



**Public Meetings**  
**City Council**  
 Tuesday, Oct. 9, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Planning Commission**  
 Monday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Design Review**  
 Tuesday, Oct. 9, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
 Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**School Board Meetings**  
**Acalanes Union High School District**  
 Wednesday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m.  
 AUHSD Board Room  
 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
 www.acalanes.k12.ca.us  
**Lafayette School District**  
 Wednesday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m.  
 Regular Board Meeting  
 District Office Board Room  
 3477 School St., 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

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## City settles with Save Lafayette for \$650K to cover legal fees

By Nick Marnell

In a settlement agreement approved by the city council, Lafayette agreed to pay \$650,000 in legal fees to the attorney representing Save Lafayette, a nonprofit that supports slow growth and the preservation of the city's semirural character. The settlement capped a legal fight over the Deer Hill Road housing development that has gone on for years.

To facilitate the Deer Hill development with the O'Brien Land Company, the city passed an ordinance in 2015 changing the parcel zoning designation from office buildings and administra-

tive to allow the construction of 44 single-family homes. Save Lafayette filed a referendum petition challenging the ordinance, but the city refused to repeal the ordinance or put it up to popular vote. The nonprofit sued the city, lost, then won on appeal, and Lafayette placed the Homes at Deer Hill referendum on the ballot in June. Voters rejected the ordinance.

The court set a November date for a hearing on the resolution of a claim by Save Lafayette for its legal fees, but the city agreed to settle on Sept. 10.

"We were fighting for the public's right to vote," said Michael Griffiths, spokesman for Save Lafayette. "The city's goal was to deny the right to vote, and we knew they would lose."

Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin said the city did not put the moratorium on the ballot immediately because it relied on case law that had been overturned. "Because Save Lafayette won, we had to make the payment," Tatzin said.

Typically, when a municipality approves a project like the Homes at Deer Hill, the applicant indemnifies the municipality re-

garding the costs of litigation or referendums related to the project. Per the settlement agreement, O'Brien was required to indemnify Lafayette for the expenses, costs and fees the city incurred in the lawsuit.

According to Jennifer Wakeman, Lafayette financial services manager, the city received a \$650,000 check from O'Brien on Sept. 19, and the city paid that same amount to the Save Lafayette attorney, Gary Garfinkle, the next day.

## Hardware problems delay major intersection technology upgrade

By Nick Marnell

Signaling improvements to the major Lafayette intersection that everyone loves to hate have been pushed back indefinitely until the city receives and calibrates the proper hardware from an outside vendor.

In May, the city council reaffirmed support for the Downtown Congestion Reduction Plan strategy to test a second northbound right-turn lane at the intersection of

Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard, and also authorized signal technology upgrades at that intersection and the First Street - Mt. Diablo Boulevard intersection. The project was expected to be completed in early August.

But the city ran into problems with its hardware vendor, Western Pacific Signal of San Leandro. The company agreed to provide the project hardware to the city within

two weeks under terms of a \$59,400 professional services agreement executed on July 9. Blaming complications with one of its suppliers, Western did not deliver the hardware until Aug. 24. The city tested the equipment and found that its installed computer chips were out of date.

The city sent a letter to Western Pacific demanding that the company correct the traffic signal control-

ler and computer processing unit issues. Western offered to send new hardware to the city, but according to James Hinkamp, city transportation planner, no tangible product exchange or transaction has taken place since a Sept. 25 conversation with the company.

"While we are hopeful this accelerates the project implementation from this day forward, we cannot provide a specific timeline until

we can calibrate the new equipment," Hinkamp said, because even when the order is finally delivered, the city will have to verify the specifications for system compatibility.

Until then, a right turn onto Mt. Diablo Boulevard from northbound Moraga Road can be navigated from only the far right hand lane.

## A quick Q&A with County Superintendent of Schools candidates

By John T. Miller



Lynn Mackey Photos provided



Cheryl Hansen

Lamorinda Weekly reached out to Lynn Mackey and Cheryl Hansen, who will be facing each other in the upcoming Nov. 6 election for County Superintendent of Schools, about various topics involving education.

**LW: What are you most proud of as an educator?**

**Mackey:** I am proud of the work I have done to help students in our County get back on track, return to their district school, receive diplomas, enter college, and start careers. In my role at the County Office, I have developed partnerships with educational agencies such as the Community College District and community based organizations to bring services to students throughout the county. I am proud of my work, when, former students who had been unsuccessful in their district school and ended up in juvenile hall, say to me "Do you remember me? You were my principal and you helped me get my diploma."

**Hansen:** I am proud of my contributions and dedication to the success of all students, from the most fragile to the most independent, in my roles as educator, from classroom teacher, to principal, to County Office of Education administrator to School Board President.

As a three-time MDUSD Board President, I provided leadership changing the district culture to a

positive, forward thinking organization that attracts and supports the best staff, where students receive a comprehensive education preparing them for college and careers. I helped improve employee salaries and benefits, lifting MDUSD to one of the top three districts in Contra Costa, while maintaining a balanced budget.

As a County Office administrator, I developed and led credentialing and leadership training for over 1,700 administrators throughout the county and state, and provided professional development to our county's special education teachers to increase support for students with special needs.

As principal, I opened and led a new comprehensive high school in Fairfield-Suisun now serving more than 2,000 students.

**LW: What are your qualifications?**

**Hansen:** I am the only candidate with a breadth of authentic experience and proven leadership, from classroom teacher, to principal, to CCCOE administrator to school board president.

I have firsthand knowledge gained from 10 years as an administrator with the CCCOE, and have a deep understanding of districts, having served as vice principal, assistant principal and principal in three diverse K-12 districts. My experience has earned me the trust

and respect of educators throughout the county.

As a current MDUSD board trustee, my record of organizational change, educational advocacy, governance expertise, and development of community partnerships makes me uniquely qualified to lead the CCCOE forward.

**Mackey:** As deputy superintendent I have a deep understanding of the role and responsibility of the superintendent. In addition to being a school administrator in Alameda County, I have worked at every level of the Office of Education over the past 21 years. My long tenure at the County Office is a result of the quality of my work. I have been consistently selected for steady promotion from classroom teacher, to principal, and director

of large departments, before being appointed deputy superintendent. I have worked in departments from early education to adult education and everything in between. I am active on local and state levels in the work of statewide County Offices of Education, and have sat on a number of boards and committees. I have the experience to keep continuity, and the passion and enthusiasm to effect change that will lead to the future.

**LW: What do you see as problems facing Contra Costa County Schools and how do you propose to fix them?**

**Mackey:** One of the top concerns is the financial health of the districts, with rising costs and flat funding. Many districts struggle to keep their most promising pro-

grams. Although the issue of funding is not one that the County Superintendent can "fix" unilaterally, I will ensure our agency works collaboratively with every district in the county to ensure their fiscal health. I am committed to providing high quality and cost effective services. I will continue to advocate for adequate funding for all of our classrooms.

Another area of concern across all districts is balancing the social-emotional learning of students with academic achievement. I will support our districts and the County Office programs by ensuring social emotional learning is given a high level of support through the county office, focusing on the whole student.

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