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LOOKING TO BUY OR SELL? WE CAN HELP YOU TOO!

Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, May 14, 7:00 pm
Monday, May 21, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Monday, May 21, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, May 14, 7:00 pm
Tuesday, May 29, 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, May 16, 7:30 pm
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, May 9, 7:00 pm
Thursday, June 21, 7:00 pm
Regular Board Meeting
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
Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

Police Report



Dear Readers: We are experiencing difficulty obtaining detailed crime reports from the Lafayette police departments, which is staffed by the Contra Costa County Sheriff. Please bear with us as we try to determine how to best serve the public given the limited information that is being made available to us.

please...



...thanks!

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

Send a letter to the editor:

letters@lamorinda weekly.com

Downtown Plan Almost Ready to go to City Council

By Cathy Tyson

With unanimous dissent among the handful of residents still voicing concerns regarding the Downtown Specific Plan, Planning Commissioners continued to wrap up their final review of the lengthy draft document at their April 30 meeting.

Over the multi-year process a core group of opponents have con-

sistently made their objections known. "Less congestion? – that was a tough one to swallow," said Susan Callister skeptically. Eliot Hudson added, "Why are we doing this? What is the point?"

Going over the draft plan with a fine tooth comb was slow going and the Commissioners immediately got bogged down with slight grammati-

cal changes and formatting concerns. Ann Merideth, Special Projects Manager, suggested, "This is really just to facilitate your review," explaining typos, formatting and the like did not need to be addressed at the meeting.

Going forward, the Commissioners made a few edits to the Downtown Specific Plan which will

be brought back to the Planning Commission at the May 7 meeting. According to Merideth, staff will recommend that the Commission prepare resolutions for May 21. If they adopt the resolutions on May 21, then the Downtown Specific Plan and the Environmental Impact Report will go to the City Council on June 11 for more public hearings.

More Regulation in the Works for Massage Parlors

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

With 19 massage parlors in this small city and neighbors getting increasingly frustrated at suspected illegal activity, staff from the City of Lafayette—with input from the police department—stepped up to the plate to assemble a draft ordinance to govern the operation of massage parlors.

The draft ordinance, once finalized and adopted, will require all massage therapists and practitioners operating within Lafayette to be state-

certified and force all massage businesses to register with the city on an annual basis and post their certificates of registration in visible locations. Those with existing licenses for therapy like chiropractors, orthopedists, and physical therapists are specifically exempted.

Currently massage parlors fall into the general "personal services category" that are permitted to operate in Lafayette's commercial district. The alleged services rendered, at least

according to several websites, spell out in graphic detail exactly how personal those services are.

"We don't want to be punitive to legitimate businesses, but also don't want illegal activity," said Code Enforcement Officer Mark Robbins.

The new guidelines should discourage the alleged shadier side of local massage establishments. Although a draft ordinance was presented at the April 23 City Council meeting, some fine tuning of the language is needed before a final version is adopted. Questions linger about massage therapist house calls and unique legitimate business that may fall into a gray area. The Stillpoint Center, an integrative health center run by Michael Anne Conley, offers a variety of healing services from a number of providers. "We want to comply with the essence and the intention of the ordinance, but want our concerns to be heard," said Conley.

California already has regulations governing massage businesses, and so do select cities throughout the state. The California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC) was formed in

2008 to certify massage practitioners. At least 250 hours of training are required to be a Certified Massage Practitioner and 500 for a Certified Massage Therapist. Fingerprints, a passport photo, a state ID and a fee are also required in addition to a background check that looks for potential criminal history.

The proposed Lafayette ordinance will require owners of massage businesses to present the state certification for each employee or independent contractor who works there, and to maintain certain minimum health and safety standards, and provided contact information to the police. Once the ordinance is adopted, massage businesses will have 30 days to submit documentation, or face penalties.

Niroop Srivatsa, Planning and Building Services Manager, thanked intern Mary Fitzpatrick for her hard work putting together the ordinance. "It couldn't have been prepared so quickly without her invaluable assistance." Fitzpatrick's a UC Berkeley graduate student in Public Policy.

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