



Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Sept. 6 p.m. cancelled
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

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

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 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.lafayettechamber.org



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report July 31 to Aug. 6

Alarms	48
911 Calls (incl hang-ups)	4
Noise complaints	3
Traffic stops	69
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subjects	12
Suspicious Vehicles	17

Animal Cruelty

Mt. Diablo Blvd/Mountainview Dr.

Burglary, Auto

500 block Silverado Dr. (2)
3300 block Sweet Dr.
3200 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Burglary, Commercial

1000 block Oak Hill Rd.
3400 block School St.

Burglary, Residential

1200 block Bacon Way
700 block Toffelmire

Civil Problem

3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
800 block Solana Dr.

Dispute, Verbal

3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Disturbance

3400 block School St.
500 block Merriewood
10 block Diablo Oaks Way

DUI

Quandt Rd./Springhill Rd.
3300 block Betty Ln.

Harassment

900 block Foye Dr.

Indecent Exposure

900 block Dewing Ave.

Intoxicated Subject

Driftwood Dr./St. Mary's Rd.

Missing adult

10 block Westminster Place

Panhandling

3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Police/Fire/EMS response

3300 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
S Lucille Ln./St Mary's Rd.

Public Nuisance

Camino Diablo/El Curtola

Promiscuous Shooting

Merriewood Dr./Indian Way

Reckless Driving

Las Huertas/St. Mary's Rd.
St Mary's Rd./Glenside Dr.

Restraining Order violation

600 block Huntleigh Dr.

Recovery stolen vehicle

30 block Circle Creek Ct.

Shoplifting

Safeway

Theft, Petty

1000 block Oak Hill Rd.
3300 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

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City Agrees to Controversial Wight Home Settlement

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

To the dismay of neighbors, the city of Lafayette recently approved a \$204,643 settlement in order to avoid future, potentially much more costly litigation over a proposed home on Monticello Road, effectively giving property owners Linda and Steven Wight the green light to continue with their controversial home.

As their part of the settlement, the Wights agreed to dismiss all other aspects of the suit, but still need to comply with the 62 conditions of approval hammered out during the multiyear civic review process.

This is the latest action on the

drawn-out saga that started with an application to build the home in 2011, and was denied by the city council in 2015.

When asked how the amount was decided, city attorney Mala Subramanian said it was a number that the city and the Wights could agree upon. "If it was a lower number we would be proceeding with litigation." She cautioned that less than 20 percent of appeals are successful, and recommended taking the settlement.

"It's the fiscally prudent action to take in light of the current circumstances," the city attorney said. The city has 30 days to make

the payment, which includes the \$200,000 settlement and \$4,643 in costs.

The three city council members in attendance unanimously agreed with Subramanian, who recommended settling the suit with no admission of liability, and all the conditions of approval — including concessions from the property owners that include an open space easement and construction management plan — rather than exposing the city to substantial financial risk that could cost over a million dollars.

This move was spurred by a decision from Judge Craddick of Contra Costa Superior Court on June 2 — who reversed her original tentative ruling — in favor of the property owners, finding that the city's decision to deny their building application was not supported by substantial evidence.

The city council denied a Phase II permit on the 9,638-square-foot home with a 365-foot garden room on a prominent parcel due to excessive grading, noncompliance with design guidelines, concern over health hazards from the construction process, and more. When Phase II was denied, the property owners said they intended to sue.

Neighbors had come together to oppose the project over the years, chipping in for their own legal representation. They voiced their disapproval of the settlement at the Aug. 8 city council meeting. "You

did the right thing in denying the project — don't back down now," said one gentleman, while others called the Wights "bullies" and commented that this settlement just invites more litigation. One young girl who lives just down the hill from the project urged the council to reconsider due to her asthma condition and pollution concerns.

David Bowie, the attorney representing the Wights, was clear that his clients were willing to pursue this matter as far as it would take, but also recognized that this is not an easy decision for the council to make.

Each of the three council members in attendance had different comments about the matter. Mayor Mark Mitchell said he voted against the project, and asked the city attorney why he should now vote in favor of the settlement. She explained that this option minimized the risk of significant expense to the city.

Concerned about the neighborhood, council member Mike Anderson said the impact of development is not something he takes lightly, and that an elaborate set of conditions to reduce the impact of the home will remain in place.

Council member Brandt Andersson called the judge's decision a "game changer" and sees a very narrow path to improve on the current settlement agreement that is just not worth the risk.

Lafayette City Elections Offer No Contest

While Lafayette residents may already be tiring of presidential politics, local races on the Nov. 8 ballot were just finalized. According to the Contra Costa County Elections Division, three of the five seats on the non-partisan, non-paid, city council are up for grabs, as Traci Reilly opted not to run again. The candidates will be appointed in lieu of an election.

Incumbents running:

Mark Mitchell
Michael Anderson

Other candidates:

Cameron "Cam" Burks
—C. Tyson.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorinda weekly.com

Theft, ID

1000 block Leland Dr.
3300 block Kim Rd.

Threats

10 block Toledo Ct.
600 block Huntleigh Dr.

Trespass

10 block Diablo Oaks Way
1100 block Via Media

Unwanted Guest

3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Vandalism

3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Warrant

details n/a (2)

New Roundabout



The proposed roundabout project at the intersection of Pleasant Hill Road and Olympic Blvd. Image provide Lafayette's very first roundabout is under construction at the Pleasant Hill Road and Olympic Boulevard intersection. The roundabout will address congestion and delays, city officials decided, and will smooth traffic flow and improve safety. The project started in mid-July and is slated to be complete in mid-February, 2017. At the moment, scores of orange cones are redirecting traffic around lane closures. Construction is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on week-

days, but drivers should expect delays, especially during peak times. There will be at least one Saturday closure of the entire intersection for the final paving. Cost of the project is estimated to be approximately \$1.77 million. — C. Tyson

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