



Lafayette

Public Meetings
City Council
 Monday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Planning Commission
 Tuesday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review
 Monday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
 Arts & Science Discovery Center,
 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings
Acalanes Union High School District
 Wednesday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m.
 AUHSD Board Room
 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
 www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District
 Wednesday, Jan. 17, 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

 The Lafayette Police Department has changed their reporting and we were unable to get the complete information before press time.

Is Lafayette ready for cannabis?

By Pippa Fisher
 With the legalization of recreational marijuana effective from the beginning of this month, does the wording of Ordinance 660, adopted by the city council at the end of 2017 to impose further restrictions, go far enough?

In November 2016, voters passed Proposition 64 making the recreational use of cannabis for adults legal, effective Jan. 1. The proposition allows adults 21 years and older to possess up to one ounce of cannabis and to be able to cultivate up to six plants per property for personal use.

Furthermore, local jurisdictions are able to impose reasonable regulations of their own on indoor and outdoor cultivation and operating cannabis-related businesses within the city. In November the Lafayette City Council unanimously adopted Ordinance 660 prohibiting outdoor cannabis cultivation and all commercial cannabis activities with the exception of cannabis deliveries originating outside the city.

Additionally Lafayette has added wording to ensure that all deliveries within the city from state licensed retailers can only be transacted for electronic payments, to address concerns about delivery drivers carrying large amounts of cash.

Environmental Prevention Program Director at the Center for Human Development Jaime Rich says that she is very concerned that both Orinda and Lafayette have allowed mobile delivery.

“Allowing mobile delivery simply brings more marijuana into the community and into homes increasing access for young people,” says Rich. “There are no written procedures for a van driver delivering marijuana to know how to check IDs. How do we know that they won’t be delivering to someone under 21? We don’t.”

Rich questions whether police are prepared for issues around deliveries.

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- Jay Lifson, Executive Director, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

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Emergency response training at schools includes active shooter scenario

By Pippa Fisher



Teachers and staff listen to the police chief discuss how to handle an emergency at Lafayette elementary school. Photo Pippa Fisher

“You are not helpless. What you do matters.” This is the main message from Lafayette police in their emergency response trainings, currently ongoing for all staff in Lafayette’s public elementary and middle schools.

The trainings cover response to different emergencies but the focus is largely on active shooter situations.

“The intent is not to scare,” said Lafayette police Chief Eric Christensen. “Just to be prepared.”

For most people the idea of a

school under gunfire is the definition of the unthinkable. But for Christensen his attitude is never that it can’t happen here. And his argument is that it is exactly by thinking about it ahead of time that people can be better prepared, were they ever to be faced with that unthinkable situation, in the same way that regular fire drills at schools prepare for a fire situation.

The trainings are being held at the schools for all staff including administrative and janitorial staff.

“We have done one series prior

to this for the administrators of all the campuses,” explains Christensen. “Some of the smaller day-cares had us do it with all of their employees last year. Last year, we focused a lot on making sure everyone had basic incident command training.”

Christensen says that his department plans on doing more of these types of courses with local businesses and anywhere crowds gather. “We had a few churches mixed in with the various groups over the last classes as well.”

Christensen, who presented the training himself along with Lafayette PD’s Youth Services Officer Larry Seliga, spent much of the hour reminding the teachers and staff that their decisions and immediate response to a shooter on campus matters and will make a difference, saving lives.

With some specific strategies discussed, the message that students’ lives are the teachers’ responsibilities until the police arrive and take care of the situation was loud and clear. “You have the ability to save lives,” Christensen told the audience.

“I think this type of training is important because like any team, everyone has to know what the basic plan is. Once everyone knows what the game plan is, then we start

to work on practicing the plan,” says Christensen. “By rehearsing and talking about what could occur in an emergency we are going to be much better prepared when anything happens.”

Feeling part of a team is important to Christensen. “Meeting each other, shaking each other’s hands is one of the most important things. They (teachers and staff) all now know Larry and me – we’ve had a chance to meet them. When something happens, it’s no longer strangers meeting – it’s people who have met and have a common foundation.”

Christensen credits Lafayette Schools Superintendent Rachel Zinn for bringing this training in. “She is a driving force behind the programs within the schools,” he says.

Vice Mayor Cam Burks believes this initiative is of the utmost priority. “In my opinion, nothing is more important than protecting our children. Chief Christensen’s forward-leaning approach with our schools will enable our fantastic community of educators to be prepared in the event of a crisis. This is yet another example of how our police department’s innovative emergency planning strategy is focused on the right things at the right time.”

A transparent and ethical local government is of utmost importance to Lafayette’s ‘new’ mayor

By Pippa Fisher



Don Tatzin Lamo archive

As Don Tatzin starts his eighth term as mayor and his 33rd year on the Lafayette City Council, he discussed goals for the upcoming year (and years beyond), reflecting on the changes he has seen and lessons he has learned since he joined the council in 1985. This clearly isn’t his first rodeo.

Originally from Melbourne, Florida, Tatzin has lived in Lafayette since 1976. He earned a bachelor’s degree in urban studies and planning as well as a bachelor’s in economics and a master’s in city planning from MIT, before earning a second master’s in economics in Australia, where he worked for a time following his studies.

Now retired, he and his wife, Ellen, like to spend time at their cabin in the mountains whenever possible along with their border collies, Cloud and Greylock.

Tatzin appears to have boundless energy, rising early most days and finishing his (mostly daily) swimming workout by 7 a.m. “I was a mediocre high school competitive swimmer and have kept at it when I can find a pool,” he

says. The mayor also plays the euphonium with eighth graders in the Stanley Middle School Band, which he really enjoys, and Tatzin and his wife are talented

truffle makers, too. The couple will once again share their talents during two upcoming classes put on by the Lafayette Library on Jan. 24 and Feb. 6. Signups are

on the library website, although these free popular classes fill fast.

Tatzin’s first goal for 2018 involves transparency.

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Melanie and Pamela are so grateful for the referrals and business in 2017! We’ve been all over the map, but do love coming home to LaMorinda!

- 1957 Skycrest Drive, Rossmore
- 1802 Tsosoro Court, Pinole
- 3352 Beechwood Drive, Lafayette
- 4043 Valente Court, Lafayette
- 87 Bates Drive, Orinda
- 3227 Withers Avenue, Lafayette
- 1020 Vista Pointe Circle, San Ramon
- 502 Florence Drive, Lafayette
- 91 Diablo View, Orinda
- 629 Crossridge Terrace, Orinda
- 723 Park Hill Road, Danville
- 1413 Ptarmigan #8, Rossmore
- 2025 Golden Rain #8, Rossmore

- 2208 El Lago Drive, Oakley
- 2706 Edward Ave, Concord
- 3639 Deer Trail Drive, Blackhawk
- 3881 Palmwood Drive, Concord
- 140 Walnut Meadows Court, Oakley
- 339 Columbia Circle, Benicia
- 1205 Monticello Road, Lafayette
- 2904 Rio Grande Drive, Antioch
- 4006 Roland Drive, Concord
- 4017 Terra Granada #8, Rossmore
- 21665 Lake Chabot, Castro Valley
- 21859 Fallview Drive, Sonoma
- 15 Crest Road, Lafayette



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