



Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission

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

Design Review

Monday, April 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, April 20, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, April 13, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
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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Committee Looks to Unsnarl Lafayette's Traffic Congestion

By Cathy Tyson

As Lafayette's comprehensive study on downtown traffic congestion continues, the all-volunteer steering committee wrestled with how to turn the very long list of suggestions into a short list, focusing on the key question: What are some of the best ways to solve downtown traffic congestion?

Does the city need more bike friendly roadways, or a direct connection to the freeway? Those were two of 50 concepts study engineers came up with after analyzing multiple complex data sources, community outreach, surveys and past studies. The Arup Group, the con-

sultants on the project, has used state-of-the-art technology, included GPS traffic information, to investigate costs and benefits of an array of strategies that could ease congestion. By using big data that clearly identifies traffic patterns, the consultants can custom-tailor solutions for specific problems.

At this point in the year-long, grant-funded study, the focus is to weigh the broad inventory of ideas, and indicate which of those ideas merit priority for further evaluation, according to city Transportation Planner James Hinkamp. As the Downtown Congestion Reduction Steering Committee, which has been providing input and guidance throughout the study process, painstakingly went through each and every concept at a March 22 meeting, it was apparent that some concepts were better than others.

The 50 potential projects were divided into four color-coded categories: green, yellow and red — that corresponded with the costs and benefits — along with blue for “require further consideration and input from steering committee.” Items in the green range garnered the most bang for the buck, while concepts in the red category had high costs or uncertain benefits. The blue category contained concepts like a free downtown shuttle and consolidating or relocating Lafayette Elementary School and Stanley Middle School. Both ideas were non-starters with the committee.

Arup will analyze the most highly recommended solution ideas that are on the committee's short list, from the original universe of possible options, including “moonshots” like having a direct connection to Highway 24 through what is now McCaulou's. Going forward, three options will be selected that meet the project goals of addressing current and future traffic conditions.

Surprisingly, initial work done by the consultant found 63 percent of the traffic heading northbound on Moraga Road is going to Highway 24, which generates tremendous pressure at the Y — cars turning right and left at the intersection of Mt. Diablo and Moraga Road as they make their way to the freeway.

Bike East Bay Advocacy Director Dave Campbell attended the meeting to lobby for bicyclists; he complimented the process so far, calling it “wonderful” and noted the many good projects. When asked about actual bike ridership, he replied “a lot more people would ride a bike if it were safe to do so.”

Campbell would like to see more separated dedicated bike lanes as a means to encourage ridership and get people out of cars. “I think what Lafayette is doing is a real example to other cities trying to figure out how to move more people without endlessly widening streets.”

Shopping center owner Joan Bruzzone was also in attendance and made it clear she was not in

favor of extending Moraga Road to connect with the freeway, and hinted at legal repercussions.

Strategies that were left on the short list for now include “road diets” for Oak Hill and First Street to create “complete streets” that reduce the number of travel lanes and provide a two-way cycle track and wider sidewalks that make for a better connection with BART to enhance the bike-pedestrian experience.

“Changing the way kids get to school would help a lot,” said City Engineer Tony Coe of the additional school loading zones strategy at Stanley Middle School and Lafayette Elementary School, so that concept is also on the short list.

Concepts that didn't make the cut include a BART garage. Don Tatzin commented that because the transit agency owns the land, the probability that BART would agree for Lafayette merchants' employees to park there is “zero.” Also not making the short list: a traffic management center and a roundabout at the intersection of Mt. Diablo and Moraga Road.

The shorter list will go to Arup for further refinement, where they will look for the best value and to see how the narrowed-down projects match up to over-arching congestion and parking problems that the study is geared to address. Another round of outreach to residents is expected this summer.

Lamorinda Artists Lose Marketing Outlet as Lafayette Gallery Closes

By Nick Marnell



Gallery owner Judy Miller displays her art. Photo Nick Marnell

The Lafayette Art Gallery quietly closed its doors March 31, a casualty of hasty decision making, bad timing and the 21st-century disruption of legacy businesses. But atop the list of reasons for its downfall sat a Lamorinda inevitability: the 17-year Lafayette fixture could no longer afford the rent.

The gallery, a cooperative of up to 28 artists, was founded by Judy Miller in April 1999. She sat alone at her desk, not a customer in sight, as she reflected on what went wrong.

“The selling of art has changed,” Miller said. She waxed philosophically about the damage done to artists by the Internet, especially to sculptors like her. “People miss the feeling, the touching, the handling of a piece of art, by purchasing online.”

Miller identified the 2013 gallery relocation to 3420 Mt. Diablo Blvd. as the beginning of the end.

“The new spot was not known as a place to buy paintings,” said

jewelry to pay the rent.”

“It might have taken years for this to become a destination spot,” added Susan Erickson, one of the original member artists.

Miller agreed that the gallery location was an impediment, acknowledging that if she could have done it over, the gallery would have remained at its previous location, across from Chow Restaurant.

“I wanted to stay,” she said. “But we weren't sure what was happening. The landlord took down our sculpture garden with only two weeks' notice. What would happen next? Did the plans include us? We voted to move. As it turns out, we could have still been there.”

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Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report March 6 to 19, 2016

- Alarms** 57
- 911 Calls (incl. hang-ups)** 24
- Noise complaints** 5
- Traffic stops** 78
- Suspicious Circumstances** 22
- Suspicious Subjects** 38
- Suspicious Vehicles** 41
- Abandoned Vehicle**
900 block Village Center
1000 block Miller Dr.
- Barking Dog**
3300 block Johnson Rd.
- Burglary, Auto**
900 block Happy Valley Ct. (2)
Wells Fargo
20 block Lafayette Cir.
Safeway
50 block Lafayette Cir. (2)
Starbucks
3600 Mosswood Dr.
- Burglary, Commercial**
3300 block Mt Diablo Blvd.
- Burglary**
3400 block Moraga Blvd.
3300 Mt Diablo Blvd.
- Civil Problem**
900 block Dewing Ave.
3300 block Mildred Ln.
1200 block Vacation Dr.
90 block Carolyn Ct.
Lamorinda Tow
3000 block Camino Diablo
- Counterfeit**
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd.
- Dispute, Verbal**
800 block Mt View Dr.
Bentley Upper School
3600 block Bickerstaff (2)
Safeway
- Disturbance**
Mt Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.
- Fraud**
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd.
700 block John Way
3600 block Mt Diablo Blvd.
Shell Station
1000 block 2nd St
- Harassment**
10 block Hartwood Ct. (phone)
Safeway
800 block Avalon (phone)
- Hit & Run**
700 block Los Palos Mnr.
3700 block Mosswood Dr.
Starbucks
1700 block Toyon Rd.
Mt Diablo Blvd./
Happy Valley Rd.
1000 block Brown Ave
Pleasant Hill Rd./Hwy 24
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd
Golden Gate Way/1st St.
800 block Mt View Dr.
- Intoxicated Subject**
Whole Foods
- Missing Adult**
3600 block Robertson Rd.
3300 Reliez Highland Rd.
3200 block Ameno Dr.
- Ordinance violation**
Olympic Blvd/Pleasant Hill Rd.

- Panhandling**
Trader Joe's
- Police/Fire/EMS response**
1000 block Serrano Ct.
600 block Moraga Rd.
Bank of the West
Pleasant Hill/Reliez Valley Rds.
900 block Dewing Ave.
- Possession**
3100 block Stanley Blvd.
- Public Nuisance**
3300 block Moraga Blvd.
Library (2)
Willoughby Ct/Condit Rd.
3100 block S Peardale Dr.
N Peardale/S Peardale Drs.
3100 block Sandalwood Ct.
Trader Joe's
Martino/Springhill Rds.
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd.
- Promiscuous Shooting**
Reliez Valley/Pleasant Hill Rds.
- Prowler**
1100 block Bacon Way
1000 block Vista Bella
- Reckless Driving**
Olympic Blvd/Pleasant Hill Rd.
Deer Hill Rd./Sierra Vista Way
Green Valley Dr./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Acalanes/Hidden Valley Rds.
Pleasant Hill/Deer Hill Rds.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Hwy 24
Mt Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
St Mary's Rd./Glenside Dr.
- Recovery stolen vehicle**
1000 block 2nd St.
- Strong-arm Robbery**
Safeway (2)
- Shoplifting**
Safeway
- Theft, Petty**
Safeway (4)
10 block Amanda Ln.
3500 block Walnut St.
Reliez Valley Rd./Withers Ave.
3400 block Black Hawk Rd.
900 block Raintree Pl.
1300 block Reliez Valley Rd.
3100 block Lucas Dr.
3200 block Lucas Dr.
BART (from vehicle)
3100 Black Hawk Rd.
10 block Greenvalley Dr. (2)
- Theft, Grand**
3100 block Lucas Dr.
900 block Village Center
Safeway
- Theft, ID**
3200 block Sharon Ct.
3300 block Kim Rd (2)
3500 block Terrace Way
3400 block Stage Coach Dr.
3200 Beechwood Dr.
900 block Moon Ct.
3600 block Brook St.
- Theft, Vehicle**
1000 block Walnut Dr.
3400 Golden Gate Way
- Threats**
3300 S Lucille Ln.
- Trespass**
10 block Green Place (vehicle)
Library
- Unwanted Guest**
3200 block Stanley Blvd.
Lamorinda Tow
3600 block Bickerstaff
- Vandalism**
1700 block Reliez Valley Rd. (2)
Hillside Ter./Reliez Valley Rd./
3200 block La Canada Rd.
10 block Green Valley Dr./
1100 Estates Dr.

The 2016/2017 Lafayette Chamber Directory was delivered to Lafayette residents' homes last week. If you need an additional copy, please contact the Chamber at 925-284-7404.

Business & Community Directory

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LAFAYETTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE