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Lafayette

Civic News

- Public Meetings**
- City Council**
Monday, November 28, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd
- Planning Commission**
Wed., November 30, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd
- Design Review**
Monday, November 28, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center in the Arts & Science Discovery Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- School Board Meetings**
- Acalanes Union High School District**
Wednesday, December 7, 7:30 pm
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd., Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us
- Lafayette School District**
Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 pm
LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Planning Commission Bumps Back Downtown Plan Schedule

By Cathy Tyson

The Downtown Specific Plan is once again going to take a bit longer than anticipated. At a recent meeting – the Planning Commission approved a revised schedule for the home stretch of the Downtown Specific Plan (DSP) and the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The Planning Commission will continue to review the DSP and EIR concurrently through January 30; on February 6 the Planning Commission will adopt recommendations to give to the City Council. Forget the chocolates and a romantic dinner, residents will surely want to enjoy the evening of February 14 - Valentine's Day - when the Planning Commission recommendations will be presented to the City Council. The City Council will use that information to start considering the DSP and the EIR for adoption in March, 2012.

It seems like only yesterday the *Lamorinda Weekly* reported that Planning Commission recommendations to the City Council were slated for late January; this new revised schedule pushes everything back by a few weeks. Responding to a question,

Planning Commissioner Will Lovitt said, "No one is more tired of this than I am." The rest of the Commissioners agreed there is no rush, and they would like to take the time to fully complete the process.

A letter was presented by the Lafayette Homeowners Council at the meeting that disagreed with the logistics of reviewing the Downtown Plan and the Environmental report concurrently, "We urge the City Council in the strongest possible terms to complete the final Environmental Impact Report before deciding on the merits of the DSP Project." The Planning Commission saw it differently, and will review both the EIR and the DSP at the same time, consistent with State guidelines for the California Environmental Quality Act review.

Marie Blitz, President of the Lafayette Homeowners Council, stated she was "nervous and concerned" because the current EIR is based on the 2009 staff version of DSP. "It's still an incredibly optimistic schedule," she said. George Burt also disagreed with the Commission, noting he has "significant

objections," and in his view, not certifying the EIR first was putting the "cart before the horse."

Planning Commissioner Chair Patricia Curtin-Tinley explained that

certifying the EIR, "really just means it's done correctly and in accordance with the law." She argued that, "certification alone is meaningless... unless it refers to a plan."

Date	Who	What
November 7	Planning Commission	Discuss process and schedule for the DSP, EIR and GP amendment.
November 14	City Council	Receive report and update on the Planning Commission's 11/7 discussion
November 16	Staff	Release EIR Memorandum, General Plan amendment, and staff reports for DSP, EIR and GP amendment
November 30	Planning Commission	Present and begin initial discussions on DSP, EIR and GP amendment
December 12	City Council	Receive report and update on the Planning Commission's 11/30 meeting (if necessary)
January 17	Planning Commission	Begin review of DSP chapters and GP amendment
January 30	Planning Commission	Review EIR with focus on mitigation measures
February 6	Planning Commission	Adopt recommendations to the City Council on the DSP, EIR and GP amendment
February 14	City Council & Planning Commission	Present Planning Commission recommendations to the City Council
March	City Council	Begin consideration of DSP, EIR and GP amendment

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Lafayette:
www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Chamber of Commerce:
www.lafayettechamber.org

Thanksgiving Breakfast




From left: John Sherry and Ann Grodin at the breakfast buffet

Photo Andy Scheck

The 32nd Annual Community Thanksgiving Breakfast once again was a time for local business people and Chamber of Commerce members to break bread and give

thanks. Always scheduled for the Friday before Thanksgiving, it's a celebration of family of a different sort, sponsored by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. The delicious breakfast, provided by SpringLoaf Catering, went according to plan and the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church had a lovely set up, but there was an "upgrade" of the scheduled speaker.

Congressman George Miller was slated to address the gathering, but unfortunately he was stuck in Washington D.C. for an important vote. Anne Grodin, Field Representative of Assembly Member Nancy Skinner and member of the Board of Directors of the Lafayette Community Foundation, graciously stepped in, reflecting on the incredible volunteerism in Lafayette that supports an amazing array of philanthropic organizations that are headquartered here. Father John Kasper of St. Perpetua Catholic Church wrapped up the event with a short story of thanks and concluded, "Gratitude is at the heart of humanity." C. Tyson



Police Report

Making light of things, 11/06/11
Upon a Sunday morn, three juvies sprayed some lights. Their deeds were caught on video tape, making such a sight. Detective work would prove, just who those bad boys were. The parents and the business place decided to confer.
(refrain)
They caught the guys, no surprise, to either you or me. The matter settled out of court, and settled civilly!
(Seriously now: Three young men entered the juvenile diversion program and will be doing community service to atone for vandalizing school property.)

Fight club, 11/04/11
Two employees of a Mt. Diablo Blvd. business distracted each other from work when, instead of punching the time clock, one punched the other—not once, but several times. Again, thanks to on-site video surveillance, it was pretty clear who hit whom. Although advised to seek medical help, the victim declined and later refused to cooperate with police.

Digging for clues, 11/11/2011
Tools were stolen from a locked landscape shop near downtown Lafayette. Police raked the crime scene for clues, and dug out several fingerprints on the damaged door frame. Although it is nearly Christmas, there was no hoe-hoe-hoe involved, and just like Frosty the Snowman, any leads and suspects simply melted away...

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