



Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, March 14, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

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

Design Review

Monday, March 14, 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 2, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.aclanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, March 9, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
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.lafayettchamber.org



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Jan. 31 to Feb. 6

Alarms	29
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	12
Noise Complaints	3
Traffic Stops	103
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subjects	19
Suspicious Vehicles	13
Burglary, Misc.	
1100 block Upper Happy Valley Rd	
Burglary, Residential	
Civil Problem	
90 block Carolyn Ct	
1200 block Glen Rd	
Dispute, Verbal	
Chestnut St/Dewing Ave	
1000 block 2nd St	
Disturbing the Peace	
Acalanes Rd/Hwy 24	
Fraud	
4100 block Canyon Rd	
Harassment	
1500 Rancho View Dr (by phone)	
Health & Safety Violation	
Acalanes High School	
Safeway	
Panhandling	
3600 block Mt Diablo Blvd	
Police/Fire/EMS Response	
1000 block 2nd St	
1000 block Dyer Dr	
Public Nuisance	
3600 block Happy Valley Rd	
Promiscuous Shooting	
3400 block Moraga Blvd	
600 block Los Palos Dr	
4100 block Hidden Valley Rd	
Reckless Driving	
Acalanes/Hwy 24	
Pleasant Hill Rd/Olympic Blvd	
Moraga Rd/Mt Diablo Blvd (2)	
Moraga Way/Valley View	
Shoplifting	
Safeway	
Theft, Petty	
3100 block Maryola Ct	
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd	
900 block Moraga Rd	
Round Up	
Theft, Grand	
900 block Reliez Station Rd	
1000 block Vista Bella	
Theft, ID	
1100 block Pleasant Hill Cir	
10 block Cabernet Ct	
10 block Quail Run (2)	
20 block Timber Ln (2)	
Reported to police (2)	
3100 block Plymouth Rd	
4100 block Canyon Rd	
3600 block Chestnut St	
Theft, Vehicle	
3200 block Camino Colorados	
Unwanted Guest	
3700 block Mt Diablo Blvd	
Vandalism	
1000 block Carol Ln	
Vehicle Recovery	
10 block Roxanne Ln	
10 block El Fleuti Dr, Moraga	

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2008 THROUGH 2015



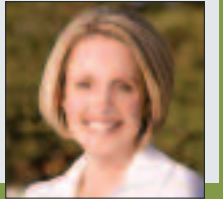
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Poll to Measure Support of Sales Tax Increase

By Cathy Tyson

With a unanimous vote, the Lafayette City Council decided to fund a poll to investigate if residents are truly supportive of an additional 1 percent sales tax measure, under consideration for the Nov. 8 ballot, which if approved, would boost the city sales tax to 9.75 percent.

The independent all-volunteer Sales Tax Revenue Study Committee has done extensive research on current and projected city finances along with priorities gleaned from the recent Community Conversation. They recommend a 1 percent general sales tax, which sunsets in 30 years. The group also analyzed potential polling firms and recommended Godbe Research to conduct a voter attitude survey regarding a potential sales tax measure, at a maximum cost of \$26,250.

"Absent additional revenue, the city will be very limited in its ability to implement the projects already identified in the Downtown Specific Plan, transportation studies, various

master plans and the Community Conversations," the group concluded.

At the Feb. 8 council meeting, Mayor Mark Mitchell acknowledged that Lafayette was founded as a low tax, low service city roughly 50 years ago, but things may have changed over five decades and ultimately it is the "public's choice."

Council Member Don Tatzin agreed: "Polling will help tell us if there is interest." The poll will ask a sampling of residents if they support an additional 1 percent sales tax that would run for 30 years.

There is a cost associated with placing a measure on the November ballot, according to City Manager Steven Falk; that cost depends on how many other items are on the ballot. "The greater the number, the lower the cost," said Falk, who expects it to fall at the lower end of a \$20,000 to \$120,000 range. Council members wanted to gauge support of the measure before committing to ad-

ditional election costs.

Being clear about the intent of the revenue was a major concern for Council Member Traci Reilly, who encouraged a narrowed list of projects that the tax revenue could be used for, to give voters a clear picture. Possible projects include purchasing open space, increasing crime surveillance cameras and police, adding a parking garage, revitalizing the Park Theater, and focusing on downtown events and road repairs.

In the past, the city has attempted to pass special taxes, and while over half the voters voted yes on the measures, none of them was able to reach the two-thirds threshold necessary to pass. If the city council chooses after the poll results are in to place the measure on the ballot, this time it would be for a general tax that requires a simple majority to pass: 50 percent of the vote plus one.

If approved, Lafayette's 1 percent additional sales tax would bring the

rate up to 9.75 percent, in the ballpark of neighboring Lamorinda municipalities. Moraga approved a 1 percent sales tax increase in 2012, Measure K, which will run for 20 years to pay for road and storm drain repair. Measure K passed with 70 percent approval and brought Moraga's sales tax rate to 9.25 percent. Orinda voters approved Measure L in 2012 – a half-cent sales tax that brings their rate up to 9 percent. The tax will automatically terminate in 10 years.

While council members are supportive of the poll, clearly one member of the audience was not. Longtime resident Joan Bruzzone said, "It was painful for me to listen to anybody wanting to spend \$26,000 for a poll to encourage us to spend more money on things we really don't need." She encouraged the council to either vote yes or no, "without spending money, without having a company convince us we need this increase."

Office Building Almost Complete, Condos Under Construction

By Cathy Tyson



Future Towne Center by KB Homes condominiums

Image provided

Separated by roughly half a mile, two projects are under construction in Lafayette: Eco Vive is a completely leased office building near the Veteran's Memorial Hall with tenants moving in starting in March; and in the heart of downtown is the very early stage of what will be a multi-story condominium building called Towne Center by KB Homes, at the end of Dewing Avenue.

The contemporary rustic barn at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Risa Road was designed by Scott Thomsen of Lafayette-based Ward, Young Architects and is owned by Branagh Development. Final approval from the city came in January 2013, and it is basically on schedule, according to Matt Branagh, although there were a few delays due to utility issues. He is happy to announce that the entire Branagh Development team will be moving into the building from their current offices in Danville. Other tenants include Quest Diagnostics and the offices of Artful Surgery plastic surgeon Dr. Elizabeth Lee.

The 9,800-square-foot structure will feature a shared parking lot as a joint venture with the city. Parking spaces will be available to the public on nights and weekends for events at the Veterans Hall and Temple Isaiah, just up Risa Road.

The future 69-unit KB Homes condominium building on the 1.5-acre site located on the former park-

ing lot behind Panda Express will include a landscaped public walkway to the BART station. When complete, the building will feature four floors above the private, secure parking garage that will accommodate market rate units that range in size from 874 to 2,138 square feet.

According to Carly Kraft, project manager for corporate communications, the community is currently planned to open in May, with first sales expected in June. At the moment, curious onlookers will see a giant hole in the ground, when peering over the chain link fence.

The project has had an interesting history dating back to 1998 when the city council entered into a development agreement with Lafayette Town Center Associates for a building originally known as Town Center Phase III.

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