

Sullivan Fortner, Kyle Athayde perform and educate for school and community



Photo Pippa Fisher

Bob Athayde takes a back-seat (left) as jazz pianist Sullivan Fortner and vibraphonist Kyle Athayde perform at Stanley Middle School March 3.

Stanley Middle School Teacher Bob Athayde once again scored a winner both for his students and the community when he opened his classroom March 3 to all to watch his son, vibraphonist Kyle Athayde, play alongside Grammy award-winning jazz pianist Sullivan Fortner. The performance coincided with the release of their first CD together entitled “Tea for

Two.” Fortner and Athayde took time between pieces to educate students and to demonstrate techniques.

The concert was sponsored by an anonymous donation to the Generations in Jazz Foundation.

Fortner and Athayde also performed later the same day at Lamorinda Music in Lafayette.
– P. Fisher

Housing, jobs, transportation; critical balancing act, says mayor

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Certainly Lafayette has to abide by legislation coming down from the capital to address housing shortages. Recently the mayor and the city manager took a trip to Sacramento to meet with housing legislators in an attempt to discuss how Lafayette, with its unique set of challenges, including its designation as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, and lack of industry, can best comply with state goals including those of increased housing, and reduction in green house gases.

But although Lafayette has added more than 400 multifamily housing units in the last 10 years, 23 percent of which are BMR, it has taken a toll on jobs, with an estimated 615 potential jobs lost to development. And the loss of jobs at home is not helping get the 76% of Lafayette residents who work outside the city, out of their cars.

Mayor Mike Anderson says that the city acknowledges the necessity for additional housing in the Bay Area, as well as statewide to accommodate the needs of a flourishing tech-based economy.

“However, making that

housing affordable and situated in a comfortable community that is proximate to employment opportunities is a complicated and yet critical balancing act,” says Anderson. He says that bills proposed by state legislators that stipulate increased density without accommodating the role of local control over land use decisions, can upset this balance of factors that is essential for truly livable communities.

Anderson says that while working to meet housing obligations, Lafayette is encouraging a balanced approach that considers housing, transportation and jobs holistically.

Anderson points out that “building housing away from large employment centers without adequate transportation infrastructure seriously erodes the quality of life in our communities and works against achieving California’s greenhouse gas reduction goals.

“We need to find common ground in the housing debate and do what is best for our community, the region, and all of the state to create more opportunities for living and not just housing,” says Anderson.



Photos Pippa Fisher

Work has started on the Lennar project in earnest now.



On Brown Street crews have started grading. Once site work is complete they will start the vertical construction.

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