



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

DanaGreenTeam

Award-winning customer service, no matter the price.

#1 Real Estate Team in Lafayette Since 2008
 DanaGreenTeam.com | 925.339.1918 | DRE 01482454



COMPASS

Council considers 6th Cycle Housing Element Environmental Impact Report, focuses on evacuation routes

By Lou Fancher

As part of the 6th Cycle Housing Element – which outlines potential development of the Regional Housing Needs Allo-

cation of 2,114 units assigned to Lafayette, including a buffer bringing the total to 3,095 units – the Lafayette City Council is required to certify a final draft Environmental Im-

pact Report to provide an in-depth analysis required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and address the impact of development projects under policies

in the Housing Element.

At its Aug. 8 city council meeting Lafayette Senior Planner Renata Robles, who was joined by housing consultant Diana Elrod, Luke Evans

of ESA, and Ellen Poling, a traffic consultant with Fehr & Peers, presented to council members an update and review of the draft EIR.

... continued on Page A3

Intergenerational dialogue inspires learning & growing in Lamorinda



Photo Sharon K. Sobotta

Gabe Gardner (far left) on July 27 at Lafayette Learning Center discussed intersections of ethnic and religious identities as ways to curb misconceptions. Siena Billings, Taryn Veronda and Cassidy Keely shared their work on the UMBRELLA (Understanding, mentoring, belonging and racial equity through listening, learning and advocacy) committee.

By Sharon K. Sobotta

An intergenerational crowd of about four dozen Lamorinda community members came together in the Lafayette Learning Center on July 27 to talk, learn, share and grow.

Lynnā McPhatter-Harris, EdD set the tone for the evening by inviting people to lean in, connect with their neighbors and begin thinking about what they can do for the community as a whole to make it a more inclusive place that values diversity, equity and inclusion. “We can’t point our

fingers at others and hope the work gets done,” McPhatter-Harris said. “We all need to think about what we can do.”

Students from the Lafayette and Acalanes Union school districts took turns at the mic sharing what they’re doing to include their peers and younger students in conversations about topics ranging from embracing and honoring intersectional identities to promoting acceptance and feeling like they belong.

Jacqueline Evans, a rising sixth grader at Stanley Middle School talked about what it means to be part of the com-

munity SWELL (Student Wellness) program, where she had a chance to connect, produce art and have lunch with fellow middle and high schoolers in the Lafayette Learning Center during the summer. “You don’t have to bring a friend. Bring yourself and your true personality and you’ll make one there,” Evans said. “You can make real friends (that won’t judge you).”

Gabe Gardner, a rising junior at Acalanes High School, said that when he realized many of his classmates didn’t know the difference between ethnicity and religion and found himself struggling with side comments about his Jewish identity, he wanted to do something to promote understanding and acceptance. “I realized that misconceptions within religion were prevalent. Some people thought to be fully Catholic you needed to believe a particular thing or to be fully Jewish you had to be kosher,” Gardner said. “There are many sets of beliefs. I wanted to cover that and make sure misconceptions were cleared and also show where there are intersections (of religion and ethnicity). These aren’t binary things. It’s like a gradient.”

As a Jewish person, Gardner said he can empathize with the struggles people of other marginalized religious identities might encounter. “You

don’t have to hide (who you are or what you believe in). I hear comments about my nose and get asked if my dad is a banker (and other slurs). These things can make you feel hidden,” Gardner said. “But rising up and speaking up and identifying that Jewish people aren’t just A, B and C or that Muslims aren’t just A, B and C really can help people feel visible. I sometimes didn’t feel like I had a voice and then I started standing up for myself.”

Gardner and some of the other high school presenters were confronted with lots of tough questions by parents in the audience at times. Gardner said that it’s all part of the learning process.

Maria Gastelumendi, the owner of Rising Loafer, didn’t ask questions or offer comments to the youth who presented. She just listened and left feeling both inspired and hopeful about the youth. “I think sometimes adults are not as mature as kids on these topics,” Gastelumendi said. “Adults need to learn to listen. It’s by learning new ideas that we grow in a society. Not by carrying our own ideas. Life is a constant evolution. Ideas are evolutionary. Languages evolve. We need to learn that other voices are as important for building community.”

Although Gastelumendi said she’s proudly served high quality, sustainably sourced

food to the Lafayette community for the past two decades, she also prides herself on serving up authenticity and open heartedness to those she encounters. “I was born in the Highlands of Peru. I’m Quechua, an ethnicity that is never available to be checked off on a form,” Gastelumendi said. “Business owners have to participate in these conversations because we are part of the community. Our relationship with the community keeps us in business and we owe it to the community to listen.”

Pam Dawkins and her daughters Olivia and Ash said they were glad to attend the event. As multiracial students, both Olivia and Ash said these kinds of events and conversations make them feel heard and seen. “I learned a lot. This is a good reminder that you don’t have to be an expert to get involved in the conversation,” Olivia said. “If we keep an open mind and listen to new ideas and experiences, we can learn a lot. Adults can even learn from kids,” Ash added.

Pam Dawkins said she got more involved in DEIB work in schools after the death of Miles Hall (in Walnut Creek) and George Floyd (in Minneapolis). “It’s great to see high school kids engaged with these topics,” Dawkins said. “I’d encourage everyone in the community to get involved.”

It’s All About The Choices You Make



Discover Your Perfect Replacement Windows



FEATURING THE FINEST PORTFOLIO OF SUPERIOR MANUFACTURERS

AUTHORIZED DEALERS FOR MARVIN, MILGARD, SIMONTON AND PROVia



LICENSE # 106653

925-966-1302

windows@ATaylorMadeWindow.com

5327 Jacuzzi St. #5E Richmond, CA 94804

BATTERSBY.

Just Listed!



427 Dalewood Dr - Orinda Downs
 4/2.5 2957 Sq Ft* .48 Acre*
 Ideal Floor Plan, Walls Of Glass, Large Lot with Pool
 www.427DalewoodDr.com



10 My Rd, Lafayette - Reliez Valley
 3/2.5 2132 Sq Ft* .77 Acre*
 Extraordinary Panoramic Views, A Magical Retreat
 www.10MyRd.com Offered for \$1,795,000



Ashley Battersby

Linda Ehrich

(925) 323-9955
 DRE# 01407784/01330298
 ashley@ashleybattersby.com
 linda@lindaehrich.com
 @ashleybattersbyhome



* per public records

It’s Village. Of Course.