

Retired teacher group assists local teachers with planning for future

By John T. Miller

A group of teachers and staff from the Acalanes Union High School District attended a pre-retirement workshop sponsored by the California Retired Teachers Association Division 52 at Diablo Valley College last month.

Close to 80 teachers came from Acalanes, Antioch, Martinez, Walnut Creek and Contra Costa County district schools to learn about re-

tirement options and demystify the retirement process.

Division 52 President Lorrie Osborn welcomed the teachers, who had braved the only true rainstorm of the season to attend the event, saying, "After many years of taking care of others, it's now time to ask, 'Who will take care of me?'"

Vickie Holden, a benefits coun-

selor for the California State Teachers' Retirement System, reviewed benefit options and packages, eligibility, and went over sample calculations for figuring out one's final compensation.

Although still many years away from retirement, Donia Gousios, an English and journalism teacher at

Miramonte High School, found the meeting very helpful. "It was good to get my feet wet about retirement. I especially wanted to learn about Social Security issues."

Like many teachers, Gousios was disappointed that the Windfall Elimination Provision severely limits Social Security benefits to

retired teachers, including qualifying for a spouse's benefits should they die.

Financial workshops and small, personalized retirement workshops are available through CalSTRS, either through their website or by calling 1-800-228-5453.

Crosses property... continued from page A2

Lafayette resident Mike Munnely spoke of an old adobe building on the land, which he said might possibly be the oldest house in Lafayette.

Happy Valley Improvement Association President Peter Clark said that the crosses are such a highly visible and widely recognized, distinct feature of the Lafayette landscape that they must be addressed in any discussion of what happens to this land. Clark also pointed to the current municipal code under which the signs are now illegal – since the memorial was created the city code has been changed to prevent future such installations.

Many spoke of their love for the crosses and what it has come to mean for so many, not just within Lafayette. Military veteran Fred Norman said although he lives in Pleasanton he volunteers with the crosses. "Here is a chance for Lafayette to do something on a world-wide scale; something to make it known as an area of peace," said Norman, warning, "Don't pass this up."

Council Member Mike Anderson asked several of the speakers how these concerns were linked to the plot line adjustment, making the point that the adjustment by itself has not allowed development or determined any next

steps on the land.

While Council Member Mark Mitchell, and Vice Mayor Cam Burks supported Samson's request for appeal, Anderson said that he was very concerned.

Anderson said that redrawing the lot line has no connection to either the environment or the crosses themselves. He made it clear that he respects the crosses memorial but added, "I have a real problem with us taking this on with just the information that it's about the lot line."

The motion to grant the request for appeal and to bring the matter to be heard by the full city council was approved with three in favor and Anderson against. Mayor Don Tatzin had recused himself because he lives close to the land in question.

Charles Clark said after the meeting that he still didn't know what the basis was for this appeal.

"The planning commission decided in my favor unanimously, based on the fact that I am simply remedying the situation of these two houses being non-conforming with the city zoning (these two houses are currently on the same parcel) to the situation where each of the two houses is on its own parcel as is required for this R-10 zoning," commented Clark in an email.

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There are currently openings on the following Commissions and Committees

- Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Capital Projects Assessment Committee (CPAC)
- Circulation Commission
- Creeks Committee
- Community Center Foundation
- Downtown Street Improvement Master Plan Implementation Committee (DSIMPIC)
- Environmental Task Force
- Senior Services Commission
- Youth Commission

For additional information visit the city's website: www.lovelafayette.org Hot Topics
Or e-mail City Clerk Joanne Robbins, jrobbins@lovelafayette.org
Application deadline March 31, 2018. Positions open until filled.

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