

Close race for Lafayette council seats

By Pippa Fisher

A tight race for the top three city council positions saw only a few hundred votes between incumbent Cam Burks, Carl Anduri, and Gina Dawson.

As of Nov. 6, Burks (8,964 votes) led the way with

28.56% of the votes, very closely followed by Anduri (8,881 votes) with 28.29% – a difference of only 83 votes. Dawson (8,312 votes) came in with 26.48%. Together they edged out Farschad Farzan (5,232 votes) who garnered 16.67% of the votes.

Final results will be certified Dec. 3.

Business comings and goings in Lafayette amid the pandemic

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In fact Sparkles & Joy is hoping to expand beyond just the Lamorinda area into Walnut Creek. However, she notes they have lost several customers. “In asking for feedback with regards to cancellations, they have stated economic hardship for their families.”

Despite Hansen’s personal

decision to close her bridal business, she reflects on how humbled and honored she has been to help customers find their wedding dress over the years.

“Now more than ever the emphasis should be on shopping local, to support small businesses,” says Hansen.

Further details on Sparkles & Joy can be found at www.sparklesandjoy.com/

High School district to ‘de-densify’ campuses in January

By Sophie Braccini

The Acalanes Union High School District confirmed that it will reopen classrooms for all students on a hybrid model this January, unless the pandemic worsens. The district will follow the safety protocols mandated by the state and recommended by the district public health department. In order to make sure that the social distancing between students, and between students and staff is maintained, only half of the students will be allowed at any given time on sites – called “de-densifying” the campuses.

John Nickerson, AUHSD superintendent, at the Nov. 4 board meeting detailed the measures that have already been set in place and will intensify as more and more students are invited to return to school. The first is the everyday passive pre-screening protocol that requires everyone to respond to a series of questions each day they plan to go to school. This system that banks on people’s sense of responsibility gives a green light or red light depending on the answers to basic health questions such as temperature or exposure to a sick person. Flashing that daily green light on a phone will be required to have access to the high schools.

The superintendent reiterated that masks covering mouth and nose would be required at all times. He detailed how classrooms will be

reconfigured for social distancing, how staff would be protected with plexiglass partitions, and how bathrooms had been modified to restrict the number of people inside at one point. Nickerson also described the improvement to the HVAC systems that had been conducted over the summer in the four high school campuses. MERV 13 filtration systems found in hospitals were installed, as well as Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization devices.

Students will be asked to clean their desks and touched surfaces as they move from one classroom to the next. Nickerson explained that additional custodians were being hired to completely sanitize the schools once daily, but that the help of students will be needed during the day.

Each school will have a team in charge of contact tracing. If a student or staff member is found positive for COVID-19, they will be quarantined for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or positive testing. The team will contact the people with whom the infected person spent more than 15 minutes in close contact over a 24-hour period. These people will have to quarantine for 15 days. The identity of the infected person will remain confidential. Board member Dr. Christopher Severson, who works with COVID patients, will be discussing with health authorities ways to refine the tracing protocol for the high school district.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Nov. 23, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette’s YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Don Tatzin Community Hall

Design Review

Design Review Commission and Planning Commission Special Joint Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7 p.m. Zoom Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

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The world has been through so much this year. May this holiday season be filled with love, hope, and joy, through your friends and family and may you be thankful for all that you have been blessed with. I am grateful for all of the love and support from all of you! My takeaway from the last 10 months is this:

Love God and Love People.

Your Strategic Partner

When you’re preparing your home for market, it makes sense to assess what improvements can be made so that you’re not leaving money on the table at closing. But what are those improvements? Let’s work together well before a sale so that you can benefit from my expertise as a strategic partner!

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517 Silverado Drive, Lafayette
4 Bed | 2 Baths | ±1,927 Sq Ft | ± .4 Acre | \$1,495,000 | 517SilveradoDrive.com

This lovingly maintained Burton Valley home enjoys a wonderful kitchen open to the family room, separate living room, fluid floorplan and a serene setting. The .40 acre property was designed by Henry Matsutani, the chief designer of the restored Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park, highlighting natural landscape, calmness, and beauty.

Lisa Brydon & Kristi Ives
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