



Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, May 11, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, May 18, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, May 11, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, May 13, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Stanley Middle School 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

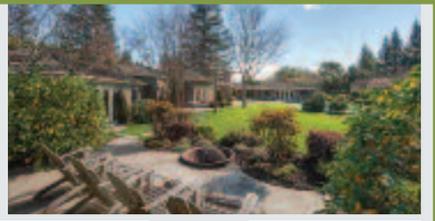
Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

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An Ounce of Prevention

Security cameras take a bite out of crime

By Cathy Tyson

The numbers tell the story. With a 19 percent overall reduction in all crimes, and residential burglaries down 21 percent in 2014, the Lafayette Police Department's prevention strategy is working.

And it only gets better. So far in 2015, residential burglaries are down an astonishing 70 percent. How is this possible? According to the chief of police, vice mayor Traci Reilly and Cam Burks of the Crime Prevention Commission (CPC), what's making this little slice of semi-rural paradise an undesirable place for crooks is a combination of alert neighbors and layers of security cameras within the city limits.

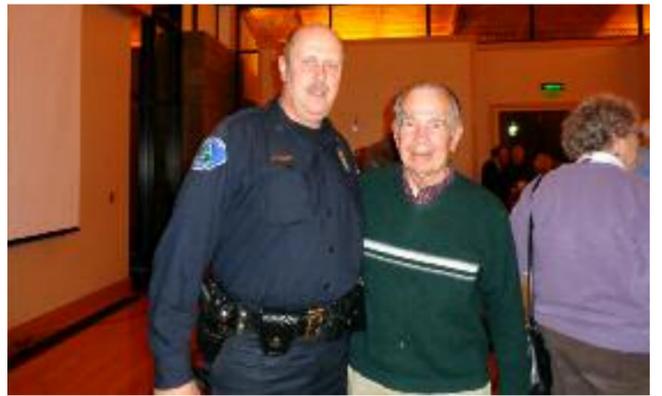
The trio came together to address a recent special meeting of the Crime Prevention Commission. Reilly, who

is also a graduate of the first citizen's police academy, welcomed a full house to the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center for an informative session on crime prevention and security cameras.

Burks was up next. He talked about how communication is critical, adding that there have been substantial advancements in the technology of camera systems, making them a cost-effective tool for the city as well as neighborhoods and individual homeowners. The city council asked the CPC to look into the cost and effectiveness of surveillance options last year. After extensive research, the group recommended fixed motion activated cameras "as the best way to go," said Burk. The Commission meets every fourth Wednesday, and the public is encouraged to attend.

The charismatic headliner of the meeting, also known as Lafayette's chief of police, Eric Christensen, was entertaining and informative, delivering real-life local crime drama and a fair amount of laughter. Before describing how the layers of camera security are working together and best practices, the chief got off to a solid start by asking, "If you're a criminal, can you leave now?"

"This is America – land of opportunity; unfortunately criminals are opportunists," said the chief. He explained that it all starts with personal responsibility, such as not leaving valuables in plain view in a car, and locking doors. "If you leave your laptop in your car overnight – should you be shocked if it disappears?" he asked.



Chief of Police Eric Christensen and chair of the Emergency Preparedness Commission, Fred Lothrop, at the Veterans Hall Security Camera Town Hall meeting. Photo Cathy Tyson

There were 48 residential burglaries in Lafayette last year and a whopping 1,769 false alarms. "What criminal would stick around, with a loud audible alarm blaring?" asked Christensen, although he added that sometimes it's the housekeeper, or the homeowner's kids who trigger activation.

With 95 percent of crimes in Lafayette involving a vehicle, "we spend a lot of time hunting cars," said Christensen. Police want to get the word out among the criminal community that this is a less than ideal choice of robbery location.

A powerful presentation of images of actual robberies in town, complete with suspects' clear license plate pictures, highlighted the effectiveness of the interaction of home, neighborhood and city cameras. Pictures also offer a concrete level of proof to help prosecute suspects. The combination of home security cameras, neighbor-

hood cameras at locations where there is only one way in and out, along with cameras the city has placed at key locations work together to garner indisputable evidence.

Wrapping up the talk, Christensen reminded residents that police also offer home-away watch. If a resident is away on vacation, the police will check your home's doors and windows, and send a daily text to homeowners that all is well. He added that they would not be watering plants or feeding the cat.

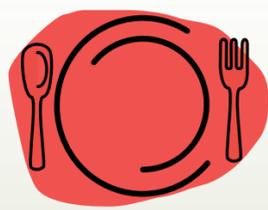
A woman spoke up during the question and answer period, explaining that about 40 of the 50 homes in her neighborhood contributed \$100 per household, which covers all the equipment of a camera security system and two years of monthly service. "We have a picture of every car that enters the neighborhood," she said. "I can't say enough about it." She feels that for \$50 per year she sleeps better at night.



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report April 12-25

- Abandoned Vehicle**
Mariposa Rd/Mt View Dr
Deer Hill/Pleasant Hill Rds
Old Tunnel/Pleasant Hill Rds
800 block Moraga Rd
OConnor Dr/Moraga Rd
- Alarms** 91
- Animal Cruelty**
Oakwood Athletic
- 911 calls** 17
- Battery**
1000 block Via Media
- Burglary, Auto**
El Charro Restaurant
Springhill Elementary
Oakwood Athletic Club (2)
- Burglary, Residential**
3400 block Monroe Av
1000 block Via Roble
- Burglary, Commercial**
Acalanes High School
- Civil Problem**
1000 block Aileen St
- Disturbing the Peace**
600 block Burton Dr
- Police/Fire/EMS Response**
3500 block Golden Gate Way
3400 block Silver Springs Ct
Olympic Bl/Reliez Station Rd
- Forgery**
Springhill Elementary
- Grand Theft**
1000 block 2nd St
- Harassment**
Trader Joe's
- Hit & Run**
Las Huertas Rd/James Pl
Safeway
Oak Hill/Deer Hill Rds
- Identity Theft**
800 block Risa Rd
1000 block Serano Ct
3700 block Mosswood Dr
- Intoxicated Subject**
Safeway
- Indecent Exposure**
Library
- Loud Party**
20 block Reliez Valley Ct
1000 block Leland Dr
700 block Las Trampas Rd
- Loud Noise**
900 block Diablo Dr
Diablo/Hawthorne Drs
Mt Diablo Bl/Risa Rd (2)

- Panhandling**
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl
- Petty Theft**
3200 block Old Tunnel Rd
600 block Huntleigh Dr
900 block S. Thompson Rd
30 block Chapel Dr
4100 block Hidden Valley Rd
Safeway
- Public Nuisance**
BART, Lafayette (2)
Acalanes High School
3300 block Beechwood Dr
3300 block Rossi St
- Promiscuous Shooting**
700 block Old Jonas Hill Rd
1500 block Rancho View Dr
- Reckless Driving**
Olympic Bl/Pleasant Hill Rd
Pleasant Hill Rd/Deer Hill Rd
Taylor Bl/Withers Av
700 block Glenside Dr
Deer Hill/Pleasant Hill Rds
Postino Restaurant
Stanley Bl/Vacation Dr
- Shoplifting**
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl
Safeway
- Stolen Vehicle Recovery**
900 block Almanor Ct
- Susp. Circumstances** 9
- Suspicious Vehicle** 29
- Suspicious Subject** 19
- Terrorist Threats**
1000 block 2nd St
- Throw From Moving Vehicle**
Acalanes High School
1200 block Hillview Ln
- Traffic Stops** 192
- Trespass**
1000 block Sierra Vista Wy
- Unwanted Guest**
McDonalds
Taco Bell
3300 block Betty Ln
- Vandalism**
3500 block Brock Street
900 block Paulson Ct
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl
500 block McBride Dr
- Vehicle Theft**
3100 block Somerset Dr
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl
- Warrant Arrest**
Happy Valley Rd/Mt Diablo Bl



Taste of Lafayette

6 New Restaurants!

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Tuesday, May 19, 2015
5:30 - 9 PM

Wine & Appetizers
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Lafayette Plaza Reception
Live Music

Stroll & Taste
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Sample 20+ Restaurants
Walk -- or Take Free Shuttle

Dessert & Coffee
8:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Lafayette Plaza Reception

*Raffle Drawing:
Dining Packages & Vacation Getaways*

Taste Tickets: \$50/person *

*** Early Bird Price:
\$45 thru 5/9**

<http://bit.ly/Taste-Lafayette>
www.lafayettechamber.org



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Saturday: 10 AM - 4 PM