



**Public Meetings**  
**City Council**  
 TBA  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Planning Commission**  
 Monday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Design Review**  
 Monday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
 Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**School Board Meetings**  
**Acalanes Union High School District**  
 Wednesday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.  
 AUHSD Board Room  
 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
 www.acalanes.k12.ca.us  
**Lafayette School District**  
 Wednesday, Dec. 12, 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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**Lafayette loses longtime resident, 'honorary mayor'**

By Pippa Fisher

**F**ounder of Lafayette's Diablo Foods Ed Stokes passed away peacefully Nov. 28 amidst family and friends.

Stokes was known as honorary mayor of the city because of his philanthropy.

"Ed personified the best of Lafayette. His generosity, friendliness, ability to seemingly be everywhere, and business practices set a standard we should all try to emulate," said Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin, adding "I had the privilege of serving as mayor while recognizing Ed was the true mayor of our community."

Stokes founded Lafayette-

based Diablo Foods, which is still family-owned and operated, 50 years ago. For two years he worked 12-hour days with his wife Betty behind the deli counter. Three generations of the family adhere to Stokes' principles: best quality, full friendly service, excellent selection, utmost cleanliness and always fair prices. Over time he opened another store in Danville and two more in Concord.

Ed served for 12 years on the board of the Northern California Grocers Association. In 2010, the California Independent Grocers Association named him "Retailer of the Year." Diablo Foods was



Diablo Foods paid tribute to its founder, Ed Stokes, on the day that he passed away with a photo at the entrance of the store.

Photo Jeff Heyman, City of Lafayette

voted the number one specialty food store in Contra Costa County by Diablo Magazine in 2011, and the California Independent Grocery Association recognized Stokes and Diablo Foods as the "Best Independent Grocer" in 2011.

Additionally Stokes was named Lafayette's "Citizen of the Year" and 2012 "Distinguished Citizen of the Year" as well as having been the only two-time Lafayette "Business Person of the year" recipient.

He received the Su Stauffer Acalanes Friend of Education Award, a Marine Corps League Award, the Humanitarian Award by the Soroptimist Club, and the Paul Harris Fellow Award from Lafayette Rotary.

Stokes served as president

of Lafayette's Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and Town Hall Theatre as well as having been a director of numerous other community organizations. He was generous in his support of Lafayette schools and local charities.

He continued to be a presence in the store throughout his life, always checking to make sure colleagues, friends and customers were cared for.

Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk said, "Ed's passing makes me sad, but also grateful that I was able to spin in Ed's orbit for a couple of decades. His unbounded generosity served as an example for us all, and I am a better person because I had the great gift of knowing Ed Stokes."

**Outgoing public servants honored**

By Pippa Fisher



From left: Rachel Zinn, Don Tatzin, Candace Andersen, Steve Falk, Teresa Gerring, Richard Whitmore, and David Gerson  
 Photo Jeff Heyman, City of Lafayette

**D**riving rain didn't dissuade hundreds of people from showing up to a joint reception at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center Nov. 27 for six public servants who are retiring or moving on in their service to the city.

Following refreshments and mingling, people took their seats, with many having to stand due to the size of the turnout, to listen to anecdotes and stories along with long lists of accomplishments of the six.

Executive director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Jay Lifson, performed master of ceremonies duties.

The honorees were recognized in alphabetical order, starting with City Manager Steve Falk, introduced by Lifson. Falk was the first to mention what was to be the common thread through all the speeches – that of community involvement. Noting that 28 years is a long time for a city manager to stay in one job, he credited the city council, the chamber of commerce, and his "brilliant" city staff and said it was "because we did it together."

Former Lafayette School District Board Member Ann Appert introduced outgoing Lafayette School District Board Member Teresa Ger-

ringer, who is now taking a seat on the city council.

Former LAFSD Superintendent Rachel Zinn introduced outgoing LAFSD Board Member David Gerson.

City Council Member Mike Anderson introduced outgoing Mayor Don Tatzin as he leaves the council after 33 years of service, noting his legacy of making all feel welcome to the podium to speak at council meetings with a simple greeting each time of "Welcome" to put people at ease.

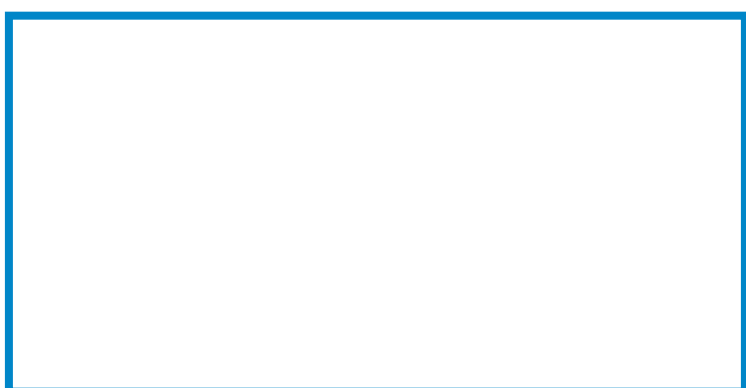
Tatzin for his part highlighted the collective achievements of the past years and expressed his optimism that the next council will solve issues of traffic and parking.

Acalanes Union High School District Superintendent John Nickerson introduced outgoing Board Member Richard Whitmore, who is leaving the board but taking up the position of Superintendent of Schools at LAFSD.

And then finally Gerring reappeared to introduce Zinn as she leaves the position of LAFSD superintendent.

Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen was on hand to present resolutions.

Tatzin noted that between them all, their service amounted to 125 years.



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