

Nominations are open for the 2018 Lafayette Citizen of the Year

Do you have a person in mind for this year's nomination?

Criteria are as follows:

- Must be a current Lafayette resident;
- Must be someone who has given of their time, money or energy to help make Lafayette a healthy community, where people will want to live, work and shop;
- Must be someone who models excellence in everything they do;
- Must be someone who brings this community together and/or makes us proud to be a member of the community.

A celebration dinner will be held on Friday, March 23 at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa to honor the winner! The deadline for submitting nominations is at 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15.

Nominations can be sent to nominations@lamorindaweekly.com or jay@lafayettechamber.org.

A familiar face returns to Acalanes Board of Governors

By Pippa Fisher



Richard Whitmore Photo provided

Back again after a break of only just over a year, Richard Whitmore has been appointed to the Acalanes Union High School District board, to fill the vacancy created by the recent resignation of Craig Cheslog. His term will run until the next regularly scheduled election in November.

The board voted unanimously to appoint Whitmore at the Jan. 11 special meeting. Board President Bob Hockett said that Whitmore was selected from a very impressive field of 10 applicants, down from 14 initially.

Whitmore is no stranger to the board, having recently completed

14 years serving from 2002 until 2016. He also volunteered during that time as a board member and is a past president of Lafayette Partners in Education.

Whitmore lives with his wife in Lafayette. Their three children all went through Lafayette schools. He is a Stanford graduate who went to Harvard University to earn an MBA.

Whitmore works as the chief administrative officer of West Ed, a nonprofit educational research and development agency. He previously served as the deputy superintendent at the California Department of Education and as the superintendent of the Los Gatos Union School District.

When his term expires in November, Whitmore says currently he has no plans to run again.

"I'm very happy to be rejoining some very talented colleagues on the board and always happy to be working to keep our local schools among the best anywhere," says Whitmore.

Lafayette school board starts search for new superintendent

By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette has set in motion its process for finding a replacement for School Superintendent Rachel Zinn, following her announcement that she will retire at the end of August.

According to Lafayette School District Board President Teresa Geringer the board has sent request for proposals to firms that do superintendent searches with a deadline to respond by the end of the month.

The board will then review all proposals, interview three or four firms and select one at an upcoming open session board meeting. The trustees are working to get this public meeting scheduled and hope to announce it to the community by mid-February.

Once the search firm is selected Geringer says that the board and

search firm will present a plan for parent and public input.

Geringer made it very clear that Zinn has the complete support of the entire school board.

"Rachel is a great instructional leader who has led the Lafayette School District for 12 years both as assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction and as superintendent for the last five years. She has committed to continue to give 150 percent through the end of the school year or until we find her replacement."

Zinn made the point herself in her note to the community. "We have many months left together, so please know that I will make the most of every minute of this time and will do everything possible to insure a very smooth, seamless transition."

Police headquarters

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Behind the reception area are individual offices for administration, detectives, traffic works and youth officers as well as a completely secure evidence room and a communal workspace.

For the first time the men and women who work there will have their own separate locker rooms complete with showers. There is also a communal living area, with a kitchen including stove, refrigerator and sink – a big improvement over the old location, where officers rinsed out their dishes in the one bathroom sink, shared by all staff. To cope with the increased facilities, work has had to include completely redoing the sewage system.

Out back is a secure lot with enough space created partly by the installation of six car stackers, for their 10 patrol cars, six motorcycles, three parking enforcement vehicles and three large police trailers.

Although the landscaping will not be complete by the time the department moves in, residents

can expect to see turf and decorative boulders. "And a park bench," added Christensen. A flagpole has already been installed.

The total cost according to City Manager Steve Falk will be \$2.3 million, including architecture, engineering, construction, management and contingencies.

"It will be a state-of-the-art facility," Falk notes, "with modern technology and creature comforts, which will serve the officers well. And while the conversion costs money up front, the building will save money over the long run. So, all in all, this is a big step forward for the city."

Christensen really likes the location, with its easy access to the freeway and its high visibility.

Surges-Moscato says she is grateful to the city manager, city council and the chief for making this happen. "It will be so nice to be in a location where citizens can find us. The building will give all of us tools to do a better job."

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-Diane and Hyunil Jo

"Amy and Christine made house hunting really very easy for us, especially considering all the stories you hear about how stressful and time consuming it can be. They were with us at every step in the process, helping us clearly understand all nuances to make the best decisions."
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