



# City of Lafayette Police Department

# Newsletter

**April 30, 2019**

Greetings,

We are fully immersed in 2019 at the Lafayette Police Department; continuing to prioritize crime prevention and crime solving. Lafayette PD has also been actively working on enhancing our Emergency Preparedness. On March 23, 2019, we facilitated an evacuation drill of the Springhill neighborhood. Over 100 residents participated and registered with the Community Warning System. The Drill was supported by the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services, Search and Rescue, the Contra Costa Fire Department, CERT, and most importantly, Springhill Residents. This Drill involved dozens of volunteers, and I appreciate the support of everyone involved.



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In the coming month, every address in Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda will be receiving the Lamorinda Resident's Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation in the mail. This guide contains the essentials for individuals and families. The content is similar to what residents would receive in an emergency preparedness presentation from CERT, fire and police departments. This guide will also be available via the City of Lafayette website. This publication was a joint effort by the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission and Lafayette Police Department, with support from the Orinda Police Department, Moraga Police Department, the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department, the Contra Costa Fire Department, and CERT.

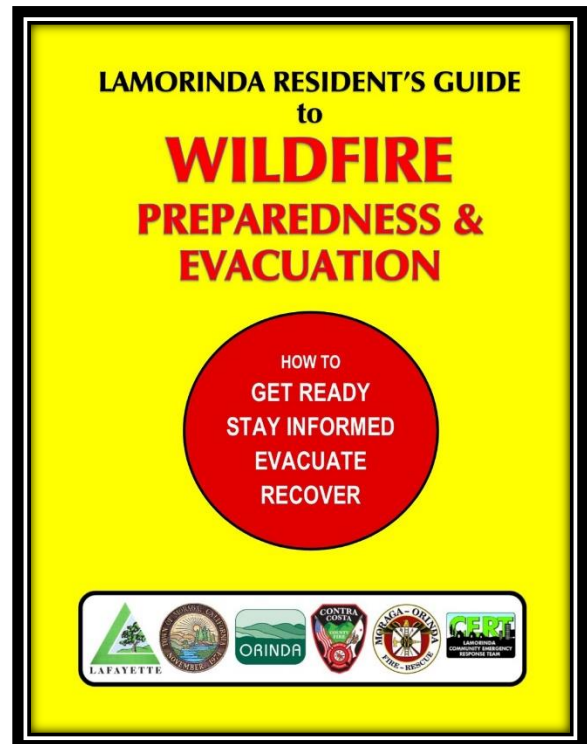
In 2019, we will continue to stress the need for every citizen to register with the Community Warning System (CWS) to ensure they receive notifications during times of disasters. I want Lafayette to lead the County in the number of residents signed up for CWS. We have several ways to communicate in a disaster, but CWS will always be the primary method of emergency notifications. If you have not registered with CWS yet, please do so.

In the first four months of 2019, we have had two residential burglaries. The two occurred the same evening and were committed by the same crew. We have made an arrest. This is still one of our highest priority crimes, and we encourage residents to install cameras and continue requesting vacation house checks and calling in suspicious activity.

This newsletter focuses on some of our more substantial investigations in the first four months of 2019. I encourage all residents to follow the Lafayette Police Department on Facebook; we post a weekly report of police activity from the prior week.

Thank you for your support,

**Chief Ben Alldritt**



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## Emergencies

In times of emergency or disaster, Lafayette Police and the City will initially communicate through NIXLE and CWS alerts. Everyone can sign up for **free**. It only takes a couple minutes of your time but could make a difference in an emergency. We also use Nextdoor and Facebook to share information, but our primary focus for delivery messages during an emergency is CWS, followed by Nixle alerts.

### **DO THIS NOW !!!**

#### **Increase Your Chances of Being Notified in an Emergency**

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services maintains our **Community Warning System (CWS)**. CWS is generally used only for life-threatening incidents. The CWS can call every AT&T landline in the County in just a few seconds. It can also call VoIP phones (Voice over Internet, such as Comcast, Vonage, Magic Jack, or others that rely on the internet) and cell phones, but **ONLY** if they are registered with the system. If you have a cell or VoIP phone, *you **must** register with the Community Warning System* for them to be able to alert you. Your information will be kept confidential and will not be used for any other purposes. To register Cell phones, VoIP phones or to subscribe to text messages and emails go to <http://cococws.com/>.

The Community Warning System can also send messages via **NOAA Weather Radios**. The radio needs to be equipped with "Specific Area Message Encoding" (S.A.M.E.) technology. Once the radio is set for our County, it will sound an alarm when activated by CWS. The alarm is quite loud so put the radio in a location where it will wake you if the emergency occurs during sleeping hours.

A popular example of this type of radio is the Midland WR120 NOAA Weather Alert Radio.

**NIXLE Alerts** – Residents who have not yet subscribed are urged to subscribe to the alerting system that we perform through the Nixle Alert System. For significant incidents and disasters within the community, this is the primary system that will be used to provide our residents with information about events. You can subscribe to Nixle Alerts by visiting the Nixle Website ([www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)) - Again, this is a free service for our residents. You will receive a text alert when notifications are sent out by the Lafayette Police or City Officials.

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**Emergency Alert System (EAS)** - This is the system that most of us grew up with that utilizes broadcasters, cable services, and satellite companies to transmit information to the public in a time of disaster. During an emergency, authorities can use this system to broadcast on television and radio networks.

**Local Media** - In a time of emergency, local government will be providing information to local media sites (the East Bay Times, News 24/680, the Lamorinda Patch, the Lamorinda Weekly, etc.) and local broadcasters (KCBS Radio and TV).

## Interested in Disaster Preparedness?

Join a local CERT Class. CERTs are residents who have taken training on how to aid us all in disaster. For more information, see their website –

[www.lamorindacert.org](http://www.lamorindacert.org)

**Pulse Point** - Pulse Point is a free application that runs on your smart device (either IOS or Android). The application can be set up to follow your local fire service / first responders and will alert you when they are dispatched. The app also can monitor radio traffic and provide first-hand information from the emergency scene.

## CRIME UPDATE



*The following is a summary of some of the arrests and investigations the Lafayette Police Department handled in between January and April 2019.*

\*\* The Lafayette Police Department utilizes the online system CrimeReports to provide police call information for our citizens. Agencies from around the nation provide crime and call data to the site for citizens to view at no cost. It is an interactive map that allows you to set filters, to include date and type of incident. Please visit [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com).

### January Case Highlights

**On January 2**, Lafayette PD hosted an Active Threat Exercise at Stanley Middle School. In attendance were Lafayette PD, Orinda PD, Moraga PD, Moraga-Orinda Fire, ConFire, AMR, and the State Department. Over 30 role players assisted in the training with various school administrators in attendance, participating in the scenarios.

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The focus of the training was neutralizing the threat on a school campus, immediately providing medical aid to the injured, and getting Fire/Medical personnel into the site as quickly as possible to triage victims.

*Note – In law enforcement training and education, we are beginning to refer to “active shooter” as “active threat.” The term change is to acknowledge that these situations can involve a variety of threats and scenarios.*

**On January 9**, at approximately 1:51 p.m., two suspects entered the AT&T Store on Mt. Diablo Blvd. They stole multiple display cell phones, and in the process knocked over a display case causing property damage. A citizen observed the two suspects get into a vehicle driven by a third suspect and was able to provide a license plate to Dispatch. The vehicle was registered as a Hertz rental car.

Lafayette Detectives learned the vehicle had been fraudulently acquired and had been used in the commission of crimes in the Milpitas on 12/30/18. Hertz began assisting by using the ON-STAR GPS system on the vehicle. Detectives were able to get a location of the vehicle in San Francisco and contacted the San Francisco Police Department. SFPD located the vehicle abandoned and began surveillance. All three suspects eventually returned to the vehicle and were detained. A Lafayette Officer responded and transported the three suspects back to Lafayette. Detectives interviewed the suspects and they were booked into jail. The District Attorney’s Office filed charges on all three suspects for commercial burglary, theft, possession of stolen property and vandalism.

**On January 20**, at approximately 2:17 a.m., a Lafayette Officer observed a vehicle driving at a high rate of speed. The Officer attempted to conduct an enforcement stop, and the vehicle failed to yield. The pursuit went to Concord and back to Lafayette and up into the Canyon area. The Officer lost sight of the vehicle when it made a U-turn. The Officer quickly located the vehicle stopped with two occupants in the back seat and the driver’s door open. The vehicle was registered to the male subject in the back seat. The vehicle was towed and processed, along with other evidence. Charges have been filed.

**On January 25**, at approximately 12:32 a.m., a Lafayette Officer conducted an enforcement stop for a vehicle code violation. The Officer contacted the driver and sole occupant. A probable cause search of the vehicle resulted in Officers locating a fully loaded Glock with a high capacity magazine. They also found two bottles of promethazine cough syrup with the prescription labels removed. The driver was arrested for multiple gun charges and possession of the cough syrup.

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## February Case Highlights

**On February 8**, at approximately 3:32 p.m., a Lafayette Officer located a stolen vehicle on Highway 24 near the Central Lafayette exit and conducted a high-risk stop. During a search of the vehicle, Officers found a loaded Glock under the seat with an extended magazine. Both occupants were arrested for numerous gun charges and possession of a stolen vehicle.

**On February 10**, at approximately 1:44 a.m., a Lafayette Officer contacted a subject who was looking into vehicles at a gas station. The Officer determined the subject was on two counts of probation for drugs. During a search, the Officer located a billy-club type weapon and a window punch on the subject. The subject was arrested and booked into jail for possession of the weapon, burglary tools, and probation violations.

**On February 11**, at approximately 1:26 p.m., a resident reported seeing a suspect stealing an Amazon package from a front porch. The resident was able to provide a vehicle description and officers were able to locate the suspect. Officers determined the subject was on probation for drugs. During a search of his person and vehicle, numerous identity theft items, stolen mail, and other stolen property were located. During the arrest, the subject threatened to come back to Lafayette and ram a police officer with his vehicle. He was arrested for identity theft, probation violation, and criminal threats. The District Attorney's Office has filed charges.

**On February 14**, at approximately 4:12 p.m., Lafayette Officers responded to the report of a suspicious person looking into vehicles. Officers located the subject and determined he was on probation. During a search, Officers found a window punch and other stolen property. It was determined the subject had just committed an auto burglary near a local business. He also had stolen property from an auto burglary that occurred in Oakland. The subject was arrested for auto burglary and possession of stolen property.

**On February 16**, at approximately 1:40 p.m., Lafayette Officers were alerted to a stolen vehicle on Mt. Diablo Blvd by Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras. An Officer located the vehicle behind a business where it appeared the suspect had been looking into another car window. As the Officer pulled up, the suspect got into the stolen vehicle. After numerous commands to exit the vehicle, the suspect backed the vehicle up and tried to exit the parking lot. The Officer was able to break out the driver's side window and take the suspect into custody. The suspect also had an active warrant for robbery and assault with a deadly weapon and was on probation for similar crimes. The suspect was arrested for the warrant, probation violation, and possession of a stolen vehicle.

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## March Case Highlights

**March 4**, over two days, two suspects stole tools from multiple storage containers. Officers were able to identify one of the suspects using surveillance cameras. An arrest warrant was issued, and on 3/6/19, the suspect was located and arrested in Lafayette on the warrant. Multiple stolen items were recovered, and the investigation is ongoing.

**March 7**, at approximately 9:38 a.m., Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person. Officers located the subject and observed him discard a meth pipe. The subject was determined to be on parole for burglary and under the influence. The subject's Parole Officer advised this was his third arrest in a week for similar crimes. The subject was arrested for drug possession and a parole violation. The subject's parole was revoked due to this arrest.

**March 13**, at approximately 10:21 p.m., an Officer conducted a traffic stop in a grocery store parking lot. The Officer determined the driver had a warrant for theft-related charges and the passenger was in possession of heroin and on probation for theft. The driver was arrested on his warrant, and the passenger was arrested for possession of drugs and a violation of his probation.

**March 19**, at approximately 11:43 p.m., an Officer observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed recklessly. The vehicle failed to yield, and a pursuit ensued. The driver lost control of the vehicle, came to a stop, and was arrested without incident. The subject was arrested for the pursuit, reckless driving and being unlicensed.

**March 21**, at approximately 8:54 p.m., BART Police requested assistance at the Lafayette BART Station for a solo officer dealing with an uncooperative subject. Lafayette Officers arrived and observed the BART officer in a physical struggle with the subject. While assisting in detaining the subject, a Lafayette Officer was bitten by the suspect and suffered cuts resulting in a blood exposure. The suspect was arrested for assault a police officer, criminal threats, vandalism, and mayhem. The District Attorney's Office has filed charges.

## April Case Highlights

**On April 13**, at approximately 3:17 p.m., a local store reported a subject stealing multiple bottles of whiskey. The suspect was described as having a prosthetic leg and using a wheelchair. A female suspect stood outside the store, and as he exited, she wheeled him away. The same couple hit in Orinda two days prior. The investigation is ongoing.

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**On April 14**, at approximately 8:15 p.m., an Officer conducted an enforcement stop on a vehicle for false registration tabs. During the contact, the driver admitted to having marijuana and cocaine in the vehicle. The driver also had a suspended driver's license. The Officer searched the vehicle and found drug paraphernalia and drugs. The driver was arrested and booked into jail.

**On April 16**, at approximately 6:48 p.m., a Lafayette Police Services Assistant was driving on Mt. Diablo Blvd when he noticed a large amount of smoke coming from the rear of Postino's Restaurant. There was a large fire in the kitchen, and Lafayette PD began evacuating customers while the fire department was en route. When Fire arrived, Officers closed Mt. Diablo Blvd. for the next several hours. No injuries were sustained, and the fire was contained to the restaurant. There is no sign of foul play at this time.



**On April 20**, at approximately 8:54 a.m., an Officer located a stolen truck unoccupied in Lafayette. The vehicle was reported stolen by Concord PD. Lafayette Officers were able to develop suspect information and use neighborhood cameras to confirm the suspect was the person who had been driving the stolen vehicle. When reviewing camera footage, Officers saw the suspect was wearing the same clothes from a search warrant that Lafayette PD served a few days earlier at a local residence. The information was shared with Concord PD.

**On April 26**, at approximately 12:41 a.m., an Officer attempted to conduct a traffic enforcement stop on a white Toyota pickup truck on the E/B onramp of Pleasant Hill Rd and Highway 24 for a CVC violation. The vehicle failed to yield, and a pursuit was initiated as the vehicle entered E/B Highway 24. The pursuit was terminated after the vehicle drove the wrong way on Monument Blvd. Shortly afterward, Officers located the vehicle unoccupied on S/B I-680. A perimeter was set, and a K-9 trail, but the suspect was not located. The investigation is ongoing.

**On April 30**, at approximately 3:12 p.m., Officers were dispatched to a reported robbery at the Bank of America. One of the suspects stated they had a gun. Once on scene, Officers determined that no crime had occurred at the Bank of America, but instead at Peet's Coffee. It was learned that four suspects drove into the Plaza Shopping Center on Mt. Diablo Blvd., where two of the suspects exited the vehicle and entered Peet's Coffee shop. The two suspects each stole a laptop from patrons that were sitting inside and ran to the waiting Saturn sedan. A student witnessed the incident and began taking pictures of the suspect vehicle. One of the occupants saw the student and threatened to shoot him. The student hid and called 911.



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With the information provided, Officers were able to use city-owned cameras to locate the vehicle and obtain images of the occupants; all occupants were identified with assistance from Oakland Police. The driver and registered owner of the vehicle, along with two of the passengers, had active arrest warrants for prior, similar crimes in the City of Berkeley.

By 8:00 p.m., Oakland Police was able to locate the vehicle and detain two of the suspects. Lafayette and Berkeley Police Detectives responded to Oakland and arrested the two suspects. Lafayette Detectives are working with Berkeley Detectives, and the investigation is currently active; Lafayette Detectives have obtained arrest warrants for the other two suspects.

## Auto Burglaries

Auto burglaries continue to be one of Lafayette's most frequently reported crime. The Police Department continues to utilize technology to help prevent and solve these crimes.

Please continue to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious. We appreciate our residents and business owners who are active participants in combating crime by installing cameras.



### **What should you do to prevent auto burglaries?**

- Beware of leaving laptops, tablets, cell phones, briefcases, purses in plain sight when making a quick stop for an errand, coffee or food.
- Lock your car at all times when it is unattended.
- Never leave items of value in your vehicle.
- Items of value in the trunk are not safe if you leave the car unlocked – most cars have a trunk release inside the car.
- Never leave your wallet or purse inside the car, even if it is in your garage (sometimes people forget to close the garage door at night).
- Roll all your windows up when you leave your car.
- At night, park your car in a well-lit area.
- If possible, park your vehicle in a location where it is under video surveillance.

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## Lafayette Police Department Tip Email

For some time now, the Lafayette Police Department has used [94549tip@gmail.com](mailto:94549tip@gmail.com) as a way for our citizens to send information to us. The tip email is a great way to request a vacation home check and pass on information of concern in your neighborhood or in the City of Lafayette. Things such as traffic (speeding) concerns, suspicious activity that is not currently occurring, parking issues, etc.

On occasion, we receive tip emails of a suspicious circumstance and/or person that is occurring at that moment. Due to potential delays in tip emails reaching the on-duty officers, I would encourage residents to call the non-emergency Dispatch phone line to report the incident. For active suspicious activity, this ensures that Dispatch relays the information to the on-duty officers and we can respond appropriately. Police radios are the most efficient and reliable way for dispatchers to contact officers in the field.

**The Lafayette Police non-emergency phone line is (925) 284-5010.**

## Vacation Home Checks

The Lafayette Police Department Vacation Home Check program is alive and well. If you are interested in having us check on your home while you are away, please visit <http://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/city-departments/police/vacation-home-checks>.

This service is provided free of charge. If you have any questions, we can be reached at [94549TIP@gmail.com](mailto:94549TIP@gmail.com) or give us a call at (925) 283-3680.