



## City of Lafayette Police Department

# Newsletter

**January 11, 2019**

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Greetings and Happy New Year,

I hope January 2019 finds you and your loved ones happy and healthy. We have been staying busy at the Lafayette Police Department and my apologies for the delay in sending out newsletters. I value and appreciate the support of our community. I am aware that effective communication between the Police Department and residents plays a large role in our working together to keep Lafayette the safe city that it is. I am currently evaluating the various platforms in which the Police Departments communicates, looking for opportunities for improvement. As we enter 2019, I will strive to improve my efficiency in putting out information in a timely manner.

This newsletter is structured slightly differently from past reports and I have focused on some of our larger investigations. I am beginning production of the 2018 end-of-year report that will be provided to the City Council and residents in February. Quick spoiler alert: In 2018, Lafayette had eight residential burglaries and the Police Department successfully solved seven of those cases. This is down from our historic low of nineteen residential burglaries in 2017, of which sixteen were solved. Our community is amazing and this reduction in burglaries would not be possible without your cooperation and the support of neighborhood cameras.

*Chief Ben Alldritt*

## CRIME UPDATE



*The following is a summary of some of the arrests and investigations the Lafayette Police Department handled in between September and December.*

**\*\* 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).**

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**Case Update on an Armed Robbery** – In May 2018, Lafayette Officers took a report of an armed robbery that occurred on a walking trail near BART. The victim was robbed of his backpack at knife point by two suspects. At the time, surveillance of the suspects was obtained from a BART train, but no identification was made. Lafayette Detectives kept working the case and in August Alameda County Juvenile Hall staff were able to identify one of the suspects; leading to an arrest warrant being issued. In October, the juvenile suspect was arrested for a carjacking in Oakland and the Lafayette arrest warrant. At the same time, an Oakland PD Officer was able to identify the second suspect who was in custody at Santa Rita Jail.

Detectives interviewed both suspects and robbery charges have been filed on both suspects.

## **September Case Highlights**

**On September 4**, at approximately 4:30 a.m., a citizen was walking in the 3500 block of Mount Diablo Boulevard, heading to the BART Station to ride to work, when a black colored sedan drove-up alongside of her. Two men exited the vehicle wearing masks while the driver stayed in the vehicle, also wearing a mask. They grabbed the citizen and tried to pull her towards the car. Believing she was going to be kidnapped, she began screaming, pulled away, and fell to the ground. The suspects ran back to the vehicle and fled the area. The citizen was able to call 911 and officers responded.

Utilizing neighborhood cameras, Lafayette PD was able to identify the vehicle as a black Toyota Avalon and determine the license plate number. Within hours, Detectives placed a felony stop on the vehicle and began surveillance of a potential suspect address. In the early morning hours of 9/5/18, Lafayette Detectives were in the City of Pittsburg working with Pittsburg PD to locate the vehicle. A Pittsburg PD ALPR camera hit on the vehicle traveling in the city and Pittsburg PD located and stopped the vehicle. Inside the vehicle, Halloween style masks were located. Lafayette Detectives interviewed the occupants and identified one of them as a suspect. He was booked into jail.

Within the first 60 hours, the other two suspects were identified, and arrest warrants authored. The Contra Costa Fugitive Task Force and the Sheriff's Office J-Team assisted in locating and arresting the other two suspects.

The District Attorney's Office filed kidnapping, robbery, and additional charges on two of the three suspects; with bails set at over \$1,000,000. Lafayette Detectives are still conducting follow up on this case and will be re-evaluating the case for the last suspect with the DA's Office. The two suspects are currently on home detention while they await trial.

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**On September 9**, at 9:20 a.m., Lafayette Officers responded to an auto burglary where a purse was stolen. Camera footage provided images of the suspect and vehicle. The suspect then went on a shopping spree with the victim's credit cards; hitting locations in Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill, Concord, and Alamo. Lafayette Detectives were able to obtain video from two of the stores and identified a suspect who had visible tattoos on his calves. Through further investigation, Detectives determined that the adult son of the registered owner of the suspect vehicle matched the surveillance photos and based on prior arrest records, had tattoos on his calves.

In the meantime, the Santa Clara Sheriff's Office had sent out a law enforcement flier of a suspect responsible for an auto burglary in their area, who racked up \$10,000 worth of fraudulent charges at a Best Buy. In the flier, Santa Clara Sheriff's Office identified the suspect had tattoos on his calves.

Lafayette Detectives contacted Santa Clara Sheriff's Office and assisted them in identifying the suspect. It was determined the suspect used his Best Buy rewards account when committing the fraud. He used a fake name for his rewards account but used his actual address in the City of San Jose.

Lafayette Detectives authored an arrest warrant for the suspect and placed a felony stop on the associated vehicle. Santa Clara Sheriff's Office Detectives conducted surveillance of the suspect's residence and authored a search warrant for the location.

On October 4, Lafayette Detectives assisted Santa Clara Sheriff's Office Detectives in the service of the search warrant. While on scene, the suspect arrived home wearing the same hat as seen on video from the Lafayette crime and the same shoes from the Lafayette and Santa Clara crimes. In the suspect's truck, Detectives located the shirt he wore during the Santa Clara crimes. Also, in the suspect's truck, Detectives located a realistic-looking pellet handgun, burglary tools, and electronics fraudulently purchased in the Santa Clara Sheriff's Office case.

The suspect was booked into the Santa Clara County Jail. Lafayette Detectives have submitted the case to the DA's Office.

**On September 28**, at approximately 6:13 a.m., Lafayette Officers initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle on Mount Diablo Boulevard. Officers were aware that the driver had an outstanding arrest warrant. During the traffic stop, once the driver became aware he had a warrant, drove the vehicle away at a high rate of speed, striking one officer with the vehicle door and almost striking another officer who was attempting to detain him. As the driver was fleeing the area, he lost control and struck a citizen's vehicle, causing property damage only.

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Officers pursued the vehicle onto westbound Highway 24, but Officers terminated the pursuit due to the driver's reckless behavior. Shortly after, located the vehicle abandoned on the north shoulder of Highway 24.

A perimeter was established and additional resources from surrounding agencies responded to assist, to include, two K9 teams and a drone team. After an extensive 2-hour search, the suspect was located and taken into custody.

The suspect was determined to be out of Antioch and was booked into jail on numerous charges that included felony evading, assault with a deadly weapon, resisting arrest, probation violation and an outstanding warrant.

**On September 30**, at approximately 7:21 p.m., a citizen was sitting inside Peet's Coffee on Mount Diablo Boulevard when two men entered the coffee shop and ripped the laptop from the citizen as he was typing. The two suspects fled the coffee shop and were seen entering a black sedan that appeared to be waiting for them. Utilizing video cameras, the license plate of the vehicle was identified.

Based on a law enforcement flier by Berkeley PD on similar type case, Lafayette Detectives began collaborating with them. Three suspects had been arrested by Berkeley PD in a theft case. Two of the suspects were able to bail out and appear to have committed additional crimes in Berkeley, Davis, Sacramento, and Lafayette. Working in collaboration with Berkeley PD, one of the suspects has been identified and Berkeley PD has written an arrest warrant for his arrest. Lafayette Detectives have entered a felony stop on the suspect vehicle associated with our crime. The suspect and vehicle are currently outstanding.

## **October Case Highlights**

**On October 5**, at approximately 10:44 a.m., a Lafayette Officer became aware of a reported mail theft that occurred in unincorporated Lafayette. Initially, there were no witnesses, leads or suspects identified. At approximately 2:16 p.m., a citizen sent an email to the Lafayette PD tip line with information regarding suspicious activity that occurred in a Lafayette neighborhood in the early morning hours. Due to the proximity of the two streets, the Lafayette Officer began investigating and was able to determine the suspect's path of travel utilizing neighborhood cameras.

The Officer was able to identify the registered owner of the vehicle who is on active State Parole and resides in Pittsburg. The Officer had prior knowledge of this suspect due to having previously worked in the County jails and was aware of his criminal record of drug use, possession of firearms and identity theft. The Officer contacted the suspect's Parole Agent.

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At 7:45 p.m., Lafayette Officers, assisted by Sheriff's Office Muir Station Deputies, conducted a parole search of the suspect's residence. The subject was detained, and they located a stolen loaded firearm hidden behind a desk. They also located evidence of identity theft, to include, identification cards, credit cards, and handwritten notes with multiple victim's personal identifying information. The suspect was subsequently arrested on multiple felony charges to include a felon in possession of a firearm and identify theft.

**On October 7**, between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., a suspect entered a residence on Upper Happy Valley Road, stealing a purse, laptop, checkbook, and credit cards. A neighborhood camera provided two possible vehicle leads. The resident reported that her credit cards were used in Pittsburg and Concord, and her laptop was pinging to an address in Antioch.

Detectives located surveillance footage from one of the locations where the credit cards were used. A vehicle was identified, and Detectives were able to determine the driver was a suspect from a Lafayette case from over a year ago. An arrest warrant was issued for the suspect and a felony hit was placed on the vehicle. Antioch PD located the vehicle and suspect, and Lafayette Detectives responded to the scene. Detectives transported the suspect to Lafayette PD and interviewed him. The suspect admitted to the crime and wrote an apology letter to the victim. The suspect then lead them to various locations and they were able to locate the stolen property. The DA's Office has filed charges.

**On October 11**, at approximately 2:37 a.m., a Lafayette Officer stopped a vehicle for expired registration on Camino Diablo near Springbrook Rd. The Officer contacted the two occupants, determined that one of them was on felony probation, and a search of the vehicle was conducted. Inside the vehicle Officers located a laptop that was reported stolen out of Florida. They also located heroin and drug paraphernalia. The vehicle was towed and both subjects were arrested.

**On October 12**, at approximately 8:40 p.m., Lafayette Officers were called to the Library parking garage for a subject who was drunk and stopping staff from closing. Officers know the subject from prior contacts and knew he was on several active counts of Probation; to include, drunk in public, battery, and violation of court orders. Officers determined the subject was under the influence of alcohol in public and unable to care for himself. During the arrest, he resisted and spit in one of the Officer's face. The subject was arrested and booked into jail.

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**On October 13**, at approximately 5:52 a.m., a Lafayette Officer observed a vehicle parked in the 3500 block of Mt. Diablo Blvd. The Officer parked, walked up to the vehicle, and saw a subject was sleeping in the driver's seat. The Officer observed a clear bag containing suspected methamphetamine in the subject's lap. The Officer contacted the subject and determined he was on Parole. The subject was arrested and booked into jail.

**On October 23**, at approximately 12:17 p.m., Lafayette Police Department received a call of a suspicious subject in the area of School Street and 1st Street, near Lafayette Elementary School. The citizen reported a male adult sitting in a vehicle touching his genitals over his clothing while staring at children.

The citizen provided a description of the subject and the vehicle as the subject drove away. A Lafayette Motor Officer was able to locate the vehicle on Highway 24 E/B, prior to Pleasant Hill, and conducted an enforcement stop. The driver was positively identified as the reported subject and was detained.

There have been no reports of children seeing the subject committing the crime and the citizen caller was an adult. The subject was charged with lewd acts in a public place (Penal Code 647(a)). Since his arrest, the subject has been identified as the suspect in a similar case in unincorporated Walnut Creek.

**On October 26**, at approximately 12:43 a.m., a Lafayette Officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation at Mt. Diablo Blvd and Oak Hill Rd. During a search of the vehicle, Officers located a loaded Glock 27 pistol in the possession of the passenger. The suspect was arrested and booked on several gun related charges, including a felon in possession of a firearm.

## **October Public Events**

**On October 18**, Lafayette PD hosted an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) drill with City Staff, ConFire / MOFD personnel, and the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission. The drill focused on activation of the City EOC during the initial reports of an earthquake and associated public safety hazards. Thank you to the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center for being gracious and allowing us to use the Center.

**On October 21**, Lafayette PD was on hand for the Lafayette Res Run for Education, which had over 1,500 runners of all ages participated. The PD was present to ensure the safety of all the participants and to support our community.

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**On October 25**, members of Lafayette PD participated in a Red Ribbon event at Springhill Elementary. The theme for the day was "Trustworthiness" and PD staff had the opportunity to interact with students and show them several types of police vehicles. ConFire also participated in the event; always hard to compete with those fire engines!

## **November Case Highlights**

**On November 3**, at approximately 1:55 a.m., an Officer stopped a vehicle for false registration tabs. The vehicle was occupied by a male and female. The male was on Probation for identity theft. During a search of the vehicle, multiple identity theft items were located, to include, credit cards, checks, and personal information from various Bay Area jurisdictions. Also located in the vehicle was a crowbar with the words "Mailbox Key" written on it. Both subjects were arrested and booked into jail.

**On November 8**, at approximately 11:52 a.m., an Officer was dispatched to a call of a suspicious subject. The Officer located the vehicle, a silver colored older model Volvo, with no license plate. The Officer initiated a traffic enforcement stop of the vehicle and then it fled from the Officer. The suspect vehicle traveled along surface roads, north through Lafayette into Pleasant Hill, turned around, and returned south back into Lafayette along surface streets. The suspect vehicle then entered westbound Highway 24 at Pleasant Hill Road. The pursuit continued along westbound Highway 24 until the Wilder Road exit at which time the suspect vehicle yielded on the north shoulder of the freeway. Orinda Officers assisted with a high-risk stop and the driver was taken into custody. The suspect was on Probation for residential burglary. He was arrested and booked into jail for the pursuit.

**On November 9**, at approximately 1:38 a.m., Officers were dispatched to a call of a suspect inside of a home. About 30 minutes prior to this call, an Officer on routine patrol had located a suspicious vehicle parked on a private gravel path, approximately a half mile away from the victim's house. The vehicle at the time was unoccupied, but the hood was warm to the touch.

While responding to this call, the same Officer observed the same vehicle driving from the area. He conducted an enforcement stop and contacted the solo occupant. Officers recognized him from prior contacts. He was covered in dirt and leaves, and short of breath. The suspect's clothing and flashlight matched descriptions given by the victims. During a search of the vehicle, a camera stolen from the home was located. The suspect's phone was also located in the backyard of the victim's house. The suspect was arrested for residential burglary and booked into jail.

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**On November 9**, at approximately 12:35 p.m., an Officer was dispatched to a report of a suspicious vehicle. An Officer located the vehicle and contacted the two occupants. The male was on Probation for weapon charges. During a search of the vehicle, the Officer located ID cards belonging to someone else. The Officer contacted the person listed and he advised he had been assaulted and robbed of his wallet at a night club in San Francisco on October 23. Based on his investigation, the Officer arrested the female for possession of stolen property.

**On November 10**, at approximately 6:00 p.m., an Officer was assigned to a special detail to work as an auto burglary suppression unit in the downtown area of Lafayette due to ten auto burglaries that occurred in the prior six days. At 6:41 p.m., the Officer located a gray colored BMW vehicle with paper plates matching the description of the suspect vehicle seen in video surveillance 24 hours prior.

The Officer attempted to conduct an enforcement stop of the suspect vehicle. The suspect immediately drove away at a high rate of speed westbound on Mt. Diablo Blvd. The pursuit ended when the suspect lost control of the vehicle and crashed near the intersection of Acalanes Road and Mt. Diablo Blvd. A high-risk stop was conducted by Officers and the suspect was detained. There was an adult female passenger in the vehicle that had to be extracted by ConFire. Both the female passenger and the suspect were transported to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek and cleared with no injuries. The suspect was booked into jail for the pursuit and multiple auto burglaries.

**On November 29**, at approximately 10:00 p.m., an Officer was on patrol and observed a subject riding his bike near the BART station. The Officer recognized him from prior contacts and knew he was on four counts of probation. As the Officer went to contact the subject and observed him throw a white substance into the nearby bushes. During the Officer's investigation, he located the white substance, which was determined to be methamphetamine. The suspect was booked into jail for possession of a controlled substance and probation violations.

## **November Public Events**

**On November 7**, Lafayette PD had the pleasure of hosting the Chamber of Commerce's November monthly meeting. The event was held in the rear parking lot and tours were provided of the Police building. The event was well attended by city officials, business owners, and families.

**On November 26**, the Lafayette Police Fall 2018 Citizens Academy graduation was held during the City Council meeting. The thirteen participants were publicly recognized. I am thankful we had such an engaged group of citizens. Feedback and engagement with community members is valuable to myself and my staff.

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## December Case Highlights

**On December 21**, at approximately 10:20 a.m., an Officer attempted to stop a black motorcycle for no license plate in the area of First Street and Golden Gate Way. The motorcycle recklessly evaded and the pursuit was terminated for public safety reasons.

On December 22, Officers developed information and were able to locate a motorcycle parked in the 3000 block of Moraga Blvd. The motorcycle they located was white but matched the description of the motorcycle from the pursuit. Officers examined the motorcycle and noticed the odor of paint emanating from the motorcycle. Officers were able to determine where the motorcycle belonged and that it had been black in color.

Detectives were off due to the weekend but responded from home and authored a search warrant for the suspect's residence.

Orinda PD Officers assisted Lafayette PD with the service of the search warrant. Inside the residence, Officers located a spray painted white helmet which matched the odor of paint on the motorcycle. Next to the helmet was a motorcycle jump suit, which matched the rider from the day before. Inside the suit was a key, which fit into the motorcycle's ignition. A gray backpack, which matched the description of the backpack the rider was wearing was also located. Inside the backpack, the bill of sale and the pink slip was located. The suspect was identified and arrested. The DA's Office filed numerous charges to include evading and destruction of evidence.

**December 21**, at approximately 4:55 p.m., an Officer observed a gray sedan with red paper plates that matched the description of a vehicle Pittsburg PD had attempted to stop earlier in the day. The Officer initiated a traffic enforcement stop of this vehicle. The vehicle failed to yield, and a pursuit was initiated. The suspect immediately drove away at a high rate of speed westbound on Highway 24, past Orinda and through the Caldecott Tunnel. The pursuit continued onto Highway 13 southbound.

The Officer terminated the pursuit near the Redwood Road exit. As the Officer was exiting the freeway, he saw a male running from the vehicle that had been involved in the pursuit. The Officer did not pursue the suspect on foot for officer safety reasons. The Officer remained with the vehicle until additional units arrived on scene. Oakland PD responded as well as the Sheriff's Office helicopter. The suspect was not located and remains outstanding. The initial reason for the stop was traffic violations; however, at the end of the pursuit it was later discovered this was a stolen vehicle out of Alameda. A cell phone was recover, along with numerous purses and clothing; a possible suspect has been identified. The investigation is ongoing.

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On December 28, at approximately 10:57 a.m., a resident went inside a local business for approximately five minutes and then came out to find her passenger side window broken and two laptops missing. Officers located video surveillance showing a small black Mercedes and multiple subjects getting out of the vehicle. The victim advised she had left the Walnut Creek Apple Store, stopped at a bank, and then went inside the business. Within three minutes of the victim entering the business, her vehicle was broken into. Officers were able to use neighborhood cameras to determine the suspect vehicle followed the victim from Walnut Creek to Lafayette.

It was determined the suspect vehicle was involved in auto burglaries in Walnut Creek and San Francisco. In Walnut Creek cases, the suspect vehicle followed other victims from the Walnut Creek Apple Store, later breaking into their vehicles. At this time a felony stop has been placed on the vehicle. Lafayette Officers and Detectives have conducted surveillance in other jurisdictions. The investigation is ongoing.

***Did You Know – California Vehicle Code:*** As you may have noticed from some of the discussed cases in this newsletter, many felony investigations potentially begin with Officers conducting an enforcement stop for California Vehicle Code violations that are infractions (versus a misdemeanor or felony crime). We are all familiar with a multitude of Vehicle Code infractions, including, speeding, stop signs/stop lights, using a cell phone w/out a hands-free device while driving, and seatbelt violations.

One California Vehicle Code violation that folks may not be as familiar with is Vehicle Code section 5200(a), which states in part, when two license plates are issued by DMV, they shall be attached to the vehicle for which they are issued, one in the front and one in the rear of the vehicle.

Criminals are known to attempt to evade detection by adding dealership paper plates in lieu of the issued license plates or even putting paper plates over the top of plates that are mounted on the vehicle. Paper plates are probable cause for an officer to stop a vehicle and investigate the status of the vehicle. At the beginning of this year, the State of California now requires that newly purchased vehicles have a paper plate displaying an identification number associated with the vehicle's Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).

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## Friendly Reminders

### 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 NIXLE and CWS alerts.

**NIXLE Alerts** – Residents who have not yet subscribed are urged to subscribe to our 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 incidents. 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.

**The Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS)** is recognized as one of the nation's most modern and effective all-hazard public warning systems. CWS is a partnership of the Office of the Sheriff, the Health Services Department, other government agencies, industry, news media and the non-profit Community Awareness & Emergency Response (CAER) organization, all striving to deliver time-sensitive and potentially life-saving information to the people of Contra Costa County. In addition, the CWS Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS) is used for call-outs in case of emergency.

A computerized system makes telephone calls to the known telephone numbers in the vicinity of the hazard based on incident-specific issues. To stream-line fast activation in an emergency, the areas around known places were predefined, so activation is faster. To sign up, please visit – <https://cwsalerts.com>.

**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 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).

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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.