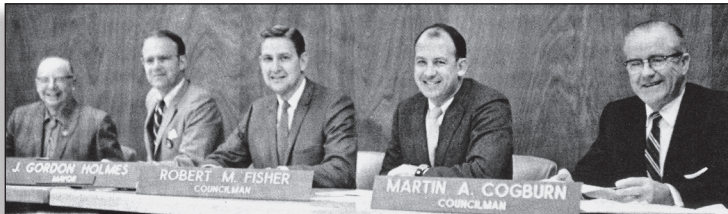


THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE: OUR UNIQUE STORY OF INCORPORATION

In July 1968, 57-percent of local voters turned out to cast ballots on an issue that had twice before been defeated: Should Lafayette incorporate and become a city? But, this time, it passed with 3,279 votes in favor and 2,692 against. Why did the residents finally choose to add a new layer of government to their lives—and why did it take so long?



Lafayette's first City Council members in 1968. L to R: Jack Marchant, Mayor Donn Black, Dr. J. Gordon Holmes, Robert M. Fisher and Martin Cogburn.

The 1960s were a period of incredible growth in Lafayette, which was then an unincorporated area of Contra Costa County. The population almost tripled between 1960 and 1970, from 7,000 to over 20,000 residents. New commercial buildings were popping up on Mt. Diablo Blvd. with little planning and few restrictions. Because it was unincorporated, the area known as “Lafayette” did not control planning or zoning, so that responsibility fell to the County. And the County had a land-use plan that allowed for high-density development, anticipating that as many as 60,000 people would eventually live in Lafayette. (Our current population is about 25,000.) Residents who had been attracted by the small-town, semi-rural atmosphere were concerned that Lafayette was changing too much and too fast—like many of the concerns citizens hold today.

“The incorporation effort focused on the importance of local control, largely for the purpose of influencing land use and future growth,” explained Bob Fisher, who actively campaigned for incorporation. But, as much as Lafayette residents wanted to be in control of their own destiny, they didn’t want to pay for the privilege with additional taxes needed to fund a local city government.

According to the late Ned Robinson, who opposed incorporation twice and campaigned in favor of it the third time, “The first two times, the numbers didn’t make sense. There were not enough existing taxes to provide the money the city needed to operate independently.” He added, “In 1967, it finally looked economically feasible. We would be entitled to enough money from sales tax and other fees so that we could make this work without levying an additional property tax on ourselves.”

BART, slated for completion in 1970, was also a concern, since many people feared BART would encourage unchecked development—a fear perhaps borne out in what we are seeing today in Assembly Bill 2923 and other regional and state proposed transit-oriented development policies. Fisher thought that fear of BART station-area development was a major factor in changing voters’ minds and getting incorporation approved.

When Lafayette residents approved incorporation in July 1968, they also elected the City of Lafayette’s first city council members: Bob Fisher, Gordon Holmes, Donn Black, John Marchant and Martin Cogburn.

The day after the election, Fisher called Charlie Williams, who had been Pleasant Hill’s first city attorney after its incorporation a few years earlier, and asked him, “Okay, what do we do now?” Williams met with the newly elected city officials, even before they took office, and outlined what steps were necessary and helped them prepare the agenda for the first council meeting. Williams was then retained as city attorney. Hired away from the City of Pittsburg, Ernie Marriner became Lafayette’s first City Manager. Donn Black was the City’s first Mayor.

Fisher, recalling the early days on that first City Council, said, “Because we were clear about why we needed to incorporate, we were clear about what we needed to do.” And so they did. Within 30-60 days of incorporation, the new City Council had created a BART Commission, a Fire Services Commission, and a Planning Commission, which quickly developed hillside and sign ordinances. Most importantly, the Council decreed that anyone who wanted a building permit or had a zoning issue had to submit an application and plans to Lafayette’s Planning Commission, much as they

continue to do today.

Within three years of incorporation, Lafayette adopted a new General Plan, which reduced the potential population estimated by the County by 50%. By incorporating, Lafayette citizens had accomplished their goals: they secured the semi-rural nature of the community, protected their hillsides, and gained control of their destiny. Fifty years later, the City’s mission remains unchanged: preserve and enhance the semi-rural character of the community.



Lafayette's first City Manager, Ernie Marriner

DID YOU KNOW...

Lafayette was incorporated for the preservation and enhancement of the semi-rural character of the community. Lafayette shall endeavor to maintain the nature of the community by using a volunteer system of commissions and committees and a small staff whose number is consistent with the services provided. Limited services and a conservative fiscal policy are Lafayette’s practice.

– Mission Statement, City of Lafayette

SPECIAL

50TH ANNIVERSARY

EDITION

MESSAGE FROM STEVEN FALK, CITY MANAGER

Happy Birthday, Lafayette! As your longtime City Manager, it is my pleasure to introduce this special edition of the *Vistas* newsletter commemorating Lafayette's fiftieth anniversary as a city.

I've been privileged to work in this community for the last twenty-eight years—more than half of the incorporated city's life. And while it was a long time ago, my first visit to Lafayette remains an indelible memory.

Here's the story: I was pleased to have been invited for a job interview at the Lafayette city offices but, because I lived in San Francisco, I had never once been through the Caldecott Tunnel. I rose early that spring morning and steered my Chevrolet over the Bay Bridge and onto Highway 24 heading east. On the Berkeley side, the coastal fog kept the morning gray, but when the dark tunnel spat me out, it was all dazzling and sunny blue skies.

Approaching Lafayette, I saw for the first time the vast open spaces of Briones to the north and Las Trampas to the south. I saw electric green grasses, and dusky native oak forests, and warm rolling hills with verdant slopes supercharged by the yellow mustard flowers of March. Continuing eastward on that ribbon of highway, Mt. Diablo soon filled my windshield with its unqualified magnificence. The guardian of the East Bay. Our sleeping giant.

These are wild places where the coyote and the cougar live underfoot and the raptor and the red-winged blackbird fly

overhead. Glowing gold in the summer, our untrammelled hillsides and ridgelines are glorious in their own right, yet they're also startlingly close to our downtown and to some of the most densely populated cities in the State.

This didn't happen accidentally. The exquisite balance that Lafayette has struck between its wild places and its living spaces distinguishes our community, and it is the product of years of effort by conservationists, tireless planners, and unselfish appointed and elected officials. Let's use this birthday celebration to reflect upon and celebrate the work of our visionary and hard-working predecessors, and also to rededicate ourselves to preserving and enhancing the semi-rural character of this place we call home.

The first time I traveled on Highway 24, and the last time I traveled on Highway 24, and every time in between, I have thought to myself, "Oh my, what a privilege it is to live in Lafayette!"

I hope you have enjoyed your stay here as much as I have.



Steven Falk, Lafayette's longtime City Manager.

July 29, 2018 Our 50th Anniversary Party: Let's Celebrate Together!



LAFAYETTE
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INCORPORATION
SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018 • 4-7PM

- PARADE • LIVE MUSIC
- BBQ • KIDS ZONE

An Afternoon Full of Events
to Celebrate our City's 50th!

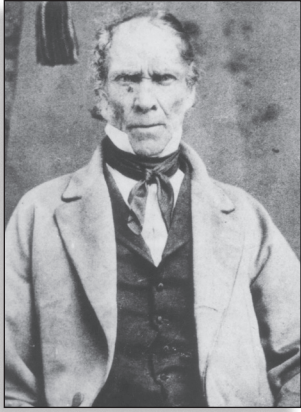
www.LoveLafayette.org

AT THE LAFAYETTE LIBRARY & LEARNING CENTER & GOLDEN GATE WAY

It's Our 50th Anniversary, Why Not Give Our Environment the Gift of Green?

In honor of Lafayette's 50th Anniversary, we're calling on 1,000 homes and businesses in Lafayette to participate in the City's largest ever community gift of green energy. Already, Lafayette is ranked 8th among Bay Area MCE Deep Green renewable energy cities. If Lafayette were to reach its Gift of Green goal of 1,000 households in Deep Green, we would become number one. More importantly, the City would be saving 2,163,000 pounds of greenhouse gasses—or 2,351,000 miles of avoided traffic in an average vehicle—each year. Any Lafayette home or business can opt-up to MCE Deep Green and choose 100% renewable electricity sourced from California wind and solar farms—all it takes is a minute! It's simple to convert to Deep Green and costs just \$0.01 more per kWh (about \$5/month for an average household). For more info and to enroll please go to www.lovelafayette.org/50

A SHORT HISTORY OF LAFAYETTE: THE EARLY YEARS



Elam Brown,
Lafayette's founder.

Like so many places in the Bay Area, Lafayette's history begins with our Native Americans. More than 10,000 years ago, the Saclans, a Miwok sub-group, settled a number of villages in the place we now call the City of Lafayette. In 1797, seeking to protect their territory, the Saclans fought a battle with the Spaniards on land that was later to become our city.

Decades later, in 1847, Elam Brown, one of the first so-called Yankee settlers in Contra Costa

County, led a fourteen-family wagon train through the Donner Pass just days before the ill-fated Donner Party. When he arrived, Brown bought a 3,329-acre Mexican land grant called Rancho Acalanes, which comprised almost all of present-day Lafayette. He built his first of three homes in 1848, making Lafayette the first community in central Contra Costa County.

During the 1850's, redwood lumber harvested in Canyon was hauled to Martinez for shipment to San Francisco, and Lafayette thus became the ideal spot for people to rest, eat, drink, and repair their wagons during this long trip.



Lafayette's post office in 1912.

Benjamin Shreve came to Lafayette after failing to make a fortune in the Gold Rush. He built and ran Lafayette's first school. In 1857, Shreve became postmaster of the town and he decided to give it a name. It was previously called, alternatively, Acalanes, Dog Town, Brown's Corner, Brown's Mill and Centerville, but the tiny settlement wanted an identity of its own. He requested the name Centerville, but it was rejected because there was another Centerville in the state. So, upon the suggestion of his wife, Shreve submitted La Fayette, and, in 1932, the name was changed to today's spelling, "Lafayette."

Perhaps, the most historic event that ever occurred in Lafayette happened in the early 1860's when the Pony Express rode through town, several times, stopping to get a fresh horse at what is now the intersection of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Blvd. And the town remained a quiet farming village until the post-World War II building boom and the growth of the Bay Area as a whole.



The Pioneer store in 1910.
The building still stands on Plaza Park.

Brown and his neighbor Nathaniel Jones were farmers. Tired of the weeklong trip to San Jose to the nearest mill, Brown built his own horse-drawn grist mill. With business going well, Brown decided to add a steam-powered mill on Lafayette Creek near what is now First Street. Once that mill was built, the commercial center of Lafayette began to grow at the present day intersection of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Road. These first businesses were a blacksmith's shop, a bar, a general store and rooming houses.



Circa 1910 view of Plaza Park at what is now Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Blvd.

And Just Who Was This General Lafayette?

Besides being a major character in the widely popular musical Hamilton, as portrayed by Daveed Diggs, here are a few facts you should know about the Marquis de Lafayette, our City's namesake:



A statue of General Lafayette, our City's namesake, stands near Plaza Park.

- The future hero of the American Revolution was born Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier de La Fayette in an expansive chateau in Chavaniac, France, on September 6, 1757.
- Lafayette was only 19 years old and without combat experience when he arrived in America. Still a teenager who spoke little English and lacked any battle experience, Lafayette convinced the Continental Army to commission him a major general on July 31, 1777.
- Lafayette was at George Washington's side in Valley Forge in 1777. In 1779, the Marquis named his newly-born son Georges Washington de Lafayette in honor of America's first president.
- The French Hounds that Lafayette sent to George Washington helped to create a new breed of dog, the American Foxhound. The American Kennel Club recognized the breed in 1886. (Hello, Dogtown, Downtown fans!)
- Lafayette co-authored the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen with the help of Thomas Jefferson, the author, of course, of our Declaration of Independence.
- Lafayette became an American citizen, first in 1784, when Maryland conferred honorary citizenship on him. Then, in 2002, Lafayette became just the sixth foreign national to be given honorary American citizenship by the United States Congress.
- Lafayette died in Paris on May 20, 1834, at the age of 76. He asked to be buried in both American and French soil, so his sons covered his coffin, which was interred at Paris's city's Picpus Cemetery, with dirt from Bunker Hill in 1825.

(Excerpted from Christopher Klein's History Channel article.)

A SALUTE TO OUR CITY'S LEADERS

Since incorporation in 1968, Lafayette has been led by inspired and committed leaders—the City's Councilmembers and Commissioners. All of them are volunteers, and none of them are paid for their work on behalf of the City. These fine folks are responsible, in no small way, for the city in which we now live. Let's toast fifty years of leadership and offer them a collective "thank you" for their service to the City of Lafayette.

YEAR	MAYOR / COUNCILMEMBERS
1968 – 1969	Mayor Black / Cogburn / Fisher / Holmes / Marchant
1969 – 1970	Mayor Holmes / Black / Cogburn / Fisher / Marchant
1970 – 1971	Mayor Fisher / Black / Davy / Holmes / Robinson
1971 – 1972	Mayor Robinson / Black / Davy / Fisher / Holmes
1972 – 1973	Mayor Davy / Black / Costa / Fisher / Robinson
1973 – 1974	Mayor Costa / Black, Davy / Fisher, Robinson
1974 – 1975	Mayor Fisher / Costa / Langlois / Robinson / Wasson
1975 – 1976	Mayor Langlois / Robinson, Wasson / Costa, Fisher
1976 – 1977	Mayor Wasson / Langlois / Robinson / Roche / Tuttle
1977 – 1978	Mayor Robinson / Langlois, Roche / Tuttle, Wasson
1978 – 1979	Mayor Roche / Chilcote / Robinson / Uilkema / Tuttle
1979 – 1980	Mayor Tuttle / Chilcote / Cleveland / Robinson / Uilkema
1980 – 1981	Mayor Chilcote / Cleveland / Craig / Uilkema / Robinson
1981 – 1982	Mayor Uilkema / Chilcote, Craig / Cleveland, Robinson
1982 – 1983	Mayor Cleveland / Craig / Holmes / Uilkema / Wilson
1983 – 1984	Mayor Uilkema / Holmes / Robinson / Wilson / Cleveland
1984 – 1985	Mayor Wilson / Uilkema / Cleveland / Robinson / Holmes
1985 – 1986	Mayor Holmes / Tatzin / Parti / Wilson / Uilkema
1986 – 1987	Mayor Tatzin / Parti / Wilson / Holmes / Uilkema
1987 – 1988	Mayor Parti / Wilson / Holmes / Uilkema / Tatzin
1988 – 1989	Mayor Wilson / Holmes / Parti / Tatzin / Uilkema
1989 – 1990	Mayor Holmes / Uilkema / Talan / Tatzin / Wilson
1990 – 1991	Mayor Uilkema / Tatzin / Holmes / Talan / Wilson
1991 – 1992	Mayor Tatzin / Talan / Grodin / Samson / Uilkema
1992 – 1993	Mayor Talan / Grodin / Samson / Tatzin / Uilkema
1993 – 1994	Mayor Grodin / Uilkema / Samson / Tatzin / Garvens
1994 – 1995	Mayor Uilkema / Garvens / Grodin / Samson / Tatzin
1995 – 1996	Mayor Garvens / Tatzin / Uilkema / Grodin / Horn
1996 – 1997	Mayor Tatzin / Grodin / Uilkema / Garvens / Horn
1997 – 1998	Mayor Grodin / Tatzin / Horn / Strauss / Samson
1998 – 1999	Mayor Horn / Grodin / Strauss / Samson / Tatzin
1999 – 2000	Mayor Strauss / Federighi / Horn / Samson / Tatzin
2000 – 2001	Mayor Samson / Federighi / Horn / Tatzin / Strauss
2001 – 2002	Mayor Tatzin / Federighi / Horn / Samson / Strauss / Andersson (2002)
2002 – 2003	Mayor Federighi / Horn / Anduri / Samson / Tatzin
2003 – 2004	Mayor Horn / Anduri / Federighi / Samson / Tatzin
2004 – 2005	Mayor Anduri / Horn / Federighi / Samson / Tatzin
2005 – 2006	Mayor Samson / Federighi / Anduri / Tatzin / Andersson
2006 – 2007	Mayor Federighi / Anduri / Tatzin / Anderson / Andersson
2007 – 2008	Mayor Anderson / Anduri / Tatzin / Andersson / Federighi
2008 – 2009	Mayor Tatzin / Anduri / Andersson / Federighi / Anderson
2009 – 2010	Mayor Andersson / Anderson / Anduri / Federighi / Tatzin
2010 – 2011	Mayor Anduri / Anderson / Andersson / Federighi / Tatzin
2011 – 2012	Mayor Federighi / Anderson / Andersson / Tatzin / Anduri
2012 – 2013	Mayor Anderson / Andersson / Tatzin / Reilly / Mitchell
2013 – 2014	Mayor Tatzin / Anderson / Andersson / Mitchell / Reilly
2014 – 2015	Mayor Andersson / Anderson / Mitchell / Reilly / Tatzin
2015 – 2016	Mayor Mitchell / Anderson / Andersson / Reilly / Tatzin
2016 – 2017	Mayor Anderson / Burks / Mitchell / Tatzin / Reilly
2017 – 2018	Mayor Tatzin / Anderson / Burks / Mitchell / Samson

You can watch a video about our City's history, including interviews with some of our City's leaders by visiting www.lovelafayette.org.

HOW HAS THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?



Pioneer Store

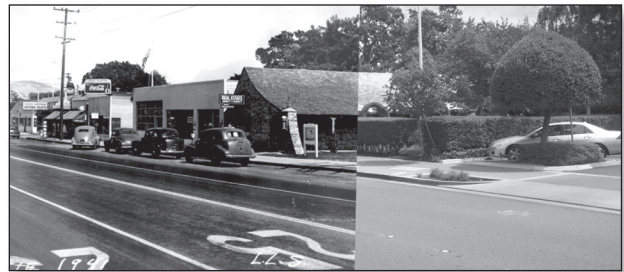
Change happens slowly, but inexorably, in the Bay Area. Still, we think the City's founders would recognize today's Lafayette, with its long boulevard, dark nighttime streets, and beautiful open spaces. Here are some then-and-now photographs from our archives to illustrate just how the City of Lafayette has changed over the years. We think you'll be pleased.



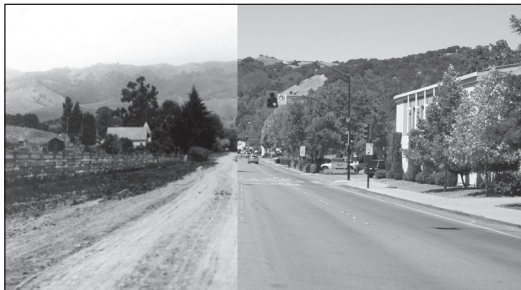
Safeway



Mercantile



Postino



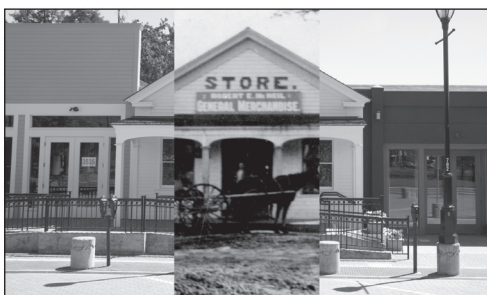
Moraga Road



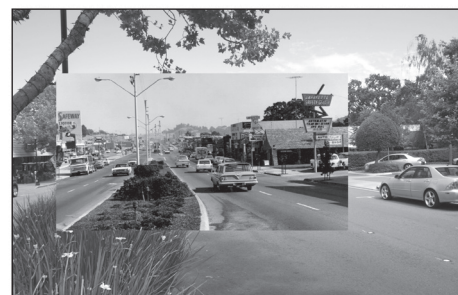
Mt. Diablo Blvd.



The Roundup



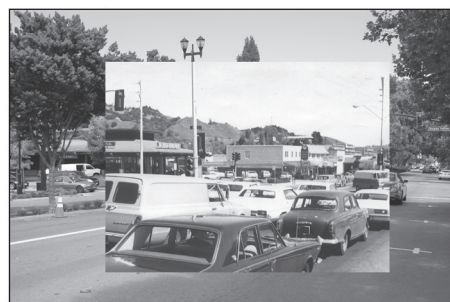
Another view: Pioneer Store



Another view: Mt. Diablo Blvd.



Trading Post



Well Fargo Bank



Town Hall



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

VOX POPULI

Street Interviews: What Does the Incorporation of Lafayette Mean to You?

We hit the streets of Lafayette to ask residents what they thought about incorporation on this 50th anniversary. Here is a sampling from one very warm afternoon at La Fiesta Square.



Jeff Cronk

I love Lafayette and I'm never leaving. I need to know more about incorporation. I wasn't aware of the 50th Anniversary party on July 29, but now that I am, I'll be there.



Lindsey Morgan

Incorporation means bringing businesses here, building the City, making it more of a hotspot for tourists and others. I work in retail, so we need more businesses and people.



Jerld Potts

I don't know about the incorporation of the City. My main gripe is that I am tired of things being over-developed. But, I do like it here.



Ellen Reintjes

Incorporation means that you have your own little town. And Lafayette is very similar to a town I grew up in. There's a little town center, a nice population, nice homes, good schools and people are civically active and they promote their community.



Andrew Gregor

Because I am a contractor, incorporation means that Lafayette has its own building permit office. I just like the town, there's some diversity here, and I am happy that the City is safe.



Yshel Lok

The anniversary of incorporation is just amazing. I feel great to live here for more than 13 years. It's a great city, family oriented, and I see great developments and improvements, especially in the last four or five years. It's amazing.

CITY DIRECTORY

For Council Members call: 925-284-1968

Council Members

Don Tatzin	Mayor
Cameron Burks	Vice Mayor
Mike Anderson	Council Member
Mark Mitchell	Council Member
Ivor Samson	Council Member

Email all Council Members at:
cityhall@lovelafayette.org

Administration

General Reception and	925-284-1968
Steven Falk, City Manager	Fax: 925-284-3169
Tracy Robinson, Admin. Srv. Dir.	925-299-3227
Jennifer Wakeman, Financial Srv. Mgr.	925-299-3213
Joanne Robbins, City Clerk	925-299-3210
Mike Moran, City Engineer	925-299-3203
Niroop Srivatsa, Planning & Building Dir.	925-299-3206
Donna Feehan, Public Works Mgr.	925-299-3214
Jeff Heyman, Communications	925-299-3241

If you observe illegal dumping in creeks & storm drains or accidental spills on roads, call Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Division 925-646-2286.

Lamorinda School Bus Program

Juliet Hansen, Program Mgr. **925-299-3216**

Parks, Trails, Recreation

Jonathan Katayanagi, Director **925-284-2232**

Senior Services

925-284-5050

Police Services

Emergency: 24 Hours	911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours	925-284-5010
Police Business Office:	925-283-3680

Anonymous tipline, traffic enforcement, suggestions & LEARN (Laf. Emergency Action Response Network), 925-299-3230

Fax **925-284-3169**

Address **3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549**

Website **www.ci.lafayette.ca.us**

Share your opinions
about the City at:
LafayetteListens.org



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