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BART weekend closures planned between Walnut Creek and Orinda stations



BART is making extensive repairs and upgrades to the track between Orinda and Walnut Creek stations on most weekends through October, including some upcoming full weekend closures with bus bridges. Closure weekends: Aug. 31-Sept. 2 (Labor Day

Weekend), Sept. 14-15, Sept. 28-29, Oct. 12-13, and Oct. 26-27. Riders should expect delays of 40 minutes or more on closure weekends. Free shuttle bus service will be provided between Orinda, Lafayette and Walnut Creek stations. BART will also do work at night after service

closes on weeknights through at least the end of October.

Use the Trip Planner (www.bart.gov/planner), call the BART Transit Information Center at (510) 465-BART (2278), or get the Official BART app to plan your trip.

Letters to the editor

Looking at long-term development

An article by Pippa Fisher pointed to a problem that might be occurring in Lafayette. The town has started allowing offices to be torn down and replaced by housing. Lafayette was always a balanced town with jobs and housing. However, if the town is going to continue to allow this to happen, just so someone can make a few bucks here and there, the character of

Lafayette will change. A lot of housing is being proposed for the Eastern downtown area, also replacing businesses. Yes, we need the housing, but we also need balance in the community. The council and the Planning Commission have to be very careful and think ahead to the ramifications of what they are doing. I am not certain that the long view is being considered.

Leonard Dorin
Lafayette

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters must be factually accurate and be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Srivatsa takes the driver's seat at city offices

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"Steel" is recognition of her resolute and "steely" interior, which enables her to handle tough jobs, notwithstanding her outwardly relaxed and pleasant nature.

Prior to this year Srivatsa served for 18 years as Lafayette's director of planning and building services. Throughout her more than 30 years of local government experience -- the majority of which she served in Lafayette -- Srivatsa led city staff and advised the city council and planning commission on land use policy, strategic growth initiatives, and housing and economic development matters. During her tenure, the city completed an update to the general plan, adopted its first downtown specific plan and approved over 100 below-market-rate housing units in the downtown.

From 1992 to 1999, Srivatsa worked as

Lafayette's planning director and community development director, supervising the planning, engineering and public works divisions, and serving as staff to the newly created redevelopment agency. Under her supervision, the department commenced work on a \$15 million capital improvement program with community oversight and public review added to the process. In addition, she has acted as incident commander during emergency operations drills and held leadership roles during real emergencies, most notably the 1998 flooding in Lafayette.

Prior to her work at the city of Lafayette, Srivatsa served as associate planner and chief city planner, from 1982 to 1989, for the city of Naperville, Illinois. Srivatsa serves on the League of California Cities Revenue and Taxation Committee, which provides policy direction on pending

legislation to the League board and advocates for local control. She was recently appointed as an alternate commissioner to the California Statewide Communities Development Authority, where she reviews applications from more than 500 cities, counties and special districts for funding community infrastructure, affordable housing, and environmental projects.

Srivatsa has a bachelor's degree in architecture and town planning from Madras University in Chennai, India. She and her husband, Sanjay, raised two sons, Vikram and Arjun, in Lafayette where they attended the Meher School, Stanley Middle School, and Acalanes High School. For the last 14 years, she has volunteered as a dog socializer at Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation. She lives in unincorporated Saranap.

Campolindo Tech Club receives grant from Kiwanis for new equipment

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Both students joined the club because it sounded like it could be a lot of fun and are enthusiastic about everything they've learned. As the older students, they enjoy teaching their skills to the less experienced while taking on the role of mentor. Marston wants to pursue this in college, while Tzortzis didn't originally, "but the more I do it, the more I want to pursue it."

"As the students become more proficient in their filming skills, there will be more opportunities for our

students to go out into the community and help create stories and memories," Kovac explained. "Also, these skills transfer once our students leave the area to make their mark on the world.

"Sam Crossley is a great example of that," he added. "He was one of our very first students to participate in Tech Club. He went on to college where he majored in film. He was on the film team for the movie 'Free Solo,' which won an Academy Award for Best Documentary this year."

"It's a really great

program that builds a strong club community for everyone to hang out and laugh," Wilson said, "but when the curtain goes up, it's all business."

Having the capability for a multicamera shoot of events is crucial to the Tech Club, which is available for private events within the community. Ideally, two more cameras are needed for an optimum teaching experience. For more information or to make a donation contact Mark Roberts at: mroberts@auhsdschools.org

Lafayette Volunteer Opportunities

There are currently openings on the following Lafayette Commissions/Committees

- Capital Projects Assessment Committee
- CCCTA Advisory Committee-Lafayette Representative
- Creeks Committee
- Community Center Foundation
- Downtown Street Improvement Master Plan Implementation Committee (DSIMPIC)
- Planning Commission
- Public Art Committee

For additional information on these volunteer positions visit the city's website: www.lovelafayette.org

Hot Topics

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

Application deadline August 30, 2019. Positions open until filled.

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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 August 30, 2019.