



# Lafayette

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Monday, March 23, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Planning Commission

Monday, March 16, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

## Design Review

Monday, March 23, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

## School Board Meetings

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, March 18, 7:30 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

### Lafayette School District

Wednesday, March 11, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
Stanley Middle School Library  
3477 School St., 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



## Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Feb. 15-28:

<b>Alarms</b>	69
<b>911 calls</b>	21
<b>Animal Cruelty</b>	
Mt Diablo Bl//Brown Ave	
<b>Battery</b>	
500 block Florence Dr	
3400 block Lana Ln	
<b>Burglary, Auto</b>	
McCaulou's	
3700 block Mosswood Dr (2)	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
10 block Via Magdalena	
1000 block Sunnybrook Dr	
<b>Burglary, Commercial</b>	
200 block Lafayette Cir	
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl	
<b>DUI</b>	
2nd St/Mt Diablo Bl	
My Diablo Bl/Moraga Rd	
<b>Fire/EMS Response</b>	
3500 block Moraga Bl	
90 block Bacon Ct	
CVS	
<b>Grand Theft</b>	
1000 block Carol Ln	
<b>Hit &amp; Run</b>	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl (3)	
<b>ID Theft</b>	
100 block Bacon	
1000 block Pleasant Hill Rd	
<b>Intoxicated</b>	
Golden Gate Way/Mt Diablo Bl	
<b>Loud Music</b>	
10 block Mt View Pl (2)	
<b>Missing Adult</b>	
3700 block St Francis	
<b>Ordinance Violation</b>	
Upper Happy Valley Rd/El Nido Ranch Rd	
<b>Petty Theft</b>	
700 block St Mary's Rd	
3700 block Mt Diablo Bl	
St Mary's Rd/Glenside Av	
Lafayette Elementary School	
1100 block Glen Rd (2)	
20 block Billington Ct	
<b>Petty Theft from Vehicle</b>	
10 block Via Magdalena	
3700 block Highland Rd	
<b>Panhandling</b>	
Trader Joes	
Post Office (3)	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
<b>Public Nuisance</b>	
800 block Acampo	
Safeway	
Moraga Rd/Old Jonas Hill Rd	
Wells Fargo	
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	
Moraga Rd/Old Mtn View	
Pleasant Hill Rd/Mt Diablo Bl	
Pleasant Hill Rd/Olympic Bl	
Acalanes High School	
<b>Shoplifting</b>	
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl	
CVS	
<b>Susp. Circumstances</b>	20
<b>Suspicious Vehicle</b>	32
<b>Suspicious Subject</b>	25
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	226
<b>Trespass</b>	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
<b>Vandalism</b>	
Carol Ln/Mt Diablo Bl	
500 block Merriewood Dr	
1100 block Perales	
<b>Vehicle Theft</b>	
Acalanes High School	
1100 block Bacon Wy	
<b>Warrant Service</b>	
10 block Olde Creek Place	

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## Less Crime in Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



From left: Lafayette Police Sgt. Dan Nugent with new officer James Brooks and Chief Eric Christensen. Photo provided

Although Lafayette is arguably a safe community to begin with, Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen reported at a recent city council meeting that the overall crime rate is down almost 19 percent in 2014. He thinks it boils down to the community transitioning from reacting to crime to preventing it in the first place.

The chief was proud of the work

the department is doing and credits citizen involvement, cameras, saturation patrols, and predictive policing that outsmarted bad guys.

The chief came to Lafayette in 2012 with over 20 years of law enforcement experience, and has embraced techniques and technologies that are making Lafayette less dangerous. Initial efforts included encour-

aging neighborhood watch groups throughout the city, creating anonymous phone and email tip lines, and adding more components over the years.

With the city's lowest property crime rate in 10 years, the department should be proud of its hard work. Christensen credits new license plate reading cameras in numerous areas – some city-owned and operated, others sponsored by neighborhood groups (see the Feb. 25 Lamorinda Weekly story, "Combined City Councils Ponder Public Safety in Lamorinda" in the archives). The automated license plate readers have been effective in narrowing the search for thieves quickly, thus boosting the solve rate to 33 percent of property crimes. "Word gets out among criminals that Lafayette is a place where they get caught. That's the reputation we want to have," said Christensen.

Does it seem like cops are everywhere at various times? From time to time, the entire department is out on saturation patrol. Simply having a ro-

bust visual presence sends a message. While that helps, there are still auto burglaries in town, 96 last year, along with petty thefts from cars – a total of 62 in 2014. In addition, there were 48 residential burglaries, down over 20 percent from last year, with thieves focusing mainly on jewelry. Another clever strategy the police are using to outsmart would-be criminals is predictive policing. Data shows when crimes are likely to be trending – usually on certain days in November and December. By doing their homework, local police know when crimes usually occur, so extra officers are deployed from the sheriff's department to work here on those historically higher crime days, three days per week, over those months. The chief said there have been zero robberies on those days since this was implemented.

At the end of the presentation, the city manager and several residents thanked Christensen for his commendable work for the city of Lafayette.

## Gas Leak at Burton Valley Elementary School

Aging pipe to blame

By Cathy Tyson

It all started with a funky gas smell recently at Burton Valley Elementary School. PG&E came out, looked around and eventually found a small gas leak on the side of the multi-use building. Since the school is over 50 years old, and PG&E found several additional minor leaks, it made more sense to replace all the lines than simply patch the aging, corroded gas lines.

Students, staff and administrators bundled up, stayed calm and carried on. Thankful for the relatively mild weather, principal Sue Rusk was transparent about the situation and regularly kept parents and students informed. Overall, the community was patient and understanding.

"It speaks to the need for renovated facilities," said Rachel Zinn, superintendent of the Lafayette School District, about the gas leak. She is keenly aware that the school district has a responsibility ... to maintain safe, state-of-the-art schools that the community demands.

Mike Lescure is president of local mechanical services company Lescure Inc., whose family has been in the area for generations. He said they pulled all of the copper pipe, installed in 1954 and currently illegal in Cali-

fornia, from the ground and replaced it with galvanized steel on the roof. Everything will now be up to code.

They had to be especially mindful of students, and even worked on weekends and saved the loudest work until

after school was out for the day, so as not to disturb class time.

... continued on page A3

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