

Nickelodeon's Big Help Volunteer Week

The Nickelodeon cable TV channel's Big Help program, which encourages kids to volunteer in their communities, will be marking its fifth anniversary this year. The 1999 grassroots campaign is focusing on parks; kids and adults across the country are being encouraged to develop volunteer activities and events related to cleaning, maintaining, re-equipping, and building local parks and parklands.

Lafayette has the special honor of being the only city in California that will be visited by Nickelodeon's Big Helpmobile, a traveling volunteer learning lab, which will be in town the week of August 22. The Parks and Recreation Department, along with the East Bay Regional Park District, will spearhead efforts and serve as a clearinghouse for information about special projects taking place at our Community Park and along the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail.

Teachers and other youth leaders are encouraged to incorporate the Helpmobile's visit into their calendars and plans for August. Groups and individuals should call Jennifer Russell, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department (284-2232) for more information, and to register either ideas or willingness to participate in projects that will benefit the park and trail and provide learning experiences for Lafayette children.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY: LEIGH CREEKSIDE PARK

The City Council has joined the groundswell of neighborhood support for purchasing property at Fourth Street and Moraga Blvd. to be used for a municipal park. The new park would be named Leigh Creekside Park, in honor of its owners, long-time Lafayette residents John and Ethel Leigh.

land. At press time, neighbors and Lafayette residents had contributed \$22,000 to the park fund, and a search continues to find additional donors and grants by the January 31, 2000 deadline.

The City has committed 10% of the Parkland Dedication Fees that it will collect over the next five years, total-



Photograph by Contra Costa Times

Lisa Christophe, who notes that the Leighs had always wanted the property to remain open space, is spearheading the effort to preserve the undeveloped site with its towering heritage oak. The three-quarter acre site borders Las Trampas Creek and is close by the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail. "Not only would the property make a great park, it's also strategically located as an ideal destination or resting spot for trail users," says Christophe.

A \$375,000 price has been set for the property. The City paid \$27,000 for an option to purchase the property that will expire on January 31, 2000; the City thus has about six months to raise the money needed to buy the

ing about \$35,000. "Open space is one of the reasons people want to live in Lafayette," says Jennifer Russell, Director of the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department. "This is a unique opportunity since most of the remaining open space in Lafayette is privately owned and could be developed."

Donations for the purchase of Leigh Creekside Park can be made by sending a check to the City of Lafayette - Leigh Creekside Park Fund, Attn: Rebecca Lee. Contributions are tax deductible, and donations will be refunded if the target amount is not met by the deadline. A sponsors' plaque is planned to acknowledge contributions.

Since January, Lafayette teens haven't had the excuses "there's no place to go, and nothing to do." That's when the Lafayette Youth Commission launched the Flipside Dance Club, a monthly drug- and alcohol-free get together held at the Lafayette Community Center. More than 100 teens attended the opening night celebration and heard Chair of the Youth Commission, Acalanes senior Luke Peterson, also known as DJ "Cool Hand Luke," spinning tunes on three turntables.

"The dance club came about because of requests from our high school kids," says Brian McCooey, Recreation Coordinator for the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department. "If the response continues to be as enthusiastic as it has been, we may begin opening the Flipside Dance Club twice a month."

A \$2,500 donation from the Taylor Family Foundation was used to purchase the disco lights and fog machine that provide the club's ambience. High school students from the

TEENS FLIP OVER FLIPSIDE DANCE CLUB

Lamorinda area provide the energy and enthusiasm. When they're not dancing, teens can challenge their friends to a game of pool or Foom-Ball, enjoy healthy beverages and snacks, and just "hang out."

High school identification is required for admission to the Flipside Dance Club, which is open on the fourth Saturday of every month from 9pm to midnight. The cover charge is \$5, and there are no "in-and-out" privileges.

The Lafayette Youth Commission also runs a roving concert club called Ace of Clubs, and hosts six dances a year for seventh and eighth graders in Lamorinda schools. Schuyler McGraw, a student at St. Mary's College who has recently begun working as an intern for the Parks & Recreation Department, is working closely with the Commission to develop and bring a wide range of teen activities to Lafayette. For more information, call Schuyler at 284-5815.



RON LEFLER APPOINTED PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES MANAGER

Ron Lefler was appointed Lafayette's Public Works Services Manager in January 1999. He was appointed interim manager in October 1998, after serving as an engineer for the City for the previous 18 months. Before coming to work for Lafayette, Lefler was the City Engineer and Community Development Director for the City of Pittsburg and the Public Works Director for the City of Albany.



"I was torn between working as an engineer on City road and drain projects and taking on the challenges and opportunities of the Public Works division," Lefler said. Besides his considerable experience, Lefler hopes to contribute a sense of continuity to Lafayette's public works division. "It's been such a pleasure working with a great group of

very supportive people," he notes. "I like working in and for Lafayette, and I definitely plan to stick around."

Lefler will head up efforts to ensure the protection of city and residential property through on-going maintenance of streets and drainage systems as well as access to emergency services during non-work hours. Ultimately, he's responsible for maintaining 2,200 signs, 90 miles of public roadways, curbs and gutters, 1,300 catch basins, 105 acres of landscaped medians and parklands, traffic signals at 15 intersections, and a wide range of creek abatement activities.

A key project that Lefler has been working on is the relocation of the Public Works Services facility located in downtown Lafayette that will be demolished in order to construct the Town Center project. The new Public Works Services facility was designed to resemble a small equestrian stable. Complete with dark green roof, wood textured siding, and a weather vane, it was designed to enhance the semi-rural character of the eastern edge of the City. The new facility will be located at 3001 Camino Diablo Blvd., just west of the El Curtola Blvd. overpass and overlooking Highway 24. It is expected to be completed this summer.

TIDBITS . . .

Library Blue Ribbon Task Force

A blue ribbon task force, "Library Vision 2000," has been charged with presenting a report to a joint meeting of the City Council and Lafayette Elementary School District in June 1999. The group is made up of a cross section of the community including representatives of school boards, the Friends of the Library, the Historical Society, the Lafayette Arts and Science Foundation, the Homeowners Council, and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Senior citizens, librarians and technology experts are also involved. The task force will address issues involving:

- the deteriorating and undersized Lafayette Library facility,
- hours of service, materials, purchasing, book circulation and library programs.

Task force meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month from 4-6pm at the Sequoia Room of the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road. Residents are encouraged to attend and help shape Lafayette's future library system.

Grasscycling! Comes to Contra Costa County

With less than a year left to meet state mandated 50% reduction in landfill waste, the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority is initiating an important new diversion effort. Recycling grass clippings is a great way to reduce waste disposal, while returning moisture and nutrients back to your lawn. To receive the free "Send Your Grass Back To Its Roots - Grasscycle!" video and informational brochure, call 906-1806.

November Election for Three City Council Seats

Three City Council seats are up for election this fall. Nomination papers will be available for three City Council seats in mid-July. Each council member will serve for four years. For more information, call Sue Jusaitis, City Clerk, at 299-3212.



Photograph by Justin Ellison

CITY EMPLOYEE WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Lafayette's Transportation Analyst and manager of the Lamorinda School Bus Program, Juliet Shanks, was named the 1997-1998 Wes McClure Outstanding Assistant by the Municipal Management Assistants of Northern California.

"I really love my job," says Shanks. "To be nominated by the City Manager and then chosen by my peers makes it all worthwhile."

The Lamorinda School Bus Program, led by Shanks and a Board of Directors, is an outstanding example of creative problem solving in the public sector. Now in its fourth year of operation, the program transports about 1,800 students on 23 buses to and from 13 elementary and middle schools in Lamorinda.

Easing Traffic Congestion

Through the cooperation of three cities, three school districts, the local transportation authority, the regional air district and the local public utility, the Lamorinda School Bus Program has reduced vehicle trips to and from school sites by about 187,200 trips, reducing traffic congestion as well as tail pipe exhaust. The program is the only non-capital program ever recognized by the California Transportation Foundation, and received its prestigious TRANNY award in recognition of its success as a traffic mitigation solution.

Providing Clean Air Benefits

Recognizing that the Lamorinda School Bus Program had clean air as well as traffic mitigation benefits, Pacific Gas and Electric and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District has provided funding for 17 buses that run on compressed natural gas (CNG). While these buses burn clean, the closest fueling station is in San Ramon, which adds 18 miles to the daily mileage for each bus. Shanks has worked aggressively to secure grant funding that would allow the program to establish a CNG fueling station closer to the Lamorinda area. The State of California Department of Energy has awarded a \$200,000 grant, and the \$360,000 project is now fully funded.

For the past two years, Kristen Odegard, a student at San Francisco State University, has served as a part-time intern for the school bus program, and assists Shanks in processing applications, bus passes and payments.

Shanks and Odegard offer some practical advice for parents: Sign up early! Many bus routes fill up at the beginning of the season. Applications for the 1999/2000 school year will be available in May; the priority registration deadline is May 31. For more information, call 284-1968.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GET INVOLVED...

Leader in Public Transportation Needed

A position is open as Lafayette's representative on the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (County Connections) Citizens Advisory Committee. If you'd like to be a volunteer member of a Committee that makes recommendations on bus and transit services in our County, contact Sue Jusaitis at 284-1968 for an application form.

AROUND TOWN

May 8 THE HUMAN RACE – 5K WALK/RUN 8:00 am – Noon, Lafayette Reservoir. Obtain pledges or sponsor a runner to raise funds for the struggling LAFAYETTE LIBRARY. Tax deductible, co-sponsored by the Lafayette Suburban Junior Women's Club and the Volunteer Center of Contra Costa. Call 210-6141.

May 8 SCIENCE DISCOVERY FAIR: A DAY OF DISCOVERY – 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Lafayette Nursery School, 979 First Street; \$3.75 per child, ages 2-8. "Hands-on" exhibits and experiments for preschoolers through 3rd grade; exploring volcanoes, rocket launching, magnets, batteries and more. A Great Family Experience! (portion of the proceeds to Oakland Museum). Call 283-4613.

May 15 COWABINGO! – 6:30 – 11:00 pm Chuckwagon dinner, line dancing, gaming, no host bar, prizes – a chance to win \$1,000; sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce at the Lafayette Community Center. Open to the public; reserve early, seating is limited. Call 284-7404.

GENERAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS – The General Plan will be the blueprint for City development for the next 20 years. Call JoAnn Contreras: 284-1976 for meeting info.

Town Hall Theatre: Upcoming Shows

Box Office: 283-1557 Open Tues-Sat: 1-6 pm.

MAY 6-16: Artz For Kids: Pied Piper of Hamlin.

MAY 27-JULY 3: Town Hall Theatre presents: Beau Jest and Jest a Second (alternate weekends).

City Parks & Recreation – 284-2232

SUMMER FUN PROGRAM: June 28 – July 16 and July 19 – August 6. 9:00 am – Noon. Register Now!

ADVENTURE CAMP: June 28 – August 6, Noon – 5:00 pm. Register Now!

ROLLER HOCKEY: Summer league registration: June 9th, 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

Teen Programs – 284-5815

(Volunteer chaperones needed for teen events – Call 284-5815)

ACE OF CLUBS: Concert Club for High School Students. One-to-two Friday nights per month. Call for dates.

MOVIE MADNESS: Jr. High Students only. \$5.00; call for reservations. May 14: Rush Hour; June 4: The Waterboy

FLIPSIDE DANCE CLUB: \$5.00, no reservations needed; High School ID required. 4th Saturday of the month, 9:00 pm – Midnight. May 22, June 26, July 24, August 28.

LAFAYETTE ARTS & SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Docents Contribute Enthusiasm and Expertise

The Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation was founded in 1980 by concerned parents determined not to let State budget cuts strip Lafayette's schools of vital elective programs in the arts and sciences. Today, the Foundation is a well-coordinated, dynamic volunteer organization that plays a critical role in providing educational opportunities in the arts through grants as well as hands-on Artist-in-Residence programs.

Unique Docent Program – The Foundation administers a unique docent program in which volunteers work closely with classroom teachers and administrators, conducting enrichment activities in response to student needs and special academic requests at each school. Almost 50 docents volunteer thousands of hours each school year with enthusiasm that is matched only by that of their appreciative students.

Arts Activities – Art docents conduct workshops in a range of subjects and media, from landscapes and waterscapes to experimentation with the styles of famous artists. One team of docents brought a presentation of Chinese New Year to first graders at Burton Valley Elementary. Fourth graders at Springhill Elementary created clay relief sculptures of dogs' heads and learned animal art in the style of Roy De Forest. At Stanley Intermediate, LASF sponsored Artist-in-Residence programs feature Asian printmaking and bookbinding. And at Acalanes High, the Foundation has provided funding for an Artist-in-Residence program featuring a professional watercolorist and artists demonstrating graphic arts, photography, and architectural design techniques.

Music & Dramatic Arts – At Stanley Intermediate, the Foundation presents a Musicians-in-Residence program with individualized brass, string and woodwind instruction for band and orchestra students. In cooperation with Stanley's PTA, the Foundation co-funds the Wildcats After-School Drama Club. LASF sponsors the Acalanes Shakespeare Company and drama class workshops, and pays for musical accompanists, coaches, choreographers, and teaching assistants. LASF also funds the choral music and California Symphony Education in the Schools programs for grades K-8.

Innovative Fund Raising – LASF raises hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to provide the public school children of Lafayette with high-quality academic enrichment programs that distinguish our community from others. In an innovative fund raising program, LASF receives referral fees for all books, videos, and CDs purchased through a link from the Foundation's website to Amazon.com. Buyers get the same service and savings they expect from Amazon.com, while helping to support the Foundation's programs. LASF is a 501(c)(3) organization, so gifts are deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. For more information about LASF or to volunteer, call 943-6559. Don't forget to check out the Foundation's website and its link to Amazon.com at www.lasf.org.



Photograph by M.J. Fox

CITY DIRECTORY

Leave your Council Members a message!
Call 284-1968

Council Members		EXT.
Erling Horn	Mayor	271
Jay Strauss	Vice Mayor	270
Ivor Samson	Council Member	272
Don Tatzin	Council Member	274
Anne Grodin	Council Member	273

For messages to all Council Members:	907
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Administration

General Reception and	284-1968
Steven Falk, City Manager	Fax: 284-3169
Rebecca Lee, Director Admin. Svcs.	299-3227
Gonzalo Silva, Financial Srv. Mgr.	299-3213
Sue Jusaitis, City Clerk	299-3212

Community Development

- **Engineering Services** 284-1951
Tony Coe, Manager 299-3203
- **Planning Services** 284-1976
Mike Henn, Manager Fax: 284-1122
- **Public Works Services**
Ron Lefler, Manager 299-3214

Lamorinda School Bus Program

Juliet Shanks, Analyst 284-1968

Parks and Recreation

Jennifer Russell, Director 284-2232
Yvonne Ozario, Senior Services 284-5050
Schuyler McGraw, Youth Services 284-5815

Police Services

Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 284-5010
Police Business Office: 299-3220
Hours: M-F: 8:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 5:00

Addresses

Fax: 284-3169
Street Address: 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1968
Lafayette, CA 94549-1968
E-mail: lafay1968@aol.com
Homepage URL: www.ci.lafayette.ca.us

Volunteer Photographer Needed

If you're interested in volunteering to photograph recreation classes at the Community Center, please call 284-2232. Photos will appear on the Parks and Recreation Dept's webpage.



City of Lafayette
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