

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Apr 9 Monday, Apr 23	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Apr 5 Thursday, Apr 19	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, Apr 10 Tuesday, Apr 24	
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road Wednesday, Apr 11 Wednesday, May 9	
Circulation	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Apr 3 Tuesday, Apr 16	
Emergency Prep.	9:15am
City Offices 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 265 Wednesday, Apr 11	
Senior Services	4pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Apr 26	
Youth Services	6pm
Community Center, Elderberry Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Apr 9	
check online: Town of Lafayette: http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates	
Chamber of Commerce: http://www.lafayettechamber.org for: • local businesses • upcoming events	

Students Threatened; Suspect Arrested

By Lee Borrowman
Lafayette Police have made an arrest in a case involving two students who were threatened by a young man wielding a realistic-looking weapon while they were waiting to be picked up from school on March 16. According to Police Chief Mike Fisher, the students were in the vicinity of Brook St. and Moraga Rd. when a car with two men inside drove up. The driver flashed a rude gesture at the students, an 11-year old girl and a 12-year-old boy, and several of their friends. A passenger in the front seat of

the car waved a weapon that was similar in appearance to a 45-caliber handgun. The man said to the children, "Can I play, I will kill you!" Witnesses were able to give police a description of the suspects and of the car, an older model blue Mercedes, and a local parent reported that the car had frequently been seen parked nearby. Armed with that information, Lafayette Police were vigilant in patrolling the area. On the afternoon of March 22, an officer spotted and stopped the car on Moraga Rd. The

driver fit the description of one of the suspects, and a search of the vehicle revealed a CO2 powered BB gun, replica of a 45-caliber automatic handgun and a high-tech paint ball gun. The man admitted brandishing the BB gun at the children and was arrested. When contacted for comment on March 23, administrators at nearby Stanley Middle School and Lafayette Elementary School said they had not been informed of this incident.

Got Boules?

By Sophie Braccini
In my little village of Le Brocq, in Provence, all afternoons end with a game of pétanque. In the village square, shaded by ancient Platens, people of all ages mingle for a game and to share a drink in the nearby café. Now, back home in my village of Lamorinda, driving South on Saint Mary's road, after the Lafayette Community Center, I see a sign worth noticing: "Pétanque." No cafés or restaurants offering Pastis, no Mediterranean sea to frame the background, but a neat and shady ancient pear orchard with pétanque alleys covered in sand. Has a part of Provence moved to Lamorinda?

Ask Mary Albright, the President of the Lamorinda Pétanque Club, one of 5 in the Bay area, where aficionados meet once or twice a week to practice their favorite sport. Are these Pétanque aficionados' all French natives transplanted in the US? "Not at all," says Albright, "They're local residents from all walks of life including Americans, Scots,

metal balls ("boules" pronounced "bull") and a small cochonnet (piglet), made of wood. In the US the cochonnet is called a jack. A player throws the jack a distance of 12 to 30 feet from the throwing position.

Pétanque players tend to like their field rough, so it's a harder to predict how your boule will behave once it

has a strong competitive core. Pascal, who organizes clinics, has been the US pétanque champion on several occasions.

Last year, the Pétanque Club's old practice field became unavailable and a new field had to be found. Greg Arthur, a pétanque player and landscape architect was inspired when he spotted an un-



The Petanque sign on St. Mary's Rd hits the ground. Players want to get their boules as close as possible to the jack. Different techniques can be used to win: you can "pointer," or aim gently for the jack, or "tírer" and hit and displace the opposing team's boules.

Photo by Sophie Braccini used piece of land scheduled to become an overflow parking area. For Greg the game is about creating a sense of community: "Communities like ours need more places where people can connect" says the architect. "This place, by trails and parks, is ideally located so



Andrea Lucacher gets her next boule while her team mates check who's in the

Photo by Sophie Braccini

French, Czech or Italians like Gino, a bocce champion who plays pétanque as well." Some, like Mary Albright, started to play the game while on vacation in France and, voilà, got hooked. Pétanque is played with

good strategy and you get an exciting game. On a recreational level, one can see a team made up of grandparents, parents, and children of all ages. It's as much entertainment as it is sport. Though recreational at heart, the Lamorinda Club

people can stop, watch, play and have a picnic." Thanks to Lafayette Parks and Recreation, who financed most of the project, the field is now ready for playing and will be officially inaugurated on April 22nd. It's the perfect opportunity to try your hand at pétanque, either on your own or with your whole family, while making new friends of all ages. "And do not worry about the boules," Mary Albright concludes, "We always bring a few bags of them for beginners to use."

Goodbye, Chief!

By Lee Borrowman
...continued from Page 1
Fisher has used the funds to upgrade the Department's equipment, purchasing high-tech shields and on-board computers with GPS units for the patrol cars which "will improve efficiency, especially at night. Some parts of Lafayette are difficult to navigate in the dark."

Fisher's biggest disappointment came when Measure P, the Police Services Parcel Tax of the 2006 election, did not get the 2/3 vote required for approval. The parcel tax would have provided funding for more patrol officers and the narcotics officer that Fisher felt would have been invaluable.

When asked what he plans to do on the first morning that he doesn't have to don the uniform and strap on the gun, Fisher replied, "Sleep in, of course!" Beyond that, Fisher says, "I'll probably do something else at some point, but I don't know what or where. I'll start by spending some time fishing and hanging out with my daughter."

Here's what we heard about Chief Fisher:

City Manager Steve Falk: "Mike Fisher has done an outstanding job for Lafayette. I will remember him for his integrity, his work ethic, and his total calm in the face of any storm. He has my thanks and appreciation."

Sergeant Roxane Gruenheid: "I have really enjoyed working with Chief Fisher. Under his command, the Lafayette Police Department has run smoothly. I have learned a great deal from him. Many of us feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to have worked with him."

Community Service Officer Cathy Surges-Moscato: "Chief Fisher is one of those people that you never want to retire and wish you could clone. He gets along with everyone and has such a great personality you just can't help but like him."

Everyone we spoke to said of the Chief, "He will be missed."

Accident Spurs Action

By Lee Borrowman
The third in a string of fatal automobile accidents in Lamorinda has prompted action. Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk said that Mayor Carol Federighi and new Police Chief Mike Hubbard plan to work with their counterparts in nearby towns to develop strategies for bringing speeds down throughout the area. A group of Acalanes parents has also mobilized to launch a Slow Down campaign on the streets near Acalanes High School. The most recent accident occurred in Lafayette on Thursday, March 22, when a BMW travelling at a high rate

of speed on Stanley Blvd. plowed into a line of cars waiting at the light at Pleasant Hill Rd. The impact caused the last vehicle in the line to be forced up and over several cars that were ahead of it and finally landed upside down. The driver of that car, 55-year-old Dale Zenor of Walnut Creek, did not survive the crash. Five other people were also injured, but none of the injuries were life-threatening.

Lafayette Police are continuing to investigate the accident and the driver of the BMW, reported to be 38-year-old Walnut Creek man

**Are you active in Town?
Do you enjoy attending Council
or Planning Meetings?**

**Become a Contributing Reporter
for the Lamorinda Weekly!**

**Your impartial reporting of issues is
more important than your previous
writing experience.**

**Email us at info@lamorindaweekly.com
or call 925-330-1983**

Confused by the Stock Market? We can help.

- Providing 25 years of sound, trustworthy financial advice in your local community.
- One of the Largest, 100% Fee Only, Independent Advisory Firms in LaMorinda.*
- Experienced professionals - CFP®, MBA, CMFC on staff

* 3/2007 AUM \$264MM, independent of banks, brokers or investment products.

Call now to schedule your Free Initial Meeting!
Phone: 925 - 299 - 1500 \$500,000 Portfolio Minimum

Capital Advantage, Inc.
A Wealth Management Firm
Retirement Planning & Investment Management Specialists

3708 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Suite 200, • Lafayette, California 94549 • www.CapitalAdvantage.com

animal house
PET & HOME CARE

**Spring Break Vacation Plans?
Going on a Ski Trip?**

Let us take the worry out of what to do with your home and pets while you are away.

- Pet Sitting
- Dog Walking
- Pet Taxi
- Home Watch/Security,
- Collect Mail and Newspapers
- Water Plants
- Insured and Bonded

925-254-3677 Office
925-368-8978 Cell
animal-house@comcast.net

since 1970
Lafayette
Call: (925) 930-7186

**Drainage Systems
French Drains**
Subterranean Water Problems
Retaining Walls / Excavation

P.O. Box 478; Lafayette 94549 www.devenzenzo.com

Sherman Swim School *skills for life*
Since 1961

Available to rent for parties!

swimming:
infants thru adults
private & semi-private
classes in 90° water

diving:
beginning thru advanced

sessions begin every 3 weeks
M-W-F or T-Th • day and evening classes

Voted "Family Favorite" by the Bay Area Parent Magazine

925-283-2100 1075 Carol Lane • Lafayette (off Mt. Diablo)
www.shermanswim.com