

Reporter Wanted

Lamorinda Weekly is looking for a Lafayette City Reporter

Job Description:

Beat reporter for Lafayette. Attend 2-4 meetings per month in the town assigned. Maintain relationships with city officials and community leaders. Write 1-2 articles per week covering subjects such as decisions made at City Council or Planning Commission meetings, community events, citizen profiles, police activities, or other interesting news items.

Required Qualifications:

Excellent writing and communication skills. Ethical and professional. Live or work in the Lamorinda area and have the ability to write balanced, researched, well-structured articles. Prior newsroom experience helpful, but not required.

Compensation: Compensation is made on a per meeting/article basis.

Contact:

Lamorinda Weekly, PO Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570, (925) 377-0977, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Attn: Wendy Scheck



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Judge Rules Against Save Lafayette on Deer Hill

By Cathy Tyson

One of two legal matters against the City of Lafayette regarding the Homes at Deer Hill development has been decided.

Local group Save Lafayette sued the city, but Contra Costa Superior Court Judge Spanos recently ruled against the grassroots organization. Founder Sonja Trauss of SF Bay Area Renters Federation is also suing the city. That hearing has been moved to July 20.

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Lafayette to Fine-tune Sales Tax Measure

By Cathy Tyson

While it appeared that all council members were on board with approving a 1 percent citywide sales tax measure to go on the Nov. 8 ballot at recent council meeting, there was some discussion about fine-tuning the actual language of the measure, so it didn't get an official approval.

Back in May, the council accepted the final recommendation of the Sales Tax Revenue Study Committee and poll results from Godbe Research on a voter attitude survey about a general 1 percent sales tax that would run for 29 years and raise \$3 million

dollars annually. The council hoped to hone the language at its next meeting, which was slated for July 11.

Also on the November ballot will be the election of three of Lafayette's five city council seats now occupied by Mayor Mark Mitchell, vice mayor Mike Anderson and council member Traci Reilly. Reilly recently announced she will not seek reelection due to family and various other commitments, wrapping up her term that ends in December. As of press time, it was unclear whether Mitchell and Anderson will run for reelection.

New Jennifer Russell Building is Awesome

By Adam Blake



Jennifer Russell (middle) with Buddy, left and Pinky, right. Photo Andy Scheck

With summer in full swing, the Lafayette Community Center is a bustling hub for the town, offering classes, camps, and special events. The sleek, recently completed Jennifer Russell building, named in honor of the Parks, Trails & Recreation director, has proven to be a tremendous upgrade for the facility.

As Russell prepares for retirement in September, she reflected on her 37-year career with the Parks and Recreation department and the transformations of the community center has undergone, from a crumbling former elementary school to the vibrant stronghold it is today.

Born and raised in Lafayette, Russell has been dedicated member of the community her entire life. She described her tight-knit neighborhood growing up as a "miniature community center," which helped inspire her to enter the field of parks and rec.

and zip lines and we would do fairs and parade around the driveway," Russell remembers. "We had a great swimming pool that the whole neighborhood shared and we would do big events for the Fourth of July and have an incredible haunted house."

Russell was hired by the city in 1979, only 10 years after Lafayette became incorporated. In 1984 the city purchased the facility that had previously been Burton Elementary with the intention of establishing a community center. Russell was given the daunting task of overseeing renovations on the building, which had been vacant for six years.

"This building was completely shuttered, there were boards tacked onto a whole bunch of broken windows, all the doors were nailed shut," Russell said. "It was really a very desolate, sad looking facility."

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"Every oak tree had tree forts



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