



LAFAYETTE VISTAS

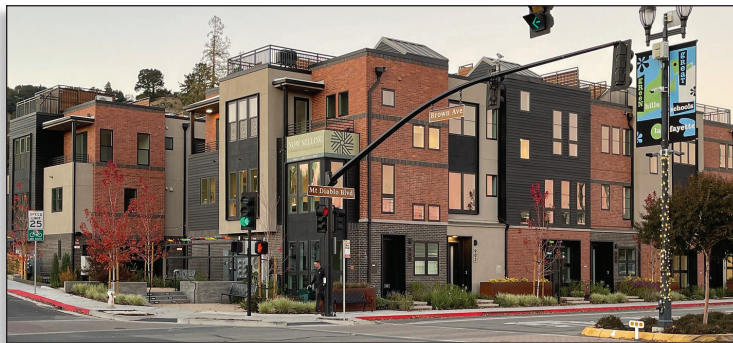
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GET INVOLVED TODAY TO HELP PLAN OUR FUTURE

Do you love Lafayette? Do you have ideas to strengthen our community? Whether you have lived in Lafayette for decades, or are new to our community, we want to hear from you! There are several significant planning efforts underway that need community input in order to be successful:

- **General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC):** In their efforts to help create the City’s General Plan 2040, GPAC is currently focused on the Safety Element, which discusses the City’s approach to minimizing harm from risks such as earthquakes, wildfire, drought, etc. Visit www.planlafayette.org to learn how you can get involved.
- **Downtown:** The City Council has set a long-term goal to create a Downtown and Mt. Diablo Corridor Specific Plan. While the current Downtown Specific Plan (adopted in 2012) outlines a strategy that has guided the City well, we must periodically revisit the document to take into account current



The Mill at Brown is a recently completed residential development on Mt. Diablo Blvd.

conditions such as the amount of traffic and housing development that could occur in the broader downtown area. This update will be an opportunity to comprehensively address the future needs of residents, businesses, and visitors. This effort is not underway yet, so subscribe to the Weekly Roundup to receive the latest news from the City. To do so, go to www.lovelafayette.org/e-notification and follow the instructions.



New flashing lights at pedestrian crossing on Stanley Blvd. near Acalanes High School.

- **Local Roadway Safety Plan:** To support the City’s Vision Zero initiative to eliminate transportation-related fatalities and injuries in Lafayette for all roadway users, the City is developing a Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP) with a Vision Zero focus. The LRSP will identify, analyse and prioritize actions to address local traffic safety issues. Learn more at www.lovelafayette.org/VisionZero.

We also have more than a dozen active advisory bodies that help shape city policies and programs. To see the full list of advisory bodies and how to get involved, visit www.lovelafayette.org/commissions or contact the City Clerk at jrobbins@lovelafayette.org.

YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

Albert Einstein is quoted as saying, “Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.” And in 2023, the City of Lafayette will be doing just that.

This year marks more than 175 years of history in this place we now call Lafayette. Throughout the year, we will be celebrating with articles in this publication, as well as presentations and events offered in partnership with the Lafayette Historical Society.

Thousands of years ago, the Saklan, a Native American tribelet of the Bay Miwok people, were living right here in the local area. In this issue of *Lafayette Vistas*, you can read more about the Saklan through information compiled by the Lafayette Historical Society. In future issues, you will also

get to know more about the “Rancho Period” from the 1770s, when the Spanish established missions, through the Mexican War of Independence from Spain in 1833 when those missions were dissolved. Finally, we’ll look at the period including the California Gold Rush in 1848, the start of agriculture in Contra Costa County, and the foundations of the town that became Lafayette, including incorporation as a City in 1968 and beyond.

Even as we look at our past, we are simultaneously planning for our future. As noted in the article above, we encourage you to get involved in planning efforts related to traffic safety for people walking, rolling, and driving in town, and as well as the vision we have for our built environment in 2040 and beyond.

LAFAYETTE'S COVID RECOVERY EFFORTS

Thanks to the federal government's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the City received \$6.37M in one-time ARPA funds to aid our local fiscal recovery from the Covid pandemic.

Based on community input and needs, the City Council established priority areas for the first tranche of the funds (which were received in 2021).

Support the economic recovery of small businesses and make economic recovery investments

- Offered assistance to businesses including resources, one-on-one counseling and other technical support
- Created the Lafayette Shop Local eCard Program. You can still purchase an eCard to spend at participating businesses. Details at www.lovelafayette.org/ecard
- Supported outdoor retail sales and dining
- Provided funds to:
 - Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
 - The Park Theater Trust
 - Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building
- Tried a business district shopping shuttle in December 2022.
- Started developing a Business District Marketing Program: Expect a new business directory website and marketing efforts to promote Lafayette dining, shopping, hotel and service businesses to launch this spring!

If you own or manage a business in Lafayette and need assistance dealing with the negative impact of the pandemic, or if you want to learn more about the Business District Marketing Program, please contact Thomas Myers, Economic Development Manager, at tmyers@lovelafayette.org or call 925-299-3257.



The friendly drivers and dispatchers of the Lamorinda Spirit Van.

Support the economic/wellness recovery of households

Partnered with the Community Foundation of Lafayette to distribute funds to established non-profits working to meet the immediate needs of Lafayette residents:

- Contra Costa Food Bank
- Lamorinda Spirit Van Program
- Lamorinda Village
- Meals on Wheels
- Mobility Matters
- Trinity Center
- White Pony Express

Support students and schools

Provided funds to Lafayette Partners in Education (LPIE) for mental health support of K-12 students in Lafayette public schools.

Protect existing City services/replace general revenue losses

- Helped bridge the gap in funding for maintenance of the core area
- Invested in hybrid meeting equipment for meetings at the Library
- Invested in ventilation/HVAC improvements to the Lafayette Community Center

NEW UTILITY BOX ART CELEBRATES LAFAYETTE'S HISTORY

As part of the 175+ celebration, the City's Public Art Committee and the Lafayette Historical Society (LHS) have created a series of beautifully designed, photo-realistic history wraps and installed them on seven utility boxes along Mt. Diablo Boulevard between First Street and Delores Drive.

The wraps utilize archival photos from LHS's impressive collection and show pioneer and farming days, Lafayette's early recreation and social clubs (including Town Hall Theatre and the infamous 1930s horse show that drew thousands from far and wide), the growth of the downtown, and the birth of what Lafayette is today. Visit www.lovelafayette.org/175plus for more information on the new utility box wraps.



Andree Hurst, LHS board member and Erling Horn, Public Art Committee member, look at a mock-up of one of the new wraps on a recent windy day.

LAFAYETTE'S FIRST INHABITANTS

Thousands of years ago there were many groups of Native Americans living in what is today California. The area around Lafayette is part of the ancestral land of the Ohlone, Miwok, Yokut, Karkin, Saklan, and at least four other tribes.

The people living in the area of present-day Lafayette were the Saklans, who were part of a larger Bay Miwok tribe that lived in central California. In villages of 50 to 100, each family took care of its own needs, making its own bows and arrows, baskets and nets, hunting and fishing. These "tribelets" had about 10 square miles of territory and each spoke a different language so nonverbal communication was imperative.

Saklan homes were grass huts constructed using willow branches and tule grass which grew in the creeks. Most homes were situated near creeks so water was readily available or near large pieces of bedrock where acorns were crushed with pestles to make acorn mush.



Saklan homes were tule grass huts constructed using willow branches

Saklans used many plants to eat, make clothing, baskets and other items, as well as for medicine. They also fished for salmon and steelhead and were skilled at hunting birds, deer, gophers, insects, lizards, snakes, moles, mice, ground squirrels, rabbits, raccoons and foxes.

The most important indigenous plants to the Saklan were the oak trees that grew in abundance in this area because they produced acorns, a staple food of the native people. Our area has two main types of native oak trees: the Coast Live Oak (with prickly leaves and smallish acorns) which produces up to 200 pounds of acorns each year and the Valley Oak (with larger, flat leaves and bigger acorns) which produces around 350 to 500 pounds of acorns each year.

Throughout the year, the people held various feasts, gatherings, and religious dances, many of them tied to the

biological rhythms of the oak trees. The acorn harvest in the fall marked the beginning of the new year. Winter was spoken of as so many moons after the acorn harvest, summer as so many moons before the next acorn harvest. Each fall, it was important that the members of the tribe work together to collect as many acorns as possible because they would have to last through the Winter, Spring and Summer until more acorns would be ripe again in the Fall.

With the arrival of the Spanish explorers in the mid-1770s, the lives of the Saklan changed drastically and by the early 18th century, many of them were gone from the area, having died from the diseases brought by the Spanish, become missionized by the Catholic Church, or having left the area to escape the rule of the white man. The discovery of gold brought many new settlers which further displaced the indigenous peoples and subjected them to further mistreatment. Despite these hardships, Native people are still present throughout the Bay Area today.



Saklan men and women often wore tattoos on their bodies that told of their families or lineage. Some tattoos were decorative, some were symbolic of the spirit meaning of an animal, bird or human being.

Learn more about Saklan through these community partners:

- Go in-person to the Lafayette Community Garden during public visiting hours to see many of the native plants used by Saklans and see a re-creation of a Miwok hut. Check for visiting hours at: www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org
- Visit the Lafayette Historical Society's website at: www.lafayettehistory.org
- Watch Digital Learning videos from East Bay Regional Park District: <https://bit.ly/EBRPDvideo>
- Check out books about Native American people, culture and places from the library or a local bookstore.

Thank you to the Lafayette Historical Society for researching and compiling this information.

TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

The Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge is an online platform that helps you reduce your household's carbon footprint by providing tips, incentives, and resources. Collect points by taking actions that reduce your household's overall carbon footprint and earn points to be eligible to receive prizes. More information is online at <https://sustainablecoco.org/cleaner-contra-costa-challenge/>



**CLEANER
CONTRA COSTA
CHALLENGE**
www.cleanercontracosta.org



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

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MEET YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

When Lafayette incorporated as a City in 1968, it was established as a Council-Manager form of government. This common form of local government combines the political leadership of elected officials with the professional, managerial experience of an appointed city manager. The Council sets goals and priorities for the City. They approve the City budget, adopt ordinances to help the City serve its community members, and appoint members to various boards and commissions. The professional staff are then responsible for implementing the Council's priorities and managing day-to-day activities.

Lafayette residents are represented by five City Council Members who are elected at large (meaning city-wide, not by geographic districts) who serve staggered four-year terms. The current Lafayette City Council Members are Carl Anduri, Mayor; Gina Dawson, Vice Mayor and Council members Susan Candell, Teresa Gerringer, and Wei-Tai Kwok.

City Council meetings are typically held on the second and fourth Monday of each month. You are always welcome to attend and provide comments at the meetings. During the pandemic, public meetings have been held online; we anticipate going back to in-person meetings in March. City Council meetings will be offered in a hybrid format, allowing the public to attend and comment in-person or watch and comment remotely via Zoom.

To see the City Council meeting schedule and how to provide comments on agenda items, go to www.lovelafayette.org/council.

To stay up to date on what topics the Council is discussing, sign-up to receive the agendas via email at www.lovelafayette.org/e-notification.

LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY DAY

If you are part of a local organization and wish to get involved in Lafayette Community Day by hosting an activity or work-party site, please send an email to communityday@lafayettectf.org.

Save the Date! The second annual Lafayette Community Day will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2023 and is presented by the Lafayette Community Foundation, in partnership with the City of Lafayette and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Go to www.lafayettcommunityday.org to learn more about this day of service and celebration.



More than 200
people volunteered at
Community Day in 2022

CITY DIRECTORY

For Council Members call: 925-284-1968

Messages to all Council Members:

cityhall@lovelafayette.org

Council Members

Carl Anduri	Mayor
Gina Dawson	Vice Mayor
Susan Candell	Councilmember
Teresa Gerringer	Councilmember
Wei-Tai Kwok	Councilmember

City Departments

Main Offices 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
City Manager – Niroop K. Srivatsa
General Reception 925-284-1968
City Website lovelafayette.org

Connect with us on social media

and sign-up for agenda notices:

lovelafayette.org/connect

Administration

925-284-1968

Admin. Services Director – Tracy Robinson
City Clerk – Joanne Robbins

Engineering Services & Public Works

Director & City Engineer – Mike Moran
Engineering Dept. 925-284-1951
Maintenance/Corp. Yard 925-934-3908
Submit Public Works maintenance requests
online at:

lovelafayette.org/maintenance-request

Report illegal dumping into waterways and
accidental spills to Contra Costa Hazardous
Materials Division 925-646-2286

Parks, Trails, Recreation

500 St. Mary's Rd
Director – Jonathan Katayanagi
Youth/Adult Recreation,
Parks & Trails 925-284-2232
Senior Services 925-284-5050
Lafayette Spirit Van 925-283-3534
LafayetteRec.org

Planning & Building

925-284-1976

Director – Greg Wolff
Building Inspection 925-299-0263
lovelafayette.org/Planning

Police Services

3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Police Chief – Ben Alldrift
Emergency (24 Hours): 911
Police Dispatch (24 Hours): 925-284-5010
Police Business Office: 925-283-3680
Code Enforcement: 925-299-3280

Anonymous tipline, traffic enforcement
suggestions & LEARN (Laf. Emergency
Action Response Network): 925-299-3230
or 94549Tip@gmail.com