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City council candidates share their views on Lafayette hot topics



Carl Anduri Photos provided



Cam Burks



Gina Dawson



Farschad Farzan

By Pippa Fisher

Four candidates, Carl Anduri, Cam Burks (incumbent), Gina Dawson and Farschad Farzan, contest three seats on the Lafayette city council in the upcoming election. Lamorinda Weekly asked for their comments on three questions. **Lamorinda Weekly:** With the General Plan update that will influence the city for the next 20 years now getting underway, which of the following issues

concerning land use, housing, downtown vibrancy, open space, and safety are most important to you and why?
Candidates: "All the issues are important and interrelated," says Dawson, a statement echoed by all candidates. "Together they define a community," says Anduri, noting that safety from both crime and natural disaster, especially

wildfire, must be a factor in every decision. He says that downtown vibrancy is essential to the city's financial health and to the sense of community, together with protecting open space that he says will be under greater pressure over the next 20 years.
 Anduri notes that land use and housing present potential for conflict within the community and are issues that will require the most leadership and a thoughtful, collaborative approach.

Farzan and Burks draw attention to housing laws being imposed from the state capitol. Simply put, says Farzan, "There are local issues we have to consider when we are updating our General Plan." While recognizing the need for housing, he says, "We also have to protect our small community with local control because housing issues in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Lafayette are not

the same."
 Burks points to his record as a council member of fighting the legislature through lobbying and coalition-building, on what he refers to as "the overzealous, 75-mile screwdriver of a state legislature ... intent on assuming absolute power over our planning process and department, with no regard for a jobs/housing balance."
 Burks notes too that the selection process for the GP update is important. "It's critical that we first select a diverse community team to lead our effort."
 Dawson considers safety a priority. "Utility and infrastructure maintenance, traffic impacts on emergency response times, and an increase of fires and other natural disasters from climate change are all issues that our community should tackle to preserve our homes, protect our downtown vibrancy, and safeguard our community," says Dawson.
 ... continued on Page A11

AUHSD set to continue Free Community Meals Program



Photo provided

The Campo food service team, from left: Jessica Arone, Lead Steven Nelsen, Irma Aviles, Tume Bayar and Maria Pena.

By Pippa Fisher

The hard-working food service staff throughout the Acalanes Union High School District is happy to make its free Grab and Go breakfast and lunch meals available once again during distance learning to any child aged between 1 and 18 years old, no matter where they live and with no identification required.
 The program officially started again on Sept. 8 and will be offering meals to pick up Monday through Friday on

school days between 7:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. from all four high schools in the AUHSD.
 AUHSD Food Services and Safety Coordinator Rebecca Ward explains that since the district went to distance learning at the start of the shelter-in-place back in March food services staff provided upwards of 1,500 meals a day to children across the Bay Area operating three days per week out of Las Lomas and Campolindo high schools. Usually during the regular school year they are restricted to serving only students within the district.

"We were one of the only districts in the area doing it," says Ward, going on to say how amazing the staff were, giving up their month-long summer break to keep the program going over the summer.
 Operating under strict USDA guidelines, Ward says that the AUHSD Food Services teams are grateful and proud to be able to offer free, nutritious meals to any child under 18 years old in need during this very stressful time. "We are dedicated to supporting our communities."

More information is available at www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=2601160046326731



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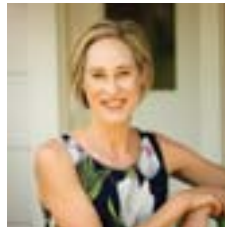



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