

LAFAYETTE

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Published by the City of Lafayette • Spring 2012, Vol. 22, No. 2

LAFAYETTE VISTAS

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THE BURNING QUESTION

How can local residents avert a Lafayette firestorm?

With 560 days of both blizzards and drought, Lafayette is one of the most weather-torn communities in the nation. The blizzards of 2011 and the drought of 2012 have left a trail of destruction in their wake. The city's infrastructure is under strain, and the risk of a major disaster is high. The city's fire department is one of the best in the nation, but it is not immune to the challenges of a major disaster. The city's fire department is one of the best in the nation, but it is not immune to the challenges of a major disaster. The city's fire department is one of the best in the nation, but it is not immune to the challenges of a major disaster.

Top 10 Fireproofing Tips

1. **INSULATION** - New construction should have 2 inches of insulation in the attic. Insulation in the attic is one of the most effective ways to prevent heat loss and reduce energy costs.
2. **ADDITIONAL** - New construction should have 2 inches of insulation in the attic. Insulation in the attic is one of the most effective ways to prevent heat loss and reduce energy costs.
3. **ACCOMMODATE** - New construction should have 2 inches of insulation in the attic. Insulation in the attic is one of the most effective ways to prevent heat loss and reduce energy costs.
4. **SMOKE ALARMS** - Install smoke alarms in every bedroom and in common areas. Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries as needed.
5. **SPARK ARRESTERS** - Install spark arresters on all chimneys and vents. Spark arresters help prevent fires from starting in chimneys and vents.
6. **LANDSCAPING** - Use fire-resistant landscaping plants and trees. Remove dead trees and branches that could fall on the house.
7. **ROOFING** - Use fire-resistant roofing materials. Fire-resistant roofing materials can help prevent fires from starting on the roof.
8. **WATER DAMAGE** - Fix leaks and water damage as soon as possible. Water damage can lead to mold and other problems.
9. **VENTILATION** - Use proper ventilation in the attic and crawl spaces. Proper ventilation can help prevent moisture buildup and mold.
10. **LEAKAGE DETECTORS** - Install leakage detectors in the kitchen and laundry areas. Leakage detectors can help prevent fires from starting in the kitchen and laundry areas.

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ROAD & DRAIN TAX PASSES

Over one-third of Lafayette residents are eligible for a 10 percent discount on their road and drain taxes. The city is currently reviewing applications for these discounts. The city is currently reviewing applications for these discounts. The city is currently reviewing applications for these discounts.

GREEN LIGHT FOR "BART BLOCK" MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT

The Lafayette City Council has approved a plan for a new mixed-use development in the Bart Block area. The plan includes a mix of residential, commercial, and public spaces. The plan includes a mix of residential, commercial, and public spaces. The plan includes a mix of residential, commercial, and public spaces.

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LEIGH CREEKSIDE PARK NOW A REALITY

The Leigh Creekside Park project is now a reality. The city has secured the necessary funding and is moving forward with construction. The city has secured the necessary funding and is moving forward with construction. The city has secured the necessary funding and is moving forward with construction.

PROPOSED "DOWNTOWN PROJECT"

The proposed Downtown Project is a major development in the heart of Lafayette. The project includes a mix of residential, commercial, and public spaces. The project includes a mix of residential, commercial, and public spaces. The project includes a mix of residential, commercial, and public spaces.

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LAFAYETTE PLAZA REDESIGN COMPLETED

The Lafayette Plaza redesign project is now complete. The new design includes a mix of residential, commercial, and public spaces. The new design includes a mix of residential, commercial, and public spaces. The new design includes a mix of residential, commercial, and public spaces.

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DOWNTOWN LOOKING UP

The downtown area of Lafayette is looking up. The city is currently reviewing applications for new development in the area. The city is currently reviewing applications for new development in the area. The city is currently reviewing applications for new development in the area.

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NEW AND NOTABLE

- Pizza Arca** - A new pizza restaurant in the downtown area.
- The Hub** - A new community center in the downtown area.
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LIBRARY GRAND OPENING

The Lafayette Library is having a grand opening. The new library includes a mix of books, magazines, and public spaces. The new library includes a mix of books, magazines, and public spaces. The new library includes a mix of books, magazines, and public spaces.

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LAFAYETTE IS DIFFERENT

Lafayette is different from other cities in the region. The city has a unique mix of residential, commercial, and public spaces. The city has a unique mix of residential, commercial, and public spaces. The city has a unique mix of residential, commercial, and public spaces.

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THE VIRTUOUS CYCLE

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PARADISE. WITH MOTORCYCLES.

Lafayette is a paradise for motorcycle enthusiasts. The city has a mix of scenic views, historic sites, and public spaces. The city has a mix of scenic views, historic sites, and public spaces. The city has a mix of scenic views, historic sites, and public spaces.

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STATE KILLS REDEVELOPMENT

The state has killed a redevelopment project in Lafayette. The project included a mix of residential, commercial, and public spaces. The project included a mix of residential, commercial, and public spaces. The project included a mix of residential, commercial, and public spaces.

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Vistas Twentieth Anniversary Article

Twenty years ago, the **Lafayette Vistas** quarterly municipal newsletter was born. This issue of the *Vistas* celebrates our two-decade anniversary with a look back at the development of the newsletter, an “inside” look at the *Vistas*, and a review of some of the items that were newsworthy enough to make *Vistas* headlines.

A Bad First Attempt

Lafayette took its first stab at a municipal newsletter in October, 1991. At the time, the city council was facing two significant policy issues. The first — how parklands should be funded and developed in Lafayette — had led the council to create a Blue Ribbon Task Force. The second item — how to spend up to \$19 million in regional transportation money — was making political waves among the Lamorinda cities. While both issues were controversial, many local residents weren't well informed about them, and the press wasn't providing much coverage.

To address the situation, the council decided that a municipal newsletter should be published and sent to all residents. The original and still-guiding purpose for the newsletter was to provide an in-depth introduction to matters facing the City and to invite people to participate in the public decision making process. Staff, lacking any magazine design experience, produced the first issue and the result was, well, amateurish. After recovering from our embarrassment, we went searching for a competent professional to design and manage the *Vistas*, and we found Quin Coursey. Quin has been the *Vistas* graphic designer, project manager, and guiding light since delivering her first issue to the post office in early spring, 1992. If you enjoy receiving and reading the *Vistas*,



you reap the benefits of twenty years of Quin's excellent work. She's a partner and a friend to the City of Lafayette.

Almost all of the articles in *Vistas* are written by city staff members. The exceptions are for those pieces that require either special experience or expertise, or demand an arms-length distance. To avoid any conflict of interest, city councilmembers do not — and have never once — participated in writing, editing, or putting the newsletter together. The first time they see the new issue of the *Vistas* is, just like you, when they pull it out of their mailboxes.

In fact, in a move to eliminate the use of municipal newsletters as a tool for furthering an incumbent's advantage, California law prohibits the mere mention of councilmembers' names in newsletter articles that are funded by taxpayer dollars. The law does allow us to provide a directory of city personnel, including city councilmembers, and we do so on the back page of each issue.

Our First Real Issue and Beyond

As we were recovering from our first attempt, the Oakland hills caught fire. Many of our residents called, particularly those living in wooded areas, asking for suggestions regarding how to prevent such an occurrence in Lafayette. Thus, the first cover article of the first *Vistas* was, “The Burning Question: How can local residents avert a Lafayette firestorm?”

Since that time, *Vistas* covers and articles have alternated between providing hard news, community color, background information, and a sense for the city's history.

The news that we've covered has included articles devoted to major development projects including Town Center, the Oakwood Athletic Club, LaFiesta Square, and the Lafayette Mercantile. We also provided in-depth coverage on big municipal projects including the redevelopment of Buckeye Fields, the Veterans Memorial Building and, of course, the design, fundraising, and construction of the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

We've covered the different flavors of the community, with spotlights on the Lafayette Community Foundation, Las Trampas and Futures Explored, and the arrival of classical music to Lafayette via the Gold Coast Chamber Players.

To provide insight to the inner workings of the municipal government, we've run a series of “Gov. 101” articles describing the local land use planning process, the clean water program, and chronicling the vicissitudes of the State and municipal budget. Over the years we've delivered primer after primer on the city's redevelopment agency, culminating in last winter's issue entitled “State Kills Redevelopment.”

And, with the help of the Lafayette Historical Society, we've run several articles describing a Lafayette from a different time. The “historic snapshots” column is one of our favorites, and we've occasionally covered a wide variety of historic topics, including “Who Was Lafayette”, “Elam Brown Arrives”, and the development of the Lafayette Reservoir.

On a half dozen occasions during the life of the *Vistas*, the City Council has placed tax measures before the voters and, in those instances, we've paid a little bit extra to print, in red ink, a “Special Edition” logo across the masthead at the top of the newsletter. We'd like to think that these issues have become collector's items, but a quick check of EBay suggests that the secondary market for these issues has yet to develop.

What's Worked, What Hasn't

Part of the challenge with *Vistas* is keeping it relevant and timely. Our design-to-delivery timeline is generally six to eight weeks, so we're not in the position — like newspapers — to deliver the most up to date news. We do, however, try to keep important issues on the face of the *Vistas*, thus making it relevant to our readers' lives.

Interestingly, the issue of the newsletter that generated more phone calls and email than any other — by a wide margin — was the one we published way back in summer, 2000. The cover article, “**Lets Keep These Secrets**” was a compendium of the city staff's favorite, but secret, things about Lafayette. They included the Reservoir rim trail, the Brook Street Tot Lot, and a fresh, hot glazed from Johnny's Donuts. We learned from that issue that Lafayette residents are an opinionated but not very secretive bunch, when dozens of people fired off emails detailing their secret Lafayette places. In a follow up issue we listed many of those new secrets for all to enjoy. Perhaps we'll do that again soon.

Keeping and staying fresh is our constant, but fun, challenge. If you have any suggestions regarding themes, articles, or how we might otherwise improve the newsletter, please forward them to *Vistas* Editor, Tracy Robinson, at trobinson@lovelafayette.org.

LOVE LAFAYETTE, LOVE RECYCLING!

In February of 2011, the City of Lafayette set a goal of reaching a 75% waste diversion rate through a collaborative effort working with Sustainable Lafayette, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, and the Lafayette School District. The waste diversion rate is the percentage of a waste stream that is diverted away from the landfill to recycling, and is based on weight; currently Lafayette diverts around 60% of its waste. By working closely with community partners the city hopes to become the first city in Contra Costa County to achieve a waste diversion rate of 75%.

Sustainable Lafayette spearheaded the effort this past summer by sponsoring a summer internship to study where our waste comes from and where it goes. Since the study, several community groups have started taking steps to help the city achieve its goal. The Chamber started a Business Recycling Initiative; the School District is working hard on lunch recycling; and Sustainable Lafayette recently formed a Waste Diversion Committee that partnered with the City of Lafayette Parks & Rec. Dept. to provide recycling containers and labels for the Lafayette Community Center. CalRecycle, the State's waste management and diversion agency, is providing partial grant funding for the recycling containers and signage for this purpose. In addition,

Sustainable Lafayette is working on a new campaign to educate the community, tentatively called **Love Lafayette, Love Recycling.**

Efforts can be made across the city and in every household; over 80% of what the average person throws away could be recycled or composted. Therefore, daily decisions made by each individual can help the city achieve its goal. Recycle everything that can be recycled, participate in the food scrap program, compost, and support local businesses that do recycle. For more information on what you can do to help please visit wastediversion.org or sustainablelafayette.org.

GARBAGE FACTS

- The average American office worker uses about 500 disposable cups every year.
- Every year, Americans throw away enough paper and plastic cups, forks, and spoons to circle the equator 300 times.
- Americans use approximately 1 billion shopping bags annually, creating 300,000 tons of landfill waste.
- It has been estimated that recycling, re-use, and composting create six to ten times as many jobs as waste incineration and landfills.
- The estimated 2.6 billion holiday cards sold each year in the U.S. could fill a football field 10 stories high.
- The recycling rate of 32.5 percent in 2006 saved the carbon emission equivalent of taking 39.4 million cars off the road, and the energy equivalent of 6.8 million households' annual energy consumption, or 222.1 million barrels of oil.
- The energy saved by recycling one glass bottle can light a 100-watt light bulb for four hours or run a computer for 30 minutes.

Source: www.cleanair.org

Green Awards of Environmental Excellence

The annual Lafayette Green Awards recognize outstanding efforts that have contributed to a more sustainable community and helped the city achieve its environmental goals. This year's winners were announced on Earth Day, and include:



Variable Speed Pool Pump saves up to 75 percent on a pool's energy costs

■ **Gint Federas:** "Going green is a process, not a single event." Gint Federas has embodied this concept in his home by undertaking a number of green practices, including: replacing all indoor and outdoor lighting with energy-efficient bulbs; installing solar panels; replacing the pool pump; installing a tankless water heater; composting in a worm farm; and insulating and weather-stripping.

■ **Lafayette School District Green Team:** The District Green Team conducted energy, water, and waste audits across all campuses and began implementing upgrades that are saving over \$75,000 per year, including replacing all gym lights; replacing windows; installing water-saving devices; implementing a lunch recycling program; and creating a new District energy policy.

■ **Clocks, Etc.:** This Green business strives to be an active example of what businesses can do to reduce waste, including recycling paper, shipping materials, glass, plastic and cans; offering a new line of green lighting fixtures; and using recyclable plastic bubble wrap.

■ **ECOlunchboxes.com:** Sandra Harris, a Lafayette mom who wanted sustainable and non-toxic lunchware for her children, founded this company in 2008. The products are plastic-free, waste-free, vinyl-free, PVC-free, sweatshop-free, lead-free, and generally free of all toxins.

■ **Ecohouse Design Team:** The goal of Karen Maggio's Ecohouse project was to take an original 1950s California ranch house and convert it into a sustainable house for the future. A blog was created to track the progress of the project, and act as a learning tool for others who are interested in doing something similar. The first PG&E bill was only \$50!



Karen Maggio's Ecohouse operable windows for passive heating and cooling



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NEW POLICE CHIEF FOR LAFAYETTE

The City is pleased to announce the arrival of **Lt. Eric Christensen** of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, who has been chosen to serve as Lafayette's next Police Chief. Christensen replaces Mike Hubbard, who retired after five years in Lafayette and more than twenty-five years with the Sheriff's Department. Lt. Christensen is particularly well-qualified for the position. He holds a BS in Criminal Justice Administration from Cal State Hayward, spent three years in the U.S. Army, and seventeen in the Army Reserve. He joined the Contra Costa Sheriff in 1991, and now has twenty years of local law enforcement under his belt. His service has included stints as a patrol deputy and detective for the San Ramon Police Department; patrol supervisor in Oakley; and manager of the Department Emergency Services Support Unit. During his time in the Sheriff's office, Lt. Christensen has won several Sheriff's Office awards, including the Custody Services Officer of the Year (1997) and Deputy of the Year (1999). With his extensive background in local law enforcement in suburban communities, Lt. Christensen is well-qualified to serve Lafayette. Given Lafayette's potential for catastrophic wildland fires, mudslides, earthquakes, and flooding, Christensen's experience in the Emergency Services Support Unit could be valuable to the community, although we hope to never have to draw on it! We're fortunate to have him on our team.



If you see him on the street, please give Lt. Eric Christensen a warm welcome.

AROUND TOWN

Fridays in June • DANCING IN THE PLAZA •

- 6/15: **50's Sock Hop** with vintage cars and the Malt Shop will be open.
- 6/22: **Square Dancing** with World Famous, Modern Square Dance Caller, Eric Henerlau.
- 6/29: **Friday Night Fever** – just like the pop, rock, disco party you went to in the 70's.

Fridays in July • MOVIES IN THE PLAZA •

- 7/6: **Field of Dreams**
- 7/13: **Jaws**
- 7/20: **The Muppets**
- 7/27: **Iron Man**

Fridays in Aug • ROCK THE PLAZA •

Bands TBA, check the Chamber website at www.lafayettechamber.org

• RECREATION SUMMER DAY CAMPS •

Go to www.lafayetterec.org or call 925-284-2232 for more info.

CITY DIRECTORY

For Council Members call: 284-1968

Council Members

Carol Federighi	Mayor
Mike Anderson	Vice Mayor
Brandt Andersson	Council Member
Carl Anduri	Council Member
Don Tatzin	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
Gonzalo Silva, Financial Srv. Mgr.	299-3213
Joanne Robbins, City Clerk	299-3210

Community Development

Tony Coe, Engineering Srv. Mgr.	284-1951
Niroop Srivatsa, Planning Srv. Mgr.	284-1976
Ron Lefler, Public Works Srv. Mgr.	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

Jennifer Russell, 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
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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

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