

## MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE

### New Library

Strategically located dead center in downtown Lafayette, our new library will be a visual and cultural focal point for the community. With fundraising for the library already in progress and plans well underway for a new Veteran's Memorial Building (which will clear the site of the old Veteran's Hall for Lafayette's new library), the City is now turning its attention to the design stage of the library project. Both aesthetically and functionally, the design will be extremely important.

To find the right architect for the project, the Lafayette Redevelopment Agency is hosting a design competition. Last October, invitations were sent to eleven West Coast architectural firms that have previously won awards or received accolades for their library designs. These firms were invited to submit a statement of their qualifications to be project architect for Lafayette's new library. In December, the Library Building Committee selected four finalists: Killefer Flammang Architects, Field Paoli, Will Bruder Architects, and Group 4. These firms are now in the process of preparing presentations of their design concepts for the new library. These concepts will be placed on display for public review and comment on Saturday and Sunday, February 1st and 2nd at the Lafayette Veteran's Hall. Anyone reading this newsletter is encouraged to participate!

**Come see  
the Library  
Designs on  
Sat. & Sun.,  
Feb. 1 & 2  
at the  
Veteran's Hall.**

On February 3rd, after having listened to the public, the Library Building Committee and City Council, will hear presentations from the architects. The winning architect will be selected by the end of February and then the real design work will begin.

Just as the new Veteran's Building is currently making its way through the Design Review and Planning Commission processes, so will the Library, with plenty of opportunity for community comment. If all goes well, sometime in the fall of 2004 — the day after the Vets move into their new building — construction for the library will start with the demolition of the old Vet's Hall.

Completion date for the new library is scheduled for Spring 2006.

### Vet's Memorial Building

The last six months have seen several — but not all — hurdles cleared on the path to building the new Veteran's Memorial Building. In July the City acquired property on Risa Road, in front of the Hillside Inn and Suites, as the site for the new building. In June the City Council adopted a \$4.5 million preliminary project budget, and in August, the Lafayette Redevelopment Agency issued \$5 million in Redevelopment bonds to fund the construction. So, we now know where it will

be, how much it will cost and how we'll pay for it. However, one major hurdle still remains — what it will look like.

In July, after working with a committee of veterans and City staff for 6 months, architect David Paoli, of Field Paoli Architects in San Francisco, presented his conceptual plans to the City. Those plans were refined and the detailed plans were submitted for design review in October. After considering and amending the building design at four public meetings, Design Review Commissioners (DRC) still had reservations about the proposed height and scale of the

building, with the majority noting that the 28-foot building face would appear too tall in relation to the street.

City staff, because of these concerns, is working closely with the architect and DRC members to develop alternative concepts that the DRC might find more satisfactory. The overarching goal of the project is to create a fitting tribute to veterans that also responds to and compliments Lafayette's semi-rural community aesthetic.

Ultimately, the Planning Commission and the Redevelopment Agency must both approve the project before construction bids are solicited. Construction is slated to begin later this year and the goal is to have the new Veterans' Memorial Building completed in time for a Grand Opening celebration on Veteran's Day, November 2004.



Library Building Committee: (back L-R): Steven Falk, Karen Maggio, Ann Cain, Maeve Pessis, Laura O'Donoghue, Ann Denny, Judy Garvens; (middle L-R): Terry Murphy, Byrne Mathisen, David Seaborg, Maryanne Hoisington, Mary McCosker, Judy Carney, Don Lively; (front L-R): Anne Grodin, Don Tatzin, Art Miller, Tim Ward; not pictured: Roger Falcone, Jon Frank



# SURFING IN LAFAYETTE

## Visit Lafayette's New and Improved Website

Responding to the increasingly techno-savvy expectations of its citizens, Lafayette debuted Version 2.0 of the City website in October. The City's new website (which can be accessed at [www.ci.lafayette.ca.us](http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us), or the more easily remembered [www.lovelafayette.org](http://www.lovelafayette.org)) is more attractive and easier to use than the old site. In addition, and more importantly, it includes much more information. Designed as a one-stop resource for residents, you can visit the website whenever you have questions about Lafayette, even in the middle of the night!

Lafayette's original website was launched in 1997 largely with the help of volunteers; one volunteer programmed the site while another hosted it on his company's server at no cost. After five years, as the Internet became more ubiquitous and people expected to be able to do more online, the City wanted to add functionality. One of the first steps was a survey of residents to find out what features they would use most (Vistas, Spring 2001). Work on the new site proceeded steadily — perhaps a bit TOO steadily — until something happened that made the need for a new site not only desirable, but also imperative! Last summer there was a fire in the building where our old site was being hosted, and suddenly, it was all gone. E-mail was restored within days, but the City was without a website until the new one came on line in October. So, if you were looking for it during that time, now you know why it could not be found!

The website and email addresses have stayed the same, but we now have a completely new look and a new host thanks to GovOffice.com. GovOffice.com is a company devoted to providing

state-of-the-art Internet solutions for local governments. Their templates and programs made it possible for us to get a site with all the features and functions we wanted at a very reasonable cost. Our monthly fee, which is based on city size, is \$70, and includes back-up provisions to prevent future disasters. Even better is that the GovOffice software is so user-friendly that it allowed us to design our site without hiring costly consultants or programmers and we are able to maintain it using existing staff.

We hope [www.lovelafayette.org](http://www.lovelafayette.org) becomes a key resource for residents, providing both general and specific information. All of the topics most requested by residents in the survey have been incorporated, including: meeting agendas and minutes, status of major projects, municipal codes and ordinances, and permit applications. The new format is easier to navigate, requires fewer clicks to get to information, and is faster to load.

One new, very unique, feature is the ability for residents to subscribe to a list and automatically receive Council and Commission agendas via email. We are proud of the site and hope that you will be, too. So please visit us — any time of the day or night — at [www.lovelafayette.org](http://www.lovelafayette.org).

### What You Can Find on the Website

- Agendas for City Council, commission and committee meetings
- Schedules for upcoming meetings and events
- Budget information
- Current demographics and a history of Lafayette
- Building permit information and application forms
- Parks and Recreation activities brochures and online registration
- Links to community services, e.g. buses, utilities, schools
- Municipal codes
- Progress reports on large projects
- Employment opportunities
- Answers to commonly asked questions
- Contact information for departments and personnel



## PLANNING, PRESERVING, PROTECTING, PROMOTING Lafayette's New General Plan Finds the Right Balance

Honest disagreement is often a good sign of progress. — Mahatma Gandhi (1869 - 1948)

And so, after only ten years, hundreds of public meetings, thousands of comments, and a million revisions, the Lafayette City Council adopted a new General Plan on October 28, 2002. This marks the first update since the original General Plan was adopted in 1974. While not everyone agreed on everything all the time, the revised Plan reflects most of the concerns and views of the residential and business communities.

In many ways the new Plan is an affirmation of the old Plan. Celebrating the charm and semi-rural character of Lafayette in an otherwise urbanized county, the Plan recognizes the need to balance development and revitalization with conservation. The new General Plan calls for the preservation and enhancement of downtown Lafayette, as well as our ridgelines, hillsides and other environmentally sensitive areas. The shifting demographics of the Bay Area, however, have necessitated some significant changes to the Plan, including the need to balance modest growth with infrastructure needs, and encouraging multi-family and mixed-use projects in the downtown.

The General Plan is the guiding force behind all of Lafayette's land use decisions and as such, it is long-range and comprehensive, coordinating all major components of the community's physical

development. The new General Plan can be viewed on the City's web page, and hard copies are available at the Lafayette City offices.

### New Hillside Ordinances

Reflecting the principles of the revised General Plan, new regulations governing development in the City's hillside areas became effective August 2002. A major portion of the City has now been included in the Hillside Overlay District and any new construction or development within this area will require a Hillside Development Permit.

As a consequence of the new Hillside Ordinance, three landowners have filed lawsuits against the City. Each of the parties, two of whom had pending applications, are litigating the reduced development rights and challenging the environmental analysis on which the ordinance was based. In addition, one of the litigants indicated their intent to file action on the new General Plan. However, after discussions with the City, they have agreed to suspend their litigation until the City completes a zoning study. Over the next six months, the City will determine whether certain properties currently zoned LR-10, one house per ten acres, can be rezoned to LR-5, one house per five acres.

# Downtown Doings

## What's Going On in the East End?

The most frequently asked question at the City Offices? Why are they digging that huge hole at the east end of town next to the fire station? It's for a new 3-story mixed-use building that will combine retail storefronts with 40,000 square feet of self-storage and 11 apartments. Two of the apartments will be reserved for low-and-moderate income residents. The project is scheduled to be completed in 12-14 months.

## Community Events Board

You may have noticed the "faux" community events sign that the City constructed at the corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Road. The corner has become an increasingly popular place for non-profits and arts groups to advertise their events, so the City is moving forward with a plan to build an illuminated cabinet atop a stone base to hold such banners. The mock up you see was constructed to give us a clear idea of the scale of the project. In the future, look to the Community Events Board for news of what's happening in town. The City will allow local non-profit organizations to display banners for up to two weeks promoting events that take place within Lafayette. Please contact the City Offices at 284-1968 for guidelines and availability.

## Transient Occupancy Tax Approved

In November, Lafayette residents voted to increase the Transient Occupancy Tax, also known as the Hotel Tax, to 9.5% (from 8%). The City expects the new tax to bring approximately \$65,000 in additional revenue each year. One project that will benefit from the new revenue is the installation of a traffic signal in front of the Park Hotel. At a cost of more than \$300,000, this project would otherwise not have been funded.

## Bricks 'n' Banners

Next time you're strolling downtown, if you look down and then up, you'll see improvements on Mt. Diablo Blvd. First, enhancing the "small town feel", new brick pavers were recently installed on the north sidewalk from Oak Hill to S. Thompson. Plans to install pavers on the other side of the street are in the works for next year. In addition, three new banner designs were approved with the following themes: California poppies, Lafayette arts & entertainment and our beautiful, relaxing



reservoir. Look (up) for them, starting this month.

## What's Missing from Moraga Road?

Overhead power transmission lines, that's what! From Plaza Way to Herman Drive, the view is now unobstructed. The Moraga Road Undergrounding Project started last June and barring bad weather in January, should be complete by the end of the month. The \$2 million project was funded almost entirely by the power, cable and telephone utilities with only nominal administrative costs funded by the City.

## AROUND TOWN

### Town Hall Theatre

Box Office: 283-1557 or [www.thtc.org](http://www.thtc.org)  
Info: 283-3728 or [www.gcplayers.org](http://www.gcplayers.org)  
Tickets available at The Lafayette Bookstore.

**1/23-2/23: MY THREE ANGELS** – A family who has just been visited by an evil-minded cousin and cold-blooded nephew employs three convicts as roofers. The three warm-hearted convicts take on the dastardly visitors, set matters right, and redeem themselves as real life angels to the grateful family.

### Gold Coast Chamber Players

**3/1 & 2: AMERICAN DREAMS** – An eclectic mix of music from the soft swing of Gershwin to the poignancy of Barber's Adagio for Strings (featured in the soundtrack to Platoon).

### Parks & Recreation

500 St Mary's Road, Call 284-2232 for info & reservations.

### Teens

**ACE OF CLUBS: CONCERT & DANCE CLUB** – (Grades 9-12) 1/24, 2/14, 2/21, 7-11 pm, Fee: \$5.00, Manzanita Room, Lafayette Comm. Ctr.

### Safety & First Aid

**SAT: 3/3: JUNIOR RESCUERS** (4-12 yrs), Kids learn the ABC's of

what to do in an emergency. 10 am to Noon. \$12/person. Lafayette Comm. Ctr.

### FREE Stuff

**FREE PETANQUE LESSONS** – Lafayette Comm. Ctr. Call Mary at 283-2682 or Pascal at 254-2921.

**FREE WORKSHOP – Recording Your Family History.** Everyone has a story that arises from a lifetime of experiences. Learn techniques and questions to draw out the stories that reveal the richness of our human experience. Tuesday, March 4th, 7 to 9 pm, Lafayette Comm. Ctr. You must pre-register by calling 284-2232.

**FREE WORKSHOPS FOR SENIORS – 1/24: The Art of Balance; 2/28: Caregiver Training; 3/28: Pain Management.** Lafayette Senior Services Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd: You must pre-register by calling 284-5050.

**FREE MOVIES** – Lafayette Senior Services Center. A variety of movie favorites are shown on the first Thursday and third Friday of each month. Call 284-5050 for a schedule and to reserve your seat. Light refreshments served.

## You can huff and you can puff, but you won't be able to blow this house down!

Taking a page from the popular children's story, a new house on Hunsaker Canyon Rd. is being built using straw. Designed with 2 feet between the inner and outer walls and then filled with straw bales, the house won't look much different than any other once the stucco is applied. However, what will be different is the fact that this innovative technique will keep the house a relatively constant temperature year round, thus requiring less heating and cooling, and as a result, lowering energy consumption. In addition, this design uses about 1/3 less lumber than a traditionally built home. The 3,000 square foot home is the first house in Lafayette built using this ecology-friendly construction.

## Community Center Bridge

It's a bird, it's a plane – no! It's a bridge! Installed by a huge crane that picked up all 27 tons in one piece, the Community Center Bridge was officially christened on



November 25, 2002. Linking the Community Center to the Community Park, this beautiful bridge with its simple, elegant lines is 138 feet long and stands 30 feet above Las Trampas Creek. Now that the bridge is in place, the long-term Community Park Master Plan calls for additional projects, including a large grassy meadow, picnic tables, volleyball and horseshoe pits and an all-weather trails system. Currently, none of these projects are funded, but the City will be aggressively pursuing grants and donations over the years to make these projects a reality.

## 711 St. Mary's Road Ball Fields

Reconstruction of these dilapidated old ball fields will begin in June 2003. Improvements will include a paved parking lot, restrooms, two new baseball fields, a soccer field, landscaping and irrigation, a central plaza and a new concession stand. The \$1.5 million improvements, paid for almost entirely by a state grant, will be completed in Fall 2003. Little League will not miss any baseball; LMYA Soccer, however, will miss the Fall 2003 season.

## Winter Festival Successful

They may not be movie stars or sports heroes, but when it comes to supporting the Lafayette Community Center, they're the best. Fifty-five generous folks donated theme baskets to the Lafayette Community Center's annual "Local Celebrity Theme Basket" fundraiser. The baskets, which included such themes as "Doggy Delights", "Superbowl Snacks", and "Nutcracker Sweets" were sold at the 18th Annual Lafayette Winter Festival and earned \$1,624 for the Lafayette Community Foundation. Special thanks go to Nitro Dog, Diablo Foods, The Storyteller, Peet's Coffee & Tea, Trader Joe's, Lamorinda Florist, Wells Fargo Bank, The Pet Grocery, Oasis Café, Floral Expressions, Starbucks, A.G. Ferrari, Open Sesame, Papillon, Safeway, Lafayette Ace Hardware, Bank of America, Albertson's, Longs, Lafayette Health Club, Action & Adventure, Lafayette Florist, Jazzercise and Take 1 Video. Proceeds will be used to make building improvements at the Community Center.

## Meet Christina Hanson

Christina, our new Recreation Supervisor, comes to our City with a wealth of municipal recreation experience. A graduate from California State University, Long Beach, she started her career in Southern California where she spent nine years at the cities of Lakewood, Rosemead and Claremont. In 1997, she relocated to Northern California and built upon her already impressive career working in San Ramon and Alameda. Christina loves the Bay Area and looks forward to sharing her skills and knowledge with our Parks & Recreation Department.



City of Lafayette  
P.O. Box 1968  
Lafayette, CA 94549-1968

## CITY DIRECTORY

For Council Members call: 284-1968

### Council Members

Carol Federighi	<b>Mayor</b>
Erling Horn	<b>Vice Mayor</b>
Carl Anduri	<b>Council Member</b>
Ivor Samson	<b>Council Member</b>
Don Tatzin	<b>Council Member</b>

Messages to all Council Members:  
[cityhall@lovelafayette.org](mailto:cityhall@lovelafayette.org)

### Administration

<b>General Reception and</b>	<b>284-1968</b>
<b>Steven Falk, City Manager</b>	<b>Fax: 284-3169</b>
Tracy Robinson, Admin. Srv. Dir.	<b>299-3227</b>
Gonzalo Silva, Financial Srv. Mgr.	<b>299-3213</b>
Joanne Robbins, City Clerk	<b>299-3210</b>

### Community Development

Ann Merideth, Director	<b>299-3218</b>
Tony Coe, Engineering Srv. Mgr.	<b>284-1951</b>
Niroop Srivatsa, Planning Srv. Mgr.	<b>284-1976</b>
Ron Lefler, Public Works Srv. Mgr.	<b>299-3214</b>
P.W. Hotline (to report problems)	<b>299-3259</b>

*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 Shanks, Analyst	<b>299-3216</b>
	<b>Or 299-3215</b>

### Parks and Recreation

Jennifer Russell, Director	<b>284-2232</b>
Yvonne Ozorio, Senior Services	<b>284-5050</b>
Teen Programs	<b>284-5815</b>

### Police Services

Emergency: 24 Hours	<b>911</b>
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours	<b>284-5010</b>
Police Business Office:	<b>283-3680</b>

*Anonymous Tipline, Traffic Enforcement, Suggestions & LEARN (Laf. Emergency Action Response Network), 299-3232 X 2205*

### Addresses

	<b>Fax: 284-3169</b>
Street Address:	<b>3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210</b>
Mailing Address:	<b>P.O. Box 1968</b>
	<b>Lafayette, CA 94549-1968</b>

Website: [www.ci.lafayette.ca.us](http://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**

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