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## **Implicit Bias workshop aids** Lafayette police, residents **By Pippa Fisher**



Residents and city staff listen to the presentation.

Residents have an overall posi-tive view of the Lafayette Police Department but there were still some people who felt that the concepts of implicit bias and all of embraced by members of the Lafayette community.

Those were the results of a surimplicit bias, referring to the attiunderstanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner. Not a seat was empty at the event, by many, although not all. One "Implicit Bias and Procedural Justice Community Education and Engagement Night" presented by Christy Chandler and Shanti Brien of Daylight Justice and hosted by the Crime Prevention Commission and Lafayette Chief of Police Eric comments came from a resident Christensen.

The program's objective was designed to increase public engagement and trust of local police. Through a serious of slide shows, the leaders presented ideas for discussion in small groups. Based on the tenet that if you are human, you are biased, they tried to get conversation started to become aware of such a workshop. one's biases and to help come up with ways to counter them.

how difficult the issues are with tive on them." several heated exchanges.

A police officer made the point that, although he usually feels very supported, he has experienced bias against him and the uniform he wears, which in turn prompted its implications have not yet been a comment from a Lafayette resident that as a police officer he can go home and take the uniform off. As an African American, he cannot vey of a recent workshop held on take off the color of his skin. The resident said he personally had had tudes or stereotypes that affect our nothing but positive interactions with the Lafayette Police.

Photo Pippa Fisher

This was a sentiment shared resident reported being racially profiled on a couple of occasions within the city, which drew some defensive and heated dialog from others in the room.

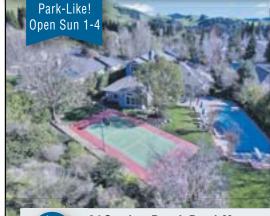
One of the more interesting who made the point that white people don't understand "white privilege" because they have never had to question it or think about it, and black people don't understand why white people don't understand white privilege – a comment that clearly demonstrated the complexity of the issues and the need for

Said Christensen, "It's a hard topic to talk about and you saw that Christensen has said that "The in the interactions during the event. more we talk about our difficult I think the critical thing for all of us issues, the more likely we are to is to listen to the perspective of othsolve them." And the conversations ers and appreciate what they felt, at this workshop did indeed reflect not try to impose our own perspec-

... continued on page A8

## **Residents** pull together for annual creek clean-up **By Pippa Fisher**

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Majestic Contemporary in Moraga!



From left: Will Elder and Jeff Gilman eigh Creekside Park — lately ⊿a place of controversy between neighbors - provided a great opportunity for residents to pull (weeds) together on a warm and pleasant day at a shady, beautiful stretch of the creek.

This was part of the fifth annual Lafayette Creek Day, where residents old and young gathered to help with the cleanup and learn more about the Las Trampas Creek.

Under blue, sunny skies, the volunteers dug, chopped, hacked and pulled at the invasive, nonnative weeds that are choking out more desirable native plant growth derful resource Lafayette has on its to help maintain a stable creek bank.

Several members of the Lafayjoined by Lafayette residents and several Boy Scouts from troops 200 and 243, who used the opporproject

for faster clearing, the day was also about education. Will Elder, Creeks

Photo Pippa Fisher

Committee Chairman and Jeff Gilman, creeks committee member had displays out depicting the creek's native plants.

Saint Mary's Aquatic Ecologist Michael Marchetti, himself a former creeks committee member, brought several tanks containing examples of the creek's native aquatic life, such as newts and encouraged residents to touch and examine the wildlife.

Stanley Middle School science teachers Jan Winter and Mandy Kush were also helping at the park.

Kush recognizes what a wondoorstep. She says that she brings her seventh-grade students down to the creek several times during ette Creeks Committee took part, the year to observe and take water samples for analysis during their year-long creek study.

Elder expects to present the tunity to help as part of a service commission's Downtown Creeks Preservation, Restoration and De-Although the many hands made velopment plan to the Lafayette City Council in June.



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