

Lafayette's Citizen of the Year, four decades of service

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He has been married to his wife Ellen Reintjes since 1982, serving on the city council for 90 percent of that time. He is looking forward to spending more time at home with her. And with his three border collies: Cloud, Greylock and the new puppy, Tenaya.

Reintjes says that they are really best friends. "We met when were 18/19 years old. So I look forward to being able to spend more time doing things together – taking longer trips, doing more on the spur of the moment, and trying out new activities."

Spare time is not something Tatzin is overly familiar with, however. He was still "commuting" to work in Australia as he began his years of public service, first with the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission from 1979-94 and then the Planning Commission from 1984-85.

Elected to the city council in 1985, Tatzin spent many hours on various local and state boards – the Redevelopment Oversight Board, Lamorinda School Bus Transportation Agency; Lamorinda Fee and Financing Authority; Lamorinda Program Management Committee; Southwest Area Regional Transportation Committee; Con-

tra Costa Transportation Authority; Central Contra Costa Transit Agency; Contra Costa Local Area Formation Commission; San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority; and Marin Clean Energy – all routinely adding up to a minimum of 11 scheduled meetings each week, plus many additional hours spent on preparation.

Tatzin's leadership has been a part of all the significant projects completed by the city over the past three decades, including the Lafayette Community Park and Buckeye Fields, the acquisition of Leigh Creekside Park, the deal to acquire the Acalanes Ridge Open Space, the rebuilding of Lafayette Plaza, the Veterans Memorial Building and the new Lafayette police station.

Additionally, as an early member of the Lafayette Community Foundation, Tatzin played a key role in the fiscal planning for the \$50 million Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

Former City Manager Steve Falk commented that to his mind this was probably both Tatzin's greatest accomplishment as well as his least well known. "His plan not only helped pay for the library but also endowed the Library Foundation with more than \$10 million, thus ensuring that the library would not only be built, but also (be) successful for generations."

Vice Mayor Mike Anderson notes that Tatzin is a genius with numbers. "I have seen Don calculate returns on compound interests in his head while sitting at the dais. He reads 150-page long annual budgets and auditor reports with a passion," he says.

But the message that comes through over and over in talking to those who've worked with him is Tatzin's ability to welcome all and listen to all opinions.

Lafayette resident and last

year's Citizen of the Year Don Jenkins recalls his first impressions of Tatzin as Oakwood Athletic Club many years ago went through the permit process to build the current club. "In the contentious permitting process I remember Don as one of the councilmen that was able to listen to the citizen rancor for meeting after meeting. He never seemed to be upset and was always courteous to the speakers," says Jenkins, adding, "I admire his a-political approach to city government. I have known Don for perhaps 20 years. He serves as my role model of how I should behave when I want to serve my community. Don exemplifies what citizen politics is in a community ... caring resident/citizens willing to give of their time and talents for the betterment of their community."

In addition to fairness and open-mindedness, Reintjes says, "I think Don's greatest talent as a public servant has been his ability to come up with creative and novel approaches to solving problems. He's always been able to tease insights and opportunities out of voluminous amounts of disparate information. Our community has been fortunate that Don devoted this talent to civic endeavors."

When asked about what he considers to be his greatest accomplishment over his years on the council, he is modest and quick to point out, "I did nothing alone. There are five members of the council," but he admits that he is proud of his part in making Lafayette a place people want to live, maintaining great schools and healthy city finances along with low crime.

He says the biggest challenges continue to come from outside forces such as the CASA Compact and land-use legislation that would potentially strip local control.

Overall Tatzin says he hopes to be remembered for having

the best interests of the community at heart and for respecting differing opinions.

For now, with a chunk of time opening up, Tatzin says he plans to enjoy time with his wife and the dogs. "A new puppy keeps you busy," he says. He says he and his wife hope to spend more time at their cabin with their dogs.

He is honing his musical talents by joining the Walnut Creek Concert Band – he is a euphonium player, playing also with the Stanley Band every Friday since 2014.

And he says he and his wife will continue to run their free truffle-making classes for residents several times a year.

He plans to continue his masters' swimming which he does every day at 5 a.m. He says he picked it up more seriously on his retirement several years ago from his "day job," registering for the "Go the Distance" program. Despite his claims that he is a "mediocre" swimmer, he challenged himself to improve through the program and has placed first in the nation three years in a row. "It's swimming for old people," he shrugs characteristically. That is a doubtful assessment, since he continues his lake swimming, entering the Trans Tahoe and does the circumferance swim at Pincrest.

Of course Tatzin can't just quit public service cold turkey. He has recently joined the Library Foundation and will serve as their representative for the Chamber of Commerce.

Reflecting on differences he's seen over the years he says that council members always used to wear suits to meetings. One thing is certain: Tatzin, better known now for his colorful sweater attire, has served as a mentor for many on the council and has had a hand in much of what is known as Lafayette today.



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The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission..

Planning Commission. This seven-member body is responsible for matters relating to land use and development in the city. The commission serves as an advisory agency to the City Council for administering the laws and ordinances governing the approval of general and specific plans, zoning text amendments and rezonings. The commission also hears and decides on applications for subdivisions, land use permits, variances, and ridgeline development. Members of the Planning Commission are required to be qualified electors of the City of Lafayette, and are selected on the basis of training, education, occupation and expertise. The commission reviews design drawings, construction plans and technical reports. The following are planning documents that commissioners must be familiar with to execute their duties. 1) Lafayette General Plan; 2) Lafayette Municipal Code, Title 6 -Planning & Land Use; 3) Downtown Specific Plan; 4) Downtown Design Guidelines; 5) Residential Design Review Guidelines.

Link to the application and additional information
www.lovelafayette.org/pc

Individuals with questions may call Interim Planning & Building Director Greg Wolff (925) 299-3204. Completed applications must be received by 5:00pm March 29, 2019.



Lafayette Volunteer Opportunities

There are currently openings on the following Lafayette Commissions/Committees

- Capital Projects Assessment Committee (CPAC)
- Community Center Foundation
- Creeks Committee
- Crime Prevention Commission
- Downtown Street Improvement Master Plan Implementation Committee(DSIMPIC)
- Emergency Preparedness Commission
- Environmental Task Force
- Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Senior Services Commission
- Transportation & Circulation Commission
- Youth Commission

For additional information visit the city's website:
www.lovelafayette.org Hot Topics

Or e-mail City Clerk Joanne Robbins,
jrobbins@lovelafayette.org

Application deadline March 31, 2019.
Positions open until filled.

Ribbon cutting at St. Perpetua's

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"I believe that people everywhere and especially in our area are looking for a sense of community and connection. This new community center will help to provide that in significant ways for all ages."

Kasper explains that over the years they have been limited in the ministries and services they could offer because they've lacked an adequate gathering space. "The new community center will bring people together for social, spiritual and service opportunities. In particular, the children of our parish school and our faith formation programs, which serve hundreds of local families, will be

among the greatest beneficiaries of our campaign: Continuing our Growth ... Building our Future."

Kasper says that St. Perpetua has always supported outreach efforts in the Lamorinda area including scouting, CYO sports, Winter Nights Shelter, CCIH, Shelter Inc., and National Charity League.

"We hope that our new community center will help us to carry out our parish mission in even greater ways," says Kasper, explaining, "That mission was articulated in our Parish Strategic Plan several years ago: Celebrating our Faith; Enriching our Community; Sharing our Gifts."

Kasper says that when

the project is completed they will have a reception after each of that weekend's masses. A gala opening celebration will be held on Saturday, May 18.

Diocese of Oakland Superintendent of Schools Kathleen Radecke and members of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce were also on hand to say a few words.

The 10,500 square foot center, roughly three times the size of the old one, is the first major change to the church hall facility since it was built in 1952.

Kasper is most excited about what this means for the future. "We are passing on to the next generations a heritage of faith, family and community," he says.

Lafayette set to outlaw FTPs

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Several speakers, including Acalanes Union High School District Superintendent John Nickerson spoke during public comment of the extent of the problem in the high school and even the middle school.

Jen Grand-Lejano from the Contra Costa Public Health's Tobacco Prevention Program said that Acalanes High School has the highest vaping numbers in the county. She said that four out of five people who smoke start with vaping a flavored product and with flavors such as coco puffs and bubble gum it is clear FTPs are targeting children.

But is the issue as simple as banning these products from the city?

The council heard from Lafayette's one smoke shop owner, Adam Abdallah of Blazin' Jayz, who said that since FTPs make up 85 percent of his business, a ban would force him to close. "Why should I take a hit?" he said.

Abdallah was quick to point out that he doesn't allow anyone under the age of

21 into his store.

"I did everything right," said Abdallah later. "I didn't have to put a minimum age on my store, but I did. There's nothing I can do. I will lose my business." He pointed out that he has people thanking him on a daily basis for getting them off cigarettes, using vaping as an alternative while they quit.

Abdallah said he believed that banning FTPs would give the black market a bigger hand.

That was a point reiterated by several other speakers who said that children would just go to other towns or buy online.

Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce Jay Lifson said that this had been a difficult subject for the chamber. He noted that although the Chamber works for the good of the community, its role is to work on behalf of its businesses. He said that they are in favor of a strict licensing program, "but we can't get behind a ban."

All city council members agreed with the ban. Vice Mayor Mike Anderson acknowledged that there would be a black market but said

that this would discourage future users from starting. "It's a significant statement ... on our values," he said.

Mayor Cam Burks said that he respects free enterprise.

"We will be voting on the livelihoods of our business owners and this is something I don't take lightly. I deeply respect and believe in free enterprise and vibrant, unregulated commerce as a key, fundamental policy basis for our city," says Burks, but adds, "However, I do not condone nor do I support at any measure, commerce that involves placing our kids in direct medical risk."

Burks says he is pleased with the vote to move this forward and commended his council member peers for their leadership and accountability, adding, "I would like to thank the public for their robust input both verbally during the meeting and via written correspondence – representing both sides of debate – as I believe it's critical, and certainly the 'Lafayette Way' of governance, to consider all sides of such an important decision."