

Mayor Don Tatzin Shifts Positions

By Cathy Tyson



Council Member Don Tatzin with wife Ellen Reintjes. Photo C. Tyson

County Supervisor Candace Andersen came to pay tribute, thanking Tatzin for his amusing sense of humor and dry wit, bringing levity to lengthy and at times dry meetings they attend about fire service and transportation, and pointing out that he has "chosen to commit his life to public service. I admire that."

Newly elected State Assembly Member Catharine Baker commended Tatzin for his service and working toward consensus on the city council, minimizing rancor. "I hope I can take that example to Sacramento," she said.

As is the custom, now former mayor Tatzin reflected on the challenges of the prior year with family and friends in the audience, thanking wife Ellen for her consistent support as delicious, celebratory chocolate cake waited in the wings.

Decisions were made on two city-owned properties in 2014. It was decided that the old library will be used for a public purpose, and that the parcel across the street will be used, at least for the time being, for public parking.

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Now starting his astonishing 30th year serving the people of Lafayette, Don Tatzin gracefully wrapped up his sixth mayoral term and reflected on accomplishments of the past year.

The last city council meeting of 2014 is the designated time when members rotate positions, so going forward Mayor Tatzin becomes Council Member Tatzin, and 2014's vice mayor, Brandt Andersson, will be Lafayette's mayor in 2015. Traci Reilly moves from council member to vice mayor.

Welcome to Lafayette



Photo C. Tyson

Drivers descending the off-ramps at Acalanes Road and at the Central Lafayette exit off of Highway 24 will notice the new modern signage that recently replaced the older deteriorating plywood signs, which had definitely seen better days. Local architect Ken Hertel, who sits on the city's Design Review Commission, donated his time to craft what he calls a clean, rustic contemporary style. The west end sign is solar powered with high efficiency

LED lights. Look for low maintenance landscaping to be installed in the corten steel planters in the coming months. Hertel credits City Manager Steven Falk for seizing an opportunity to bring these signs from the 1970s into the "new millennium." Semirural, the ubiquitous term endlessly debated in town, is, like beauty, surely in the eye of the beholder – but the natural elements of stone, distressed wood, and soon-to-arrive landscaping do make a statement. - C. Tyson

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