

# Civic News

# Lafayette

## Public Meetings

**NEW Meeting Locations**  
**Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd**  
**City Council: Community Hall**  
**Planning Commission: Community Hall**  
**Design Review: Arts & Science Discovery Center**

**City Council** Monday, March 22, 7:00 pm  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

**Planning Commission** Monday, March 29, 7:00 pm  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd


**Design Review** Monday, March 22, 7:00 pm  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center in the Arts & Science Discovery Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Circulation Commission** Monday, April 5, 7:00 pm  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center in the Arts & Science Discovery Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette: www.ci.lafayette.ca.us  
 Chamber of Commerce: www.lafayettechamber.org

### Police Report



**Take Your Purse With You, 3/5/10**  
 An unknown suspect smashed the window of a Ford Expedition that was parked in front of the choral room at Acalanes High School and stole the owner's purse. Police are attempting to retrieve possible video footage. No suspects, witnesses or leads at this time.

**Garage Thief, 3/6/10**  
 An unknown thief entered the garage of a Hermosa Court residence during the night while the occupants were sleeping. The thief took items from the garage and both cars. These actions must not have been thrilling enough for the suspect because he broke into the neighbor's car, too.

**Lock your Locker, 3/7/10**  
 An unknown suspect entered the break room at Boswell's on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. He removed one employee's purse and a second employee's ATM and California ID cards from unlocked lockers. The purse was found in a garbage can outside the break room with nothing of value missing. The second employee canceled her ATM card. Be on the lookout for non-employees in employee-only areas.

**Take the Money and Run, 3/7/10**  
 A brazen Concord resident entered the Lafayette Safeway, pried open a cash register and made away with the cash. Needing a little more cash for his habit, the thief headed to the Alamo Safeway and pulled the same stunt. The suspect was caught on video in both stores and was identified, arrested and charged with two counts of commercial burglary and possession of narcotics.



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**Tuesday-Saturday 10-6**



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## Council Unanimously Approves Unique Open Space Deal

By Cathy Tyson



Photo by Photo Hutch for the Muir Heritage Land Trust

In an unprecedented collaboration, the City of Lafayette, the City of Walnut Creek, the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) and key player the Muir Heritage Land Trust (MHLT) put together an agreement to purchase over 22 acres of open space east of Acalanes High School.

A sales price of \$1,305,500 was agreed upon – the cities of Lafayette and Walnut Creek along with the EBRPD will chip in 30% of the price - \$391,650. The final 10%, \$130,550 will be paid by the MHLT. They will also be responsible for closing costs, title and escrow fees and most importantly ongoing stewardship of the property.

The timing could not have been better. Measure WW, approved by voters in 2008, provided funding for cities in Contra Costa and Alameda counties that can only be spent on acquiring and im-

proving regional parks, trails and recreation facilities. Lafayette received \$1,082, 501; half of that amount is slated for open space acquisition, according to Jennifer Russell, Director of Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Department.

The City of Walnut Creek also received its share of WW funds and was willing to spend some of the money outside of their city limits. "It reflects the remarkable maturity, regional leadership and a commitment to community caretaking," said City Manager Steven Falk in a statement.

The Haji family was a willing seller, and with the help of MHLT Executive Director Linus Eukel, along with the Lafayette Open Space Committee and the City Council, it all came together. "Sometimes achieving an acceptable outcome for a complicated project such as this can be

elusive, as it was for years in this case," said Eukel. "The Land Trust is uniquely positioned and able to bring willing partners together to find solutions. This acquisition will benefit the wider community, even those who enjoy the profound beauty of the Acalanes Ridge as a faraway vista. By reaching out to create new partnerships, and by fulfilling its capacity as a land trust, MHLT helped provide the leadership needed to affect a solution that was unachievable for more than a decade."

The City of Lafayette has been interested in the parcel for many years. "The MHLT will own the property in fee and will transfer a conservation easement to Lafayette, Walnut Creek and the East Bay Regional Park District," said Falk.

City Council members unanimously approved the funding

agreement. After giving thanks to the EBRPD and the City of Walnut Creek, Council Member Carl Anduri said, "This is what makes it worthwhile to be on the Council. We're very fortunate to have this happen."

There was a palpable feeling of enthusiasm at the March 8th City Council meeting. "Yes, please!" said Eliot Hudson. "Thank you to the MHLT, they have been absolutely phenomenal. I have a deep respect and gratitude for what they've done. It's truly a marvelous piece of property."

"The next step is fundraising," said Eukel. "The campaign's goal is to raise the \$427,600.00 needed to purchase Acalanes Ridge, provide funds to steward the acquired property in perpetuity and support the organization's work. So many people have worked so long to preserve the natural beauty of this land. We're expecting the same community support we've seen for so many years."

He continued, "This is the opportunity so many have hoped for—to at last protect this open space as a home for wildlife and a refuge for people from the stresses in our busy lives."

Donations to the Muir Heritage Land Trust to support the Acalanes Ridge purchase and the Keep It Wild Campaign can be made online at www.muirheritagelandtrust.org, or can be sent to: Muir Heritage Land Trust, P.O. Box 2452, Martinez, CA 94553. For more information, call the office at (925) 228-5460 or e-mail info@muirheritagelandtrust.org

## Giving Back for her Birthday

By Cathy Tyson



Maile Broad in center with green antenna poses on a trampoline with friends.  
 Photo Jennifer Aaker

Maile Broad wanted to do something special for her eighth birthday. As part of her "Super Secret Mystery Birthday Party," she asked that her guests make a donation to support the schools, instead of giving her gifts. Maile comes from a family of teachers, and on her own wanted to do what she could to help out.

Inspired by the scavenger hunts her own mother put together, Maile's mom, Jan Broad and husband Rich planned a task

filled extravaganza at a number of locations that included popping balloons to find clues, blowing bubble gum bubbles, making a poster and more, culminating at Yogurt Shack.

In all, \$400 was donated which will be given to the LASF. "I feel good about 'Maile's magical money' my friends and I raised for the schools," said the birthday girl, "I feel bad for the schools and the teachers right now and I just wanted to try to help."

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