

Lamorinda Pétanque, 30 years strong



Photo Pippa Fisher

Mayor Mike Anderson throws out the first ball, marking the Lamorinda Petanque Club's 30th anniversary.

In the shady spot near the creek on St. Mary's Road, home to Lamorinda's Pétanque Club, Mayor Mike Anderson threw out the first cochonnet (small, target ball) and first boule to kick off the Oct. 20 tournament as players watched with professional eyes. He described the club as an "oasis of calm and civility."

The club is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Founder Pascal Gravier recalled the last time a mayor tossed out the first ball, 24 years ago.

"Mayor Gayle Uilkema threw out the first ball at our old location down the road which is now the roller rink."

The club is indeed an oasis, but alongside its calm and civility it features some world-class players. Sixteen-year-old Noah Sonet will be playing on the U.S. junior team in Cambodia next month, one of only three juniors in the country.

The club welcomes new members. "But be warned," says Gravier. "It is addicting." - P. Fisher

Further information can be found on their website <http://lamorindapetanque.com/index.html>

Lynn Hiden – 40 years as heart and soul of the community



Photo Pippa Fisher

The city council pose for a photo with Lynn Hiden (in green) after the presentation of a proclamation marking her 40 years of community service in Lafayette.

By Pippa Fisher

Few people exemplify "Love Lafayette" like Lynn Hiden, who has been serving the community for over 40 years. Mayor Mike Anderson recognized her four decades of service with a proclamation at the Oct. 15 city council meeting.

Currently a member of the Transportation and Circulation Commission, Hiden started her civic involvement on what was known as the Traffic Commission back in 1979. She is clearly a beloved figure in the city, evident from the number of people who came to the meeting in support of her, and by the number of people who spoke of her gifts, and talent for working tirelessly to find solutions, and her tenacity in keeping residents informed on the issues of the day.

Many know and appreciate her as a prolific email-writer who raises awareness on local and statewide concerns facing the city.

"You are an important part of the Circulation Commission," noted Anderson,

adding, "But I think more importantly you've been an important part of circulating information throughout the community." Anderson even recalled a time before email was available when Hiden would instead be making phone calls to spread awareness.

Lafayette School District trustee Rob Sturm referred to her, as many others also did, as a dear friend. He said that the community was fortunate to have someone with Lynn's wealth of community knowledge, care and pragmatism, doggedly leaning in each day to improve the city.

"Lynn is our Paul Revere," said Sturm, "with the writing style of Charles Dickens who, I will note legend has it, was paid by the word."

Perhaps Vice Mayor Susan Candell summed it up most simply: "She is the heart and soul of Lafayette."

Hiden said that her 40 years of adventures in Lafayette have meant so much to her. "Thousands of challenges, wonderful friends, an unsurpassed honor," she said, as the packed room gave her a standing ovation.

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