

Superintendent Zinn announces her retirement



After 38 years in education, longtime leader of the Lafayette School District, Rachel Zinn, announced her retirement as superintendent on Jan. 5. According to a memo sent to Lafayette families and community members, Zinn said she made

the decision to retire at the end of August.

“There aren’t words to convey how much I have loved the 12 years I have spent working in this very special District,” she wrote. “It has been an incredible, amazing journey with so many

special memories that I will treasure forever. To be able to serve the community in which I live and to get to have the opportunity to connect with so many of you has been one of the greatest privileges of my career.”

The governing board will be-

gin conducting a formal search process to find the next superintendent.

– J. Wake

Is Lafayette ready for cannabis? ... continued from page A2

“If there is a police officer in California who did not see this (legalization) coming a long time ago, they are living with their head in the sand,” says Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen.

He concedes that there really is no way to monitor deliveries out there right now. “My main concern is regarding deliveries that may come into Lafayette from out of town,” he says. “Any time that people carry cargo that has value, or cash, they increase the probability of some type of problem.

“Officers are going to come across people who are making deliveries when they stop them for a vehicle code violation,” says Christensen. “One of the things that we have tried to reduce in Lafayette through our municipal code section is the amount of cash that the driver carries. Our code identifies that transactions need to be made using an electronic payment to the distributor, who then delivers the product. The driver should only have an invoice and the product, which keeps them a lot safer.”

Overall, Christensen says, he doesn’t expect a significant impact

on police operations. “For years now we have had medicinal marijuana and when that transition happened there were some significant growing pains. I don’t expect those same problems as we have already dealt with this issue for several years.

“One area where we may see an increase in activity is in our code enforcement unit, which deals with smoking violations,” adds the chief. “It’s likely that we will receive a few more complaints regarding people who believe that it is now lawful to smoke in a public place, which may not be the case.”

Rich is particularly concerned about how the new laws will impact schools and youth. “Basically, the perception of harm for marijuana has always been low; ‘It’s natural, right?’ Now that it will be legal, it will seem even more benign for all, including youth.”

Rich makes the point that it’s not only your ‘60s smokeable joint. “Marijuana can be infused into almost anything – liquids, foods, etc.

“Also with the many forms of marijuana, goes an increased concentration of THC,” says Rich.

“Edibles contain more THC usually than a regular joint and marijuana in the form of wax is the most dangerous of all – being often as high as 98 percent THC.”

Rich notes that young people are increasingly using vape pens. “They are easy to conceal and can look like mascara, pens and even thumb drives. Also there is no tell-tale marijuana smell produced by the use of a vape pen.” She says that teachers and parents have to navigate this ever-changing landscape of marijuana often without much knowledge of what to look for.

Additionally Rich is concerned that young people may also be checking out of their normal teen lives because they are relying on marijuana for all of their pleasure. “The things that used to make them happy – sports, listening to music, exercising, hanging out with friends – can stop bringing the same results as a young person relies more and more on marijuana to connect with all of their pleasure sites in their brain.”

Lafayette’s ‘new’ mayor

He says there is always room for improvement, and he wants to see the commissioner code of conduct completed and in place by the end of the first quarter. He also wants to foster communication with residents, would like to resolve outstanding lawsuits, continue the high performing police activities and the new police station, and fix roads and drains while maintaining infrastructure.

He wants to see continued prudent and transparent fiscal management as well as a working environment that attracts and retains valued city staff, and wants to address major traffic and parking concerns. He also says Lafayette should provide input on new state and regional agencies’ actions. “We have a bipartisan combination of state senator and assembly member who seek and respond to constituent input and we should provide ours.”

Finally, in honor of the city’s 50th anniversary of incorporation and its upcoming celebration, Tatzin hopes to get as many residents and businesses as possible to switch up to 100 percent renewable sources through Marin Clean Energy.

Tatzin says what creates improvement in a suburban community are excellent public education, a healthy economy, a safe environment, a pleasant and appealing environment, a transparent government, and tapping the skills and time of residents. “Even a small number of people can make a difference,” he says.

Looking ahead to the next 30 years or so, Tatzin says he would like to see Lafayette remain a place where people want to live and where they want to contribute to making their community better. He says he would like it to be a community where the public sector is held in high regard because of what it accomplishes and how it behaves. “And that we survived the earthquake well,” he adds.

Tatzin points to the improved physical condition of the city over the past 33 years due to investments in roads, drains and public places. He says that the city is in a strong financial position for which he largely credits the efforts of former Mayor Dick Holmes, who helped convince the state legislator to grant the city a portion of the property tax, which led to more investment in the downtown area,

but contributed to an unfortunate loss of moderately priced housing, due to Lafayette’s appeal. “People who work in Lafayette and who we know find it increasingly difficult to afford to live here,” he says.

“Traffic is still the big problem,” he adds, “and has been for over 30 years.”

How it is possible to come to issues afresh each time after 33 years? Tatzin says that when you like what you do, the effort is fun, not work. “I now bring more wisdom and experience to issues than I had at the beginning. That helps me understand the critical aspects to each topic,” he says, adding, “Also I don’t get as ‘worked up’ about things as I once probably did.”

Tatzin says his council position led to appointments to 10 other government boards that serve multiple cities, our county of more than one million residents, and a state joint powers authority. “I have the perspective of a council member in the middle of our federal system ... serving residents on one hand and trying to comply with new regional, state, and federal missives on the other.”

He observes, “Almost regardless of the level of government you serve, there are occasions when governments that are higher in the federal system seem out of touch with local needs (for example, why did the state take redevelopment away) and those at levels of government below you and the public may fail to see the bigger picture and perhaps are NIMBYs (for example, if you are at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission you may wonder why a community won’t upzone to allow denser housing close to transit stations.)”

This experience, he says, has taught him the importance of not becoming the layer of government that others deride and to instead prove your worth, listening and staying in touch with the public as well as those at other levels of government to learn their thoughts and concerns and to influence them before they make policies.

As for the current city council, Tatzin compliments voters, saying they have consistently elected qualified individuals who have a desire to serve rather than to use the office for personal aggrandizement.

“Council members put in a lot of time, are well prepared, have good discussions and get along well even when we have differenc-

... continued from page A2

es,” he says. “Having seen a lot of councils in other cities since 1985, our condition, unfortunately, is not a given.”

LeapFrog Plumbing



Head Frog Mo Williams

Who’s your Valentine?
Give your honey (or yourself!) the gift of comfort with the Toto Washlet’s warm seat, warm water, and soft air dry. (I love mine!) It’s self-cleaning too. Can you say, “Ahhhhh”?!

\$150 OFF!*
Toto Washlet Bidet Seat
Pure luxury

\$250 off
Tankless water heater*
\$100 off
Standard water heater*

*Labor & materials provided by LeapFrog Plumbing. Exp 2/14/18. Cannot be combined with any other offers.



We Hop To It!
Family-owned and serving
Lamorinda since 1993

green solutions!



(925) 377-6600

www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com





The City of Lafayette is hiring!

- Technical/Administrative Analyst
- Sr. Administrative Assistant
- Communications Analyst

We are looking for people to join a team of dedicated, energetic, and fun professionals whose mission is to ensure that Lafayette retains its semi-rural character and "small town" downtown feel.

For more information and applications, please visit:

www.lovelafayette.org/jobs

Bridging the journey from
Lamorinda to Rossmoor
“One satisfied client at a time!”



**Call today for a personalized tour of
Rossmoor and a Market Analysis of your home.**

Rossmoor senior real estate specialist and
Lamorinda resident for 20+ years!



Maria Eberle, REALTOR®

(925) 478-7190
Maria@MariaEberle.com
www.MariaEberle.com
CalBRE #01798906



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Drysdale Properties

Good to know: