




Lafayette

- Public Meetings**
- City Council**
Monday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Planning Commission**
Monday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Design Review**
Monday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- School Board Meetings**
- Acalanes Union High School District**
Wednesday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us
- Lafayette School District**
Wednesday, Feb. 21, 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

 The Lafayette Police Department has changed their reporting and we were unable to get the complete information before press time.

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Lafayette is keen to listen

By Pippa Fisher



Lafayette is listening but residents aren't talking much, at least online.

At the Jan. 8 city council meeting Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk presented a quarterly update on the city's online forum, launched in October. The city council had agreed at its October meeting that for the public to take it seriously, forum input should be summarized and presented each quarter.

Before he reported on the responses to the nine questions that are currently up on the site, Falk made the point that since around only 120 people have visited the site, the numbers are not significantly representative, except

among the sector of residents who have sought out the communication tool.

Reflecting that it is still in its early days, Falk said it is nonetheless frustrating that the forum has had fewer visitors to the site than he had hoped, despite having advertised it in the Vistas newsletter and the Daily Roundup as well as the "banner box" at Safeway. He said he would have liked to have seen the number in the thousands. Still he recognized it might need time to gain traction.

While some of the responses seemed to show a big mix of views, such as the question of how the city should handle housing and the question of how residents like or don't like the Reliez Valley Road safety measures, other questions showed more consensus of opinion.

Of the 12 responses to the po-

lice department citizen satisfaction survey, 11 people reported being "very satisfied" on every metric.

On the question "How is the new roundabout working for you?" Falk said the responses have gradually changed over the months perhaps as people have become more used to driving through it. Initial responses were negative, but more recent responses reflect residents' satisfaction.

Having heard the presentation, Mayor Don Tatzin agreed that there are still too few respondents and suggested contacting the vendor to see if this is typical and to find out if other areas that use the site successfully are doing something that the city is not.

Council Member Ivor Samson suggested brainstorming ways to incentivize the program's use, possibly offering prizes. All

council members agreed that the program is potentially useful and might just need a little time to gather more users.

Falk explained after the meeting that after not winning the community improvement sales tax measure, the city council had concluded that Lafayette needed to do a better job of listening to its residents. "That's the impetus behind this effort: to give people who might not be able to attend council meetings an online forum to voice their opinions regarding the city."

Residents can make their voices heard, and can even add suggestions of topics to be discussed, by going online and typing Lafayette Listens into their browser at <http://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/lafayette-listens> or by following the link on the city website homepage.

Work on new police headquarters almost complete

By Pippa Fisher



Police Records Supervisor Cathy Surges-Moscato and Police Chief Eric Christensen at the new Police Station site. Photo Pippa Fisher

An unremarkable 1950s ranch-style building from the outside, but a state-of-the-art 21st century police station inside, the new police headquarters on Mt. Diablo Boulevard is close to completion.

In the fall of 2016, the police were notified that their lease at Desco Plaza would not be renewed. The problem was the growth of the department and not least, the lack of parking for the many police vehicles taking over the old complex.

Now, running two months behind schedule because of unforeseen issues with flooring, the San Leandro-based contractor, Sausal Corporation, who bid for the job at \$1.4 million, has almost finished the project at 3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd., just east of Boswell's.

And if residents are curious about the new building, they won't need to break laws to get inside, as a grand opening event is being planned to showcase the new offices from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, complete with a bouncehouse for the kids and refreshments – possibly even the clichéd donuts.

Chief Eric Christensen is excited and deeply appreciative of the new digs. He and Police Records Supervisor Cathy Surges-Moscato recently gave this reporter a tour of the almost-complete building.

The facility is light and airy and retains the original raftered ceiling

in places. The floors had been recently completed – hardwood, but with a gritty, nonslip finish. The painting is complete but electrical wiring remained exposed and ceiling panels were still missing as the work was being finished.

Christensen explained that because it has been purpose-built with input from the police themselves, the station meets the police department's every requirement. He was keen to showcase the communications features, including secure data-transmission lines, enabling the police to share sensitive material with state and county police officials – not possible in their old location.

The unit is equipped to serve as a secure headquarters in an emergency and its proximity to the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, another key emergency location, is ideal. A new 40-foot radio tower will be installed to the rear of the building. "It has to be that tall to transmit over the library," explained Christensen. They have their own generator, too, should it be needed.

'Smart' electronics control lighting and the building is protected by an advanced alarm system. The sophisticated electronics and communications have necessitated the installation of a new transformer.

The complex features a large conference room, which can be

divided as necessary to create a smaller interview room. The room is designed with multiple phone lines to serve as a phone bank when needed.

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361 Shady Glen Rd
Represented Seller



549 Arrowhead Dr
Represented Buyer



452 Tahos Rd
Represented Seller



185 Willowbrook
Represented Buyer



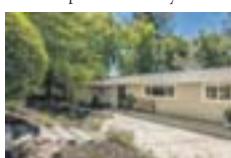
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Single-Family Detached	2016	2017	+ / -
New Listings	340	381	12.10%
Pending Sales	254	317	24.80%
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Days on Market	29	24	-17.20%
Median Sales Price	\$1,350,000	\$1,475,000	9.30%
Average Sales Price	\$1,506,811	\$1,630,761	8.20%
% Original List Price Received	102.5	103.4	0.90%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	428	404	-5.60%