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• LAMORINDA Community •
City Engineer Keeps Lafayette Running

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Coe is also involved with the engineering review of private development, including the new Lafayette Mercantile Building and the pair of condominium projects in development flanking each end of town.

Transportation concerns are another aspect of the position, including signals not working, intersection traffic safety and more. He and the department are proud of the traffic calming plan that was instituted a couple of years ago.

Although Encroachment Permits are a very big function within the city, not many residents are familiar with them. "There

are many utilities that own facilities within the city; water, sewage, cable TV, phone, all those people from time to time will be digging up the street installing new facilities or upgrading existing equipment. We administer an oversight system to insure that when they work in the street that they are safe - that they manage traffic properly and we oversee their restoration efforts," Coe explains.

Finally at the regional level, Engineering works with neighboring cities and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority on transportation planning issues, such as action plans on routes of regional significance and inter-jurisdic-

tional congestion management.

"Tony allows you the opportunity to expand your job responsibilities, because of that our staff has a very diverse and value-added skill set," said Matt Luttrupp, Associate Engineer. Indeed there's been very little turnover in the Engineering Department; happy employees are less likely to leave.

Coe, his wife, and going into 7th grade daughter live in Pleasant Hill. When asked if he was particularly handy around the house, the short answer is "no." He's done some projects at home but, "I can't say that I really enjoyed them."

Lafayette

Fair Offers Ways to Improve Your Commute

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Who wouldn't like a \$60 gas card as an incentive to form or join a carpool to work, or a \$40 gas card to form a carpool to a college campus. Even complimentary transit tickets are available for adults who currently drive alone to work or college and are willing to try transit. The guaranteed ride home program from 511 Contra Costa addresses one of the main reasons many people shy away from transit. In case of an emergency, there's a safety net in the form of a voucher for a rental car or a taxi home. Go to www.511.contracosta.org or call Darlene Amaral, Lafayette's 511 Contra Costa representative, at (925) 973-2655 for more information on all of these programs. Brochures are available in the lobby area of the city offices at 3675 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, suite 210.

"We had a large number of people come, it was a good turnout. We were trying to target office workers and other downtown employees, and get the word out about commuter checks and other options," said Leah Greenblatt, Transportation Planner.

To Tax or Not to Tax?

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If the tax is approved at the 1% level, what does that really mean to Lafayette residents? A \$100 shopping spree at Lafayette's Safeway, would cost

\$1 more than the same cart of groceries at the Orinda or Moraga Safeway. Arguably with \$4.00 a gallon gas, it's presumed that most residents wouldn't go that far to save a buck. There is some concern however about big ticket items, for example a kitchen remodel or carpet sales.

The Chamber of Commerce, which had originally been against the measure, now supports it. "If raising the sales tax is the last best way to address this, we support that," said Jay

Lifson, Executive Director at the Chamber.

"This is our last good option; we have spent a lot of shoe leather to solve these problems. I believe this is the last shot to fix some very chronic problems. I fully support it," said Mayor Mike Anderson.

Residents are encouraged to attend the meetings and share their opinions - 7:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Community Center 500 St. Mary's Road, July 14 and July 28.

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Lafayette Library Pajamarama

By Jean Follmer



Miss Donna reads at Pajamarama at the Lafayette Library

Photo Jean Follmer

It's Pajamarama Time! On Tuesday nights at 7:00, the Lafayette Library is not a quiet place. Just before the hour, the children's section buzzes with excitement as local children eagerly wait for "Miss Donna" to arrive. The children wait on the Little Miss Spider rug fashionably attired in their pajamas and slippers. The room is filled with familiar characters like Sponge Bob, Barbie, Lightning McQueen and the Disney Princesses. They clutch their much loved stuffed animals and blankets until suddenly...there she is! Donna Lenhardt, Youth Services Librarian, may as well be Mary Poppins herself.

With a bright smile, she quiets the children with her signature "Now it's time to zip it, lock it and put the key in your pocket." When she takes her seat, a glance at the floor reveals she is wearing Clifford slippers. Miss Donna begins by leading the children in a song

that references the felt board she is manipulating. Together, they sing and build until the project is complete. Miss Donna then asks the children if they are going to leave the felt pieces out. They reply "no" and Miss Donna sings about "cleaning up" as she puts the pieces away. For the next 30 minutes, Miss Donna reads to and sings with the children. She points to each word in the book title and asks the children to say the words with her. They sing about the days of the week. Miss Donna does a wonderfully memorable version of "Boom Chicka Boom" while pinching her nose and squeezing her cheeks. The parents seem to be as entertained as the children and many of them join in.

As an addition to her morning story time schedule, Donna said she added "Pajamarama" about three years ago. She explains, "I just felt there was a need for a story time in

the evenings because it helps working parents have an option too. The community has been so supportive and they do participate. They get involved." Donna looks forward to the opening of the new library and thinks "we may be able to offer more programs" at the new facility. Her enthusiasm for her work is self-evident. She further verified this by saying "I make no bones about the fact that I love my job. It seems to be a perfect fit for me."

If you're looking for a great (free) activity for the children, try Pajamarama. The Lafayette Library will host it every Tuesday night during the month of July except for the 15th. Beginning in August, Pajamarama will return to its regular schedule of the last Tuesday of every month at 7:00. The library is located at 952 Moraga Road in Lafayette and the phone number is (925)283-3872.

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