



# LAFAYETTE VISTAS

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Lafayette

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## WHAT'S NEXT FOR LAFAYETTE? *Join the Community Conversation*

### Where We Were

Talk about a time warp! Glance through the four quarterly issues of *Lafayette Vistas* published in 1994 – exactly twenty years ago – and you'll read about a community that was facing some truly daunting challenges.

One article, "Pothole City," describes the dire condition of Lafayette's falling-apart roadways and says that if the City doesn't quickly develop a repair plan the result will be "increasing costs to residents, deteriorating quality of life, and (the) loss of property values." Tens of millions of dollars were needed to fix the problem but the article did not identify an obvious funding source.

Another article bemoans the fact that the City had only two baseball fields – both in terrible condition – and suggests that undeveloped land at the Lafayette Community Park would be a good spot for new diamonds. Since money was tight, the article helpfully suggests an address where donation envelopes could be mailed.

A third article describes the City Council's intent to form a redevelopment agency, saying that doing so would provide money to bury the downtown's unsightly power lines "and install vintage street lamp fixtures on Mt. Diablo Boulevard." It also trumpets redevelopment as a tool to construct new affordable living facilities for seniors.

Finally, like a dusty relic, the Autumn 1994 *Vistas* crows that a new "voice mail" system will be installed at the city offices by year end. "Now," it says, "callers will be able to leave detailed, accurate messages directly on the voice mail box of the person they are trying to reach!" It would be years before the City installed its first computer network.

### Where We Are Now

Given how it is – that progress is made not in large leaps but in hundreds or even thousands of small steps – it is easy to forget how we got from there to here. Newer residents might have no idea at all. Those old newsletters are useful because they remind us where we were and how far we've come. Consider, for instance that, since 1994, the City of Lafayette has:

- **Fixed almost all the roads and drains.** Voter foresight made a big difference in 1995 when 69% of residents who went to the polls approved the issuance of general obligation bonds for road repairs. That successful bond measure generated \$21M for roadwork and, over the last two decades, using a combination of regional grants, garbage fees, and contributions from the general fund, the City has invested an additional \$60M into Lafayette's road network. That money – nearly \$80M! – has paid off, and Lafayette is now on track to deliver good road surfaces on every single publicly-owned street in Lafayette by 2020.
- **Built new recreational facilities.** The City was fortunate to receive State grants to rebuild Buckeye Fields and otherwise used developer fees to grade out and plant grass on the new diamonds at the Community Park. With the addition of an outdoor hockey/basketball rink and the now-under-construction Manzanita Room, Lafayette's recreational facilities are very much state-of-the-art.
- **Revitalized the downtown.** Redevelopment funds were used alongside private investment to stimulate the renovation of La Fiesta Square, Lafayette Mercantile, and Lafayette Town Center; to redesign and rebuild Lafayette Plaza; to underground the downtown power lines; and to initiate the City's colorful streetpole banner program. The City's sales tax receipts have increased by 55% since 1995.
- **Delivered affordable senior housing.** Lafayette collaborated with Eden Housing to build the Belle Terre apartment complex. The RDA's \$3.85M contribution assures that 45 units will be affordable to the very neediest seniors for decades to come.
- **Honored Veterans.** No group is more deserving of decent meeting facilities than our nation's collected war heroes, and Lafayette did well by them when, in 2005, it built the Veterans Memorial Building.
- **Created the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.** This elegant \$50M stone, wood, and glass complex, located in the center of downtown Lafayette, houses more than 100,000 volumes, a café, teen center, homework center, history room, and plenty of public art. The Friends' bookstore has thousands of volumes for sale, and the Community Hall hosts the robust programs of the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium – a unique collaboration between the library and a dozen of the Bay Area's most significant arts, science, education, and cultural institutions.



(continued on back page)

# COMMUNITY SURVEY:

## WHAT IS YOUR 20-YEAR VISION FOR LAFAYETTE?

	Over the next twenty years, should the City of Lafayette buy / build / operate / maintain. . .	Cost Magnitude	How high of a priority should this be for the city? (1 = Low Priority; 5 = High priority: circle one)	These things cost money! How willing are you to pay extra taxes for this item? (1 = Not willing; 5 = Very willing: circle one)
1	Publicly owned and operated <b>crime surveillance cameras</b> at key intersections around town?	\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
2	The <b>Park Theater</b> and run it as a community music and theater venue?	\$\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
3	A <b>downtown recreation center</b> with athletic facilities, child play, and meeting spaces?	\$\$\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
4	A place downtown that provides <b>senior services</b> and recreation?	\$\$\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
5	A municipal <b>swimming facility</b> ?	\$\$\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
6	<b>Accessible downtown creeks</b> that serve as public amenities?	\$\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
7	A downtown <b>parking garage</b> ?	\$\$\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
8	A larger police force, and <b>more neighborhood patrols</b> ?	\$\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
9	A <b>downtown jitney bus</b> to reduce traffic on Mt. Diablo?	\$\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
10	A <b>traffic bypass option</b> for Moraga Road to the freeway, e.g., tunnel, tramway, etc.	\$\$\$\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
11	<b>Housing affordable</b> to teachers, restaurant workers, young families, etc.?	\$\$\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
<b>Cost Magnitude Key:</b> \$ = Up to \$1 million    \$\$ = Many millions    \$\$\$ = Tens of millions    \$\$\$\$ = Hundreds of millions				

Take this survey online! Click the Hot Topics button at [www.lovelafayette.org](http://www.lovelafayette.org)

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Information Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Optional) Email: \_\_\_\_\_

	Over the next twenty years, should the City of Lafayette buy / build / operate / maintain. . .	Cost Magnitude	How high of a priority should this be for the city? (1 = Low Priority; 5 = High priority: circle one)	These things cost money! How willing are you to pay extra taxes for this item? (1 = Not willing; 5 = Very willing: circle one)
12	<b>More open space</b> that preserves ridges, hillsides, and trails?	\$\$\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
13	<b>Lighted field facilities</b> to allow night play?	\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
14	A <b>community art museum</b> ?	\$\$\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
15	A <b>movement and music facility</b> for dance, performance, and other events?	\$\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
16	A <b>BMX dirt bike riding facility</b> ?	\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
17	<b>More Downtown Events</b> like street fairs, food trucks, movies, chili cookoffs, etc.	\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
18	<b>Bicycle / Pedestrian Downtown Bypass Path</b>	\$\$\$	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
19	<b>Do nothing!</b> Lafayette is fantastic as it is. Leave it alone already!	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree		
20	<b>Your brilliant idea here:</b>			
21	<b>Your brilliant idea here:</b>			
<b>Cost Magnitude Key:</b> \$ = Up to \$1 million    \$\$ = Many millions    \$\$\$ = Tens of millions    \$\$\$\$ = Hundreds of millions				



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

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

## Postal Customer Lafayette, CA 94549

### What's Next for Lafayette? *(continued from front)*

These good projects didn't happen by accident. They are the result of a focused community effort, strong leadership, and careful fiscal stewardship. They demonstrate what can be accomplished when a community works together toward common goals.

Lafayette was already, in 1994, a pretty darned nice place to live, work, and learn. But by working together, over the last twenty years, the citizens have made the community even better.

### Where Do We Go Next?

Which brings us to the present day. A great deal of energy, time, and resources were devoted to the

projects listed on the front page. Those tasks, though, are now largely under control or completed. It's time for the community to initiate a discussion regarding what's next for Lafayette.

Some future improvements are already the subject of public debate. The application for the *Homes at Deer Hill* project proposes to provide land and funding for a tot lot, dog park, and soccer/lacrosse field with synthetic turf. Public hearings on this project will take place throughout 2015 and there will be many opportunities for the public to comment.

What else is on your list? We want to know! Look back at what Lafayette has accomplished over the last two decades and then imagine what we might do, together, between now and 2034. **DREAM BIG! BE BOLD!**

### Community Conversations

To collect the broadest range of opinions representing all of the community, we've put together

several ways for you to share your thoughts. Feel free to use any of these:

1. Fill out the *Vistas* survey on the inside pages and mail it to the City.
2. Go to [www.lovelafayette.org](http://www.lovelafayette.org) and fill out the survey online. You'll find it behind the Hot Topics button on the homepage.
3. If the survey doesn't reflect your priorities, scrap it and send us a letter or email ([cityhall@lovelafayette.org](mailto:cityhall@lovelafayette.org)) that does.
4. Attend a **Community Conversation** in your neighborhood and make your voice heard. Because the Council is committed to this process of discovery, it will hold a public meeting near every neighborhood in town. To ensure that all can attend, childcare will be provided (age 2 and up; no diapers; email City Clerk Joanne Robbins at [jrobbins@lovelafayette.org](mailto:jrobbins@lovelafayette.org) to reserve a spot). To attract the largest and widest array of opinions, the City will offer dessert from *SusieCakes* to all who attend.

Lafayette is a great little town, a quiet oasis of civility amidst a turbulent sea of urbanity. *Come tell us how to make it even greater. We value your opinion.*

### Join the Community Conversations

**Lafayette Library  
& Learning Center**  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd  
■  
March 19 at 7pm

**Lafayette  
Community Center**  
500 St. Mary's Rd.  
■  
April 16 at 7pm

**Oakwood  
Athletic Club**  
4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd  
■  
May 14 at 7pm

## CITY DIRECTORY

For Council Members call: **284-1968**

### Council Members

Brandt Andersson	<b>Mayor</b>
Traci Reilly	<b>Vice Mayor</b>
Michael Anderson	<b>Council Member</b>
Mark Mitchell	<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>
Jennifer Wakeman, Financial Srv. Mgr.	<b>299-3213</b>
Joanne Robbins, City Clerk	<b>299-3210</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 Hansen, Program Mgr.	<b>299-3216</b>
	<b>Or 299-3215</b>

### Parks, Trails and Recreation

Jennifer Russell, Director	<b>284-2232</b>
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### Senior Services

### 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), 299-3230**

<b>Fax</b>	<b>284-3169</b>
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<b>Address</b>	<b>3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210 Lafayette, CA 94549</b>
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<b>Website</b>	<b><a href="http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us">www.ci.lafayette.ca.us</a></b>
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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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Almost Daily Briefing at [www.lovelafayette.org](http://www.lovelafayette.org).**