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**Clearing the confusion around teen drug use**

By Pippa Fisher

What are the roles, responsibilities, rules and consequences surrounding underage substance use? For many parents of teens there is much confusion about the roles played by police and schools. The Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention Team of Lamorinda is hosting an evening of education from 7 to 8:30 p.m. May 7 in the Don Tatzin Community Center at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center to address these questions and others.

The discussion focusing on how parents, schools and law enforcement can partner together to reduce underage sub-

stance use and keep kids safe, will be facilitated by a panel of experts in the field including those from Lamorinda police and the Acalanes Union High School District.

Additionally the Drug Enforcement Administration will be presenting a real-life teen bedroom scenario – parents will be invited to see what can be “hidden in plain sight,” as they search for the prehidden drug paraphernalia and signs of risky behavior, often overlooked by parents.

ADAPT Lamorinda Program Director Jaime Rich says that this event will provide a unique opportunity for community members to hear from

representatives of the two main local entities – law enforcement and schools – that touch young people when it comes to alcohol and other drugs.

“Local parents have expressed confusion over consequences for our teens when it comes to offenses that involve alcohol and other drugs. We will outline what these consequences are when it comes to schools and the greater Lamorinda community. How do law enforcement and the schools intersect and when don’t they?” says Rich, adding, “We will also

share information on the roles of parents in this realm.”

Rich says DEA representatives will also be sharing what they are seeing locally and beyond.

Quoting from the California Healthy Kids Survey, Rich says that 25 percent of 11th graders report currently using electronic cigarette or vaping devices, which she explains is a two-fold increase from the last CHKS data.

“Most of that use is reportedly for marijuana or THC,” says Rich. “Thirty-four percent

of 11th-graders report having consumed alcohol in the past 30 days (above the state average); 27 percent of 11th-graders report having used marijuana in the past 30 days; 23 percent of 11th-graders think there is no harm in smoking marijuana occasionally; 36 percent of ninth-graders and 48 percent of 11th-graders report that it is very easy to obtain alcohol.” She also noted that 24 percent of ninth-graders and 49 percent of 11th-graders think it is very easy to obtain marijuana.

Those planning on attending the free event should reserve their place by going to [www.eventbrite.com/e/we-are-all-in-this-together-a-lamorinda-town-hall-tickets-60222437933](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/we-are-all-in-this-together-a-lamorinda-town-hall-tickets-60222437933).

**Mike Anderson takes over as mayor**



Photo Jeff Heyman/City of Lafayette

Vice Mayor Susan Candell and Mayor Mike Anderson

By Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette City Council voted unanimously to appoint Mike Anderson as mayor and Susan Candell as vice mayor effective immediately at its April 22 meeting.

Former Mayor Cam Burks stepped down from the position on April 20, citing work and family reasons. He has just taken a new career opportunity and said in his announcement April 8 that he would no longer have the time to commit to the position 100-plus percent. He intends to remain on the council for the remainder of his term, which ends in 2020.

Anderson is no stranger to the position of mayor, having served three rounds in that capacity: 2007-08, 2012-13, and 2016-17. He was first elected in 2005. Anderson’s current term ends in 2020.

Vice Mayor Susan Candell is serving her first term on the council. She was elected in 2018. Her term expires in 2022.

**Another group graduates from the Citizens’ Police Academy**



Photo Pippa Fisher

Participants of the most recent Citizens' Police Academy presented the chief with a check for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

By Pippa Fisher

The spring session of the Citizens’ Police Academy ended with a graduation during the April 22 Lafayette City Council meeting. And as a surprise gesture of thanks and appreciation, the class presented the police chief with a check for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in his honor.

Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt officiated over the graduation for this group, his second academy since he took over as chief just over a year ago.

The Citizens’ Police Academy is an opportunity for residents to learn how the police department functions. Participants attend six evening sessions, plus a Saturday session on the gun range and cover a wide array of topics, including criminal justice, traffic operations, investigations, use of force, a tour of a crime lab and a jail tour. All get to drive a police car, fire a gun and complete a four-hour ride-a-long with an officer. It does not certify

participants as police officers.

Alldritt explained that this session comprised a broad spectrum of residents including working and retired professionals, and people who have worked in emergency preparedness, as well as one resident who had told Alldritt that he was there because he had recently retired and his wife signed him up. Alldritt thanked crime prevention commissioners Denise Brown and Judie Peterson who, together with Police Community Services Officer Cathy Surges-Moscato, he said, make the academy happen. He explained that he values the academy as a chance to educate, share and receive feedback.

“For me and for our staff it’s always just a great opportunity for us to engage with folks from our community that have an interest in a variety of topics – law enforcement, emergency preparedness and crime prevention –


... continued on Page A10



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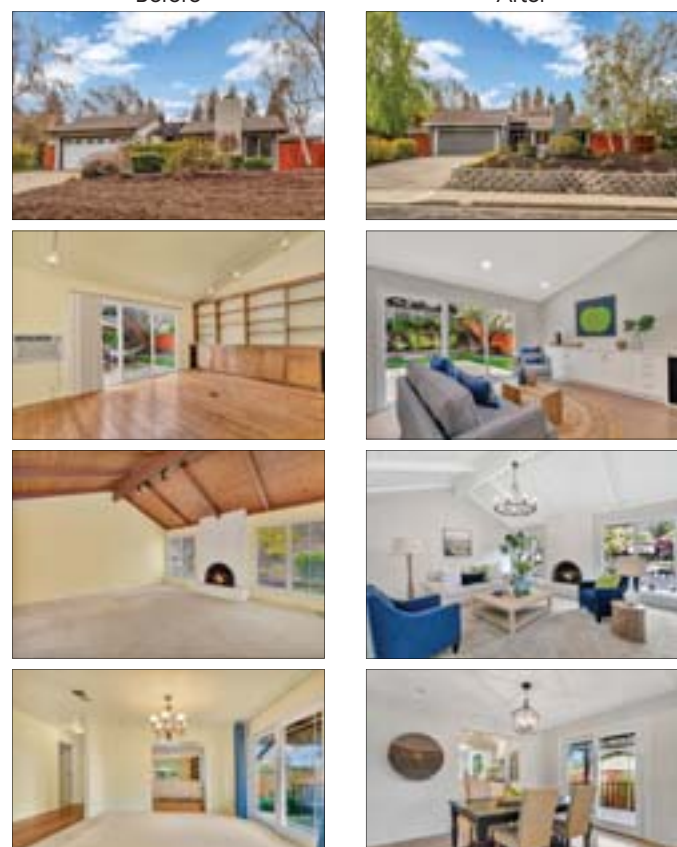
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**Lafayette Public Meetings**

**Planning Commission**  
 Monday, May 6, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**  
 Monday, May 13, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**City Council**  
 Monday, May 13, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
 Wednesday, May 1, 7 p.m.  
 AUHSD Board Room  
 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
[www.acalanes.k12.ca.us](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us)

**Lafayette School District**  
 Wednesday, May 22, 7 p.m.  
 Regular Board Meeting  
 District Office Board Room  
 3477 School St., Lafayette  
[www.lafsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lafsd.k12.ca.us)