

Lafayette City Staff Decline Raise

By Cathy Tyson

For the second year in a row, the Association of Lafayette Employees declined to accept an Annual Merit Increase that was offered by the City Council for fiscal year 2011 – 2012 that starts July 1. The raise would have been, on average, one percent. “Recognizing that the economy is still vulnerable, (they) chose to take no increases in salary,” said City Manager Steven Falk in a Staff report. Employee labor contracts, which also include personnel rules, are negotiated every year and expire one year later.

Although the City recently, “Made \$500,000 in budget cuts, by and large the staff came through unscathed and the employees are grateful,” said Tracy Robinson, Ad-

ministrative Services Director. “Employees like working here – it’s a great environment.” She adds that the City Council has always been fair to employees.

Although the City continues to fund health insurance costs for employees and their families at the same rate as last year, there is a slight cut in health benefits. The cost of that health insurance continues to rise at approximately 11% annually. Workers who chose the “Direct Medical Insurance Payments” plan will see their deductible rise from \$5 to \$25. Those who picked a more expensive plan must pay the difference between the negotiated maximum and the cost of the plan.

Public Art Committee Meet and Greet

By Cathy Tyson



The Public Art Committee

Photo courtesy Paul Filingier

Together these seven Lafayette artists, along with an art supporter and a collector, are helping establish and make decisions about the public art collection for the City of Lafayette. They recently got together for a City of Lafayette-sponsored reception at the Gallery space in the Community Hall to launch their first exhibit and introduce themselves to residents. The event was aptly named, “Who is the Public Art Committee?” Not only do members volunteer their time for the Committee, but many of the artists brought their work to the reception for all to enjoy.

The gallery space was specifically designed for this purpose, and with a growing number of events and civic functions in the Community Hall, many visitors can appreciate something beautiful, even those on

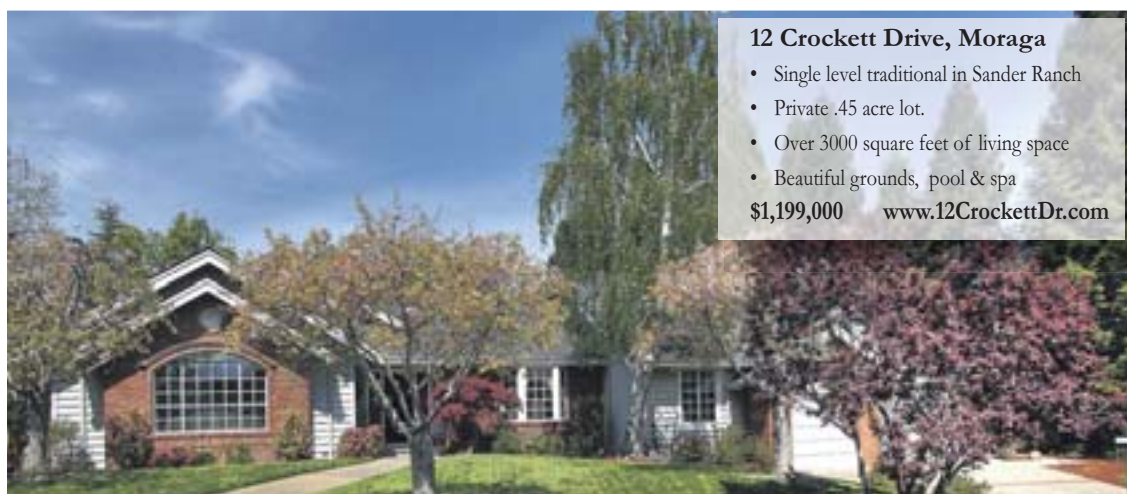
their way to a City Council meeting.

Local artist Tom Taneyhill says that the Committee is still in the early stages and is “working out the parameters” of choosing art pieces. He explains the Committee’s several key responsibilities: “In addition to selecting exhibits for the Lafayette Library, we also advise the City Council on art acquisitions, review public art proposals, and steward the City’s art collection.”

“Submissions,” he added, “are always welcome.” Interested artists should contact Ann Merideth, Special Projects Manager, for more information – amerideth@lovelafayette.org.

In alphabetical order, Committee members include: Susan Dannenfeler, Connie English, Paul Filingier, Erling Horn, Clay Jensen, Dennis Mudgett, Marcia Barrow Taylor, Tom Taneyhill and Sandra Wolfe.

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