




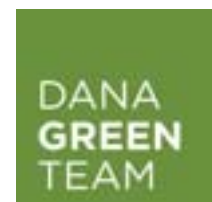
**LAFAYETTE**  
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See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
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The Dana Green Team is once again proudly joining the Chamber of Commerce and Branagh Development in sponsoring the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting. Rumor has it, Santa plans to arrive by 4:30 p.m.



**EVENT DETAILS**  
 Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>  
 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
 Lafayette Plaza

925.339.1918 | [DanaGreenTeam.com](http://DanaGreenTeam.com) | DRE 01482454

## Safety and circulation issues cited as car wash proposal is nixed



Photo Pippa Fisher

The car wash, which was denied Nov. 18, was proposed near one of the worst traffic intersections in Lafayette.

### By Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette City Council unanimously agreed to deny a controversial car wash proposed next to the Acalanes High School on appeal, overturning previous approval by the planning commission, and directed city staff to prepare a resolution of denial which will be voted on as a consent calendar item at the Dec. 9 city council meeting.

The Nov.18 meeting was a

continuation of the council’s previous Oct. 15 meeting on the subject (see story in Oct. 30 issue of Lamorinda Weekly) during which it was decided to bring the matter back at a special meeting, to give both staff and the applicant time to provide some answers to further concerns brought up by the council.

The applicant and owner of the Shell gas station at 3255 Stanley Blvd., Vanita Bindal, was requesting a land use

permit to demolish the existing 566-square-foot office/retail space and install a new self-service car wash and a 763-square foot office/retail space.

Neighbors Jon and Lisa Williams, whose property shares a fence along which the proposed car wash would be located, were appealing the planning commission’s decision to approve it, based on noise, pollution, safety and potential lowered property values.

The council listened to city staff, and then to the applicant’s attorney David Bowie together with the project architect, as they addressed the various concerns raised during the last meeting. Such concerns included the hours of operation, parking, noise and most notably the amount of space available, looking at turning radii and the implications for on-site circulation affecting the already congested intersection.

City staff acknowledged

that although cars would be able to maneuver between the gas pumps to the car wash in theory, it could become “challenging” if other cars were present.

Of great concern to the council – and to the 23 speakers who made their voices heard during public comment, along with multiple written comments against the project – was the issue of safety for the Acalanes High School students who already jaywalk across Stanley Boulevard to get to the shop for snacks. A couple of residents, including one police officer expressed concern about a bigger retail store staying open 24 hours and the potential for attracting crime.

Council Member Steven Bliss noted his very serious concerns about health and safety, saying that with the city’s goal of encouraging safe routes to school for children, “This takes us very much in the wrong direction on that broader goal for our city,” and he said he had secondary

concerns about nuisance and enforcement.

Mayor Mike Anderson acknowledged that there were many very valid issues but said that for him, “My biggest problem is really the onsite circulation which then has effect on offsite circulation and congestion,” noting they hadn’t even considered how delivery trucks would manage.

“It’s pretty obvious that when you have a site whose internal circulation doesn’t work, it does back up onto adjacent streets,” said Anderson, noting that there are other similar situations in the city.

Many members of the public stayed until late into the night to the end of the meeting and showed their appreciation for the decision with a round of applause, reflecting the overwhelming sentiment in the room that this neighborhood was not the right location for a car wash.

## Fall Citizens’ Police Academy class graduates applauded



Photo Pippa Fisher

Graduates of the fall session of the Citizens’ Police Academy pose with Police Chief Ben Alldritt, Crime Prevention Commissioner Denise Brown and the Lafayette city council at the Nov. 12 council meeting.

Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt congratulated the graduating Citizen’s Police Academy fall class at the Nov. 12 city council meeting.

Acknowledging the commitment the class requires of participants who give up a night a week to experience various areas of police work, Alldritt said that he was appreciative of the chance to “lift the veil” on police work. He said that the twice-a-year

sessions give the police a chance to engage with local citizens who want to learn what the police do and to share their feedback.

Alldritt thanked crime prevention commissioners Denise Brown and Judie Peterson who, together with Police Community Services Officer Cathy Surges-Moscato, he said, make the academy happen.

– P. Fisher

Further information on the Citizens’ Police Academy can be found on [www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/city-departments/police/citizen-s-police-academy](http://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/city-departments/police/citizen-s-police-academy)



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**Lafayette Public Meetings**  
**City Council**  
 Monday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.  
 regular meeting  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**  
 Monday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**  
 Monday, Dec. 9, 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. 11, 7 p.m.  
 AUHSD Board Room  
 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
[www.acalanes.k12.ca.us](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us)

**Lafayette School District**  
 Wednesday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m.  
 Regular Board Meeting  
 Stanley M.S. Library  
 3477 School St., Lafayette  
[www.lafsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lafsd.k12.ca.us)



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