



Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, April 19, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, April 9, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, April 18, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, April 18, 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

Share your thoughts, insights and
opinions with your community.
Send a letter to the editor:
letters@lamorindaweekly.com

100 SANDHILL ROAD, ORINDA

4971± SQ. FT. MAIN HOUSE | 160± SQ. FT. DETACHED OFFICE | 5.03± ACRES | 100SANDHILLROAD.COM | OFFERED AT \$4,750,000



**RARE WATER VIEWS + PICTURESQUE GARDENS +
SOPHISTICATED CHARM = UNPARALLELED ORINDA ESTATE!**

PACIFIC
UNION

LAMORINDA'S #1 REALTOR SINCE 2011

DANA GREEN



925.339.1918 | LICENSE #: 01482454

DANAGREENTEAM.COM

Lafayette crosses landowner allowed lot line revision

By Pippa Fisher



Local Boy Scouts help maintain the crosses memorial March 10, on the land in question. Photo Pippa Fisher

The owner of the contentious 5-acre parcel of land that's home to the Lafayette crosses is finally able to move forward as the

their own separate plot.

Although previously allowed by the Planning Commission, Council Member Ivor Samson submitted a formal request to appeal and review the decision. The council voted to hear the appeal, considering the land with the crosses to be of such importance that it should be reviewed at the city council level.

The landowner Charles Clark, whose mother created the crosses memorial on her private land in 2006, did not hide his exasperation at the March 26 city council meeting, saying that the council's decision to take another look at the matter had cost him two months. "You guys are getting in the way," he said.

Samson said he appreciated Clark's frustration but that there is a process and they have to follow law.

The council heard comments from members of the public concerned about the loss of the crosses but ultimately agreed that, with all conditions met, there was nothing to prevent the redrawing of the lot lines.

"The crosses are important, but it is not a public monument. It's a private monument on private land," said Council Member Mike Anderson, recognizing that they could find no reason to deny Clark's application.

Anderson also drew the public's attention to a new monument honoring fallen troops to be unveiled April 29 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center.

The council unanimously supported Clark's application for a lot line revision, with Mayor Don Tatzin having recused himself due to the proximity of his home.

Lafayette has a new sheriff in town

By Pippa Fisher



New Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt introduces himself to the Lafayette City Council March 26.

Photo Pippa Fisher

While it seemed like an impossible task to replace Lafayette's outgoing, larger-than-life Police Chief Eric Christensen, the new guy, Ben Alldritt, has a vote of confidence from top city officials.

City Manager Steve Falk made the announcement March 24.

Alldritt, who has spent the last week shadowing Christensen, is very excited by the challenge and appreciates the opportunity to serve in this community.

The new top cop worked for the California Highway Patrol for four years before joining the Contra Costa County Sheriff's office in 2006. Following a short time working in the Custody Services Bureau, he then spent five years in Danville working in traffic enforcement and investigations. As a sergeant Alldritt was in charge of the investigations unit and the homicide unit. As a lieutenant he served as watch commander for the county and was most recently the assistant commander of the patrol division. He has a master's degree in public administration from Golden Gate University.

Alldritt lives with his wife and two young children in Oakley.

... continued on next page

Lamorinda groups help Grateful Gatherings tackle biggest project yet

By Pippa Fisher

Furnishing a 27-room facility is a huge undertaking, but that is exactly what the Oakland-based, nonprofit organization Grateful Gatherings is doing with help from many in the Lamorinda area. This particular project requires the help of all six Bay Area chapters, local groups and corporations, and volunteers as they help set up Claire's House, a community home offering love, hope, therapy and healing for children overcoming the trauma of sexual exploitation and trafficking. And Grateful Gatherings is still in need of some help.

Grateful Gatherings recognizes that when the homeless finally have a home, often they have nothing else. "Maybe an air mattress, if they're lucky. But not always even that," says Director of Programs and co-founder Chris Flitter. Grateful Gatherings collects donations, delivers and sets up for people transitioning out of homelessness.

The organization started small. In 2013 Executive Director Donna Wright Somerville sponsored a family in need over the holidays, providing gifts and food. She kept in touch with the family and when they were placed in an apartment a few months later but had no furnishings, Somerville sent emails out to 20 of her friends. She had their apartment furnished within four days.

Today Grateful Gatherings works on the same principle, except that now they have an email list of 2,500 active donors and sponsors. They are a registered nonprofit with six local chapters, including Lafayette and Orinda.

Whereas in the beginning, Flitter says, she would single-handedly rent a U-Haul truck for deliveries, since 2016 moving company Chipman Relocation and Logistics has sponsored them and sends a truck and movers. Describing this as a gift she says, "In 2015 we were helping 29 people. Chipman allowed us to grow. In 2017 we helped 85 people."

... continued next page



A group of Miramonte volunteers help with a Grateful Gatherings event.

Photo provided

Consider Moving Your Taxbase to Alameda County!



Coming Soon in the Oakland Hills | 7990 Phaeton Drive, Oakland
4 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, 2286± Sq. Ft., Many Quality Updates!
Please Call Melanie or Pamela for a Price or Private Showing

Pamela Halloran
Real Estate Broker
925 323 4100
pamela@pamelahalloran.com
pamelahalloran.com
License #: 00936191



**Listing and Selling
for over 25 years!**

Melanie Peterson-Katz
Realtor®
925 765 4444
melanie.peterson@pacunion.com
melaniepeterson.pacificunion.com
License #: 00890767

PACIFIC
UNION
INTERNATIONAL

201 Lafayette Circle, Suite 100 | Lafayette, CA 94549