

Lafayette through the eyes of the lens; photos on display

By Pippa Fisher



Chuck DeLeuw's first place photo: "Thanks for Stopping in Lafayette."

Photo Chuck DeLeuw

Lafayette city council took time during the Nov. 26 meeting to recognize the participants of the most recent "Day in the Life" photo contest, including first place winner Chuck DeLeuw for his submission entitled "Thanks for Stopping in Lafayette."

This is the fourth such contest organized by the public art committee. Rules specify that the photo must be taken on a particular day – in this case, July 29 on the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of Lafayette.

Lafayette resident Christine Yarosh received special recognition for her photo "Tour de Lafayette." Other contestants included Dana Anderson for her photo, "50 Years of Leadership," Stu Selland for his untitled photo, Michael Dawson for "Trees of the Lafayette Moraga Trail" and Erin Partridge for "Sun Over Burton Valley."

The photos are all currently on display in the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's homework room through the end of December.

City wins victory in lawsuit

By Pippa Fisher

The city of Lafayette won a trial court victory Dec. 6 over a group of neighbors who alleged the city had used biased procedures in reaching a land use decision in 2016.

A statement released by the city Dec. 7 said, "The Court found that the council's closed sessions were justified and proper, that the council's decision was based on a fair, thorough process, and that there was no evidence that anyone at the city – the council, staff, or the city attorney – was biased."

The city noted that legal fees cost the taxpayers \$683,692.

At issue were claims that the city violated the Brown Act by meeting in closed session and of prejudice at the design review and

planning commission level due to conflict of interest.

The plaintiff's attorney Scott Sommer was surprised by the verdict, and by the amount of the legal fees.

"This was a one-day trial based on an administrative record with no live witnesses. There were four one-hour depositions in the case. The only relief sought was a new and impartial hearing," said Sommer, adding, "The city hired a litigation firm from San Francisco which lists white collar criminal defense among its specialties. Petitioners are astonished at the report of the city's attorneys fees."

The plaintiffs are currently considering whether or not to appeal.

Community hall renamed for Tatzin

By Pippa Fisher



Mayor Don Tazin, left, poses next to Vice Mayor Cam Burks at the community hall renaming.

Photo Pippa Fisher

A sizeable crowd showed up for the Nov. 26 city council meeting. And people weren't there to hear policy discussed on this occasion – they were there in appreciation of Mayor Don Tazin, for whom the community hall at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center was being renamed in his honor.

In recognition of all the hard work and dedication Tatzin put into making the library a reality nine years ago, the LLC Foundation proposed renaming the hall to the Don Tatzin Community Hall as Tatzin steps down from public ser-

vice after 33 years.

Vice Mayor Cam Burks noted that they were standing in the middle of the heart of the city. "And I'm standing next to the man who represents the spirit of this heart," he said.

Burks said that there is only one leader whose impact has been so profound and so enormous, decade after decade. "And that is Don Tatzin. And that is why the heart of Lafayette, our Library and Learning Center Community Hall, is being named in his honor."

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