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See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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www.ci.lafayette.ca.us

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2020 Art and Wine Festival canceled

By Pippa Fisher

Although it was probably inevitable, it wasn't official until July 7 when the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce issued a statement canceling this year's Art and Wine Festival in light of the growing number of new cases

of COVID-19 in the Bay Area and in the interest of health and safety.

Explaining that they had been "holding out for the miracle that just did not come in time," the statement said that canceling the event was the last thing they wanted.

Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson described losing the event as a

tough blow to the community, the businesses, the artists, and the guests that often total more than 80,000.

"The revenue generated helps pay for our valued community services (like Trick or Treat Street and our Rock the Plaza Concert Series) and has donated well over \$500K to the non-profit beneficiaries we sup-

port including our schools," Lifson said.

Meanwhile the Chamber has its sights set on next year's event. The 25th Annual Lafayette Art and Wine Festival is already on the calendar for Sept. 18 and 19, 2021.

Lafayette mayor to retire from council in November



Photo Jeff Heyman, city of Lafayette

Mayor Mike Anderson, pictured here with Vice Mayor Susan Candell at a December 2019 city council meeting, announced he will not run for re-election in November.

By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette's current longest-serving city council member has announced that he will not be running for re-election this November.

Mayor Mike Anderson made his intention clear at the July 13 city council meeting, describing his 16 years on the council as a 'half-Tatzin' – a reference to former Mayor Don Tatzin's 33 years on the council.

"It's been a great run," said Anderson.

Anderson has served the city for over 20 years. He was appointed to the planning commission in November 2000, and elected to the city council in November 2004.

All council members expressed their gratitude and sadness on hearing the news, described by City Council Member Steven Bliss as an

"immeasurable loss to our city council."

The city council has three four-year seats up for grabs in November. The filing period runs from July 13 to Aug. 7, with that date extended to Aug. 12 for seats for which the incumbent has not filed.

To be eligible, those interested in filing must be a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age, and be a registered voter and a qualified elector of the city of Lafayette. The candidate is responsible for delivering all signed original documents to City Clerk Joanne Robbins. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, nomination papers will be issued by appointment only. Face masks and social distancing will be required.

To schedule an appointment with the city clerk call (925) 284-1968 or email jrobbins@ci.lafayette.ca.us

Terraces – next step, city council for decision

By Pippa Fisher

The Terraces' future has been escalated to the city council for a final decision.

City Council Member Cam Burks officially announced his appeal of the June 30 Planning Commission's decision to approve the Terraces land use project application, by email and at the council meeting July 13, coming

in under the two-week deadline to file an appeal.

"I believe that this project and decision is of such profound importance to the city and people of Lafayette, that it should be heard by the full, elected city council," said Burks.

Planning commissioners had voted 5-2 in favor of approving the project but not without voicing con-

cerns over traffic and safety issues in an emergency evacuation situation.

The controversial project for 315 apartments to be built on a 22-acre lot on Deer Hill Road includes 20 percent of the units offered as low-income housing and as such has protection under the Housing Accountability Act.

The city has two more allowable meetings on this project according to

state law. But it is likely that any decision on this case will wind up in legal action; litigation that according to the applicant's attorney could cost the city up to \$15.75 million if courts find the city acted in bad faith in denying the project.

City Manager Niroop Srivatsa said at the meeting she expected the council's hearing on the Terraces would take place in early August.

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