

Lafayette citizens of the year announced



From left: Niroop Kasthuri Srivatsa, Don Tatzin, Janet and Rick Cronk and John McCormick. Photo provided

By Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and Lamorinda Weekly have announced this year's citizens of the year – longtime residents Rick and Janet Cronk.

Over many years their generosity of time and talent have benefited multiple corners of the community,

and further afield. They have supported local, regional and international philanthropies, all while inspiring others with their leadership and volunteerism.

The 2019 Citizen of the Year Don Tatzin will be officially handing over the reins to the Cronks at a sold-out dinner in their honor Friday, March 13 at the Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa.

An evening of community issues



Photo Pippa Fisher

Mayor Mike Anderson gives the State of the City address at the Homeowners Council meeting Feb. 6.

By Pippa Fisher

The Sequoia Room at the Community Center was full Feb. 6 for a Lafayette Homeowners Council meeting. The crowd was engaged for an evening of three presentations on “community issues.”

Up first was Mayor Mike Anderson who gave a State of the City address, prefaced with a brief reminder of Lafayette's background. He recalled that the city started without taxes before Prop 13, and it maintains its 15 commissions and committees with volunteers. He noted that it is a small city where people know each other and are friendly and he asked, given our topography nestled into the hills but with a BART station, freeway and only one main drag through town, “How do we deal with state legislature who wants a cookie-cutter solution to the housing crisis? We are different – tighter, friendlier,” he said.

Anderson gave a presentation full of budget facts and figures, noting that the city's operating costs are around \$17 million annually. The city maintains a 60% reserve and has done for

the last five years. He drew the audience's attention to budget vulnerabilities, such as wildfire prevention, police costs, downtown maintenance, stormwater pollution and legal exposure.

With the state pushing for more housing, reduced green house gases and reduced vehicle-miles traveled, Anderson once again said that just providing housing alone isn't going to help. “The jobs/housing balance is key.” But he noted that even if it is not happy to be losing local control, Lafayette is a subdivision of the state, and as such it has to work with the state. In fact he and City Manager Niroop Srivatsa had just returned from a series of meetings on the subject of housing in Sacramento with State Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, and State Sen. Steve Glazer, amongst other housing-focused lawmakers.

Next up for the evening was Lafayette School District Superintendent Richard Whitmore who discussed the state of funding for Lafayette schools. Joined by Yes on L Campaign Co-chairs Tom Mulvaney and Danielle Gallagher,

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City of Lafayette

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