

Lamorinda Community

Calendar, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, July 14	
Wednesday, July 23	
joint meeting with Planning Comm.	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Wednesday, July 23	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, July 22	
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road	
Friday, Aug 13	
Senior Services	3:30pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, June 26	
check online:	
Town of Lafayette:	
http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us	
• all meeting notes	
• calendar updates	
Chamber of Commerce:	
http://www.lafayettechamber.org	
• local businesses	
• upcoming events	



House Burglary, 6/23/08 A number of items were stole from a Hamlin Road home. The victim believes an electrician working there was involved. Police interviewed a representative of the local company, who denied any knowledge or involvement. Estimated loss \$1,450.

Petty theft, 6/22/08 An unknown male entered Diablo Foods at 9:00 in the morning and went to the combination storage room/employee locker room and tried to steal items from a purse left on the counter. An employee saw him, yelled at him and scared him off. He was last seen driving off in a black four door sedan. Security cameras got a good look at the bold would-be thief.

Busted Glass, 6/20/08 The 6 foot by 6 foot rear glass window of Clocks. Etc. was shattered by a BB or pellet gun. The alarm did not sound when the incident occurred at 10:00 p.m. and all of the doors were secure. It was like déjà vu all over again, as this is the second time this has happened; the first time around it cost approximately \$600 to have it repaired.

Car Burglary, 6/14/08 A Los Palos Miner resident had her Toyota Camry broken into at the corner of Reliez Station Road and Olympic Boulevard. The car was parked and locked at 7:30 p.m.; the owner returned to it at 9:00 p.m. to find the rear window was smashed. The thief then gained access to the trunk and stole her wallet with credit cards, \$400 and a black straw sack.



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City Engineer Keeps Lafayette Running

By Cathy Tyson



Tony Coe, Engineering Services Manager Photo provided

Just inside Lafayette's City offices, right behind the Planning counter is the sunny, spacious office of Tony Coe, Engineering Services Manager. Most residents don't know that he and his staff of six literally keep the city rolling along. The Engineering Department is responsible for Capital Improvement Projects and the ever popular Pavement Management Program, as well as development review, traffic operations and transportation planning issues, both local and regional, and encroachment permits.

When he started out with the City in 1994 as an Assistant Engineer, Lafayette wasn't quite so complicated then, but that soon changed. Originally the department consisted of just two people, he and his predecessor, along with a secretary. After a brief reassignment to the Public Works department, he became Engineering Services Manager in 1997. In his eleven years, he's seen a lot of changes, "My job has evolved along with the way the town's needs and demands were evolving," says Coe. The Engineering Staff includes one Senior Engineer, two Associate Engineers, a

Transportation Planner, an Engineering Technician/Public Works Inspector, and one Administrative Assistant.

Reflecting on his job, Coe notes "It's gratifying work, that's why I've been doing it so long, building things that will be around for a long time. It affects a lot of people, although maybe not in a very direct way – you drive down a street, you go across a bridge, and when it rains the water is drained away; things that work smoothly in the background but have a real impact on people's quality of life. When it doesn't work is when you see how critical it really is."

The biggest responsibility for the position is the Capital Program – from the completed Veteran's Hall to on-going library construction. "Once people settle on the design and agreed on what the building generally looks like, that's where I come in. My job is really dealing with the nitty gritty and nuts and bolts of the project," said Coe. The construction review process that he refers to ensures the technical aspects of a building like electrical, plumbing, mechanical, structural systems, landscape concerns and grading are fully addressed in construction documents before a project goes out to bid.

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To Tax or Not to Tax?

That is the question for the City Council and Lafayette residents

By Cathy Tyson



Mayor Mike Anderson at the last Breakfast with the Mayor, Chamber of Commerce Conference Photo Andy Schreck

Residents are invited to public hearings at the next two City Council meetings on July 14 and July 28 to provide input and await a final decision to put a new tax measure on the November ballot.

Finding funding for municipal services, especially repair and maintenance of Lafayette's 99 miles of roads, to meet the demands of residents and businesses has been a daunting process.

The Council has been listening to residents complaints for some time and is well aware of the \$24 million dollar unfunded road repair backlog. In addition, it's clear that there is significant concern about the very low police staffing ratio in town, the lowest in the county.

A recent telephone survey of 600 residents by Tramtola/Godbe Research assessed potential voter support for a revenue measure to fund maintenance and other items. "Very encouraging results, this is a green light," said Charles Heath of Tramtola.

The pollsters found that a sales tax measure is generally supported by the citizenry – approximately 59% of polled residents were in favor even after hearing hypothetical arguments against the measure. With a margin of error of 5.6 % that was enough with just a little wiggle room to spare, for the

simple majority needed to pass the measure. A Utility Users Tax was also surveyed but only 30% of residents were in favor of it after hearing arguments against.

A couple of things are up in the air – will the City Council support putting it on the ballot and if so, what would be the rate and duration of the tax?

Various tax levels were polled 1.0%, .75%, .50% and .25% of what is officially known as a Transactions and Use Tax to be added to our current 8.25 % sales tax. Lafayette would not be alone in California if the tax passed, sixty-two cities have voter approved Transactions and Use Taxes. Keeping the tax in place for eight, nine or ten years was discussed, but no decision was made.

Lafayette only receives 1% of the current 8.25% sales and use tax rate, the balance goes to other government agencies and uses. If this new tax is approved by voters at the 1% level, it's estimated to raise \$2,500,000 per year. If the Council decides to use a more conservative figure of .75% or .50%, obviously the amount of revenue produced would be lower. Revenue raised could be used for a number of services; fixing potholes, repair and maintenance of city streets, support of the Library and Learning Center and more.

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Fair Offers Ways to Improve Your Commute

By Cathy Tyson

Recently the City of Lafayette along with 511 Contra Costa organized an event to help commuters. Due to the ever increasing price of gasoline, this event could not have been more timely. The aptly named "Lafayette Commuter Fair" was designed to give information to employees and employers about the many options available, and some substantial cost savings to use getting back and forth to work and school.

Gathered along the sidewalk of Mt. Diablo Boulevard in front of the Post Office were representatives of 511, the Spirit Van, the County Connection,

and the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee with all kinds of commute information. Passers by were enlightened with tips on lowering commute costs, finding an alternative to driving, parking options, finding a carpool partner and more.

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