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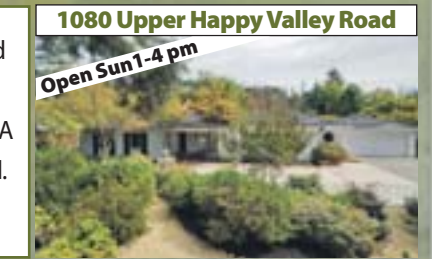
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Civic News Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council Monday, June 14, 7:00 pm
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission Monday, June 21, 7:00 pm
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review Monday, June 14, 7:00 pm
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center in the Arts & Science Discovery Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Circulation Commission Monday, June 21, 7:00 pm
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center in the Arts & Science Discovery Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

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

Police Report



Home Burglary, 5/25/10 An unknown subject kicked open the front door of a Windsor Drive home and removed items valued at \$1,000. There are no suspects, leads or witnesses and damage to the home is valued at \$200.

Dealers Should Change Lanes Safely, 5/25/10 Lafayette Police pulled an enterprising Lafayette resident over on Pleasant Hill and Condit for an unsafe lane change. Upon making contact with the subject, officers noted the distinct smell of marijuana coming from inside the car. A search revealed boxes of plastic baggies, two digital scales, papers with names and phone numbers, 40 grams of marijuana and 7 peach-colored pills that turned out to be "suboxone." What could Bagman have been up to? Business now closed.

Dealers Should Also Renew Registration, 5/25/10 Lafayette Police pulled a Chico "businessman" over on Oak Hill and the EB Highway 24 off ramp. A Walnut Creek K-9 officer stopped to assist and the dog alerted the officers to the presence of narcotics in the subject's car. A search revealed heroin and some pills. Poppyman was given the opportunity to join Bagman at the Martinez Detention Facility.

There Wasn't Really a Prize, 6/1/10 Between the dates of April 19 and June 1, a Lafayette resident received phone calls saying she'd won \$25 million and a Mercedes. After sending several money orders totaling \$31,000, she realized she'd been had. There are no suspects or leads at this time.

Correction, issue date 05/26/10,

Real Estate Signs Abound:
 We would like to clarify the use of a photo featuring a Coldwell Banker real estate sign with this article. We did not intend to imply that Coldwell Banker is violating sign ordinances. We happened to be in Happy Valley taking a photo for another article that appeared in the same issue, and the sign was nearby. As with the quotes in the article from Village Associates, the use of the photo was intended to be an industry-representative sample, not to single out a particular agency.



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Budget Balanced in Lafayette – at Least for Now

By Cathy Tyson

Sacramento and San Francisco should take note. With revenue up slightly, expenses the same as last year and a healthy reserve account – Lafayette's budget for the next fiscal year is balanced with a few hundred dollars to spare. This is inclusive of what city staffers describe as the State "theft" of \$235,000 from the redevelopment fund for fiscal year 2010 – 2011.

"This budget projects a slightly rosier picture than last fiscal year, but the gap between operating revenues and expenses will continue to creep up during the next five years if the economy does not improve. The City will likely need to reduce service levels, deliver new revenues, or do some combination of those choices in order to remain fiscally solvent in the long run," cautioned City Manager Steven Falk.

This fiscal year's balanced budget is due to several factors. Property tax and sales tax monies contributed \$3,368,000 and \$2,025,000 respectively. Sales tax is down 13.5% for the year, while property tax was up 2%. It really does pay to Shop Lafayette First. Investment Earnings and Planning Fee revenue together add just over \$1,000,000 to city coffers.

City staffers won't have a pay increase this year – and a nearly injury-free workplace resulted in a rebate of \$30,000 due to a dearth of workers compensation claims.

Chalk it up to a competitive bidding environment, a whopping \$410,000 was saved by construction costs coming in well below estimates.

Actual expenses were lower than budgeted for the last fiscal year,

resulting in an \$118,000 surplus. "We are always trying to save money," explained Tracy Robinson, Administrative Services Director.

One very large concern for the City is police costs – Lafayette's biggest expenditure. A police services study was commissioned earlier this year to look at alternatives to anticipated spiraling police costs. "That study found that, for the time being, purchasing contract police services from the County was the least expensive alternative in the short term. Long term costs will depend upon several factors: (1) how effectively the County Retirement Board and PERS manage their funds, (2) how the County chooses to pay for unfunded pension obligations and (3) if the County can negotiate a second, lower cost retirement program for new deputies," said Falk.

At the moment, the County and the police union have not renegotiated their contract. Last year staff predicted up to double digit increases for the near future, but for now anticipates a more modest 3% increase.

The burning questions for many residents on worn-out streets, is when will my road be fixed? Seven streets are slated for complete reconstruction and a dozen are on the pavement maintenance list. Carlyle Terrace, Herman Drive and Lincolnshire Court have the dubious distinction of being the worst streets in town, so they are tops on the reconstruction list.

Lafayette will spend \$275,000 of WW money, which can only be used for parks, to split the cost of

purchasing a property on Olympic Boulevard with East Bay Regional Park District. "A design plan will need to be created and then we'll need to conduct public hearings. The Commission would like to propose a dog park on part of the property but if the Park District wants a significant portion for parking purposes, we'll need to see how much is left for a divided (small and large dog) off-leash, fenced dog park. If and when a dog park is approved, the city will need sizable contributions from dog park supporters," said Jennifer Russell, Director, Parks, Trails and Recreation Department.

In a nutshell - streets will be paved, storm drains cleaned, November election expenses paid, computers upgraded and the twinkling lights will once again twinkle this holiday season.

The complete 2010/2011 Proposed Municipal Budget and Workplan is quite long. To read the entire report, go to the city website www.lovelafayette.org and click on Proposed Budget. A more user-friendly version can be found in Council Agendas and Staff Reports for the May 24 City Council meeting – under "Budget Workshop." Page 20 contains a road repair chart.

Two Courageous Officers Recognized

By Cathy Tyson



Officer Dennison, Officer Sullivan and Chief Hubbard Photo courtesy of G. Keller - Sheriff's Office and friends.
 Officer Jacquie Dennison and Officer Ryan Sullivan were recently recognized in front of the City Council for their selfless act of bravery, rescuing a driver and toddler from a gas-filled car. They were also honored by the Sheriff's Office, receiving the Bronze Medal of Valor, in front of the Board of Supervisors along with proud family and friends.

The gas leak coupled with a spark could have caused an explosion at any time. Officer Sullivan used his baton to carefully break the car window and pull the driver to safety. Officer Dennison crawled into the car, unbuckled the toddler from his car seat, and pulled him out.

"Both officers were aware of the danger and continued with the rescue and did it anyway – the mark of real heroes," said Chief Michael Hubbard.

Hubbard asked the gas provider, PG&E, why the car didn't blow up, given the circumstance, "It wasn't their time" was their answer," said Hubbard.

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