



V LAFAYETTE VISTAS

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IN MEMORIAL: REMEMBERING COUNCIL MEMBER MARK MITCHELL

This fall, the City of Lafayette mourned Council Member Mark Mitchell, who passed away unexpectedly of natural causes on Monday, November 5, 2018. Mitchell, who was first elected to the City Council in 2012, served as the City's Mayor in 2015-16. While serving on the Planning Commission from 2001 to 2012, Mitchell, worked on a number of long-range policies that set much of the framework for development in Lafayette. Hailed throughout the community as truly dedicated to Lafayette, his life-long home, Mitchell's work as a planning commissioner included updating the general plan and its housing element, helping to guide the downtown-specific plan, revising the hillside ordinance, creating more realistic guidelines for senior housing, and supporting the creation of the Lafayette Library & Learning Center.

Former Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin said, "Mark was a thoughtful and dedicated public servant and we are all saddened by his passing. Mark was the type of person we should want to emulate. He was particularly helpful in improving the relationship between the City and the Lafayette School District and working to improve the East End. Mark's actions reflected well on the City and on him. He served on the Council for one reason: to better the City, not to enhance his position or draw attention to himself."



"During my years in Lafayette, I've not met a person who loved our City more than Mark Mitchell. His political philosophy was simple: Whatever is best for Lafayette," said Former City Manager Steven Falk.

"Mark Mitchell was a very fine, amiable man who chose to live his life as a citizen," Falk added. "He always put his community before himself."

A memorial service for Mitchell was held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on November 11. Pastor Dan Senter, who played tennis with Mark the morning he died, offered a moving welcome. Falk, who was close to Mitchell for many years, provided reflections on his legacy. His family spoke of their loss and also told stories about Mitchell's life, his activities, and his love for playing piano, although, as they put it, "The piano didn't love Mark." Music filled the sanctuary as photos from his incredibly active life were shown. Afterward, friends and family gathered at the Lafayette Park Hotel to continue the celebration honoring Mitchell. It was clear from the enormous turnout that his legacy will long be remembered.

You can read memories of Mitchell, and share your own, in this Electronic Memory Book by visiting www.opentownhall.com/6929.

Park Theater Friends Plans to Save Our Theater

A dedicated citizens' group has been working to save the historic Park Theater. They are committed and have a new, focused Mission Statement:

Our committee's mission is to seek a solution for self-supporting development of the Park Theater site, with concurrent goals of advancing the location as an anchor in a thriving pedestrian environment that will activate and enliven our city. The revitalized area would provide a social gathering point, spark conversation, and engage the multi-generational citizens in the greater Lafayette community.

With four subcommittees, along with a steering committee, the Park Friends are on the move. Join them in saving the Park Theater. Ongoing meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at City Offices at 6pm.



The Terraces of Lafayette: Hearings This Spring

Processing of the original 2011 Terraces of Lafayette application by the City of Lafayette is currently underway. There will be public hearings concerning the project this spring. To learn more and keep up on the latest developments, visit: www.lovelafayette.org/terraces. To sign up for emails regarding the upcoming hearings, go to www.lovelafayette.org/e-notification, and check the box for "Project – Terraces of Lafayette."

A Tribute to Don Tatzin

Longtime Lafayette City Councilmember and Mayor, Don Tatzin announced last summer that after more than 30 years in elected office, he would not run again for a seat on the City Council. It is hard to overestimate the impact of everything that Tatzin has done for the City of Lafayette – his accomplishments are nothing short of monumental. Having served for more than half of the City’s incorporated life, Tatzin had a hand in every significant project that the City completed over the last three decades. That list includes the development of the Lafayette Community Park and Buckeye Fields; the acquisition of Leigh Creekside Park; the deal to acquire the Acalanes Ridge Open Space; the rebuilding of Lafayette Plaza; the Veterans Memorial Building; and the new Lafayette Police Station.



Tatzin’s greatest accomplishment is probably his least well-known: He was the financial architect behind the \$50 million Lafayette Library and Learning Center. His plan not only helped pay for the Library but also endowed the Library Foundation with more than \$14 million – an amazing feat – thus ensuring that the Library would not only be built, but also financially viable for generations to come. During his thirty-three years on the City Council, Don Tatzin was an unwavering champion for transparency, for public participation, for people with disabilities, and for fiscal responsibility. By making these his priorities, Tatzin set an example for past and future councilmembers, and all the many staff members who worked for the City during his tenure. Our city, and its residents, are better off today because Don Tatzin chose to devote more than half of his life to public service right here in Lafayette.

City Manager Steve Falk Departs After 28 Years of Service



Twenty-eight years is a long time by any standard, save geologic time. And it is thus with the resignation of City Manager Steven Falk, who this fall announced that he was resigning his position effective January 2019. Falk worked for the City of Lafayette since 1990 and held the City Manager position since 1996, a virtual eternity for city managers statewide.

Councilmembers applauded Falk for his nearly three decades of service to the City and ticked off a list of improvements that Lafayette saw during his tenure: the construction of the Veterans Memorial Building and the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, building the Community Park and Buckeye Fields, purchasing Leigh Creekside Park, renovating Lafayette Plaza, undergrounding powerlines and, one of our favorites, initiating the street pole banner program. And, let’s not forget the fiscal discipline he instituted at the City.

In addition, there were, of course, Falk’s trendsetting communications including, this publication – *Lafayette Vistas* – the *Weekly Roundup*, the *Almost Daily Briefing*, and the civic forum *Lafayette Listens*. And who knew that Falk invented the City’s best-known slogans, “Love Lafayette” and “Green Hills, Great Schools.” Thank you, Steve, for everything.

WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY IN LAFAYETTE?

A few years back, the Lafayette City Council adopted an Environmental Strategy. It was developed as a guide for Lafayette to think, act, and plan more sustainably and to develop criteria for evaluating the long-term environmental impacts of the City’s decisions. To monitor the community’s progress in meeting its sustainability goals, an Environmental Task Force was created which established a set of indicators and developed an Environmental Action Plan. The Task Force is also the liaison for community groups and organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce, Sustainable Lafayette, the Lafayette Community Garden, and local schools. The Action Plan, which is slated to be reviewed by the Task Force this year, is designed to provide a more complete image of how the City can continue to reduce its environmental footprint. To learn more about the Environmental Task Force, and how you can contribute to making Lafayette more sustainable, visit www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/commissions-committees/environmental-task-force.

STORM WATER 101: CLEAR THOSE LEAVES & GRAB SOME SANDBAGS



Winter is here and it hopefully will continue to rain. Our Public Works crew has already been busy cleaning out storm drains and ditches and will continue to monitor our streets and drains during storms. You can help minimize drainage issues, and even flooding, by raking up leaves and debris in your yard and around your property. But don’t blow or rake leaves into the street or into gutters, ditches, tributaries, or creeks, as this could cause a possible downstream flood. Additionally, if you have a driveway culvert (that’s the pipe that goes under your driveway to carry storm water), remember that it is your responsibility to clean and maintain it. Did you know that the City of Lafayette has two, fill-them-yourself sandbag stations? The stations are located on Camino Diablo at Loveland Drive (immediately west of the Lafayette Corporation Yard) and Mt. Diablo Blvd. at Village Center (kitty corner from the Veteran’s Memorial Building). If you see an area in the City that needs attention during a storm, please fill out a work request on our website or call us at 925-934-3908.



MEET LAFAYETTE'S INTERIM CITY MANAGER NIROOP SRIVATSA

With the departure of Steven Falk as City Manager, the Lafayette City Council appointed Niroop Kasthuri Srivatsa as Interim City Manager. Ms. Srivatsa – the City of Lafayette’s Planning and Building

Director for the past seventeen years – has over thirty years of local government experience, twenty-four of which she served in Lafayette. Over those years, Srivatsa led city staff and advised the City Council and Planning Commission on land use policy, strategic growth initiatives, and housing and economic development matters. During her tenure, the City completed an update to the general plan, adopted its first downtown specific plan and approved over 100 below-market-rate housing units in the downtown.

Prior to her work at the City of Lafayette, Srivatsa served as Associate Planner and Chief City Planner, from 1982 to 1989, for the City of Naperville, Illinois. Srivatsa serves on the League of California Cities Revenue and Taxation Committee and advocates for local control. She was recently appointed as an alternate commissioner to the California Statewide Communities Development Authority where she will review and approve applications from more than 500 cities, counties and special districts for funding community infrastructure, affordable housing, and environmental projects.

From 1992 to 1999, Srivatsa worked as Lafayette’s Planning and Community Development Director supervising the planning, engineering, and public works divisions and serving as staff to the newly-created redevelopment agency. Under her supervision, the department commenced work on a \$15 million capital improvement program with community oversight and public review added to the process. In addition, she has acted as incident commander during emergency operations drills and held leadership roles during real

The Process for Selecting a Permanent City Manager

The City Council is embarking on a national search for a permanent City Manager, a process that will be completed this spring. A number of specialized search firms have been contacted and have provided proposals for conducting the search. Once a firm is selected and qualifications for the position established, the Council will then decide how best to interview the candidates – whether by a sub-committee of Councilmembers or by the full Council – and determine who is best qualified to serve as Lafayette’s City Manager. We asked a handful of Lafayette residents what qualities they wanted to see in a City Manager. You can read their responses on the back page.

Srivatsa, has a Bachelor’s degree in Architecture and Town Planning from Madras University, in Chennai, India. She and her husband, Sanjay, raised two sons, Vikram and Arjun, in Lafayette where they attended the Meher Schools, Stanley Middle School, and Acalanes High School. For the last thirteen years, she has volunteered as a dog socializer at Tony La Russa’s Animal Rescue Foundation. She currently lives in unincorporated Saranap, served by the Lafayette School District and within Lafayette’s sphere of influence.

GREG WOLFF, ACTING PLANNING & BUILDING DIRECTOR

As Niroop Srivatsa steps into her new role as Interim City Manager, Greg Wolff has been tapped to serve as the City’s Acting Planning and Building Director. Growing up in bucolic Cooperstown, New York, Wolff, who has worked for the City of Lafayette for more than 20 years, fondly remembers the family farm, the outdoors and his family’s commitment to public service. His father was a justice-of-the-peace and his mother an educator and entrepreneur. Both were members of the local Rotary, school board, and historical society. Wolff attended Cornell University, where he studied architecture, landscape architecture and city planning. But at Cornell he picked up something else: the sport of equestrian polo. He was on a national championship team his junior year and, later, coached Stanford University’s men’s and women’s

polo teams for ten years.

Nowadays, Wolff, when he has time, volunteers at the local food bank, and with scouting, and youth sports. He is passionate about STEAM education, 21st Century learning and the maker movement, which he shares with his wife and their two elementary school-aged sons. Wolff feels fortunate to work in a community with great leadership, informed and engaged citizens, and where planning is valued. In Wolff’s view, planning has the capacity to materially affect people’s quality of life as the natural and built environments are the tangible fabric of any community.





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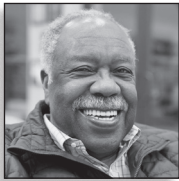
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VOX POPULI - Street Interviews:

The selection of Lafayette's permanent City Manager seems to be on the minds of people all across town. One winter afternoon, we visited Lafayette Rotary and asked its members what qualities they wished to see in Lafayette's next City Manager.



Dick Holt: What I would like to see in the City Manager is someone that could be a unifier. We've had a lot of conflict in the last year or two. I want someone who is experienced, who can settle the waters and build upon what Steve Falk, Don Tatzin and others have created. This is a wonderful city and to lose momentum, or not be able to get people to work together, would not be good for Lafayette.



Larry Duson: What I would like to see would be someone that's going to listen, not be a "yes person," but take what the people request and try to work with it, try to fix it. You got to make it work, compromise, make it a win-win on both sides. It's hard to please everybody and you can't, but at least you can make an effort. I think if one does that, then they should do well.



Diane Barbera: What I would like to see in a City Manager is someone who is transparent, who really listens to the people in the community. Someone who has ideas and policies that are in line with the larger community, in line with our development, our streets, in everything that we need.



Matt Pease: I want to see a City Manager who has a vision for the future that he or she can build a consensus around. It's got to include some level of growth; the City has got to continue to grow to be successful. But it should be a controlled growth, and I'd like to see that person build that consensus along with the City Council.



Kurt Rasmussen: What I would like to see in a City Manager is someone who can retain the small town feel of Lafayette while improving the retail environment. Someone who can keep the semi-rural character of our city while encouraging intelligent, well-planned growth.



Leighton Burrey: I'm looking for a City Manager with a long-term perspective for the City, not short-term. Someone who will look at our needs with a view of what has traditionally been done in Lafayette and what is considered important to the residents here.



Shanna Kennedy: I would say definitely transparency, community involvement, and really rolling up their sleeves and getting into the nitty-gritty of making our town better. I think that there are big shoes to fill, and I think that the next person coming in has their work cut out for them to help take Lafayette to the next level.

CITY DIRECTORY

For Council Members call: 925-284-1968

Council Members

Cameron Burks	Mayor
Mike Anderson	Vice Mayor
Steven Bliss	Council Member
Susan Candell	Council Member
Teresa Gerringer	Council Member

Email all Council Members at:
cityhall@lovelafayette.org

Administration

General Reception and	925-284-1968
Niroop Srivatsa,	Fax: 925-284-3169
Interim City Manager	

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
Greg Wolff, Acting 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
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Parks, Trails, Recreation

Jonathan Katayanagi, Director	925-284-2232
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Senior Services

	925-284-5050
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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
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Address	3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210 Lafayette, CA 94549
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Website	www.lovelafayette.org
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Share your opinions about the City at **Lafayette Listens**. Make sure to subscribe to the City's publications – the *Almost Daily Briefing* and the *Weekly Roundup* – and follow us on social media. Find out how to connect with the City at www.lovelafayette.org/connect. You'll find the latest news and events and great photos and videos of things happening around town.

