

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.



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The Chamber of Commerce is back, bigger and better than ever

By Pippa Fisher



It was standing room only at the Jan. 24 Chamber of Commerce Grand Opening party. Photo Pippa Fisher

There was quite a lively party lighting up Lafayette Circle on a recent, rainy weeknight as over 200 people came by the new Chamber of Commerce offices to help celebrate the grand opening of the new digs.

The Chamber was forced to relocate in July after a massive blaze swept through the nearby complex, destroying the chamber offices at 100 Lafayette Circle along with the much-loved La Finestra restaurant and many other small businesses.

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson says although he and staff were up to speed just days after the fire, they are settled into their new location now and are delighted to be in the new digs just around the corner at 251 Lafayette Circle.

"I can't imagine how crowded it would have been if not for the rain," said Lifson, clearly pleased to have seen so many old and new friends of the chamber, including the mayor and three other city council members as well as the city manager and the chief of police.

With such a crowd present it was hard to see much of the offices and many didn't make it all the way back into Lifson's office to

see the album covers there: Beatles, Cream, Miles Davis, Bob Dylan, Rolling Stones, Santana, Crosby, Stills and Nash and, of course, the Grateful Dead.

"During the Art and Wine Festival last year, one of our volunteers presented me with a framed album cover of the Grateful Dead's Workingman's Dead," said Lifson by way of an explanation. "She reminded me that everything I had in the old office had perished, so she gave me the first thing to hang up. So I took that as a green light to theme my office with the album covers of my youth."

Lifson said that the staff and board of directors not only wanted to allow everyone a look at the new offices, but also to give a thank you to the community for all the love and support following the fire.

As the chamber celebrates its 70th anniversary this month, Lifson says the theme for the grand opening came from a Phish song:

"You got your nice shades on, and the worst days are gone,

So now the band plays on, you got one life, blaze on."

"We are off to a nice start in 2018. Let's all blaze on!" he said, adding, "It was a great party!"

Don Tatzin delivers State of the City Address



Lafayette Mayor delivers State of the City address at the Feb. 2 Business Person of the Year awards dinner. Photo Andy Scheck

Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin summed up the State of the City address in five words: "Happy birthday, Lafayette. Love Lafayette."

As the city celebrates its 50th anniversary of incorporation this year, Tatzin reflected on what Lafayette would have been like without incorporation, drawing atten-

tion to the many accomplishments that maintain the semirural feel of the city and the many city facilities that would not have been possible otherwise.

Tatzin encouraged all residents to "save the date" of July 29; a day which will be full of events to celebrate the city's 50th.

— P. Fisher

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