

Lamorinda Community

Calendar, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, February 23	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, February 19	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, February 24	
Senior Services	3:30pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, February 26	
City of Lafayette:	
http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us	
Chamber of Commerce:	
http://www.lafayettechamber.org	



Wreckless Driving

1/29/09 – A Lafayette man was pulled over on Mt. Diablo Boulevard after police witnessed his vehicle driving on the shoulder of the road, weaving in the lane of traffic and crossing the lane divider twice. The suspect was arrested and released to his wife.

False Tags, Robbery and Meth

2/1/09 – A Lafayette Police Officer spotted the suspect sitting in a parked car in a dark secluded area on the St. Stephen's overpass. When police ran the car's vehicle tags, they learned the tags were false. The suspect told police that he was on probation. The suspect was wanted on an armed robbery charge in Alameda County. Police asked the suspect to step out of the vehicle so they could perform a search. When the suspect exited the car, he began reaching for his rear waistband with his right hand. Police found the suspect was holding suspected methamphetamine and performed a NIK test. The test was positive and the suspect was arrested and taken into custody. This guy certainly has a well-rounded rap sheet.

Bicycle Thief

2/4/09 – An environmentally friendly Blackhawk Road resident rode his bike to a store on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. The bike owner leaned his bike against a store window and went inside. When he returned 45 minutes later, the \$300 Giant Sedona was missing. An anonymous person told him a male wearing a black hat and black pants with tattoos on his arms stole the bike.

Driving Without a License

2/5/09 – Lafayette Police stopped a vehicle on Highway 24 near Acalanes Road for a routine traffic stop. The stop resulted in yet another case of someone driving without a license. The suspect was cited and released at the scene. A shocking reminder: It is illegal to operate a vehicle without a license. How is it that so many people don't seem to know this?



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Discover the Pride of Lafayette

Open Invitation to Downtown Strategy Community Workshop

By Cathy Tyson

Curious residents who would like to provide input on the Downtown Strategy and Specific Plan, or just want to take a closer look, should plan on attending the final Community Workshop scheduled for Wednesday, February 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Veterans Memorial Building. For those who can't make it, comments are welcome at amerideth@love-lafayette.org.

The process started back in February of 2007. There have

been 17, count 'em, public Advisory Committee meetings, two Community Workshops, stakeholder interviews and a survey of 11,000 residences and business according to Ann Merideth, Community Development Director. "The result is a Draft Strategy and Specific Plan that maintains Lafayette's unique character while recognizing that we need to plan a sustainable downtown that meets the community's future needs," she said.

This vision for downtown Lafayette was prepared with the help of urban consultants Wallace, Roberts and Todd to provide a framework for future growth along with design guidance. All of their recommendations are based upon input gathered from the surveys, workshops and interviews along with the specific recommendations of the Advisory Committee. One of the biggest challenges has been creating a *community* vision; what a young family might like to see is

not the same as what a single older empty nester might like to see.

Key recommendations include: a series of downtown districts, a strong downtown core, parks and creek greenways, improved streetscapes and parking, and, finally, recommendations on private development, "to encourage market-feasible mixed use and residential infill but preserve the sense of place and small town charm that is so important to Lafayette's identity," according to

the Executive Summary posted on the city website.

To view the complete plan, go to www.lovelafayette.org

The Board of the Lafayette Homeowners Council strongly encourages participation, and in a recent open letter described the plan as, "A document that will have critical impacts upon our city for decades to come. Members have found aspects of this plan that they like and others that they do not."

Holt House Officially Denied – For Now

Last minute drama at City Council meeting

By Cathy Tyson



View of Lot 66 from Sierra Vista Way, house site would have been on the right side of Sessions Road Photo Cathy Tyson

Just before the February ninth City Council meeting which would have finalized the denial of former Planning Commissioner Dick Holt's building application, his attorney requested that the resolution be removed from the consent calendar. What had seemed like a done deal to opponents was now up in the air. The usual procedure is

that a decision is made by the Council, who direct staff to return with a resolution at the following meeting – in this case, on February ninth. At that meeting, the matter was opened up to discussion, but ultimately the Council adopted the denial resolution.

Neighbors who had been following the many twists and turns of

this controversial application to develop Lot 66 were once again incensed. C.W. Chung, President of the Northridge Park Home Owners Association said, "We are fed up with this. We would like to reject this once and for all." He wasn't the only one expressing his displeasure, many neighbors offered comments encouraging the Council to deny the application.

"Once again I am appalled at the arrogance and continued defiance shown by Mr. Holt and his representative with respect to this request. By my count, this is the sixth time that this scandalous proposal has been rebuffed or denied by representatives of the City of Lafayette," said Jeff Harmon in a letter to the City Council.

In the end, the Council did deny the appeal of Holt for a request for a hillside development permit for a home at the corner of Sessions Road and Sierra Vista Way.

David Bowie, attorney for Holt noted, "It must be perfectly clear that this matter is not going away," suggesting they will submit a new application at some point.

Lafayette's State of the City

By Cathy Tyson

Mayor Don Tatzin, in his State of the City speech at the Businessperson of the Year dinner on January 30, recalled when he was a first time mayor back in 1987. He noted that Lafayette has changed dramatically since then for the better, especially when compared to the county, the state and the federal government. A few examples of improvements include a more vibrant downtown, pedestrian-oriented development and dramatic improvement in the condition of roads and drains, and community spirit.

"The Council's priorities focus on the long-term while recognizing the short-term challenges we are likely to face. During the past several years we started many

projects and finished most of them," he said.

Some of the Mayor's goals for 2009 are:

- Finish and open the Library
- Adopt the downtown Strategic Plan
- Fix more failed roads and reduce the backlog
- Implement the Financial Review Committee's recommendations
- Decide on continuing with the County Sheriff for police services or take another path
- Look for opportunities to acquire sites in good locations for public parking
- Provide a local stimulus package to help our businesses

THANKS TO THOSE WHO PLEDGED TO TRY LAFAYETTE FIRST!

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City seeks volunteers for participation on the new City Charter and Communications Committee



The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to serve on a newly approved City Charter and Communications Committee.

This new five to seven-member committee will have two tasks, the first is to investigate the pros and cons of becoming a charter city and make a recommendation to the City Council on whether Lafayette should take this step. Existing nearby cities which operate under charters include Piedmont and San Ramon.

The committee's second task is to use the city charter investigation as a case study to develop more effective ways for the city to communicate with its residents and businesses. It is hoped that the methods of communication developed in this effort could be adapted to improve all future communication by the city with its constituents; on a wide variety of issues.

The committee will be asked to deliver its report regarding becoming a charter city in September 2009. Work related to communicating the findings and recommendations to residents may take longer.

Members of the committee will be appointed by the City Council on the basis of education, community involvement, training and experience in the fields of city government, communications, public outreach, finance, and related fields.

Questions regarding the committee may be directed to the Mayor at DTatzin@lovelafayette.org.

Individuals interested in this volunteer position may obtain an application from

The City's website at www.ci.lafayette.ca.us or
City of Lafayette Offices
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 210 or

Call the City's Clerks Office at (925) 284-1968 and an application will be mailed. Completed applications must be received by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 6, 2009.

The Lafayette City Council is also soliciting applicants to serve on a newly approved City Open Space Committee.



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