

Lafayette Location Benefits Futures Explored, Inc.

"The Lafayette community really has heart," says Christine Imrie, Executive Director of Futures Explored, Inc., an innovative program, located in the heart of downtown Lafayette, that provides training in both work-related and life skills to adults with mild to moderate developmental disabilities. Imrie continues, "I'm sure that most Lafayette residents are completely unaware of the community's role in helping people with disabilities to believe in themselves."

"For more than 30 years, the unique personality of Lafayette has been a blessing to our clients," Imrie explains. "From friendly greetings on the street, to patience with someone who slows the line at the bank or the Post Office, Lafayette residents have unwittingly expanded our clients' self-esteem."

Futures Explored teaches clients how to access their communities through practicing street safety and awareness, using public transportation, and other integration experiences. It also operates the Nifty Thrift Shop on Wilkinson Lane, which serves as a "living classroom" for participants in the vocational program. The organization's employment program places clients in appropriate jobs in Lafayette and neighboring communities.

"In addition to serving hundreds of clients since 1963, our program has been a model for many other programs across the country," notes Imrie. "We helped to promote new and progressive attitudes about disabled people that are now the standard."

Over the past 35 years, many local businesses have participated in Futures' Supported Employment Program. Businesses currently employing Futures' clients include Lafayette Animal Hospital, Lafayette Safeway, Long's Drugs, Noah's Bagels, Round Table Pizza, and the City of Lafayette. For information about Futures Explored call: 284-3291



Cindy Hough of Richmond and Juan Cardenas of Concord work diligently come rain or shine.

ATTENTION TO DETAILS MAKES THE DIFFERENCE IN LAFAYETTE

On-going efforts have established Lafayette's reputation as one of the highest quality-of-life cities in the Bay Area. Residents and business owners have been quick to renovate and upgrade their homes, businesses, parking lots, and landscaping. In 1998, the City's Planning Department processed a record number of permits for house and business remodels. At the same time, the City has recently completed 32 street, drain, landscaping, and park projects, coordinated creek cleanup projects, and installed attractive Battery Park lighting along Mt. Diablo Blvd. This attention to details plays an important role in maintaining our community. Other special projects and programs include:

Community Caretaker Program (see side bar)

To help maintain the downtown's spiffed-up image, the City has partnered with Futures Explored, Inc., a Lafayette-based organization that trains adults with developmental disabilities to work in service oriented businesses. Futures Explored clients have been cleaning debris and leaves from the streets, sidewalks, and adjacent areas along Mt. Diablo Blvd. Next time you're downtown, give the crew a wave of thanks and encouragement.

Tree-Planting Project

In November, more than 70 trees were planted in empty tree wells along Mt. Diablo Blvd. between Pleasant Hill Road and Risa Road as part of the downtown landscaping master plan. The trees were pur-

chased with donations from the Chamber of Commerce, businesses, private parties and matching City funds. Decorative sidewalk paving stones surround many of the sidewalk trees, and brass plaques identify donors and memorial dedications. The total cost of the project was \$36,000.

Twinkle Lights

For the first time, twinkle lights sparkled in the trees along Mt. Diablo Blvd. throughout the holiday season. The lights provide the downtown area with an inviting and festive look in the winter months but will be removed in time to prune and care for the trees this spring.



New Newsracks

Newspaper distributors were given a November deadline to replace unsightly holders and racks on sidewalks in the downtown area with new racks of uniform size and color. The old racks, positioned along the edge of sidewalks, made it difficult for passengers to get in and out of cars parked along the curb. New racks installed at Lafayette Circle and Mt. Diablo Blvd., and on Moraga Rd. between Plaza Way and Moraga Blvd., are situated off the

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It's not unusual for Bay Area residents to envy the high quality of life we enjoy here in Lafayette. But like other communities, we have had to come up with creative ways to help finance the restoration of our aging downtown, public infrastructure, and housing.

Redevelopment, under the California Community Redevelopment Law (CCRL), has been one of California's most effective economic tools -

breathing new life into areas where social, physical, environmental, and economic conditions have discouraged private investment. Throughout California, more than three-fourths of the cities and nearly half the counties are actively applying the redevelopment process to some portion of their community.

It's important to keep in mind that Lafayette was incorporated as a "No or Low-Property Tax" city, and still only receives 6.3% of the property tax paid by property owners in the City.

Given the City's disadvantageous funding situation, the City Council, in 1994, formed the Lafayette Redevelopment Agency (RDA), with boundaries that include the core downtown area along Mt. Diablo Blvd. from Pleasant Hill Rd. to Risa Rd. While the RDA consists of 726 parcels (approximately 290 acres) of mostly commercial property, it also includes a few apartments, duplexes, and single family homes.

Property owners don't pay additional taxes to fund the RDA. Instead, a larger portion of

the property tax they pay to the County is returned to the Lafayette RDA. The amount of property tax recovered is 1% of the increase in the assessed value (not the market value) of the parcels within RDA boundaries. 25% of this supplemental revenue is passed on to school districts and other local public agencies; the remaining revenue is available for RDA use. So far, the Lafayette RDA has received the following revenues:

- 1995-96: \$13,329
- 1996-97: \$62,279
- 1997-98: \$89,500

The RDA is required to set aside 20% of its revenues to be used solely for low- and moderate-income housing. The remainder of the funds can be used in the RDA area for projects including:

- community services and facilities
- new construction
- traffic/circulation
- loans for property improvements
- recreational opportunities
- maintenance of the character of the community

Projects in Lafayette benefiting from RDA revenues include: demolition of the abandoned police building on South Thompson, removal of the Public Works Services Yard from the prime commercial and residential downtown area, Mt. Diablo and Golden Gate Way Storm Drain Replacement, and the redesign of Plaza Park.



Attention To Details *(continued from front)*

street edge and provide a highly visible improvement to our streetscape.

Enhanced Signage Program

Residents and visitors will find it easier to identify downtown street names when the faded signs at signalized intersections on Mt. Diablo Blvd. are replaced with attractive new street signs this spring. The new dark brown signs will feature the City logo and lettering in highly reflective material.

And several carved wood "City of Lafayette" signs now greet residents and visitors at major entry points to the City. The first went up at the intersection of Olympic Blvd and Pleasant Hill Road last June. Another was erected at the City line on Moraga Road in November, and a third was installed on Glorietta Drive in January.

TIDBITS . . .

Lafayette: Rooted in the Past, Poised for the Future

Thanks to the Sesquicentennial Committee, the New Library Building Fund received a check for \$3,000, from the proceeds of the Committee's yearlong celebration activities.

The Lafayette Historical Society thanks the people of Lafayette for their enthusiastic support of the Sesquicentennial events. On Founder's Day, February 7, the Society will kick-off a fund-raising drive to establish a Lafayette Historical Museum, perhaps to be housed in the new library. Let's give their efforts our continued support!

City Goal-Setting for 1999-2000

Residents are invited to meet the City Council and participate in a goal-setting workshop on February 1 at 7:30 pm in the Sequoia Room, Lafayette Community Center.

Juliet Wins Prestigious Award



On December 10th, Juliet Shanks, Lamorinda School Bus Analyst was presented with the Wes McClure Award, recognizing her as the most outstanding municipal assistant in Northern California. Watch for details in the next issue.

Nickelodeon's "BIG HELPMOBILE" Coming

Lafayette's Community Park was selected by the television channel, Nickelodeon, for its April 17-24 stop of the "Big Helpmobile." The mobile is a traveling, learning lab with this year's focus of helping to take care of our parks. If you don't know about the "Big Helpmobile" just ask our younger residents or catch details in the next issue.

A Wealth of Opportunities for INVOLVEMENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Lafayette based groups have submitted material about their organizations & events. Guests are welcome at these meetings.

Chamber of Commerce

284-7404

Has the goal of promoting and maintaining a healthy business climate, enhancing the quality of life in Lafayette. The Chamber organizes and promotes the Business Fair, Concours d'Elegance, Art & Wine Festival and Reservoir Run. It hosts monthly meetings.

Community Parklands Foundation

283-9070

Promotes and provides financial support to acquire, develop, and maintain parklands, recreational facilities, and open space areas for the community. Meetings for 1999 will be at the Community Center Board Room on 1/21, 4/15, 7/15, 10/21.

Friends of the Lafayette Library

283-8648
(Membership Info)

Fund-raising enables the library to remain open more hours, purchase new materials, furniture, bookshelves & equipment, and to provide special programs for children. Donated books for fund raising sales can be dropped off at the Library or at The Book Room at the Community Center. Shop for great buys at the Book Room, 9:00 am to noon, 1st & 3rd Sat. of each month.

Historical Society

283-6822

"We believe in the power of history to ignite the imagination, stimulate thought & provide enjoyment. Through our collections and programs, we strive to link Lafayette's history to the lives of people."

Junior Woman's Club

299-0089

Meets 1st Thurs. of each month at 7:00 pm at the Community Center. Join in the "Support Your Library Walk" with the Juniors on May 8 at the Reservoir (210-6141 walk info).

Lafayette Rotary

284-2408

About 100 bighearted people get together for lunch & plot ways to serve the community & make it a better place to live. All are welcome. El Charro Restaurant, Thursdays: 12:15.

Lamorinda Chapt. Women's American Organization for Educational Resources and Technological Training

(299-0085) A national organization that supports technological and vocational programs and schools throughout the world. Join us March 7, 1-4 pm, for our elegant fund raising event, "Tea at the SF Fairmont Hotel."

Lamorinda Petanque Club

284-2232

Join the players at the Comm. Ctr Petanque field every Fri. at 6:30 pm and Mon, Sat. and Sun. afternoons.

Lion's Club of Lafayette

283-8650

Meets Wednesdays, 12:15 pm, Garcia's Restaurant, 3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Little League

284-3583

Volunteer as umpire or coach, help with the snack shack, Tryout Day, field maintenance, fund raisers or a myriad of other positions that enable young people on the more than 50 teams to enjoy being part of a ball team.

Newcomers Club

974-9360

A good place to get involved if you are new in town. Offers a book club, mom and tot events twice a month, game nights and dining in/dining out parties (next events: 2/27, 5/3, 6/26). A new service offers to match you with a fitness partner.

Service League

283-8790

Supports local cultural, charitable and community projects. Don't miss fund raiser events; annual giant rummage sale at Community Center, As baseball tailgate party, a theatre party, and a bridge luncheon. The League provides food baskets to needy families and funds for Contra Costa Food Bank, Lafayette Library, Community Center, Town Hall Theatre, Battered Women's Alternatives and Hospice. Meetings are 1st Thursday of each month.

Suburban Junior Women's Club

934-3404

Mark your calendar for the Valentine's Carnival, 10:00 am - 1:30 pm on Feb. 6, 1999, Stanley Intermediate School Auditorium. Loads of fun for children 2-9 years of age.

Suburban Women's Club

283-3075

Meets 3rd Thursday of each month; Noon at Cal-Fed Bank, 3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Toastmasters International

254-6659

Develop your speaking, listening & leadership skills. 7:30 p.m. St. Anslems Church, 682 Michael Lane.

Town Hall Theatre Company

283-1557
(Box Office)

Provides wonderful theatre productions at the beautiful historic Town Hall Theatre building, 3535 School St. at Moraga Rd. Mark your calendars for "Rain" showing Jan. 21-Feb 21 and "Wind in the Willows" on March 4-14.

CITY DIRECTORY

Leave your Council Members a message!

Call 284-1968

<i>Council Members</i>		EXT.
Erling Horn	Mayor	271
Jay Strauss	Vice Mayor	270
Ivor Samson	Council Member	272
Don Tatzin	Council Member	274
Anne Grodin	Council Member	273

For messages to all Council Members:	907
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Administration

General Reception and	284-1968
Steven Falk, City Manager	Fax: 284-3169
Rebecca Lee, Director	299-3227
Gonzalo Silva, Financial Srv. Mgr.	299-3213
Sue Jusaitis, City Clerk	299-3212
Donna Feehan, Accounting Assist.	299-3226
Celina Tomas, Accounting Assist.	299-3249

Community Development

Niroop Srivatsa, Director	299-3207
• Engineering Services	284-1951
Tony Coe, Manager	299-3203
Farzaneh Sanders, Assoc. Engineer	299-3209
Matt Luttrupp, Assoc. Engineer	299-3247
Mike Moran, Assist. Engineer	299-3245
Julia DosSantos, Admin. Tech.	299-3240
Rick Grimes, Engineering Tech.	299-3241
• Planning Services	284-1976
Mike Henn, Manager	Fax: 284-1122
Betsy Van Popering, Senior Planner	
JoAnn Contreras, Transportation Planner	
Greg Wolff, Assistant Planner	

• Public Works Services	284-1976
Ron Fleler, Acting Manager	299-3244

Lamorinda School Bus Program

Juliet Shanks, Analyst	284-1968
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Parks and Recreation

Jennifer Russell, Director	284-2232
Brian McCooley, Coordinator	
Yvonne Ozario, Senior Services	284-5050

Police Services

Emergency: 24 Hours	911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours	284-5010
Police Business Office:	299-3220
Hours:	M-F: 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-5:00

Addresses

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Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 1968
	Lafayette, CA 94549-1968
E-mail:	lafay1968@aol.com
Homepage URL:	www.ci.lafayette.ca.us



L to R: Robert Waters, violin; Marty Simmonds, violin; Pamela Freund-Striplen, viola; Anthony Striplen, clarinet; (front) Victoria Ehrlich, cello

CHAMBER MUSIC PUTS LAFAYETTE ON CLASSICAL MUSIC MAP

When San Francisco Opera Orchestra musicians Pamela Freund-Striplen and Tony Striplen moved to Lafayette in 1996, they dreamed of bringing the best chamber music in the Bay Area to Lafayette. Their dream will become a reality on Saturday, March 20, at 8:00 pm when the Gold Coast Chamber Players (GCCP) perform the opening concert in a three-concert chamber music series at Lafayette's Town Hall Theater.

The GCCP, established by the Striplens in 1987, has a large and loyal following throughout the Bay Area and northern California. The ensemble provides a unique concert experience for novices and aficionados, with members contributing insight about the musical pieces and their composers during the concert and at post-concert champagne receptions.

The GCCP is also working with the music departments at Lafayette schools to develop a student music competition to be held in the spring. In addition to the opportunity to perform in public, the young musicians will receive mentoring from professional musicians.

If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive information about the GCCP concert series, call the message line at 283-3728.



City of Lafayette
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