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Lafayette
Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, May 23, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Monday, May 16, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, May 23, 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

Lafayette Farmers' Market Open for the Season

By Cathy Tyson



In addition to fresh fruits and veggies, shoppers can find local, prepared foods

Photo Andy Scheck

Produce, get your farm fresh produce. Beautiful tomatoes, asparagus, lovely strawberries and more were ripe and ready to rumble at the Plaza Park last Thursday. Under sunny skies with great music from El Desayuno, a salsa and Latin jazz band celebrating Cinco de Mayo, a steady stream of shoppers came armed with cash and shopping

bags for opening day. The music and fresh produce along with gourmet bread and jam can be found every Thursday from now until September 29 with new hours from 3:30 to 7:00 to be more convenient for families picking up their kids from school. Just like last year, look for the Veggie Valet to assist with your purchases. It's like a coat check

– just drop off your bags, and come back with your car to easily drive to the loading zone for quick pick up. With thirty-one vendors, it's impossible to list all of them, but keep an eye out for Alhambra Valley Pears, J & J Farms, Steve's Bees, Hamada Farms and Free Wheeling Farm along with Metropolis Baking Company and Cottage Kitchen.

Unique vendor My Own Harvest sells Tool Free Raised Bed Kits to make your own organic garden.

Opening day also featured a booth with the Lamorinda Weekly's own favorite chef, Susie Iventosch. She was preparing and handing out delicious samples of Pistachio Pesto Penne with Spring Asparagus and a Strawberry Glaze Pie*. "As a cook, there is nothing more fun than perusing the farmers' markets to see, feel, and sometimes even sample, the weekly harvest," said Iventosch. "The textures, colors, and scents all work in harmony to help us design meal ideas for the week! The Thursday Lafayette Farmers' Market is a wonderful mid-week respite from the hustle and bustle world that our daily lives otherwise inhabit."

Starting May 19, every third Thursday is Market and a Movie night. Kicking off the line-up is a screening of *ET*. Look for *How to Train your Dragon* on June 16, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* on July 21, and finally on August 18 *Finding Nemo*.

The market is run by Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Markets, a not for profit organization established in 1982. They seek to cultivate local sustainable farming and provide a community gathering place with healthy and organic food.

*Find the recipe for Susie's Strawberry Glaze Pie on page C6

Patio Approved for Clocktower Tenant Patxi's Pizza

By Cathy Tyson

How wide is wide enough? Balancing the needs of pedestrians and accommodating groups of hungry diners anxious to dive into some deep dish pizza is no easy task. Throw in a sidewalk tree and parking meters along with room for wait staff and a fence to corral patrons, all add to the list of factors that weigh in on a making a decision. While the City Council is generally supportive of the concept, and agree that outdoor dining adds vibrancy to the downtown, working out the details is the tricky part.

Pah-cheese, is still under construction in the Clocktower building, in the space that used to house Douglah Designs. They requested an encroachment permit to use some of the sidewalk space for an outdoor patio area fronting Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Because the building is actually set three to four feet back from the property line, only half of the proposed patio would be on the city owned sidewalk.

Architect Sudhish Mohindroo with SZFM Design Studio came up with decorative metal rails and portable planters to de-

lineate the patio from the sidewalk space. The fence is required by the Country in order to serve alcohol. The patio design will hold three tables for four and a community table that can accommodate up to eight and room for wait staff to bring pizza and dishes back and forth to the kitchen. This leaves a public right of way of eight and a half feet of usable sidewalk space.

At a prior meeting the City Council asked the architect to address some design concerns regarding the patio and the amount of available sidewalk space for

pedestrians and especially handicapped pedestrians.

Noting outdoor dining at nearby restaurants like Panda Express, Yankee Pier, Pizza Antica and Baja Fresh, Mohindroo explained that he wanted to create an attractive destination, not just a through-fare block on Mt. Diablo.

Most council members agreed the width of the sidewalk was adequate, in fact the width of the sidewalk varies throughout the downtown. "Great design" said Mayor Anduri commenting on the patio, "It adds a lot of vitality." ... continued on next page



Police Report

Sticks, stones and bricks...4/27/11 A man threw a brick at a woman, hitting her left arm. He then threw a brick through her front window. Authorities were notified, and the suspect fled. The victim refused medical attention. The suspect hung up on police when they tried contacting him by phone.

And on 5/3/11 Someone smashed the front door and entered a Dewing Avenue apartment, stealing \$5400 worth of goods and causing \$2,000 in damage.

Park n' Rob, 4/29 A bold thief/thieves made off with contents from two SUVs parked along Pleasant Hill Road. Each snatch & grab resulted in over \$800 missing property and \$250 damages.

Lots of glass...little to show 4/25 A residential burglary on Hillcrest Drive left a front window pane and rear sliding door smashed as the perp struggled to gain entry. Cabinet drawers were pulled open but no major electronics went missing.

"Death" of a Salesman 4/27 Police put a stop to someone soliciting (selling books) without a permit near Happy Valley School on April 27. The seller's boss had been informed of his employee's wayward actions. Police collected checks and money from the seller and returned them to the owners.

Ask...and you shan't receive 4/26 Just because you present a check at a bank doesn't mean they'll cash it. One fellow found this out as he attempted to cash a fraudulent check at Chase Bank. When questioned by the teller, the scoundrel left the bank without the check...or the money.

Stealing from children...4/28/11 Someone kicked in and broke the door to a storage unit on Mt. Diablo Blvd, intending to steal the contents. The unit holds donations for children in Zimbabwe; fortunately nothing was taken.



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