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**Lafayette
Civic News**

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, December 12, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Wed., December 19, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, December 12, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
in the Arts & Science Discovery
Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District

Wednesday, December 7, 7:30 pm
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 pm
LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org



Police Report

No Fare!11/20/11 Four people got into a cab and enjoyed a \$100 ride. They left the cab without paying. The cabbie, understandably miffed, called police. One of the riders, after being contacted by police, was gently persuaded to foot the bill. Wonder if the other three will offer him/her a reimbursement?

Into the Woods, 11/23/11 A vehicle reportedly traveled into a wooded area along Happy Valley. Numerous car parts were strewn along the roadway but the driver was nowhere to be found. An alien abduction, perhaps?

Bag this Scene, 11/26/11 A man entered a business on Moraga Road, put his hands into a paper bag and pointed the bag (hands and all) at the victim's face, saying "I saw this in a movie once." No threats were made, no demands were met...and the stranger with a dubious acting career left in an unknown gray or silver sedan. We are not making this up.

No Corraling this Mustang, 11/26/11 A 1999 Mustang parked and locked in the victim's driveway at noon had vanished by 10:30 that same night. First, strewn car parts and a missing driver; now whole cars are being abducted...

Stanley Teacher Brian Mangold Wins Award

By Cathy Tyson



From left: Brian Mangold and Toni McShane Photo Cathy Tyson

Christmas came a bit early for Stanley Middle School Special Education teacher Brian Mangold. He was honored by the Warren Eukel Teacher Trust as an instructor who has exhibited extraordinary commitment to his students. He wins a monetary grant of \$10,000, a generous amount to recognize his hard work in the classroom that is truly appreciated.

Annually the Trust accepts nominations for fantastic teachers in Con-

tra Costa County, ultimately selecting three who each receive a \$10,000 grant. Dance instructor Victoria Tukeva of Richmond High and Jesse Hansen, a history teacher at San Ramon High, also won.

Mangold has been teaching special needs students at Stanley Middle School for the last five years; he graduated from the University of California, Davis and then received a Master's Degree and Special Educa-

tion Teaching Credential at Columbia University Teachers College.

"We're lucky to have him," said Stanley Assistant Principal Toni McShane, "Brian is impressive to watch as he develops teaching strategies for his classes." She proudly explained that he started a peer tutoring program for the mainstream kids to work with the special needs kids that students are "clamoring to get into." Fridays at lunchtime, Mangold started the very popular Karaoke Club for the special needs students, where everybody pitches in to help with the show.

At the awards dinner at which all three teachers were honored, Mangold reflected on his experience, "I've learned to look at things from a different perspective, to question boundaries and expectations that have become the norm. I've learned that by labeling people by their disability or by what they can't do, we limit our thinking, limit our approach and often handicap the individuals who are labeled." Commenting on lessons of perseverance, bravery and patience, he continued, "Watching my students struggle to express themselves, I've learned how frus-

trating and traumatizing it must be to feel like you have no voice, no say, or no one to listen."

Mangold credits the talented and dedicated faculty at Stanley for being so supportive, and described the many challenges that special education teachers face. "Generally you can't set up a single program that addresses all of your students' needs. Each child has different repertoires and deficits and there is no single strategy or approach that works for all of the students," he said.

On a personal note, he's not sure what he'll spend the money on. He became a father a little over two months ago, "so I may end up writing that check directly over to our diaper service."

He was also honored at a recent City Council meeting with an official proclamation that included: "Mangold has brought honor to himself, his profession and the Lafayette community for his work and achievement in the field of education." He humbly accepted the proclamation, thanked the Council, "It's quite an honor to receive this award. This is a special community to teach in....Thank you for supporting education."

Weighing Options for Future Road Repair

By Cathy Tyson

Since voters have not been able to pass a road repair tax of any sort for the last ten years, although they've come close, Lafayette city staff did a complete analysis of current and future road issues and is asking the Capital Projects Assessment Committee (CPAC) for guidance as options are weighed, at a meeting on December 8, for the next cycle of the Capital Improvement Program.

Although Lafayette can boast that

their roads are not nearly as bad as Orinda's, the city projects that there will be 81 failed streets by the end of 2012 that will cost \$13.4 million to repair.

It's the City's practice to look at road projects through a Five Year Capital Improvement Program to prioritize how and when to spend money on maintenance and renewal of infrastructure. The process to prioritize which roads will be repaired is not random; a

Pavement Maintenance Strategy has been in place for years. "Timely application of appropriate treatment to pavement has long been demonstrated as the best means to maintain overall quality of a road system and to minimize the aggregate cost of system maintenance and repair," wrote City Engineer Tony Coe in a staff report for the upcoming meeting.

Some residents have questioned this process - wondering if money de-

voted to maintaining roads in good condition could be more fairly spent to repair failed roads. It's been a city practice for more than fifteen years that not keeping up good roads creates a maintenance backlog that snowballs over time - ultimately adding more failed roads to the bottom line.

The task at hand for the CPAC is to find answers to three important questions spelled out in the staff report: Should the City continue its current strategy of maintaining roads in good condition while such a large failed roads backlog persists? Should the City Council release the \$3 million from the General Fund that it had earmarked for Measure G - if it had passed? What are some alternative strategies to prevent low priority failed roads from becoming an immediate burden on City's resources?

The CPAC meeting on December 8 is open to the public; it will be held at the Lafayette City Offices, 7:00 p.m., 3675 Mount Diablo Boulevard, Room 265. For residents with other plans that evening, be aware that CPAC only acts in an advisory capacity and will present its findings to the City Council in late January or early February.

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Correction, issue date 11/23/11, Pathway Project Dead on Arrival at Council Meeting: The upkeep figure reported in this article was incorrect. Annual conservatively estimated maintenance for the entire proposed 1.5 mile path is \$50,925, according to the Feasibility and Options Study for a Pedestrian and Bicycle Pathway Along EBMUD Aqueduct ROW. Members of the City Council received the presentation on the proposed pathway and provided comments to staff at the November 14 meeting.