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Lafayette
Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, March 26, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Monday, March 19, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, March 26, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
in the Arts & Science Discovery
Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, March 21, 7:30 pm
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, April 11, 7:00 pm
LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, 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

Police Report



Estate of the Union, 2/21/12 An estate sale should earn money, not cost money. Unfortunately the homeowner/victim reported someone took an Apple Mac Book valued at \$1500 during their estate sale when no one was looking.

International Intrigue 2/22/12 A vacationing thief not only managed to steal someone's credit card information, they then used it in various locations in sunny Mexico. Losses of over \$3700 have been reported. Sounds like a 4-star hotel location and a hefty swim-up bar tab...

Shop Locally, 2/22/12 Still, some who steal credit information prefer to shop closer to home. An identity theft report taken by Lafayette police says someone opened an account and bought items from two local chain stores, and also shopped online.

Disappearing Cycle, 2/29/12 A Leap Year report was made about a thief who made off with a motorcycle. The bike had been parked in Lafayette since June. Imagine the owner's surprise when, upon arrival, nothing but the motorcycle cover remained.

Looking for Work in all the Wrong Places, 3/2/12 Police stepped in after a report of suspicious activity in one neighborhood. Two men and a woman who were walking the neighborhood on foot told a resident they were looking for a babysitting job. An officer dispatched to the scene was unable to locate the trio.

Since our first issue...

- Several projects are in various stages of review, but not yet built: luxury condominiums at The Woodbury, Signature Properties townhomes at the Hungry Hunter site, Eden Housing, Merrill Gardens, Town Center III behind Panda Express, Fenton's, The Terraces of Lafayette at the Christmas Tree Lot.
- Voters say YES to school funding three times, passing Measure B, Measure C and Measure E
- Voters say NO to road repair Measures C and G
- Permanent stage at the Reservoir was built by Lafayette Rotary Club
- Downtown Specific Plan was proposed, but still not finalized
- Acalanes Ridge Open Space collaboratively purchased in unique deal, open for hikers
- Fantastic Lafayette Library and Learning Center opens doors
- The Rink and a shiny new playground open at the Lafayette Community Park
- Proposed Bike Park still waiting on final environmental okay
- Council says NO to medical marijuana dispensaries in Lafayette

Water Facility Negotiations Continue

By Cathy Tyson



Larry Blodgett on the parcel in front of the store

Photo Cathy Tyson

Back in June of 2011, the City of Lafayette and EBMUD, the East Bay Municipal Utility District, agreed in concept on a land swap in order for EBMUD to move forward with preliminary planning for a new and vastly improved water pumping facility just down Mt. Diablo Boulevard from the existing Diablo Vista Pumping Plant between Ace

Hardware and Svensson Automotive.

EBMUD proposes trading the land where the 1950's era pumping plant is - for a currently unused right-of-way parcel next to the cemetery and in front of Blodgett's Abbey Carpet & Floor Covering. Once the new facility is built and functional, the City proposes turning that small constrained lot

next to Ace into badly needed parking. The proposed new location for the pumping plant is attractive to EBMUD because it's easily accessible for construction and is directly adjacent to major water pipelines.

While everyone agrees a reliable source of water is a good thing, the devil is in the details. One slightly messy detail is the ownership of the parcel in front of Blodgett's. Ownership of the parcel at the corner of Diablo Court and Mt. Diablo Boulevard was in limbo. Years ago when Highway 24 was widened to accommodate BART, the streets in that area were re-aligned. The newly created excess right-of-way land was never officially transferred from the County to the City of Lafayette as is the norm. "To rectify this, Contra Costa County has agreed to quitclaim the right-of-way to the City of Lafayette," noted a staff report that also finds the move consistent with the General Plan.

Future neighbor to the proposed project, Larry Blodgett of Blodgett's Abbey Carpet & Floor Covering on Diablo Court, has a few concerns, "I want to be a good neighbor," he says, but the possibility of future expansion of the plant and construction may have him worried. "I'm not opposed to the project - I get that it's for the greater good," but current uncertainties are troubling.

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The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applications to fill the following volunteer vacancies:

The Banner Advisory Committee meets as needed to insure that the downtown street pole banners are attractively designed, add color, vitality and design elements to downtown Lafayette.

The Lafayette Community Center Foundation is dedicated to renovating and improving the Lafayette Community Center. The Foundation was formed in 1983 to oversee the capital improvements and renovations necessary to transform the old Burton School into an active recreation center.

The Lafayette Crime Prevention Commission meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month to study safety issues in Lafayette and works to educate the public by coordinating the neighborhood watch and business alert programs, provides crime prevention tips to the local newspapers and supports the Child I.D. program.

Downtown Street Improvement Master Plan Implementation Committee (DSIMPIC) is charged with the implementation of the Downtown Street Improvement Master Plan that was adopted in 1988. The Plan guides developers and staff in making improvements to street frontage in downtown Lafayette to create a cohesive, positive visual image and provide amenities to make the downtown a comfortable, safe and enjoyable place.

The Emergency Preparedness Commission meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month to coordinate the preparation and planning efforts to mitigate the effects of natural and man-made disasters.

Senior Services Commission meets on the 4th Thursday of each month to develop programs focused on enhancing the well-being of Lafayette's older adults by identifying their concerns and needs; providing information about resources; and promoting community programs and services that enable them to live meaningful lives.

Individuals interested in these volunteer positions may obtain an application on-line at www.ci.lafayette.ca.us or call the main office at 284-1968 and an application will be mailed to you. If you have questions related to these volunteer positions please call Joanne Robbins, City Clerk at 299-3210.

Downtown Plan Rolling Toward Completion

By Cathy Tyson

By the looks of the Planning Commissioners, they are tucked out by the Downtown Specific Plan (DSP). Going on five years at this point, it's nearing the final portion of the review process; the Planning Commission will deliver its recommendations to the City Council in the coming months. Last week's Planning Commission meeting was dedicated to reviewing the final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Plan, and considering mitigation measures. Patience for the discussion was exhausted at 10:00 p.m., the meeting was finally adjourned, but the fun continues on March 19.

The Lafayette Homeowners Council has had concerns about the Downtown Specific Plan throughout the process.

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Correction

The February 29 story, "Planning Commission Weighs Balloons vs. Poles," should have stated that the Town Center III project will be condominiums and that Jed Bennett is a Project Manager with developer KB Home. We apologize for the errors.