

NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGES *Lafayette Looks Forward to 2007*

December has always been a month of tradition that includes seasonal festivities, year-end wrap-ups, twinkle lights and cold weather. For the City, December means honoring another tradition as well: the “changing of the guard” at the City Council chambers. As usual, at their meeting in December, the Council elected a new Mayor and Vice-Mayor for the upcoming year. This year, however, not only did the seats shuffle, so did the people. One new Council Member was seated, and the community said goodbye to Ivor Samson who had served on the Planning Commission and City Council for fifteen years. There was the customary pomp and circumstance — speeches, congratulations and cake — but after it was all done, the Council got straight down to business. In its upcoming term, the Lafayette City Council will face a variety of challenges:

Library Construction

The project’s construction documents were recently approved by the State Librarian, County Building, and the Fire District. Bids for the library will be opened in February and construction is expected to begin by early April and be completed in 2009. Final figures for



“Ensure that new development is true to Lafayette’s past and good for its future.”

construction were not available at press time, but you can see the latest updates on the City’s website, at www.lovelafayette.org. You can also watch the progress of the construction once it starts on the City’s website from a webcam installed on the building site.

Lafayette Crosses

In November, over 400 crosses and a large sign tallying the number of U.S. soldiers that have died in Iraq were installed on private property across from the BART station on Deer Hill Road. Reactions from residents and commuters ranged from dismay to pleasure and from pride to anger. Over 200 people, as well as several representatives from local and national news media, turned up to express their opinions at a November Council meeting. Given the emotional subject, what could have been a contentious and rowdy event was instead a dignified and orderly discussion of the issues involved. It was truly small town government at its best.

Though visible from the freeway and across the street from the BART Station, the land is considered a residential zone. The main issue for the City, still unresolved, is whether the sign ordinance can and/or should be applied to the exhibition and, if so, how. Recognizing the need to proceed carefully, the City Attorney requested time to study the issue before making recommendations to the City Council. Findings and recommendation should be presented in early 2007.

Downtown Strategic Plan

Last month the Council also moved forward on a new strategic plan for downtown Lafayette.

The purpose of the exercise is to determine how we want our City to look in 5, 10, even 50 years from now, and then create a plan for getting there. By taking a proactive approach to planning, we can ensure that new development is true to Lafayette’s past and good for its future. Some of the questions that the plan seeks to answer are:

- Should we add more services and facilities for seniors downtown?
- How will Lafayette’s underutilized parcels develop?
- How can we protect our historic and iconic buildings?
- What should happen on Golden Gate Way?
- What is our strategy for off-street parking?
- What should we do with the old library?
- What is the future for Brown Avenue and the Forge?
- Can we do better than auto body shops next to a 5-star hotel?
- Will we use art to distinguish our town? Where will it be located?

Answers to these and other important questions will come from . . . you. The City Council has directed that the effort be collaborative, eliciting opinions from the maximum number of people. Young families, empty nesters, retirees, shopkeepers, business owners and developers will all be asked to participate. As a starting point, the Council will appoint a task force to choose an experienced consultant who will spend the next year or so conducting a series of community conversations. Thereafter, the new downtown strategy will reflect what the people said. Please look for announcements of workshops on the City’s website and in upcoming issues of *Vistas*.

(continued on back page)



Bob Athayde leads Stanley Middle School Band at Monterey Jazz Festival

Every city has its own, distinctive sound, a medley of sidewalk bustle, traffic and Muzak oldies emanating from storefronts. However, the sounds that spill from Lafayette's parks, plazas and schools carry a different tune.

Swing music streams from the Veterans Memorial Hall, where semi-annual dances feature the sounds of the Rossmoor Big Band.

Strains of Miles Davis and Herbie Hancock float along the summer breeze each summer as eager young musicians, mentored by some of the hottest professional musicians in the business flock to the annual Lafayette Summer Music Workshop. The center of town reverberates with free Friday night jazz concerts in Plaza Park in the fall while in the spring, it's the 'Rez that resounds. Town Hall Theater adds its own echo when the historic, shingled venue opens its doors to the annual four-day Lafayette Jazz Festival.

Lafayette may be a small city, but music critics call it one of the Bay Area's best jazz towns, one that's redefining what constitutes a great musical event. "Most jazz festivals showcase the

ALL THAT JAZZ IN

music's stars," writes Contra Costa Times jazz critic Andrew Gilbert, "but in Lafayette, they've given the concept a twist, combining swinging entertainment with education."

The result is sizzling, plentiful and eminently affordable entertainment that cuts across generations and gives local budding musicians national credentials. Lafayette students who have studied with Stanley Middle School's Bob Athayde – who won a prestigious Contra Costa County arts achievement award in 2003 for his role as "a gifted musician, wonderful teacher and mentor, creative genius (and) community activist" — and high school music directors Rick Meyer and Harvey Benstein, reap an almost embarrassing number of prestigious awards.

In the young musician competition held by Downbeat Magazine (the jazz industry's go-to publication), a much-coveted national award went to a Stanley Middle School combo in 2004. It wasn't a fluke. Rather, it's the result of a confluence of musical forces: professional musicians who have settled in Lafayette, retired musicians living in Rossmoor, music educators, business owners, devoted parents, including the "Jazz Dads", a group of music aficionados who drop by the Stanley band room each morning to lend a hand, and a community that values the arts. In short, as the Contra Costa Times says, "Lafayette is a city where music is a serious business".

GENERATIONS IN JAZZ



Saxophonist Erin Grant

Lafayette is home to Generations in Jazz, a non-profit arts foundation that nurtures cross-generational music-making and arts education. The group, founded nearly ten years ago by a gathering of "Jazz Dads" and other parents, is responsible for many of Lafayette's unique music events.

With help from San Francisco's Morrison and Foerster law firm, Generations in Jazz underwrites many of the free outdoor jazz concerts, supports Contra Costa County's honor jazz bands, and organizes inter-generational swing dances at the Veterans Hall.

Additionally, Generations in Jazz aligns with other local foundations including the Lafayette Art and Science Foundation, Lafayette Community Foundation, and the Julia Burke Foundation to support local educational programs that bring jazz luminaries such as John Clayton, Michael Wolff and Steve Turre into the schools. "I bring in heavy people as much as I can", says Bob Athayde. "I offer a cup of Peet's coffee and a banana, and that seems to do the trick. People come because the kids are very responsive; they soak up the music. So instead of taking kids out of school for a day, we bring the musicians here."

Not only do local kids benefit, but children in underserved communities, including schools in Hunters Point, East Oakland, and Pittsburg. By organizing instrument drives, fixing broken horns, and bringing in local musicians to work with students, Generations in Jazz honors its mission of preserving America's

indigenous art form, jazz. "Don't give us handouts, give us a hand!" is the motto used in supporting these programs. For several students, these school music programs are the difference between coming to school and being absent. "It presents an opportunity for holistic education," says San Francisco's Gloria Davis music director Jill Hendrick. "The discipline that they learn from music and being part of a larger group certainly brings them to a different place."

The Lafayette Summer Music Workshop, now in its 8th year, was spawned out of discussions between local entrepreneur and Generations in Jazz board member, Mo Levich and Bob Athayde. "Jazz is not learned from music charts but from listening, watching, feeling and, ultimately, doing," Athayde says. "When you stand in the same room as a great professional musician, you feel their energy...you put our kids next to these professionals, who are the best in the country, and they get the special energy that winners give off," adds Athayde, referencing the teaching staff at the summer camp.

Working hand in hand with the Lafayette and Acalanes school districts, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, and city leaders, the group builds multi-cultural, cross-generational partnerships that promote music education while they turn Lafayette into a jazz playground for spectators and musicians alike.

It all hits the stage early March when the Annual Lafayette Jazz Festival lights up Town Hall Theatre with its signature mix of professionals and talented students. You can catch an evening of jazz in other venues around town, including Bo's Barbecue, the Veterans Memorial Building, the Art & Wine Festival, Concert at the Rez, and everywhere jazz lovers congregate.

MUSICAL EVENTS

■ Lafayette JAZZ Festival

Now in its seventh year, the Lafayette Jazz Festival runs March 8-11, 2007. Opening Night features the Rossmoor Big Band and Flying Solo, a student jazz combo directed by Mary Fettig, at 7:30pm at the Acalanes Performing Arts Center, 1200 Pleasant Hill Rd. The Rossmoor Big Band, led by local bandleader Mo Levich and featuring the arrangements of Lionel Hampton arranger Frank Como, includes spotlight performances by former KCBS anchor Al Hart and Countess Felder of the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame.

On Friday night, March 9, the music moves to Town Hall Theater for 7:30pm performances by the Madeline Eastman Quartet and the Stanley Jazz Messengers, featuring Lafayette resident and "sax man" Bruce Mishkit. A pair of performances Saturday includes the Percussion Discussion, a free, 2pm matinee for students and parents featuring Ken Bergmann, followed by a 7:30pm concert by the Dick Hindman Trio and the Acalanes Jazz Ensemble.

Closing night showcases the Contra Costa County Honor Jazz Bands, a music education program for the county's premiere young jazz artists, first launched right here at Town Hall under the auspices of Generations in Jazz. Closing night is Sunday at 6pm. Tickets available at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Get more information at www.GenerationsInJazz.org.

■ Dances at the Veterans Memorial Building

The semi-annual Generations in Jazz ball features swing dance lessons and dancing to the Rossmoor Big Band, featuring musicians from Rossmoor, Lafayette and Walnut Creek. Tickets for the 2006 Memorial Day and Veterans Day balls (\$5 each, free for veterans) sold out almost instantly, and more dances are planned for 2007. Check www.GenerationsInJazz.org for details.

On February 24th, the venue hosts the Campolindo Jazz Dinner Dance, a benefit for the Campolindo High School music program, comprised of young Lafayette and Moraga musicians. The dinner dance runs from 6:30-10pm, with catering by Scott's Seafood Grill and Bar, and music by the Campolindo High School Jazz Band. This year's event benefits the Campolindo Symphonic Band's tour to St. Petersburg, Russia. For ticket information, e-mail Randi Pines at rlpines@comcast.net.

Mo Levich Named 2007 Business Person of the Year!

Mo Levich is the owner of Poster Compliance Center in Lafayette. In addition, he is a founding member of Generations in Jazz, the director of the Big Band in Rossmoor, accomplished trumpet player, organizer of most of the Jazz events in Lafayette and friend and mentor to thousands of musicians, educators, businesses and residents of Lafayette.



Stanley Jazz Messengers

■ JAZZ in the Plaza

Fridays evenings in September are "Hot Jazz" nights in Lafayette Plaza, at the corner of Moraga Rd. and Mt.

Diablo Blvd. Hear young combos and professionals performing side by side in these free al fresco performances.

■ JAZZ in the Schools

Acalanes High School's award winning jazz band plays at Rossmoor on April 26 and again at the June 1st Jazz Café at Stanley middle School, which also features the Stanley jazz ensembles.

■ Year-Round JAZZ

Live music weekly at Bo's Barbecue (3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd., 925-283-7133), where the meat hails from Nieman Ranch, the bread from Acme, and the music from jazz professionals like saxophonist Matt Morrish.

Joe's of Lafayette (3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd., 925-299-8807), a funky, jazzy supper club at the Reservoir end of town features such performers as saxophonist Mary Fettig and her Brazilian jazz combo.

■ Lafayette Summer Music Workshop

Now in its 8th year, this weeklong jazz camp draws young musicians from across the country for five days of intense jams and master classes with a who's who of jazz stars. In past years, the lineup has included percussion lessons with Santana's Raul Rekow, trumpet riffs with Tower of Power's Mic Gillette and piano drills with the legendary Frank Martin, who's played with everyone from Sting to Stevie Wonder. This year's day camp, runs July 30-August 3, with placement auditions on July 29, and will feature Martin, Fettig, renowned trombonist Wayne Wallace, sax man Dan Zinn and guitarist Mimi Fox. More information will be online soon at www.LafSMW.org.



LAFAYETTE LOOKS FORWARD *(continued from front page)*

Palos Colorados Lawsuit

Late last year, Lafayette initiated a lawsuit against the developer of the proposed Palos Colorados project, who seeks to build a 123-home development on 462 acres in Moraga, adjacent to the Lafayette border. Since most of the development's traffic would flow through Lafayette on the already-congested Moraga Road, the city and the developer struck a deal in 1999 that would have created a mitigation fee to offset the increased traffic; this \$5 fee would have been attached to each round of golf played at the Palos Colorados golf course. The cities and the developer further agreed that the proceeds of the fee program would be reserved entirely for the purpose of fixing roads and buying open space in Lamorinda. The mitigation program was expected to generate \$250,000 annually and, with inflation, the Palos Colorados golf course fee would have produced tens of millions of dollars over the decades.

Last year, however, the developer eliminated the golf course from the project and, in so doing, also eliminated the mechanism for collecting the mitigation fee. Lafayette's lawsuit seeks to resolve the issue.

Parking Meters

When the City Council approved its 2006-07 Budget last June, a Code Enforcement Officer was added to staff. To fund this position, Council agreed to increase parking meter rates from 50¢ per hour to \$1 per hour, and to install additional parking meters in the downtown corridor. The rate increase will become effective in March and the Council has appointed a Parking Meter Task Force to make recommendations on where and what type of additional meters should be installed. The task force includes two members of the City Council, a member of the Circulation Commission, and two representatives from the Chamber of Commerce. The task force recommendations will be reviewed at a City Council meeting in the Spring with new meters likely being installed over the Summer.

Neighborhood Road Repair

While the 2004 bond measure that would have raised \$29 million to fix neighborhood streets fell short of the necessary 2/3 it needed to pass, the need to fix these roads did not disappear on election day. Indeed, though the City has been able to stretch its \$10 million budget to cover \$4 million in road repair over the last couple of years, a large backlog still remains, one that can't be solved using existing sources of revenue. The City's Neighborhood Road Repair Task Force continues to discuss funding options will bring recommendations to the City Council for its consideration in February 2007. One possibility: Another road tax measure on the ballot in June.

New Public Works Radio System

In December the cities of Lafayette, Orinda and the Town of Moraga unveiled a new regional radio system for public works operations. The Lamorinda Public Works Radio System project was unanimously initiated by the three Councils when they convened at a tri-city meeting last winter. Councilmembers noted that, with just three major roads serving neighborhoods south of Highway 24, public works crews from all three cities had regular need to communicate with each other. More importantly, the crews must be able to communicate with each other in the event of a major disaster. The new system has antennae and repeaters placed on sites designed to withstand large earthquakes. In addition, the cities, with help from the County, have a proprietary radio frequency that will not be shared with any other agency or application. These steps were taken to ensure, to the greatest extent, the survivability and reliability of the radio system. The County's involvement also guarantees that police, fire, and other public safety crews can communicate with public works crews on the same channel if and when the need arises.



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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

Ann Merideth, Director	299-3218
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

Jennifer Russell, Director	284-2232
Senior Services	284-5050
Teen Programs	284-5815

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), 299-3232 X 2205

Fax	284-3169
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E-MAIL: Council/staff members can be reached via e-mail using this address format:

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