



V LAFAYETTE VISTAS

Published by the City of Lafayette

Spring 2017
Vol. 27, No. 2

CITY/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP IS STRONG

The City's best bet is to keep the schools healthy

Many Lafayette residents say they moved here for two reasons: green hills and great schools. That five-word statement, in fact, rings so tidy and so true that the City prints it on banners that hang up and down the Boulevard every spring.

The tagline also reflects the basic structure of local government in Lafayette, with voters electing members to separate governing boards that manage the school districts and the city. Given how different the missions of these boards are, one might not think there would be much overlap or coordination between the organizations – but there is!

Staffers and elected officials from the City of Lafayette and the Lafayette School District meet regularly to coordinate many activities, with most issues related to public safety concerns. For instance, over the last two years, the City Engineer and the Police Chief have worked with School Principals at each campus to develop traffic circulation and parking plans that optimize drop-off times and flow-through traffic while maximizing student safety.

The City and the Lafayette School District also share the cost of several crossing guards that patrol City crosswalks each morning and afternoon.

Schools are our most important instruments of social justice

In a less visible but equally important effort, Police Chief Eric Christensen works with school administrators to manage an active City-wide youth diversion program that seeks to keep our kids out of trouble. Officers regularly visit school campuses to inform students about the serious consequences that occur from making bad choices. And, in those very rare instances when local kids do break the law, our police intervene on a one-on-one basis. Rather than send them to the Martinez juvenile detention facility, the program's goal is to address the issues of wayward youth right here in Lafayette, sparing them the destructive consequences that a criminal record would deliver.

The Lafayette School District and the Acalanes Union High School District also work cooperatively with the City to prepare for emergencies and disasters. During the last several years, the agencies have participated in several full-scale real-time SWAT exercises, active shooter drills, and earthquake response simulations, with staff all working side-by-side.

In one very fine mutual effort, the City of Lafayette recently agreed to sell the old library, located at 952 Moraga Road, to the Lafayette School District. Since the old and unused building sits adjacent to the burgeoning Lafayette Elementary School, all parties agreed that this deal was the best outcome for both agencies. After having the building's value estimated by an independent third-party appraiser, the School District agreed to purchase the old library building and property from the City for \$2.0M. The transaction should be completed by the end of 2017, and the District is now working up a master plan for incorporating the property into the Lafayette Elementary School campus.

Public schools are Lafayette's greatest asset. They make our students literate and provide grounding in science, social studies, reading, writing, math, and other fields essential to civic discourse. They prepare students to live in an increasingly complex society and to make the ethical, well-reasoned decisions that a functioning democracy requires. Our schools are our most important instruments of social justice, delivering promise to children from all backgrounds and experiences.



The old library, at 952 Moraga Road.

In many communities, there is little contact or cooperation between the schools and the civic organization, but that's not been Lafayette's history, and it's not the Lafayette way. While other cities might chase auto malls and big box stores as an economic development strategy, Lafayette recognizes that its best bet is to keep the public schools healthy and strong – hence the “Great Schools / Green Hills” banners that adorn our street lamps every spring – and the ongoing cooperation between the school districts and the City.

NEW SCULPTURE FOR ROUNDAABOUT



Curious what kind of art may go in the new roundabout on Pleasant Hill at Olympic Blvd.? On May 8th, the City Council accepted the Public Art Committee's recommendation for "Resolve," by local Walnut Creek artist, David Mudgett. "Resolve" will feature a 16-foot tall arrangement of eight, corten steel dodecahedrons dynamically balanced atop a concrete pedestal. (What is a dodecahedron, you ask? It's a 12 sided object.)

The artist states, "...throughout the daylight hours, natural light will filter through the cutouts in a playful manner. At night, with an array of strategically placed lights, the sculpture (will) take on a more dramatic role."

The PAC selected David Mudgett from an original list of nine artists, narrowed down to four, then down to two finalists. Ultimately, the PAC agreed with 121 residents who submitted comments online and at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. The people favored "Resolve" because, with its rusted patina, it was most consistent with the City's semi-rural ethos.

The budget for the project is \$150,000, and it will be constructed and installed by the end of 2017.

I HAVE AN ANIMAL ISSUE! WHO DO I CALL?



Remember that one time you came home to find a skunk in your garage, and you didn't know what to do? Or maybe it was while you were driving and you saw a horse running loose? Who do you call when you've got an animal problem? To answer these questions, we've put together the following handy chart.

WHAT DO I DO ABOUT THIS ANIMAL PROBLEM?

If this is the problem:	CALL:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Any animals in attic or crawlspace ■ Rats ■ Mice ■ Pigeons ■ Squirrels ■ Gophers ■ Moles 	<p>Local Pest Control Companies Vector control can inspect and offer advice, but removal is done by pest control companies.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Animal cruelty or nuisance investigations ■ Animal bites and attacks, including those caused by wildlife ■ Picking up sick, injured, or deceased animals in your neighborhood ■ Raccoons or bats inside your house or sick bats that you may find on the ground. These animals may have rabies. ■ Livestock and animal rescue ■ Rattlesnakes 	<p>Contra Costa County Animal Services (CCAS) PHONE: 925-608-8400 WEBSITE: http://www.ccasd.org</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Beaver ■ Mountain Lions ■ Deer ■ Wild Turkeys ■ Foxes 	<p>California Department of Fish & Wildlife PHONE: 916-445-0411 WEBSITE: https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mosquitoes and mosquitofish ■ Swarm control and ground-nest yellowjackets and bees ■ Skunks in house 	<p>Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District PHONE: 925-771-3484 WEBSITE: www.ContraCostaMosquito.com</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Deceased animals on the freeway 	<p>Caltrans PHONE: 213-897-3656</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Injured wildlife 	<p>Lindsay Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital PHONE: (925) 935-1978 WEBSITE: https://lindsaywildlife.org/found-animal/</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dead birds 	<p>If you find a dead bird, particularly a crow, jay, magpie, raven, sparrow, finch, or raptor, please file an online report at www.westnile.ca.gov or call toll-free 1-877-968-2473 (1-877-WNV-BIRD).</p>

LAFAYETTE, OUR ALLIES, AND “NOUS VOILA...”

Contributed by Richard Korb

We were in Lafayette the other day to take our 4-legged daughter on a walk. The town is charming and it got me thinking about the man “Lafayette,” his unique contribution to this country, and how we tend to forget that our relationship with our allies is not a one-way street.

The year was 1777. As the fledgling American army suffered a series of setbacks and settled in to the winter camp at Valley Forge, one man remained undaunted. While many thought their cause was lost, he was certain of victory. Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert Du Motier, also known as the Marquis de La Fayette, had crossed the ocean to participate in the dream of a free nation. He wasn't about to let that dream end.

Only 19 years old, Lafayette's money, friends, and association with the French crown helped him secure a title of “major-general” in the American forces, but it was a paper title. It was left to George Washington to determine if this young Frenchman could fight. It didn't take Washington long to determine that Lafayette was not only courageous, idealistic but an excellent strategist. Washington and Lafayette became fast friends – a friendship that would endure for a lifetime – and after he led a small group to victory over a superior force of British soldiers and Hessian mercenaries, the young outsider was given command of a division of American volunteers. He commanded his men with a skill Washington called “masterly,” and received an award from Congress for his bravery.

Throughout that horrible winter at Valley Forge, though Lafayette might have retreated to better quarters in town or used his wealth to rent a nearby home, he stayed in a tent, sharing the awful conditions with his men. He fought beside Washington that winter and again that spring before returning to France to help secure agreements between his home country and the fledgling country for which he had drawn his sword.

Washington credited Lafayette with saving the army more than once. His zeal for the American forces extended beyond the battlefield. When the young republic ran short of funds to pay the soldiers, Lafayette borrowed money on his own to pay his men. For sharing their hardships, for his bravery in battle, and for the concern he showed them all, his men loved him.

Lafayette's last action in the war was also the last action of the war – the siege of Yorktown. He was again in command of his own troops, working again under the command of his friend Washington, when the American forces, aided by the French fleet, forced General Cornwallis to surrender.

Once the war was won, Lafayette returned to France. There he played a critical role in the French Revolution, but was forced to flee in disappointment as hopes of emulating the American experiment led first to bloodshed, then to a restored monarchy, Napoleon's empire, and monarchy again.



In 1824, he returned to America. To say that he was welcomed back with enthusiasm would be an understatement. Huge crowds turned out. Nearly 80% of the population of New York City pressed to the docks to greet him. Everywhere he went, there were parties and grand celebrations. He ventured across the country as far as St. Louis, and all along his route parks, streets, cities, and counties were named in his honor.

Lafayette returned to France and died in 1834. He was buried in the Cimetière de Picpus outside of Paris. His coffin was covered in dirt carried over the Atlantic Ocean from Bunker Hill.

In World War I, as United States forces arrived in France, a contingent of General Pershing's forces hurried to the Cimetière de Picpus soon after their arrival. There they knelt on the transplanted American soil that covered one of America's great heroes. It was Lieutenant Colonel Charles E. Stanton who said what they all felt: Lafayette, nous voilà!...Lafayette, we are here.

They had come to repay the debt of a grateful country to a man who had no small part in its birth.

LAFAYETTE IS A GREAT PLACE! OFFICIALLY, THAT IS.

Each year, the California Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) hands out its *Great Places in California Awards*. A Great Place in California is one that exemplifies character, quality, and excellent planning. It can be anywhere from the beach to the mountains, from a large city to a small community. It can be a vibrant downtown, a suburban gathering place, a historic small town, a public park, or a preserved open space. Most importantly, says the APA, “it must be a place where people want to be!” Only three awards were granted in 2017 – and Lafayette was one of them! One quote

from the notification: “The jury was highly impressed with the City's efforts to concentrate growth in its increasingly vibrant downtown area and to preserve the City's natural hillsides as a sustainable, multi-purpose resource that defines the character of the City.” The award was delivered to the Mayor and Planning Director at the APA Annual Awards Gala on June 2nd at Preservation Park in Oakland. A big thanks goes out to Lafayette resident Steve Noak, who not only suggested that the City apply for the award but also volunteered and wrote the first draft of the application.





City of Lafayette
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lafayette, CA
Permit No. 161

Postal Customer
Lafayette, CA 94549

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

This spring, the Assistance League of Diablo Valley celebrates fifty years of caring and commitment to Contra Costa County. The local branch of the nonprofit, run entirely by volunteers, was established in 1967 in Walnut Creek, but it wasn't until 1978 that the group took over Lafayette's historic Wayside Inn and converted it into a thrift shop.



That quaint old hotel, built in 1894, continues to make history, now as the primary fundraiser for the Assistance League's activities throughout the County. While it's not obvious that selling a few blouses for \$5 and an occasional cast iron frypan would add up to much, it does: this year, the Assistance League will net \$500,000 from the Wayside Inn!

All of that money goes to good use. Volunteers for the Assistance League use the proceeds, most famously, to fund their *Operation School Bell* program. What started in 1994 by providing 67 needy students with clothing has blossomed into something much bigger, and the Assistance League now estimates that it has provided clothing and school supplies to an astonishing 50,000 Contra Costa students over the last 23 years.

While the Assistance League of Diablo Valley is just one of 120 chapters of the Assistance League – a national nonprofit organization that puts caring and commitment into action – it's one of the largest. You can help by donating your slightly used items to the thrift shop, or if you're looking for a more active role, by joining the dedicated ranks of the volunteers who make the Assistance League so successful.

The Assistance League of Diablo Valley is a truly good organization, and the City of Lafayette is lucky to have them in town.

To learn more about the Assistance League of Diablo Valley and the popular Way Side Inn Thrift Shop, visit their website at www.diablovalley.assistanceleague.org.

Woodbury Highlands Approved by Planning Commission

After six study sessions and nine public hearings, the Planning Commission recently approved the Woodbury Highlands project. Located up on the hill overlooking



the Veterans Memorial Building at the west end of town, this proposal will demolish seven aging office buildings and construct ninety-three new condominiums. Residents will enjoy a large two-story clubhouse and "vistapark," community gardens, lounge chairs, picnic benches, and a bocce ball court. The plans include the planting of 291 trees and the preservation of about five acres of open space.

CITY DIRECTORY

For Council Members call: 284-1968

Council Members

Mike Anderson	Mayor
Don Tatzin	Vice Mayor
Cameron Burks	Council Member
Mark Mitchell	Council Member
Ivor Samson	Council Member

Messages to **all** Council Members:
cityhall@lovelafayette.org

Administration

General Reception and	284-1968
Steven Falk, City Manager	Fax: 284-3169
Tracy Robinson, Admin. Srv. Dir.	299-3227
Jennifer Wakeman, Financial Srv. Mgr.	299-3213
Joanne Robbins, City Clerk	299-3210
Tony Coe, City Engineer	299-3203
Niroop Srivatsa, Planning & Building Dir.	299-3206
Mike Moran, Public Works Dir.	299-3214
P.W. Hotline (to report problems)	299-3259

If you observe illegal dumping in creeks & storm drains or accidental spills on roads, call Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Division 646-2286.

Lamorinda School Bus Program

Juliet Hansen, Program Mgr. **299-3216**
or **299-3215**

Parks, Trails and Recreation 284-2232

Jonathan Katayanagi, Director

Senior Services 284-5050

Police Services

Emergency: 24 Hours	911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours	284-5010
Police Business Office:	283-3680

Anonymous tipline, traffic enforcement, suggestions & LEARN (Laf. Emergency Action Response Network), 299-3230

Fax 284-3169

Address 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Website www.ci.lafayette.ca.us

E-MAIL: Council/staff members can be reached via e-mail using this address format:

First Initial + Last Name @lovelafayette.org

Example: SFalk@lovelafayette.org

Want more City news? Subscribe to
The Weekly Roundup and the
Almost Daily Briefing at www.lovelafayette.org.