



Lafayette

- Public Meetings**
- City Council**
Monday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Planning Commission**
Monday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Design Review**
Monday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- School Board Meetings**
- Acalanes Union High School District**
Wednesday, Nov. 28, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us
- Lafayette School District**
Wednesday, Dec. 12, 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

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE IN LAFAYETTE AND WE ARE GRATEFUL TO BE PART OF IT!



The Dana Green Team is once again proudly joining the Chamber of Commerce in sponsoring the 6th Annual Community Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting.

PLEASE JOIN US
Date: Friday, December 7th
Time: 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Place: Lafayette Plaza

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No final decisions made on filling empty council seat

By Pippa Fisher



Lafayette City Council at the dais during its Nov. 13 meeting.

Although the topic was on the agenda at the Nov. 13 Lafayette City Council meeting, no decisions were made regarding the process for filling a now-vacant council seat. Mayor Don Tatzin encouraged any residents who might be interested in serving to contact the city clerk for an application form. The decision will be up to the new city council when they are seated at the Dec. 10 meeting, with interviews taking place soon after.

The council must appoint a new city council member to take the place of Council Member Mark

Mitchell, who passed away unexpectedly Nov. 5. Since there are fewer than two years left of that term, government code states that the seat must be filled by appointment within 60 days of its becoming open, rather than by special election.

With Vice Mayor Cam Burks having left the meeting early to catch a flight, and Council Member Ivor Samson having stepped out of the room because of potential conflict in the ensuing discussion, there was no quorum. Agreeing that any decision made so soon after losing

Photo Jeff Heyman, City of Lafayette

Mitchell would be untimely and inappropriate, and better left up to the incoming city council lineup in December, Tatzin and Council Member Mike Anderson heard public comments from more than a dozen residents offering their thoughts on next steps.

All expressed their sorrow at Mitchell's passing and noted how he will be missed. There were two main differences in the types of comments beyond that, however.

Many suggested that since the city has just had an election, the appointment should go to third place

candidate Ivor Samson, arguing that this represents what the voters wanted. Others, however, said that usual procedures (applications and interviews) should be followed and suggested that third place might not have been third choice had there been three openings on the ballot.

The item was received and filed and will come back on the Dec. 10 agenda for action by the council, which will then see new Council Members-Elect Teresa Gerringer and Susan Candell join Burks and Anderson.

Also discussed at the same meeting was the ongoing process for hiring a new city manager following City Manager Steve Falk's decision to retire at the end of the year. Tatzin says he has received proposals from four hiring firms. Again the council was in agreement that the new council should be as involved as possible with all steps of the process. Falk said he would expect interviews to take place in early to mid-January before the new complete city council.

Stanley flute choir serenades city council

By Pippa Fisher



The Julia Burke Flute Choir performs at Nov. 13's Lafayette City Council meeting. Photo Jeff Heyman, City of Lafayette

In an ongoing series of performances before city council meetings, Stanley Middle School's Julia Burke Flute Choir, directed by Lafayette Partners in Education flute coach Martha Uhay, brought its sweet music to the Lafayette City Council audience on Nov. 13.

The concerts are intended to showcase the many talents of the community – the goal to have a performance before the first council meeting of each month.

The flute choir is in its second year at the middle school. With community backing and support from Stanley Middle School band director Bob Athayde, the Generations in Jazz Foundation now owns four bass flutes and four alto flutes.

The talented youngsters will also be performing holiday music within the school district over the next few weeks.

Second right-hand turn on Moraga Road at Mt. Diablo Boulevard trial period underway

By Pippa Fisher



Barricades close off the Mt. Diablo Boulevard pedestrian crossing from Plaza Park to Bank of America as part of the testing of a second northbound right-turn lane from Moraga Road in Lafayette. Photo provided

The long-awaited second right-turn lane from Moraga Road onto Mt. Diablo Boulevard is finally here, albeit just for a 90-day trial period. And the city wants to hear opinions on how it's working out for drivers.

The pilot program, approved as part of the downtown congestion reduction plan adopted in March, is intended to evaluate whether the extra turn lane feeding traffic onto Mt. Diablo Boulevard can help ease congestion farther south,

downstream on Moraga Road. New road striping guides motorists with an extra turn arrow painted in the middle lane at the lights and additional striping on Mt. Diablo Boulevard facilitates merging after the turn.

Because drivers turning right from the second lane have limited visibility, the pedestrian crossing from Plaza Park to the Bank of America corner of the parking lot opposite has been closed.

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