

WILL THE REAL ELAM BROWN PLEASE STAND UP?

Most residents of Lafayette have an inkling of who Elam Brown was and what the Sesquicentennial Celebration is all about. For those of you who wish a refresher course...

The Brown family settled in the Happy Valley area in 1848. Elam, as wagon master, led a wagon train from St. Louis, Missouri on a six-month trek to this area. The difficult trip claimed three of the party. On the trip, Elam, a widower with four children, married Margaret Allen, a widow with 11 children. Upon the family's arrival in the area, Elam worked the summer of 1847 whipsawing lumber on Rancho Moraga. In 1848, Elam and Margaret Brown purchased the sprawling 3,300 acre Rancho Acalanes together with 300 head of cattle for \$900. The Rancho quickly became a cluster of farms where Brown harvested wheat and eventually established two grist mills.



Elam Brown served as "alcalde," or mayor, of the district from 1849 until California became a state. He was a member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1849, served as assemblyman in the new state's first two Legislatures, and turned down an offer to run for the Senate in 1852, preferring to return to his beloved farm. He died August 19, 1889 at the age of 92.

Brown Avenue, near the east end of Mt. Diablo Blvd., is the namesake of Elam Brown and commemorates the rich heritage he left to Lafayette.

150TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The Lafayette Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary) year-long celebration begins with the dedication ceremony on Happy Valley Road where Elam Brown, the first Yankee settler in Lafayette, located his home. The Happy Valley Road dedication is scheduled for 1:00 pm on February 7th. A party with music, refreshments, and Sesquicentennial collectors' items, will follow in the nearby Sammann's Barn. Parking is available at Happy Valley School, located just before the intersection of Happy Valley and Upper Happy Valley Roads.

Directional signs will be posted to the dedication site and Sammann's Barn. The U.S. Postal Service will offer a commemorative cancellation at the Lafayette Post Office *only* on February 7th. Here is the chance for you and your family to get to know the history of your town, and also to participate in making history with collector's items that commemorate the event.

This is just the kick-off of the year-long celebration marking Lafayette's 150th birthday. The Lafayette Historical Society, City of Lafayette, Chamber of Commerce and Contra Costa Newspaper Group are sponsors of the year-long celebration. Lafayette's many "regular" special events including

the Concours d'Elegance, Citizen of the Year Award, and Art & Wine Festival will also commemorate the 150th birthday. Other major events will include the dedication of a



Pony Express Monument in April, and the Lafayette Sesquicentennial Parade on Sunday, September 20th. Special posters announcing each event will be placed in Lafayette merchants' windows.

The Lafayette Sesquicentennial logo, designed by Carsten Bekker, features a wagon similar to the one in which Elam Brown made his six-month trek to California. It will be featured on many of the collectibles available throughout the year. Proceeds from the Sesquicentennial Celebration events and collectibles will go towards a new Library/Museum complex for Lafayette, creating an even better Lafayette for the next millennium.

Shop Lafayette



The Chamber of Commerce is also celebrating its 50th and seeks donations to plant "50 trees for 50 years" as a special gift to the City. Watch your mailbox in February for a copy of the Chamber's Sesquicentennial Edition of the Business and Community Directory. Info: 284-7404.

ROAD & DRAIN PROGRESS REPORT

On March 7, 1995, Lafayette voters approved a parcel tax to fund repairs to the following roads and drains. This report charts the City's progress on the work.

| # | Project Name (not in priority order) |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A | Acalanes Rd: Hidden Valley Rd to City limits |
| B | Acalanes Rd: El Nido Ranch Rd to Hidden Valley Rd; Marianne Dr, Valente Ct |
| C | Avalon Ave / Solana Dr / Acampo Dr / Hamlin Rd |
| D | Condit Rd |
| E | Deer Hill Rd: First St to Pleasant Hill Rd |
| F | Dewing Ave / Boyer Circle |
| G | Diablo Circle / Middle Rd |
| H | Dolores Dr: Mt. Diablo Blvd to Highway 24 |
| I | Doreen Way |
| J | Dyer Dr Storm Drain |
| K | El Curtola Blvd |
| L | El Nido Ranch Rd: Mt. Diablo Blvd to Hwy 24 Ramps |
| M | First St: School St to Golden Gate Way, Moraga Blvd, Moraga Rd to Victoria Ave |
| N | Glen Rd / No. Thompson Rd / Oak Hill Rd / Orchard Rd |
| O | Glenside Dr: St. Mary's Rd to Reliez Station Rd |
| P | Goyak Dr |
| Q | Hampton Rd / Woodland Way / Walnut Dr |
| R | Happy Valley Rd: Upper Happy Valley Rd to Deer Hill Rd |
| S | Hidden Valley Rd |
| T | Los Arabis Dr |
| U | Los Palos Dr |
| V | Martino Rd |
| W | Moraga Blvd: Victoria Ave to Carol Lane |
| X | Mosswood Dr / Webb Lane |
| Y | Mt. View Dr: Mt. Diablo Blvd to Brook St |
| Z | No. Peardale Dr / Camino Vallecito / So. Peardale Dr |
| AA | Old Tunnel Rd |
| BB | Ortega St / Perales St / Palomares St |
| CC | Quandt Rd |
| DD | Reliez Valley Rd: Pleasant Hill Rd to Silver Dell Rd |
| EE | Reliez Valley Road: Silver Dell Rd to City limits |
| FF | Rohrer Dr |
| GG | Sibert Ct |
| HH | Sierra Vista / Robles Ct / Serrano Ct |
| II | Springhill Rd |
| JJ | St. Mary's Rd at Driftwood |
| KK | St. Mary's Rd: Glenside Dr to Rohrer Dr |
| LL | St. Mary's Rd: Rohrer Dr to City Limits |
| MM | Sweet Dr |
| NN | Upper Happy Valley Rd |
| OO | Windsor Dr |



PARKS & RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS SUPPORTED BY COMMUNITY

The Lafayette Parks & Recreation Commission and Department have collaborated with local community groups on two capital improvement projects.

Lafayette Valley Estates neighbors worked with the City to design a small park where community members can observe local wildlife. While the Mildred Lane Observation Park in Burton Valley is tiny, it has the distinction of being the only neighborhood refuge of its kind in Lafayette.

Meanwhile, friends and family of the late Barbara Bozzini have teamed up with the Lafayette Community Parklands Foundation and the City to build a children's playground at the 68-acre Lafayette Community Park. The new recreational area will include play structures, paths and landscaping. Benches and additional landscaping will be added as more donations are received. Together with the recently installed ball fields, the new children's playground should make the Community Park even more appealing to family groups. Look for news of a formal dedication and grand opening of the children's playground in Spring, 1998.

GENEROUS BENEFACTORS HELP THE LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY CENTER

Community members responded with overwhelming generosity to the Lafayette Community Center Foundation's fundraising drive publicized in the last issue of VISTAS. Donated funds totaled \$2,530. Together with \$832 in proceeds from the recent sale of "Lafayette C'est Si Bon" holiday gift packs and the Foundation's existing \$14,000 account, the donations will help the Foundation realize its goal of creating a youth gymnastics program at the Lafayette Community Center.

"More than 400 families have enrolled their 2½ to 4-year olds in our Kindergym program," says Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Russell. "One of our long-term goals is to offer a next-step program to the Kindergym graduates."

Creating a youth gymnastics program will require the construction of an attached storage room to the Manzanita building and the purchase of gymnastics equipment. The estimated cost is \$22,000, and the Foundation hopes to raise the remaining funds during 1998. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to the Foundation c/o Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR 1998

The following street & drainage projects are scheduled for construction in '98:

- Pleasant Hill Rd./Ameno Dr. Retaining Wall
- '98 Pavement Program
- Lafayette Circle (East) Improvements
- First St./Lucky's Traffic Signal
- Rohrer Drive
- Deerhill Road
- Glenside Dr./Reliez Rd. to St. Mary's
- First St., GG to School
- Reliez Valley Rd. Improvement Phase II
- Martino Rd. Stabilization
- Oak Hill Rd. off-ramp landscaping
- Moraga Blvd./First St.

Partially Completed or Under Design Completed

TIDBITS....

NEW CITY COUNCIL ELECTION – The new city council was seated on November 24th.

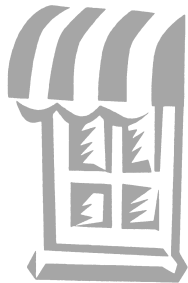
COUNTY & LOCAL LIBRARY GROUPS HARD AT WORK – The Lamorinda Regional Library Board is evaluating both sales tax and parcel tax options to raise revenues to support library operations. Efforts continue to develop an equitable system of distributing revenues to provide 48 hours of quality service in each of the County's five regional libraries and to provide for increased local control over funds so that individual communities can tailor operations to meet their needs.

Lafayette residents along with City and Library support groups are working to identify a suitable site and develop plans to replace the failing, undersized Lafayette library building. For more information, or to register ideas or concerns, call the Library message line at 284-1968, ext., 258.

SPEEDERS BEWARE – New legislation that provides for a greater percentage of traffic fines to be returned to the City has enabled Lafayette to add a new Traffic Enforcement Officer. The new deputy will be patrolling City streets in March.

DON'T PASS THE FLASH – Legislation effective January 1, 1998 requires all school buses to flash red lights when a student is boarding or leaving the bus. **Vehicles may NOT pass the bus – from either direction – until the flashing lights are turned off.** The fine for vehicles that fail to stop is \$250.

WELCOME: NEW TEEN DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR INTERN – Bridget Paul brings both enthusiasm and expertise to Lafayette's Parks & Rec. teen program. A senior majoring in Communications and Performing Arts at St. Mary's College, she serves as a dormitory resident advisor, and has worked as a lifeguard, dance instructor, and radio DJ. For information on teen activities, call 284-2232.



SMALLTOWN DOWNTOWN UPDATE – The 3-year action plan adopted by the City Council in September has already resulted in significant visual changes to our downtown. In October, the undergrounding of utilities along Mt. Diablo Blvd. was completed, and overhead wires eliminated. Ornamental Battery Park lights in the medians and sidewalks have greatly enhanced the streetscape.

And there's more to come! The Council has adopted Lafayette's first newsrack ordinance.

Within the next six months you'll notice existing news stands replaced with more attractive banks of newsracks consistent with the pedestrian- and business-friendly atmosphere the action plan is designed to achieve.

DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC INVENTORY – The City Council has initiated a downtown economic inventory, the first step in realizing a key goal of the SmallTown DownTown action plan: To assist the development of new retail business opportunities.

NEW ON THE CITY WEB PAGE – The City Web Page www.ci.lafayette.ca.us has a new look and new content, including employment opportunities, City finances, and Planning Commission and Design Review agendas.

AROUND TOWN

1st & 3rd Saturdays

LAFAYETTE LIBRARY FUNDRAISING/BOOK SALE – The Friends of the Lafayette Library have thousands of used books from which to choose and purchase. Or, clean out your shelves and donate your spare volumes. Sales benefit the Lafayette Library. 9:00 am – Noon at Lafayette Community Center Book Room.

Thursdays

LAMORINDA TOASTMASTERS San Anselm's Church, Lafayette. 7:30 pm. Call Glenn Breslin, 283-1133.

Ongoing

UPPER HAPPY VALLEY WALKWAY RESTORATION PROJECT is moving full steam ahead on fundraising for a walkway. Information: Janet Tittiger, 284-2380 or Shelly O'Neill, 284-8284.

Jan. 23

MAYOR'S "STATE OF THE CITY" ADDRESS and Business Person of the Year Dinner – Come honor Dr. Paul Bettelheim and hear the new Mayor speak. 7:00 pm Lafayette Park Hotel. \$40 per person. Call the Chamber for reservations, 284-7404.

Feb. 2

CITY GOALS & PRIORITIES WORKSHOP – The Council and staff will meet in a workshop-style forum to discuss the City's goals and priorities for '98. 7:30 pm, Lafayette Community Center.

Feb. 7

ELAM BROWN MONUMENT DEDICATION – Unveiling and dedication at 1:00 pm. Park at Happy Valley School & you will be directed to the unveiling site & to the Sammann Barn for a reception event. Sesquicentennial Message Center, 284-1968 ext. 150.

Mar. 6

AIN'T WE GOT FUN...CHICAGO IN THE '20s – Lamorinda Junior Women's Club casino night & fundraiser to benefit the Wellness Community (cancer patients fighting for recovery) and other local charities. \$50 per person at the Soda Activity Center at St. Mary's College. Reception features micro breweries and wine tasting, silent auction, casino, raffles, music, and sumptuous food. Call 210-6141 for tickets or to make a donation.

Mar & Apr.

KID'S WORKSHOPS – K-12 educators learn about gardening without chemicals and with less water (Mar 7 & 14), water quality, insects, creek art and poetry and other classroom creek activities (Apr 4 & 11). Various locations. For more information and to register call Kristin, 231-5784.

Apr. 20

BUSINESS FAIR – A showcase of Lamorinda businesses at the Lafayette Park Hotel. Call the Chamber at 284-7404.

LAFAYETTE LINE

EMERGENCIES - 911

Animal Control..... 646-2995
 Fire..... 930-5500
 Police..... 284-5010
 Sanitary Sewer..... 933-0990
 Public Works..... 284-1968

UTILITIES

Cable TV (TCI)
Bills & Service 1-800-870-5140
 Garbage
Waste..... 603-1144
Recycling..... 935-8900
Solid Waste Authority 906-1801
 PG&E..... 800-743-5000
 Water (EBMUD) 820-6600

TRANSPORTATION

School Bus 686-3391
Durham Transport..... 825-7741
Durham Hotline..... 299-3299
Student Passes..... 284-1968
 Public Bus
County Connection..... 676-7500
 BART Info..... 465-2278
 Carpool Info..... 1-800-755-Pool

PARKS & RECREATION

City Parks & Rec..... 284-2232
 EB Regional Parks..... 635-0135
 Reservoir 284-9669
 LMYA 283-0390

PUBLIC SERVICES

Post Office 283-8229
 Elections
Registration..... 646-4166
Absentee Ballots 646-4160
 Library..... 283-3872
 Senior Center 284-5050
 Co. Supervisor Uilkema..... 646-2080

MISC.

Chamber of Commerce 284-7404
 Historical Society 283-3908
 "Town Hall" Theatre..... 283-1557
 Lamorinda Youth Employment
 (TOYS) 299-0227

SCHOOLS

Acalanes H.S. Dist..... 935-2800
 Laf. Elementary Dist..... 284-7011
 Burton 284-7046
 Laf. Elementary..... 283-6231
 Happy Valley 284-7049
 Springhill..... 283-8281
 Stanley 283-6282

CITY DIRECTORY

Leave your Council Members a message
 on the City's voice mail system!
 Call 284-1968

Officers

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Anne Grodin | Mayor | 273 |
| Erling Horn | Vice Mayor | 271 |
| Ivor Samson | Council Member | 272 |
| Jay Strauss | Council Member | 270 |
| Donald L. Tatzin | Council Member | 274 |

For messages to all Council Members: **907**

Staff Contacts

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Steven B. Falk | City Manager |
| Rebecca Lee | Admin. Svcs. Director |
| Sue Jusaitis | City Clerk |
| Tony Coe | City Engineer |
| Niroop K. Srivatsa | Comm. Dev. Director |
| Jennifer Russell | Parks and Rec. Director |
| Mike Henn | Planning Serv. Mgr. |
| Mike Ilg | Police Services Mgr. |
| Vacant | Public Works Serv. Mgr. |
| Juliet Shanks | School Bus Analyst |

City Offices and Police

Street Address: **3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Suite 210**

Mailing Address: **P.O. Box 1968
 Lafayette, CA
 94549-1968**

E-mail: **lafay1968@aol.com**

Homepage URL: **www.ci.lafayette.ca.us**

City Numbers Tel: Fax:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Administration: | 284-1968 | 284-3169 |
| Engineering: | 284-1951 | 284-3169 |
| Planning: | 284-1976 | 284-1122 |
| Parks and Rec: | 284-2232 | |
| Public Works: | 284-1968 | |
| Senior Services: | 284-5050 | |
| Police Business: | 284-5010 | 284-4126 |
| Police Emergency: | 911 | |
| Voice Mail System: | 284-1968 | |
| Rebecca Lee, Editor, Lafayette Vistas: | 284-1968 | 284-3169 |

MONTHLY CITY MEETINGS

City Council

2nd & 4th Monday
 7:00 pm
 Manzanita Room*

Circulation Commission

1st & 3rd Monday
 7:00 pm
 Manzanita Room*

Crime Prevention Commission

4th Wednesday
 7:30 pm
 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Suite 265

*Located at the Lafayette
 Community Center,
 500 St. Mary's Road

Design Review Commission

1st & 3rd Tuesday
 7:30 pm
 Lupine Room*

Economic Development Commission

2nd Tuesday
 5:30 pm
 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Suite 265

Emergency Preparedness Commission

1st Friday
 9:00 am
 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Suite 240

Parks & Recreation Commission

2nd Wednesday
 7:30 pm
 Manzanita Room*

Planning Commission

1st & 3rd Thursday
 7:30 pm
 Manzanita Room*

Senior Services Commission

4th Wednesday
 9:30 am
 Elderberry Room*

Youth Commission

2nd Monday
 7:00 pm
 Sequoia Room*

Cut and save for future reference.



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