

Tatzin Wins 2016 Outstanding Commissioner Award

By Pippa Fisher



Don Tatzin

Photo Pippa Fisher

The Statewide Local Agency Formation Commission recently honored Lafayette City Council member Don Tatzin with the 2016 Outstanding Commissioner achievement award.

The Lafayette City Council recognized Tatzin for his achievement at the Nov. 14 council meeting.

Not only has he spent 30 years on the Lafayette City Council, Tatzin also served on Contra Costa LAFCO since 1998 – initially as an alternate city representative, and since 2011, as a regular city member. LAFCOs are regional planning agencies located in all 58 counties of California.

Lou Ann Texeira, executive officer of Contra Costa LAFCO, presented the award at the city council meeting.

Mayor Mark Mitchell read aloud the nominating letter, which said that Tatzin exemplified the meaning of LAFCO in his ability to balance the competing interests of orderly growth and development while working to preserve agricultural and open-space lands.

In addition to multiple accomplishments for LAFCO, the letter went on, “He is a skilled facilitator (and) negotiator, and (is) always willing to listen to both sides.”

Tatzin commented, “There are many highly qualified and hard-working LAFCO commissioners throughout California. Being selected as Commissioner of the Year for the state was both a surprise and an honor.”

Happy Valley Road Pilot Parking Program to Start Dec. 1

By Pippa Fisher



Photo Pippa Fisher

Forty parking spaces on Happy Valley Road from the freeway to Deer Hill Road are about to be reserved for city of Lafayette residents only, as part of a pilot parking program.

The program is aimed at easing parking frustrations felt toward increasing numbers of BART riders from outside the neighborhood using the Lafayette station who take up parking spaces, leaving residents unable to find parking in their own city.

City Council member Traci Reilly came up with the idea to reserve spots for residents over a year ago when she attended a Parking Task Force meeting.

“I suggested that we require the residents to obtain a permit to allow them the use of the on-street parking,” she said. “Parking permits are common in other cities, so it seemed like a reasonable thing to try. The task force thought that it would be a good idea to give it a try for a limited time period and then assess its

usefulness.”

To sign up for the permit, residents may submit a form found on the city of Lafayette website or fill out a hard copy at the city offices located at 3675 Mount Diablo Blvd., Suite 210. Locals will have to register their car license plates and show their Department of Motor Vehicles registration card, confirming their Lafayette address.

While there is no cost for this permit, residents who are approved for a permit will still have to pay the parking meter adjacent to their parking space. It also does not guarantee space availability.

Permits are being issued to all qualified applicants. One hundred and six vehicles have been signed up for the program with some residents registering multiple cars. The program is set to begin on Dec. 1 and will run for an initial trial period of six months.

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