



See public meetings schedule on this pages and 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

### An Award-Winning Team

#1 Realtor

Lafayette for 11 Straight Years! Contra Costa County Since 2010 Lamorinda Since 2011

2018

Business Person of the Year by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

#4

Realtor in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2018 by The Luxury Marketing Council

5-Star

Recipient of the Five Star Professional Customer Service Award for 6 consecutive years

2019

Awarded the title of Trendsetter on RISMEDIA's list of 2019 Real Estate Newsmakers

#30

Ranking on Real Trends list of 1,000 top real estate professionals in the U.S.



Work with us!

925.339.1918 | Dana@DanaGreenTeam.com DanaGreenTeam.com | DRE 01482454



## And then again there were five – Steven Bliss appointed to city council



Photo Pippa Fisher

City Clerk Joanne Robbins swears in the latest member of the council, Steven Bliss.

By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette city council moved forward at its Jan. 10 special meeting, appointing Steven Bliss, former vice chair of the planning commission, to the fifth seat, made vacant by the sudden passing of Council Member Mark Mitchell in November. Bliss will serve until November 2020, the remainder of Mitchell's term.

The council invited applications for candidates to fill the position following a unanimous vote to do so at a special meeting Dec. 19. Many in the community expressed their strong opinion at that time that former Council Member Ivor Samson, an attorney and the main force behind last year's controversial overhaul of the conflict of interest policy for planning and design review commissioners, who was one

of five to run in the November election for two vacant seats, should automatically be appointed since he had come in a close third behind council members Susan Candell and Teresa Gerringer. While Samson supporters claimed the voters had spoken for him, many others claimed that the vote represented the opposite – a desire for a change.

Samson supporters were vocal in their support at the Jan. 7 meeting during which the council interviewed eight candidates. The meeting, which went until long after midnight, saw the four council members narrow their selection to two candidates: Samson and Bliss. However, as the hours went by the council seemed completely deadlocked – Vice Mayor Mike Anderson and Gerringer favoring Bliss, with Mayor Cam Burks and Candell for Samson.

Choosing to continue the meeting

and avoid resolving the deadlock with a coin toss, which actually happened 15 years ago in another deadlock situation, the council met again three days later, bringing back both Bliss and Samson for further questions.

The evening was emotionally charged. Close to 30 speakers voiced opinions. Several residents showed dismay that the issue could potentially be decided by a coin toss and urged the council to "do their job." Posters supporting Samson lined the steps outside the meeting room.

The council asked questions of each candidate to draw comments on hot topics such as state mandates on housing and development, and restoring transparency and trust in local government.

... continued on Page A11

## Large art gallery pop-up brings culture, commerce, community to downtown



The old Wells Fargo Bank building will provide an airy location for the new pop-up gallery coming to downtown Lafayette.

Photo provided

By Pippa Fisher

Although vacant for a while now, the highly visible former home of Wells Fargo Bank on the corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard will soon come to life with the arrival of a "pop-up" art gallery, opening this Valentine's Day.

The use of the empty building as a gallery and interactive event space is the result of collaboration between Jennifer Perlmutter, founder of Lafayette's Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, and property owner Steve Cortese. It's an idea born from a suggestion from Council Member Mike Anderson at the second retail workshop held by the city council last year to use empty storefronts for pop-up space.

The gallery will take advantage of great natural light in the airy building and will utilize the teller counters and vault with safety deposit boxes.

Perlmutter is excited, noting that the location in the center of town will increase the gallery's visibility. She says that JPG@The Bank, as it is known, will serve to amplify their cultural and artistic voice. "It will be a hub where artists, fans and collectors will come together for culture, community and commerce," she says.

"The response has been awesome so far," says Perlmutter. "Our city council and Chamber of Commerce were the first to back me. And for that I am very grateful. The property owner, Steve Cortese, is setting an example for the other owners in town. I reached out right away to other artists and organizations I wanted to work with and they are all helping to make this very short timeline and

my extremely ambitious vision come to life!"

Perlmutter will be bringing in music performances, artist talks, wine tastings, collaborative painting, a weekend painting workshop with the Carl Heyward of Global Art Project, a youth poetry slam, Cal Shakes salon, a speaker night on the art of leadership, and more.

She explains, "We've done similar things in my other gallery with success and now we have more space to play with. I love to connect art and commerce through a mash up of all of these things, (and) what better place than an empty bank? I hope the city leadership as well as the property owners will see the benefit to the surrounding businesses and their other tenants."

The first exhibit in the pop-up gallery, titled "For The Love of Art," features Bay Area artists Charmaine Koh, Jane Burton, Carl Heyward, Akiko, Nicholas Coley and sculpture by Michael Rizza, among others. "New Currencies," the second exhibit, is a juried show with work submitted from national artists. All work is for sale and represented by Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery.

"Perhaps some day the city of Lafayette would follow the model of a municipal gallery and financially sponsor a curated space with arts and education," says Perlmutter, adding, that the area is full of artists.

The first event "For the Love of Art" opens Feb. 14. Perlmutter is also encouraging artists to submit to the open call for "New Currencies."

Info: <https://jenniferperlmuttergallery.com/jpgatthebank/>

## NEW YEAR. New Investment Advisor.



Resolve to Put Your Investments Back on Track

Come see us for a free portfolio review



Over 35 years of managing wealth in Lamorinda

3470 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Suite A215 • Lafayette, CA 94549 925.299.1500 • www.capitaladvantage.com

Please see important disclosure information at [www.capitaladvantage.com/disclosure](http://www.capitaladvantage.com/disclosure)



Lafayette Public Meetings

Planning Commission

Monday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

City Council

Monday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District Wednesday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m. AUHSD Board Room 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m. Regular Board Meeting District Office Board Room 3477 School St., Lafayette www.lafsd.k12.ca.us