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Hanukkah celebrated at the Plaza

By Pippa Fisher



A crowd of over 200 gather to light the giant menorah on the first night of Hanukkah. Photo provided

The Lafayette Plaza was packed on the first night of Hanukkah as crowds gathered to light the menorah on the Jewish holiday that celebrates perseverance, faith and the power of light over darkness.

The annual event is sponsored by the Chabad Jewish Center of Lamorinda. The eight-day festival commemorates the Jews' victory over Greek rule more than 2,000 years ago. After driving out the powerful military, the Jews were able to rekindle the menorah in the Jerusalem temple – one day's worth of oil burned for eight nights.

Rabbi Israel Labkowski, regional director of Chabad Lubavitch of Lamorinda, encouraged the families who gathered around the giant menorah to bring

their own light by being kind and helping others.

"The ancient story has a modern message, especially for those weary of a seemingly endless stream of violence, corruption and crime," said Rabbi Mendel Weinfeld, a rabbinical student who came in from Brooklyn to help organize the event.

"There is so much darkness all around us, there are so many bad things around the world," Weinfeld said. "But if you bring even a little bit of light, just a tiny bit, the darkness is pushed away."

Families enjoyed songs and music as well as traditional Hanukkah food – potato latkes and jelly doughnuts.

Dana Green named Lafayette's Business Person of the Year

By Pippa Fisher



Dana Green Photo provided

This year's Business Person of the Year award goes to Lafayette realtor Dana Green.

Last year's Business Person of the Year together with both the Chamber's outgoing board presi-

dent and the incoming board president selected Green from a list of seven nominees. Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson says that they could not ask for a better representative.

"Dana models excellence for every question we ask about our nominees," says Lifson. "She runs a successful business, is involved with the community, helps maintain and enhance quality of life in Lafayette, and makes us proud to be a member of this community."

The award will be formally presented at a dinner on Feb. 2. Registration details can be found on the chamber website at <http://www.lafayettechamber.org/event/business-person-year-2018-dinner/>.

Outgoing Mayor Mike Anderson praised for ruling with decorum and grace

By Pippa Fisher



Outgoing Mayor Mike Anderson receives a proclamation from Supervisor Candace Andersen. Photo Pippa Fisher

Supervisor Candace Andersen presented outgoing Mayor Mike Anderson with a proclamation recognizing his third term as mayor.

Andersen noted that while La-

fayette has been quiet this past year compared to the other cities in Lamorinda with no sinkholes or collapsed bridges,

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Happy Holidays From The Hood Group

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