

# Council honors White Pony Express founder, Sufism Reoriented spiritual director



Photo provided

## Dr. Carol Weyland Conner

During the June 12 Lafayette Council Meeting, council members recognized in a Proclamation Dr. Carol Weyland Conner, spiritual director of Sufism Reoriented and founder of White Pony Express and Following Francis who passed away on April 22.

In recent years Conner won national prominence and numerous civic awards for the volunteer service programs she founded which seek to help those on the margins of society move closer to the mainstream. According to a press release, Conner was tireless in her efforts to care for the underserved, downtrodden and homeless, who she saw as her own family. Following Francis, founded in 2011, staged colorful outdoor "fares," musical plays, and other activities for nearly 15,000 children throughout the nation, with the aim of nurturing feelings of kindness, courage, and self-worth in children. In Contra Costa County, she formed White Pony Express in 2013 to gather surplus fresh food from markets and restaurants and de-

liver it to service agencies that feed the hungry in the county. White Pony Express is now one of California's largest food rescue programs and distributes new clothing and other goods to the underserved.

The Proclamation not only outlined Conner's contribution to society, but made note that Lafayette is home to the largest number of White Pony Express volunteers. "Every single day, 364 days a year, White Pony Express picks up and delivers 12,000 pounds of high quality, largely perishable surplus food for our neighbors in need," the Proclamation noted. Thousands of pounds of this nutritious food have been delivered to and benefited low-income seniors in Lafayette and hundreds of thousands of pounds of fresh food have been donated to White Pony Express collectively by Lafayette schools and businesses, including Acalanes High School, The Meher Schools, Trader Joe's, and Whole Foods Market.

"In this model or new paradigm of life," Conner was quoted in the Proclamation, "responsibility for helping the family of man is assumed by everyone, or in the phrase the White Pony Express often uses, 'All of us taking care of all of us.'"

Conner has been honored with the "Jefferson Award" from San Francisco TV station KPIX, the "Threads of Hope" Award from Diablo Magazine, she was named a "Hometown Hero" by the Contra Costa Times, and on April 8, two weeks before her passing, she was given the Soroptimist "Ruby Award for Women Helping Women."  
- J. Wake

# Signs go up for newest Firewise Community



Photo provided

## A new North Bart Firewise USA Community sign goes up.

In Lafayette, the families living

on Orchard, Oak Hill, and N. Thompson roads and their tributaries have received approval of their application to become the North Bart Firewise USA Community.

"We have received our signs which are now mounted in two locations in our community," said Lafayette resident Jack Baker. "Now that fire season is approaching, we are working together to mitigate the risk by following guidelines to decrease fuel especially in the 5 feet closest to our houses, remove branches on trees 10 feet from the ground, and plan evacuation routes in case of emergency along with having a 'Go Bag' with important papers along with some clothes, food and water."

For information about how to become a Firewise USA Community, visit [www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/commissions-committees/emergency-preparedness/firewise-and-wildfire-preparedness](http://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/commissions-committees/emergency-preparedness/firewise-and-wildfire-preparedness)  
- J. Wake

# Lafayette Library garage temporarily closed

Due to damage to the Lafayette Library's parking gate, the garage is temporarily closed. The gate was recently damaged by a vehicle and it will take several weeks for the parts to arrive and repairs to be completed, according to an announcement by the Library. If you plan to visit the library

there is street parking nearby on Mt. Diablo Blvd, Golden Gate Way, First Street and Second Street.

For questions or updates on the repairs, please contact the city of Lafayette at [city-hall@lovelafayette.org](mailto:city-hall@lovelafayette.org) or (925) 284-1968.

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Lafayette Public Meetings

## City Council

Regular Meeting  
Monday, June 26, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

## Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, July 3, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

## Design Review

Wednesday, June 26, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

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