

# 22nd Annual Lafayette Art and Wine Festival set for mid-September

By John T. Miller



Mark Mitchell (front center) and Mayor Mike Anderson (hand on white shirt) at last year's festival  
Photo Gint Federas

After a year of floods, falling trees and even a ruinous fire, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce is more than ready to celebrate its 22nd annual Art and Wine Festival the weekend of Sept. 16-17, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Since the fire, the Chamber of Commerce has been operating out of temporary quarters at the Lafayette School District offices next to Stanley Middle School.

"It's certainly been a challenge," said Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson, "but the fire is out and the festival is on!"

Luckily for the Chamber, most

of its materials were stored off site and all the files were backed up in the cloud. "We're not sure exactly what we might have lost, but with a standing committee of 35 people and nearly 400 volunteers, the festival will open without a hitch and with several new features," Lifson said.

A new family stage will be located at the main entrance at Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Oakhill Road, with Saturday's entertainment including acts from Lamorinda Theater Academy, Town Hall Kids, and the Lamorinda Idol contest winners.

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# End in sight for work on new water pumping plant

By Pippa Fisher



EBMUD's new Diablo Vista pumping plant set to be operational by early 2018.  
Photo Pippa Fisher

On the east end of Lafayette the dreaded orange cones and lane closures are back again but residents can take heart from the fact that the construction work on the new water pumping plant is nearing completion.

The East Bay Municipal Utility District has been working on construction of the new building since the end of 2015. Now stained, with windows and doors installed and with a new sidewalk, the site is level and ready for fencing.

There remain a few more areas of work before the new Diablo Vista pumping plant can be put on-line, bringing water to the community and replacing the old pumping plant on Mt. Diablo Boulevard located near Carol Lane, next to Ace Hardware.

Once the repaving work closest to the new pumping plant on Mt. Diablo Court is complete, repaving work on the westbound lanes where pipe was installed will begin in early September, with the unavoidable lane closures, loss of street parking and traffic delays.

Testing work on the new pump plant systems will begin soon along with pressure testing and flushing of pipes; residents will see large water storage tanks adjacent to the worksite to support this activity.

Finally permanent perimeter fencing and landscaping will be installed.

Once all new systems are "go," the old pumping plant will be taken out of service and demolished sometime in late 2017-early 2018.

# All smiles at awards ceremony



Photo provided

Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk, Mayor Mike Anderson and Planning and Building Director Niroop Srivatsa receive the "Great Places in California" award from officials of the California chapter of the American Planning Association at the APA Annual Awards Gala

on June 2 in Oakland. The award is given annually to only three locations in the state that exemplify character, quality and excellent planning. The APA says "It must be a place where people want to be!"  
- Pippa Fisher

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