

# Lafayette

# Lamorinda Community

# Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, May 11	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, May 7	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, May 12	
Senior Services	3:30pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, May 28	

**Lafayette's Solicitor Ordinance**  
Lafayette's Crime Prevention Commission is pleased to announce the passage of a new Solicitor's Ordinance. It took effect February 25, 2009. This ordinance requires anyone 16 years or older, who is selling goods or services door to door, to get a permit. Religious and political groups are exempt. This permit can be attained at the Lafayette Police Department. A background check will be done. Also, the ordinance states that a person soliciting cannot knock on a door where a NO SOLICITING sign is clearly posted. If a person is caught soliciting door to door without a permit, the first offense is a citation, the 2nd offense is a misdemeanor. For more information, or for your free No Solicitor sign, please contact the Lafayette Police Department at 299-3220.



**Senior Prank, 4/18/09** Lafayette Police saw a suspicious individual at Acalanes High School at 12:35 am. Dressed in a black ski mask, black hooded jacket and blue jeans, the suspect ran when he spotted Police. He ran to his car behind the football field and drove away at a high rate of speed without his headlights on. Police located the car at its owner's residence in Walnut Creek. Police discussed the incident with the suspect (an Acalanes Senior) and the boy's father. The suspect confessed to vandalizing 5 classroom doors by super gluing toothpicks in the keyholes. The suspect stated it was a "senior prank."

**Mary Jane Pals Around with Ecstasy, 4/19/09** Lafayette Police stopped a truck on Mt. Diablo Boulevard at Aileen for expired registration tags. The officer noted a strong marijuana smell coming from the cab. The officer searched the truck and discovered marijuana and ecstasy in pill bottles. The suspected admitted to smoking marijuana one hour before driving but did not indicate if he was exing as well. The driver submitted to a urine test. The driver was arrested and the marijuana, ecstasy, urine and a glass smoking pipe were all logged as evidence.

**Clothing Thief, 4/21/09** The owner of Duchess Boutique on Mt. Diablo Boulevard called police when she realized a potential customer had stolen clothing from the store. The owner said a white female adult had taken 4 pieces of clothing into the changing room and come out with 2. The suspect hung the 2 pieces back on the rack and walked out of the store. The owner quickly discovered 2 empty hangers under an ottoman in the dressing room. Police performed an area check and were unable to locate the suspect. The stolen clothing was valued at \$833. It is believed that the suspect is rather fashionable with expensive taste and quite a sense of entitlement.

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## Mixed Bag of Opinions on Downtown Strategy at Lafayette City Council Meeting

**By Cathy Tyson**  
It's apparent that the Lafayette City Council will have their work cut out for them making a decision on the Downtown Strategy and Specific Plan, based on public input along with committee and commission findings at the first of two meetings to address the issue. Committees were asked to review the proposed plan and present their findings to the Council. While committees had a range of opinions, generally they appeared to be in favor, however the majority of public comment clearly did not support the plan. "We feel strongly there are a number of issues that are not addressed in the plan," said Ruth McCahan of the Senior Services Commission. "It's imperative that we provide housing for seniors in the downtown area." In their report to the City Council the Commission emphasized the housing, mobility, transportation and support services that seniors need to live independently and lead full and productive lives. The second group to give

their report was very supportive. "The Creeks Committee is nothing short of ecstatic with the Plan. We think it's a wonderful idea - daylighting the creek and have Golden Gate Way opened up - it would be a stellar addition to the community," said Scott Honnegger. "The ideas in the Plan do a pretty good job reflecting Parks, Trails and Recreation goals," said Commission representative Jeff Peacock. Steve Richard of the Environmental Task Force said, "The Task Force is generally pleased with the feedback and extremely pleased with the direction of the Strategic Plan opening up creeks and supporting bike and pedestrian activity." Mike Anderson, speaking on behalf of the Advisory Committee, reviewed the five priorities that they would like to see focused on: increase parking downtown, off-site employee parking to improve vitality, shield block improvements, a library park for kids, and finally improving Mount Diablo

street-scapes, fixing gaps in the sidewalk. Having remained neutral until now, the Chamber of Commerce, "has been following this closely and for the most part we are in support of the plan," said Ann Denny, CEO Emeritus. Kicking off the public comment of the night, the first speaker garnered a round of applause for his opinion. "This issue is so important nothing further should proceed without a vote from the community on it," said Don Lively of the Lafayette Taxpayers' Association. Various home owners associations had definite reservations about the Plan. Bill Bucher of the Happy Valley Improvement Association said, "We have extreme concern about changing the character of Lafayette - particularly an already crowded Mt. Diablo Boulevard." Tor McClean of Secluded Valley Homeowners Association: "We are not interested in changing Lafayette." Maeve Pessis of the Lafayette

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Homeowners Council said, "We already have a General Plan. We've given a lot of feedback and have gotten no response - lets take the time we need to get this plan right - low density, low height and more parking if possible." Concern over the potential use of eminent domain especially on properties adjacent to creeks has some property owners worried. Although the plan calls for working with a developer in a public/private partnership along creek corridors, exact details aren't spelled out. Fifty-year resident Tom Whitten had an interesting point of view, "I propose property owners have a committee - we are the ones affected by these changes - we have no role in this whatsoever."

Joan Bruzzone, local land owner said, "I'm concerned about affected property owners. If it wasn't for Jay Lifson (CEO of the Chamber of Commerce) we wouldn't have had a meeting with the City Council. Our constitution is based on private property rights." "I don't see the necessity to change the General Plan. I like my car. I'm afraid these plans may impede my ability to get through town," said Traci Reilly. The second meeting for the Council to hear public input is scheduled for May 9th at 9:00 a.m. at Stanley Middle School in the Multi-Purpose room. For more information on the Plan, go to www.lovelafayette.org and scroll down to Downtown Strategy News.

## Design Approved for Bike Park

**By Cathy Tyson**  
The final design plan of the Lafayette Bike Park was recently approved by the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission, so if everything moves ahead according to plan, bikers could be enjoying it as early as this August. A contractor is expected to do some initial grading work to prepare the site at the Community Park in June. Following that, it's up to a presumably youthful volunteer crew to complete final jump building for the park, with an anticipated completion date of late summer. Featuring beginning, intermediate and advanced jumps and a special pump track for younger riders near the entrance, input from bike enthusiasts was an important part of the design development. The final addition to the plan was a downhill slalom track, where two riders can race at the same time; clearly the designer was paying attention to the requests of the Park's user group. "The designer, (Nat Lopes



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of Hilride) has produced a lot of these types of parks before, so the process has gone smoothly," said Recreation Coordinator Jonathan "Ace" Katayanagi. "Initially there were three flat levels, but Hilride had a different vision - that they could work with the natural contours of the slope, maintaining the look of the hillside." Via a series of stakeholder meeting bike enthusiasts as well as the general public were asked to submit suggestions regarding what they would desire in a bike park.

The only bump in the road has been neighborhood concern over a four foot fence surrounding the park. Katyanagi said it has two purposes - to provide a boundary and to separate the bicyclists from the spectators. For potentially unemployed youth this summer, there will be plenty of jobs for jump construction associates, no experience necessary. For more information on the park or volunteering or making a donation, go to www.lafayettebikepark.com.

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