



**LAFAYETTE**  
 See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
**City of Lafayette:**  
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 Phone: (925) 284-1968  
**Chamber of Commerce:**  
 www.lafayettechamber.org

# Committed to Community

**DANA GREEN TEAM**



The Dana Green Team sponsors a number of organizations that tie closely to our community, families, health, and education. We are proud to continue supporting the following non-profits in 2021.

**DanaGreenTeam.com**  
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**COMPASS**

## Lafayette resumes its Business Assistance Program

By Pippa Fisher

The City of Lafayette is once again offering one-on-one help to its local businesses and nonprofits in navigating through the maze of loans and funds to help them identify which assistance programs might be available to them.

With recent approval by Congress of a second stimulus package, the city announced the restarting of its Business Assistance Program effective Jan. 4.

Townsend Public Affairs, the city's consultants, helped more than 100 local busi-

nesses and nonprofits in the first phase of this program, offering guidance for both federal and state programs.

"Restarting the BAP for our businesses and nonprofits is a great way to start off 2021," says Mayor Susan Candell, who hopes the partnerships formed between the city and these groups will be as successful as the previous cycles when stimulus money was available. "Helping businesses and nonprofits navigate the process with excellent guidance from Townsend and Associates is a win-win for Lafayette, and we as a city are glad to help," says Candell.

Participants need to register with the city and will be expected to verify that they are a Lafayette business or nonprofit. Once qualified, LBA will connect with business owners to evaluate their goals and desired outcomes in order to identify which programs they might be eligible for. Further details can be found on the city website.

The mayor and Townsend Public Affairs will be hosting a webinar at 10 a.m. Jan. 6 to provide more information about the new funding and to highlight the services offered by the BAP.

### Local businesses seek financial support from the community

Local business owners are turning to the community for help as they struggle financially during the coronavirus pandemic, utilizing crowdfunding platforms like GoFundMe as a way to stay afloat. Karen Gaskins, owner of the small Lafayette business, Ms. Karen's Place, where she specializes in children's haircuts, has had her business shuttered for months, but according to the GoFundMe account created by organizer Lindsay Klein, Gaskins has had to pay rent this entire time. Although she was briefly able to reopen, taking careful precautions to protect her clients and herself, she will now be shut again due to the county's new rules for at least the next month.

"I have served the community with love for all my children in the Lamorinda area for 18 years," Gaskins said. "It's been a honor to watch your children grow and be a part of their lives and I'd love to continue to do so in the future!"

Klein is urging the community to "help this wonderful woman during this difficult time."

For information on how to help, visit: [www.gofundme.com/f/help-ms-karen-stay-afloat?utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cp\\_guide\\_do&memberId=7218096](http://www.gofundme.com/f/help-ms-karen-stay-afloat?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cp_guide_do&memberId=7218096)

Registration for this webinar through the city website is required.  
[www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/lafayette-strong/lafayette-business-assistance](http://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/lafayette-strong/lafayette-business-assistance)

## Dr. Fauci talks with Lafayette council member, says light at end of tunnel



Screen shot provided

Dr. Anthony Fauci talks with Council Member Cam Burks Dec. 22

By Pippa Fisher

otherwise known as Dr. Anthony Fauci Day in Lafayette.

The honor was bestowed on the fa-

'Twas the night before Christmas ...

mous doctor and director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases during a Dec. 22 one-on-one virtual chat with Council Member Cam Burks, to mark Fauci's 80th birthday on Dec. 24. Fauci, who has become a household name across the country for his leadership during the pandemic, said he was honored to accept.

Burks congratulated Fauci on receiving his first vaccination shot earlier that day, which he said was uplifting to see, and took the opportunity to let Fauci know that in Lafayette residents are adhering to safety guidelines, saying he was proud of the community.

Acknowledging the reality of "COVID fatigue," Fauci nonetheless en-

couraged the community to keep it up, noting, "You've done a very good job in keeping your community safe to the extent that you can." And he reminded viewers of the light at the end of the tunnel – the vaccine, which he indicated should be more widely available to all by March or April.

Responding to a question from Burks about the length of immunity the vaccine might offer, Fauci said that was not yet known but said he believed that if 70-85% of the population gets vaccinated it would essentially put an end to this outbreak. "If we will subsequently need booster shots to keep the immunity up, so be it, that's not so bad," he said.

## Sustainable inclusion project a win-win-win

By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette school kids are channeling their creative talents, learning leadership skills, and making the community more welcoming and inclusive all

while keeping a significant amount of trash out of landfill. And all of this is a result of an idea to repurpose all those Measure L signs.

It was an idea that first came to Lafayette School District Governing Board President Rob

Sturm following his 2016 election campaign when faced with the many signs he had bought and the question of what to do with them.

"Sustainability is a big deal for me and it pained me to see so many of these signs becom-

ing landfill," said Sturm. "It occurred that the signs could easily be reused as a children's art project with whitewashing."

Sturm said his children enjoyed making welcoming signs and planting them in the neighborhood back in 2016.

Now the idea is being enthusiastically welcomed as a way to keep hundreds of the district's Parcel Tax Measure L signs from becoming landfill following the March election.

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR

# 2021

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### Goodbye 2020! We are ready for 2021!

- 2020 has brought more buyers than ever to Lamorinda. Buyers are seeking space, great yards and outdoor access, and as always, our strong community and schools.
- Remote working and anticipated decrease in commuting are drawing Peninsula and SF folks.
- Interest rates will continue to stay low which allows buyers to extend their purchase prices.
- With buyer competition remaining strong and low inventory pushing home prices to new highs, sellers are likely to keep their market advantage this year.
- We successfully helped 24 Sellers & Buyers in 2020. Contact us!

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