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COMPASS



Council continues equity discussion; refers housing recommendations to general plan update

By Pippa Fisher

The city council is moving the work of a recently formed task force that was created to address racism and diversity in Lafayette forward, albeit under a new, shorter name. It unanimously approved the task force's recommended initiatives on leadership commitments including training, and agreed to refer housing recommendations to the general plan and housing element update process.

The task force, led by Vice

Mayor Susan Candell, has listened at several meetings over the past months to the concerns of residents about racism and instances of lack of inclusion as well as to many ideas put forth by residents on how to address diversity in the city. Candell said that it is the goal of the task force to land the work done into various community groups for others to take forward. At such a time the task force will then disband.

It was specifically suggestions regarding changes to

housing designed to address the issue of racism and inequality that had a number of residents concerned. The council received several letters voicing comments against a recommendation to "... do away with single family zoning, create zoning allowing 4-plus units all over town ..."

City Manager Niroop Srivatsa at the Sept. 14 council meeting clarified that no major decisions were being taken at this time and that any recommendations on housing changes were to be forwarded

for consideration during the forthcoming general plan and housing element update.

The council heard public comments from Michael Cass who said he strongly believed housing relates to inequity and he urged the city to take some action on housing sooner rather than waiting several years for the general plan update to be finished.

Lafayette resident Jeremy Levine, who said he was speaking as an individual and not representing Inclusive Lafayette, underscored the

sentiment. He expressed that he wanted to see all ideas kept on the table and to have all suggestions discussed with an open mind.

And although the task force is merely getting the ball rolling and will ultimately be disbanded, a new name had to be decided upon.

The group will now be known as Lafayette Equity and Inclusion Task Force.

City prepares to get spooky for Halloween Dress Up Drive – coming to a neighborhood near you!



Image provided

By Pippa Fisher

Many things look different

this year and Halloween will be no exception. Certainly this community has become

used to 'pivoting' with the best of them and knows sometimes 'different' can be good. So while the city is strongly discouraging trick-or-treating in the pandemic, and the Chamber of Commerce will not be offering Trick-or-Treat Street, the whole community is invited to Lafayette's Dress Up Drive – a socially distanced solution. And residents need to be ready.

Taking the place of the traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating, is a driving tour of spooky homes organized

through the Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Department. Residents are encouraged to go all out on decorating their homes, businesses, cars, etc. The idea is that residents register their homes or businesses in time to be listed on a tour of participants as a stop to be viewed by those driving the route in their cars on the official town tour the evening of Oct. 31. The city needs to receive registration of locations to be featured on its online map by Oct. 23. The map will be posted during the week of Oct. 26.

In order to maintain social distancing, candy should not be handed out and those on the tour should stay in their cars. It is a "bring your own candy" event.

According to the city's website, "Whether you enjoy from the comfort of your haunted house/business or drive around town in your wicked wagons, come see the all-out, over-the-top spooktacular decorations this year all around Lafayette. Music, lights, fog machines ... this is your year to go all out!"

More information can be found at:

<https://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/quick-links/parks-recreation/halloween>

Lafayette Homeowners Council candidate forums

Lafayette Homeowners Council will be holding its candidates forums virtually this year. For a chance to ask hear and ask questions of the candidates via Zoom please see links or go to the LHC website:

<https://lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org/>

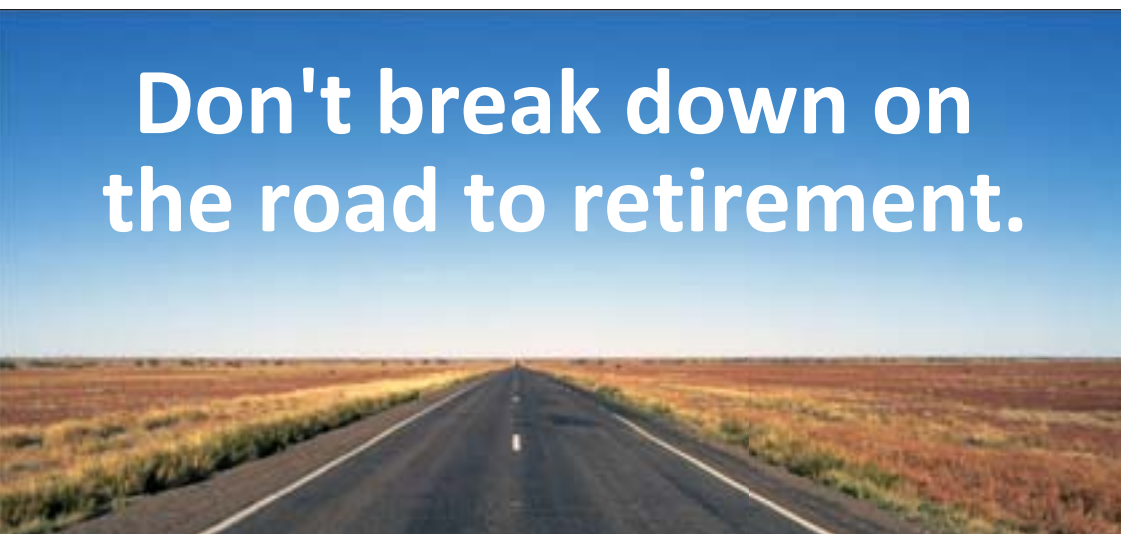
City council candidate forum, 7 p.m. on Oct. 1

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85049934441?pwd=em1nbGxWbU5nbHlicVY2a2k2Ym5iUT09>
 Passcode: 701591

Acalanes Union High School District and BART board candidate forum, 7 p.m. on Oct. 6

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84990127051?pwd=ZzdiMk4reEszWnRnT0VqTl9hTVZlYU09>
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-- P. Fisher



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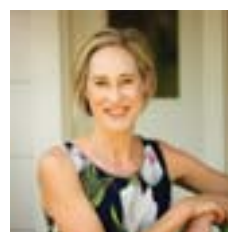


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