</b>	
3400 block Golden Gate Wy	(2)
<b>Threats</b>	
3700 block Mt Diablo Bl	
<b>Vandalism</b>	
1000 block Stuart St	
<b>Vehicle Theft</b>	
2nd Street/Mt Diablo Bl	
900 block Moraga Rd	

## Lafayette Bans Plastic Bags and Styrofoam

By Cathy Tyson

Soon the familiar options of “plastic or paper” will be heard no more in Lafayette. The City Council formally adopted new rules Dec. 8 to ban single-use plastic shopping bags at 16 local establishments. The ban will take effect on July 1 and will impose a 10-cent charge for paper bags, impacting mainly large grocery stores and pharmacies. The approval goes one step further than SB 270, the statewide regulation, by also banning Styrofoam from use at food establishments. Municipalities had the option to customize their own new rules if enacted before the Jan. 1 deadline imposed by the state.

Supporters call it reducing two costly, environmentally damaging and easily preventable sources of litter and pollution. Board members of Sustainable Lafayette applauded the decision to draft a local plastic bag ordinance similar to those created by Walnut Creek and other communities. The group supports the 10-cent charge for paper bags, saying it is

“vital to the success and effectiveness of the ordinance.” They feel it provides an incentive to embrace reusable shopping bags, creates consistency with neighboring communities, and doesn’t switch issues – fixing one problem, plastic pollution; but creating another problem – the environmental impact from paper bags.

Recycled paper bags will be the new normal, although the newly adopted ordinance requires stores to charge customers a 10-cent fee for each paper bag, with the revenue collected going to the store – not to the government. This will affect businesses in Lafayette including grocery stores, pharmacies, liquor stores, convenience stores and Chow. Of course, shoppers who bring their own re-usable cloth bags, the most environmentally savvy solution, can save a dime.

The change creates a dilemma at Diablo Foods, which long ago switched to environmentally friendly recycled paper bags and sparingly

uses plastic bags made from more expensive recycled materials. They incentivize shoppers with a 10-cent credit per bag for those who bring their own. Manager David Collier explained that the store would prefer to continue to use complimentary paper bags, but the new rules will force them to charge customers the 10-cent fee starting in July. He estimates that roughly half of Diablo Foods’ customers already bring in cloth bags for their purchases.

While some people recycle their single-use plastic bags, the majority, approximately 88 percent according to a study by the Environmental Protection Agency, don’t get recycled.

The new rules dovetail with the city’s environmental strategy that includes a goal of diverting 75 percent of solid waste from landfill. After monitoring plastic bag use, the Environmental Task Force recommended that this move would: reduce litter, which can end up in creeks and storm drain systems, limit negative impact

on wildlife, and diminish use of fossil fuels.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed the nation’s first statewide ban on single-use plastic bags, SB270, on Sept. 30. At the time he said, “This bill is a step in the right direction – it reduces the torrent of plastic polluting our beaches, parks and even the vast ocean itself. We’re the first to ban these bags, and we won’t be the last.”

Styrofoam, the second component of Lafayette’s new ordinance, is the brand name and registered trademark for extruded polystyrene foam manufactured by Dow Chemical Company. The EPA and the International Agency for Research on Cancer have determined styrene as a possible human carcinogen. Polystyrene food packaging is a double whammy – it’s not recyclable and chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, are used in the manufacturing process. There is evidence that CFCs, when discharged into the atmosphere, degrade the earth’s ozone layer.

## City Finances Look Healthy

By Cathy Tyson

“The city remains in good fiscal position,” said Jennifer Wakeman, Lafayette’s new financial services manager, during her audit presentation covering fiscal year 2013-14 at the Dec. 8 city council meeting. On the next agenda item, adopting the fiscal year 2014-15 municipal budget, administrative services director Tracy Robinson went a little further. “We ended the year in a very strong position,” she said, referring to the updated final budget. “The five-year forecast looks very good,” she added.

The actual financials, in a riveting 110 page report, show the best of both worlds: expenditures were \$1.1 million below budget and revenue was \$800,000 above budget for fiscal year 2013-14. In addition, the city’s end of year reserves, or savings, is projected to be \$7 million, the equivalent to 56 percent of General Fund expenditures. That amount is exclusive of the roughly \$2 million invested in the old library property which may be sold in the future.

Also bolstering the financial outlook is an additional \$400,000 in impact fees, starting in fiscal year 2015-16, on top of the current \$400,000 annual contribution, for a total of \$800,000 paid by the Solid Waste Authority that will go toward repairing the damage caused by garbage trucks, allowing fully funded road repairs without depleting reserves in the near future.

Where is this money coming from? “The property tax base remains stable,” said City Manager Steven Falk in his official “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2014.” Property tax and assessments are the largest

revenue source for Lafayette. “Assessed values in the city increased 6 percent” over the prior year, said Falk. For those still in sticker shock after paying property taxes, it’s important to note that the City of Lafayette only receives 6.18 percent of property taxes paid by homeowners.

He also pointed out that there was an increase in sales tax of 3 percent, transient lodging tax (thank you

Lafayette Park Hotel) was 12 percent higher than last year, and there were increases in motor vehicle in-lieu tax and planning, permits and fee revenue.

Cropper Accountancy Corporation issued an understated “clean” opinion of the city’s financial statements, in their annual audit.

Contributing to the robust municipal financial picture is the lack of unfunded liability for retirement

benefits. The 38 full-time city employees, unlike most public sector organizations, do not participate in a defined benefit retirement program. Rather, city employees have traditional defined contribution programs, 401 and 457 plans, according to Falk, and the city has a fully funded retiree medical program. ... continued on page A11

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- Douglass Designs Products and Showroom
- El Charro Mexican Dining
- Elmwood Stationary
- Floret
- Gem Lust
- Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery
- La Finestra Ristorante
- Lafayette Pet Shoppe
- Lafayette Physical Therapy
- Lamorinda Music
- Lamorinda Theatre Academy
- Lily Dong Photography
- Mangia! Ristorante & Pizzeria
- Minuteman Press
- Rustic Tavern
- Sharp Bicycle
- Specialtees
- Sugi Fine Bedding & Gifts,
- Susan Foord Catering & Café
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