Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017

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#### Ho Ho Ho! Santa knows 'It's a Wonderful Life in Lafayette'

**By Pippa Fisher** 



Santa's visit last year

⊿ing the holiday season and kicking it off with its traditional "It's a Wonderful Life in Lafayette" celebration, featuring refreshments, 4:30 p.m. music, activities and, of course, starring the big man himself.

ing with children, ably assisted by Town Hall Elves. The fun, familyhosted by the Lafayette Chamber a police car with new toys. of Commerce. The event is spon-Green Team and Branagh Developenvironmentally friendly down- the celebration. town Lafayette twinkle lights for the 2017 Holiday Season.

Santa's "sleigh" for the event is -a great way to start the holidays! Lafayette's historic fire truck, Old

afayette is once again embrac- Betsy, which will parade along Golden Gate Way from the Lafayette Historical Society with a police escort, arriving in the Plaza Park at

The police department, which is partnering with the Lafayette Yes, that's right. Santa will be School District for its Second Anthere, checking his list and visit- nual Toy Drive, will be accepting donations during the festivities. This program collects toys for disfriendly, free party runs from 4 to tribution to those in need within the 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1 and is community. Residents can help fill

There will be an exhibition of sored by local realtors, The Dana holiday drawings by Lafayette's third-graders. Local student musiment, who together are hosting the cians will be providing music for

Residents always enjoy the community and the cheer of the The annual celebration includes season as they take advantage of the tree lighting, live music, a com- the photo-ops with Santa at this munity sing-a-long, and crafts. heart-warming Lafayette tradition

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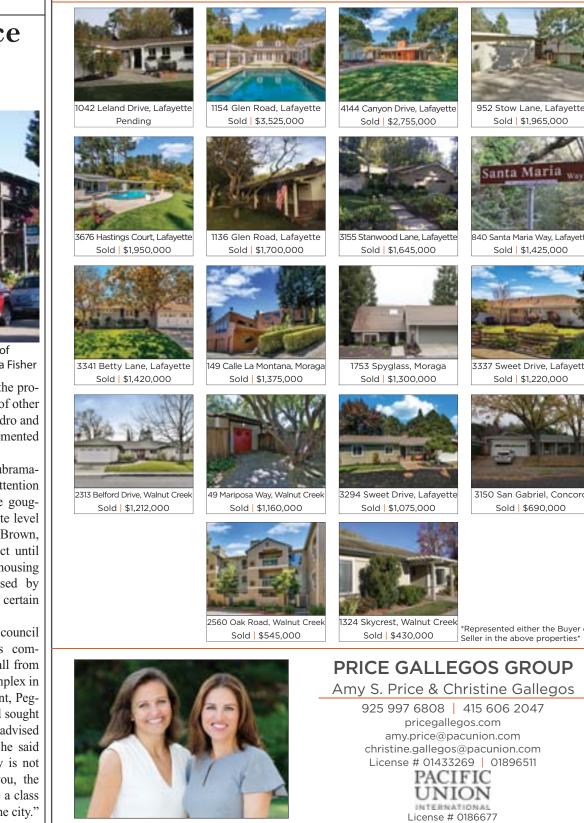


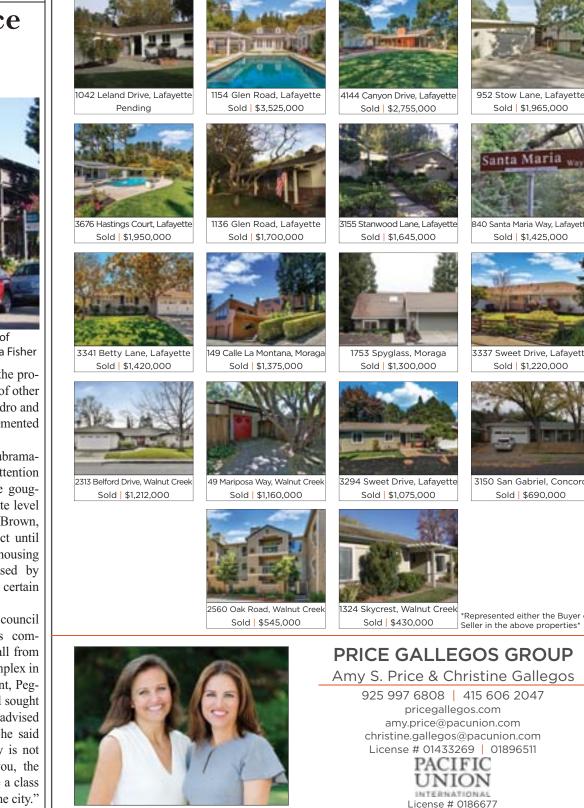
#### Sharing our Gratitude!

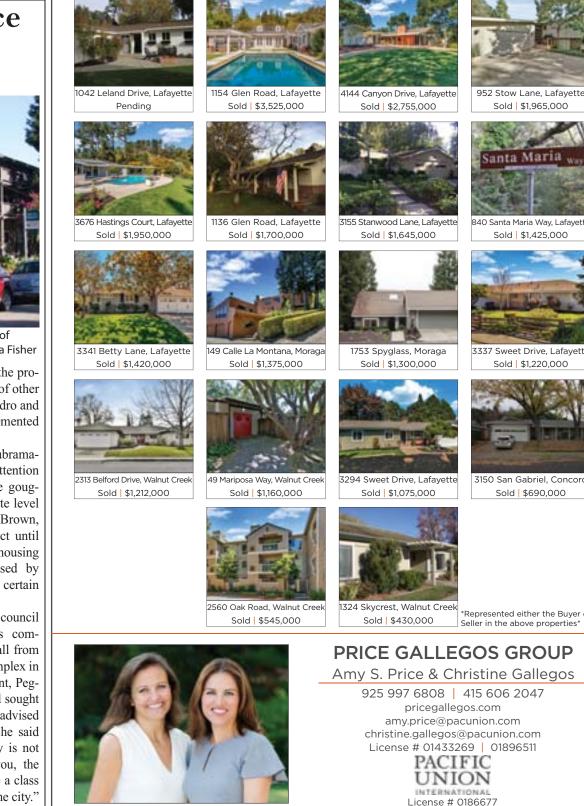
We are thankful to our clients who have entrusted us to buy or sell their homes in 2017. In the spirit of the holiday season we have made a donation to

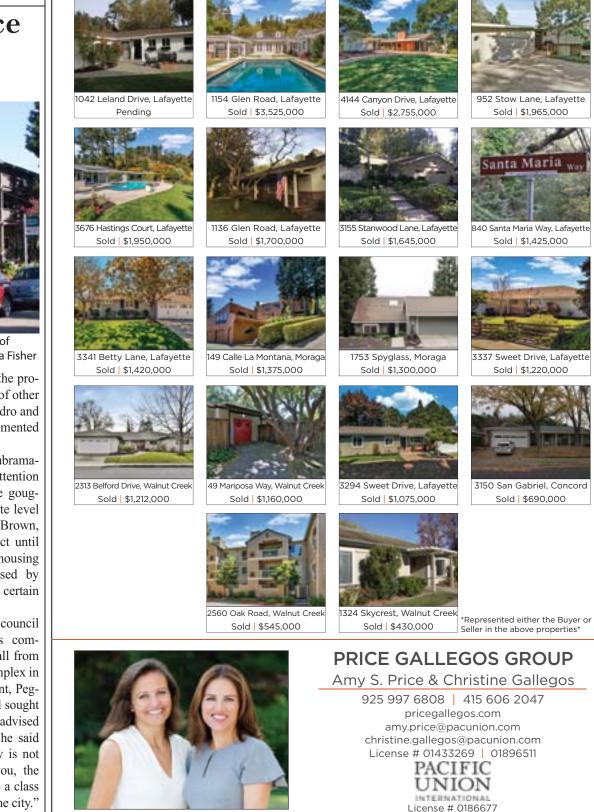
the Wine Country Fire Relief Fund.

Happy Holidays!









No rent review ordinance

### for Lafayette

**By Pippa Fisher** 



The apartment complex owned by Tilden Properties was the focus of discussion about rent at a recent city council meeting. Photo Pippa Fisher

at this time.

With only three members of similar programs. the council voting at the Nov. 13 ordinance, it was clear from the start that there could be no further action. Council members Ivor conflict of interest.

Nonetheless the council heard follow up from city staff on sever- meeting, several speakers comal points that had been raised at the September city council meeting.

At issue was whether the city should adopt an ordinance capping rent increases in complexes of 25 units or more at 10 percent.

Lafayette City Planning and Building Director Niroop Strivatsa presented the \$60,000 roughlyestimated costs of a rent review program (including the hiring of

afayette lawmakers fell short a part-time planner to run the proof the votes needed to adopt gram) and showed studies of other a residential rent review ordinance cities - Fremont, San Leandro and Concord - that have implemented

City Attorney Mala Subramacity council meeting and one of nian drew the council's attention them publicly opposed to such an to the recent ban on price gouging implemented at the state level by California Gov. Jerry Brown, which will remain in effect until Samson and Mark Mitchell had April, stating that rental-housing elected to recuse themselves from rates may not be increased by the discussion due to potential more than 10 percent, with certain exceptions.

> As at the September council plained of rent increases, all from the 1038 Second Street complex in Lafayette. One such resident, Peggy Pricco, said that she had sought legal advice and had been advised to consider legal action. She said she was told, "If your city is not willing to stand behind you, the legal action should become a class action and be inclusive of the city." ... continued on page A11