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Hello Lafayette!



Taste of Lafayette Restaurant Stroll returns May 19. Photo by Jodi Foucher

May is here, and with it comes all the excitement of the school year winding down and summer just around the corner!

This month, we spotlight **Carpet One Floor & Home in San Ramon** and their gorgeous showroom. **Logan Jager**, owner of **Western Flyer Brewing**, shares his passion for brewing and the community. **Amanda Alessandria** takes us along on her inspiring rowing journey, and so much more.

Please use your **Preferred Partner Index** when seeking

products and services, and be sure to thank these local business owners who make your magazine possible.

Wishing you all a wonderful month and a Happy Mother's Day.

Your *Greet Lafayette* Team
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Greetings from Mayor Anduri



Our feeling of community is a reason people are drawn to Lafayette. It is a wonderful thing and not to be taken for granted. Each of us can take steps to strengthen this sense of community, such as looking out for one another, assuming others' good intentions during civic debates, and participating in events that bring us together.

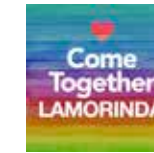
Another important step we can take to strengthen our community is to support our local businesses. If we all make an extra effort to shop and dine locally, we all benefit — our downtown will become even more vibrant and welcoming, and we will have great experiences. Here are some thoughts for making that extra effort a little easier.

Supporting our local restaurants is a win-win. You can broaden your knowledge of Lafayette's restaurants by purchasing tickets for the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce's Taste of Lafayette Restaurant Stroll on May 19. The Taste is not only an opportunity to sample more than 20 of Lafayette's restaurants, but is also a reminder of the many restaurant choices we have in Lafayette.

Now that the days are sunny and longer, get reacquainted with local businesses by walking around our downtown. You notice much more when you walk than when you drive. As you walk, stop in at a store you may not have visited before.

Lafayette is a perfect place to gather, whether it's a date night, a birthday or graduation celebration, lunch with friends, a business retreat, or a conference. One simple way to support our local business community is to host your next gathering, whether large or small, personal or professional, right here in Lafayette.

Please let me know if you have suggestions for future topics for the Mayor's column at canduri@lovelafayette.org.



You Are Invited!

Join fellow business owners and professionals for networking opportunities. Lafayette and Moraga residents, along with *Greet* business partners, are invited to the following networking events.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

Greet Happy Hour (5 - 7 pm)

Canyon Club Brewery, 1558 Canyon Rd., Moraga

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

Greet Networking Lunch (11:30 am - 1 pm)

Sliver Pizzeria,
975 Moraga Rd., Lafayette

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

Greet Happy Hour (5 - 7 pm)

Western Flyer Brewing, 3660 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

Scan here to RSVP



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BY INVITATION

Greet Restaurant Tastings

Residents and participating business partners come together to make friends and enjoy delicious food! Residents can email Lamorinda@n2co.com to be added to the invite list.

Greet Gatherings

Select *Greet* business partners are invited to participate in conversations about different opportunities and developments throughout Lamorinda. Email Christine. Raymond@n2co.com to learn about becoming a business partner.

YOUR GREET LAFAYETTE CONTRIBUTORS AND TEAM

Thank you to everyone who made this special issue possible!



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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

A Place to Gather

Western Flyer Brewing

PHOTOS BY CRAIG ISAACS, BLUEGOO PHOTOGRAPHY

There's nothing quite like Western Flyer Brewing in this neck of the woods.

Owner Logan Jager set out to create a place that feels like an escape — casual, a little nostalgic, with a SoCal vibe — and where people come together.

The space draws on Logan's interest in architecture and industrial design, what he describes as a "greatest hits list" of influences. From the start, he also wanted to break down the separation between the taproom and production area, so people can get up close with the brewing process, which opens directly into the dining room.

That same attention to detail shows up in the beer. "Everything matters," Logan says. "You have to be committed



Logan and Katie Jager

One thing Logan loves about the brewing industry is its collaborative spirit. Kevin Hamilton at Canyon Club Brewery and Ryan Frank at Headlands Brewing have been two of Western Flyer's biggest supporters, stepping up to help in countless ways.

He's also quick to credit those who helped bring Western Flyer to life, including his wife Katie, his brewing team led by Zac Haufler, Catie Liuzzi and the team at Erin Morris Architects, his team of builders, led by general contractor Ron Taylor of Terra Nova Industries, and lastly, his old Springhill friends Graham Deutscher and Peter Drevno, who reintegrated him into Lafayette.

Together, they've created a place that already feels like part of the community.



The Jagers: Logan, Katie, Brooks (12), Carson (10)



The taproom blends seamlessly into the production space, giving patrons a firsthand look at how their beverages are made.

to the minutiae. Every action we take is just a kernel of grain in the silo, but if we focus on the smallest details, it makes a world of difference in the final product."

Western Flyer features lagers designed for side-pull faucets, relatively rare in the U.S. and imported from the Czech Republic. They're meant to maximize the rich, dense foam Pilsners are known for. "Foam is Flavor" is one of their guiding mottos, and a full head of foam isn't a mistake. It's the mark of a well-crafted beer. "If you want to make our day," Logan says, "come into the Flyer and ask what we have on side pull."

The kitchen delivers, too. Chef Paulie's chicken tinga and birria tacos are old family recipes, alongside traditional al pastor cooked on a vertical spit, and fresh tortillas made in-house daily.

For Logan, though, it's about more than the beer. He wants Western Flyer to be a go-to meeting spot — before and after sports, events, special occasions, or just because. As he puts it, "It's more like going to the park than going to a restaurant."

Logan's connection to Lafayette goes back to his days as an '80s BMX kid in the Springhill neighborhood. His family moved to Charleston when he was nine, but he returned for college at Cal and eventually made his way to Burton Valley, where he and his wife, Katie, are raising their two sons. Both volunteer locally, with Katie having served on the boards of Diablo Valley Montessori School and LPIE, and Logan as a Cub Scout leader and Lafayette Little League coach.

They believe breweries are uniquely equipped to bring people together for causes that matter. Western Flyer is excited to launch a structured giving program, partnering with local nonprofits throughout the year and hosting events to rally community support.



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THE STORY BEHIND THE NAME

Western Flyer was the fishing vessel John Steinbeck and his friend Ed Ricketts chartered in 1940 for a voyage to the Sea of Cortez — part science, part adventure. Decades later, the long-forgotten boat was restored, a project Logan followed during the pandemic. He named the brewery in honor of that spirit.

A special thank you to Realtors Stella Tsakonas and Stephanie Mull for sponsoring the Meet Your Neighbor section.

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Heating Up the Stage

Hot flashes, brain fog, night sweats — and now, a standing ovation.

PHOTO BY JULEEN LAPPORTE

Lisa Anne Morrison, Lulu Braunstein, and Carrie Vanhouten

they’ve also been surprised by how many men have begun to attend. “Some have been moved to tears; others are the first to stand up and applaud.”

As the show travels, so does its sense of community — core to their mission of building connection around women’s menopause experiences. In each city, the team hosts creative workshops where women gather to tell their stories and help shape the material. After each performance, a menopause specialist joins the cast for a Q&A, giving audiences a chance to ask questions and continue the conversation.

Now, following success in Lafayette and Los Angeles, “The Menopause Monologues” is in New York for a limited run at HERE Arts Center — fittingly, the same venue where the 1996 play “The Vagina Monologues” was first developed.

Still, no matter where the show goes, its roots remain local. “The Lamorinda community has been our lifeblood,” they say. “We will forever be grateful to the hundreds of local women who gave us the confidence to take this show on the road, and who continue to show up with so much love and support.”

Learn more at themenopausemonologues.org.



Cast at a pop-up show at Town Hall, January 2026. From left: Kathleen Olson, Laura Bergman, Leslie Shafton, Beverly Jane Peatross, Heather Stoneman, Carrie Vanhouten, Lois Kann, Lulu Braunstein, Lynnä McPhatter-Harris, Yukie Fujimoto. Photo by Craig Isaacs, BlueGoo Photography



Women share stories and write monologues at a creative workshop in NYC.

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It's Village. Of Course.

Three Lamorinda women are bringing menopause to center stage with honesty, humor, and heart. “The Menopause Monologues,” built from real women’s stories, began in Lafayette, expanded to Los Angeles, and is now in New York City.

Lulu Braunstein and Lisa Anne Morrison of Lafayette, and Carrie Vanhouten of Moraga, are the creative team behind the show. They met in a storytelling and acting class at Town Hall Theatre and have been collaborating ever since, including performing together in the improv group “Sorry, Wrong Thread,” directed by Lisa.

Between them, they have decades of experience in producing, directing, acting, visual art, and comedy. “We always bring a spirit of collaboration, an appreciation for each other’s strengths, and a hefty dose of humor when we work together,” they say.

Humor is intentional. While menopause can feel isolating or even taboo, laughter opens the door.

“The three of us are Gen X, and menopause wasn’t something our mothers talked about,” they say. They’ve found that many women, regardless of generation, carry a sense of shame around what’s happening and have learned not to talk about it. “Women are great at sharing, and given the opportunity to learn from each other, most will jump at the chance to be in the same space, laughing and commiserating.”

That openness comes to life through monologues, poetry, dance, puppetry, live painting and projections, all drawn from real experiences. Some cast members are seasoned performers, while others are stepping on stage for the first time.

“We are consistently blown away by our cast’s willingness to share such personal and vulnerable stories,” they say, adding that

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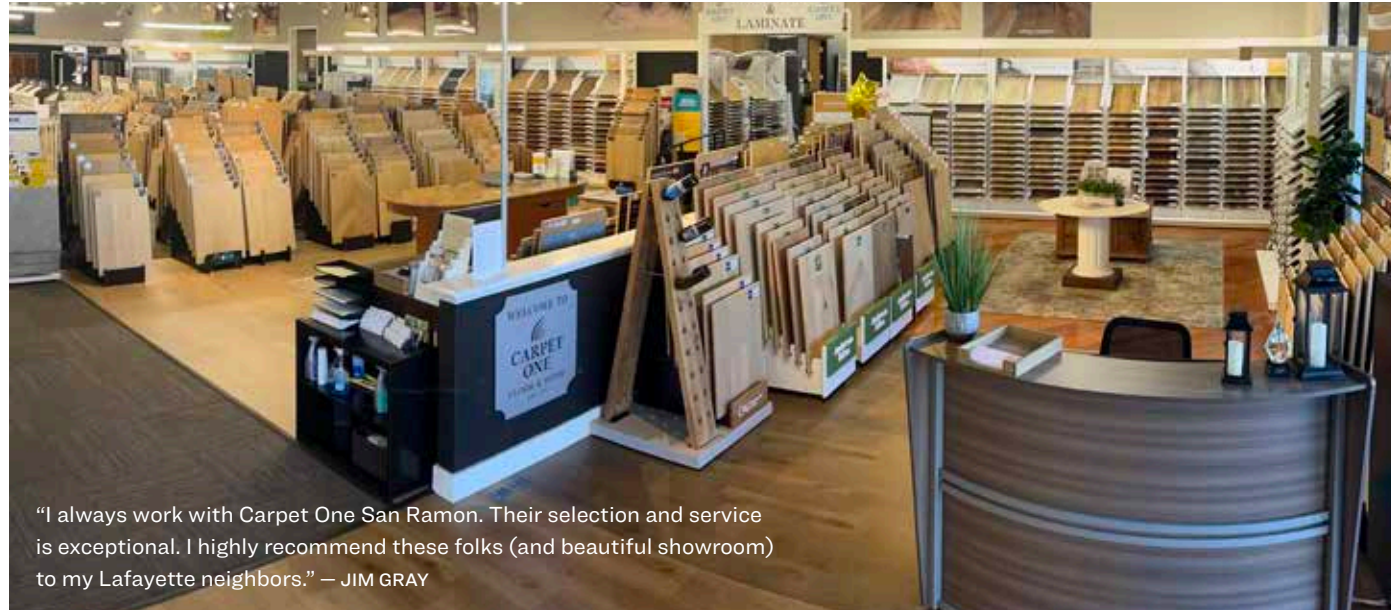


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Greg Gibbert and Leah Rodriguez. Photo by Craig Isaacs, BlueGoo Photography

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The installation team is backed by a written lifetime installation warranty, a reflection of the confidence Greg and Leah have built into every aspect of the business. As members of the Carpet One Floor & Home cooperative since 1993, they also offer customers access to industry-leading warranties that simply aren't available elsewhere.

The store has a well-established presence in the Lamorinda area, with trucks and crews working in Lafayette on a weekly basis. Long-standing relationships with local builders, contractors, and homeowners, many spanning decades, speak to the kind of trust that's hard to manufacture and impossible to fake.

Carpet One Floor & Home San Ramon is located at 1985 San Ramon Valley Blvd. For most coming from Lafayette, it's a quick, easy trip, and, by all accounts, well worth it.

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Happy Mother's Day

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3957 Rancho Road	\$4,850,000	\$4,900,000	13	6	4+	5450	0.81
8 Valley Vista Lane	\$3,925,000	\$4,650,000	190	4	5.5	4116	1.99
4040 Los Arabis Drive	\$4,495,000	\$4,250,000	28	5	4.5	5014	2.96
3545 O'Conner Drive	\$3,495,000	\$3,757,000	10	5	5.5	3355	0.24
1 Green Acres Court	\$3,250,000	\$3,600,000	1	5	3.5	3438	0.30
872 Solana Drive	\$2,995,000	\$3,485,000	6	5	4.5	2964	0.44
3328 Las Huertas Road	\$2,995,000	\$3,375,000	7	4	2	2498	0.50
4018 Tilden Lane	\$3,200,000	\$3,250,000	8	4	3.5	3157	0.49
3461 Stage Coach Drive	\$2,900,000	\$2,900,000	0	5	3.5	3710	0.46
1362 Sunset Loop	\$2,749,000	\$2,820,000	7	5	5.5	3398	0.34
735 Arroyo Court	\$2,850,000	\$2,815,000	17	3	3	2435	0.82
1324A Martino Road	\$2,795,000	\$2,795,000	18	5	3.5	3565	0.95
4500 Canyon Road	\$2,650,000	\$2,575,000	20	4	3+	4180	2.87
1076 N Thompson Road	\$2,550,000	\$2,430,000	10	4	3.5	3322	1.27
3364 Moraga Boulevard	\$1,798,000	\$2,300,000	5	3	3	1970	0.12
1600 Shangri La Court	\$2,495,000	\$2,300,000	61	5	3	3498	1.09
393 Colorados Court	\$2,195,000	\$2,275,000	4	3	2	2023	0.26
627 Burton Avenue	\$1,998,000	\$2,270,000	0	4	2	2071	0.27
3912 Quail Ridge Road	\$2,360,000	\$2,220,000	36	5	3	4093	0.53
3268 Park Lane	\$1,799,000	\$1,845,000	8	4	3	2180	0.23
3264 Withers Avenue	\$1,800,000	\$1,818,000	8	5	3	2548	0.29

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Making Waves

INTERVIEW WITH AMANDA ALESSANDRIA

Campolindo grad Amanda Alessandria found her stride rowing at UCLA and now, back home in Lafayette, works with high school students on college planning.

Tell us about yourself. I graduated from Campolindo High School in 2018. I played varsity basketball and briefly on the JV lacrosse team. I was also involved in community service through the Juniors for Seniors club and served as president of the Project Open Hands club. You may have also seen me holding down the front desk at Oakwood.

How did you start rowing? After multiple basketball injuries, I decided it was time to try a lower-impact sport during my sophomore year. My first practice with Oakland Strokes sparked an immediate love for rowing.

What was it like competing at UCLA? It was nothing short of incredible. I earned a spot in the second boat my first year and helped the team to a fourth-place finish at the Pac-12 Championships (beating USC!). Most importantly, I met some of my closest friends.



Campolindo grad Amanda Alessandria now guides students through the college process. Photo by Will Lloyd

What lessons from rowing have stayed with you? Rowing taught me many life lessons, including the value of taking care of myself. At the collegiate level, it can feel like there is always more to do, with optional practices and supplemental workouts. But stretching yourself too thin can lead to burnout and injury. Rest days are just as important as workdays.

What led you to tutoring and college advising? As a peer tutor in my mom Michelle's learning skills classes during high school, I saw the impact she had on students. This inspired me to follow in her footsteps, and today, I work alongside her at OPEN EDvantage, helping students build confidence and find success.

Advice for students starting the college process? Focus on what you enjoy rather than what you think colleges want to see. High school goes by quickly, and when you invest in things you are genuinely passionate about, applications tend to take care of themselves.

Anything else to share? I am so thankful I got to grow up in the Lamorinda community. I was surrounded by incredible role models, and many of my closest friends today are my old Stanley and Campo classmates. The experiences I had here still shape who I am today.



Special thanks to Realtor Brian Rochford of Rochford Real Estate for sponsoring our Student Life section.



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A Place for Every Child

PASTOR JAIME POLSON AND SUSAN WENTWORTH,
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY, LOPC

Some of the most meaningful things begin with a simple conversation. In 2013, a family approached Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church hoping to find a welcoming place for their child. LOPC didn't yet have a program to offer, but the seed of something beautiful had been planted for A Place for Every Child.

That year, the Special Needs Ministry came to life, lovingly shaped by dedicated volunteers and professionals with a genuine heart for children and youth with developmental disabilities. What grew from that one conversation has since blossomed into a warm and inclusive community that continues to welcome families with open arms.

Friday Fun Night

Once a month, families with children and youth in kindergarten through 12th grade are invited to Friday Fun Night, an evening of arts, crafts, games, and friendship. Each child is paired with a caring, trained buddy, giving every guest the freedom to explore and participate in whatever brings them joy. While the children are happily engaged, parents and caregivers are encouraged to take a breath, whether that's a quiet dinner or a peaceful evening at home.

Friendship Circle

In partnership with the Special Education Enrichment Development Foundation (SEED), LOPC hosts a monthly Friendship Circle, where neurodiverse and neurotypical teenagers from across the Lamorinda community gather simply to connect. Teenagers from local schools volunteer their time, and the friendships that form here naturally spill over into everyday life.

At its heart, this ministry is a place where families are embraced just as they are — surrounded by a supportive community.

To learn more, visit
lopc.org/specialneeds.



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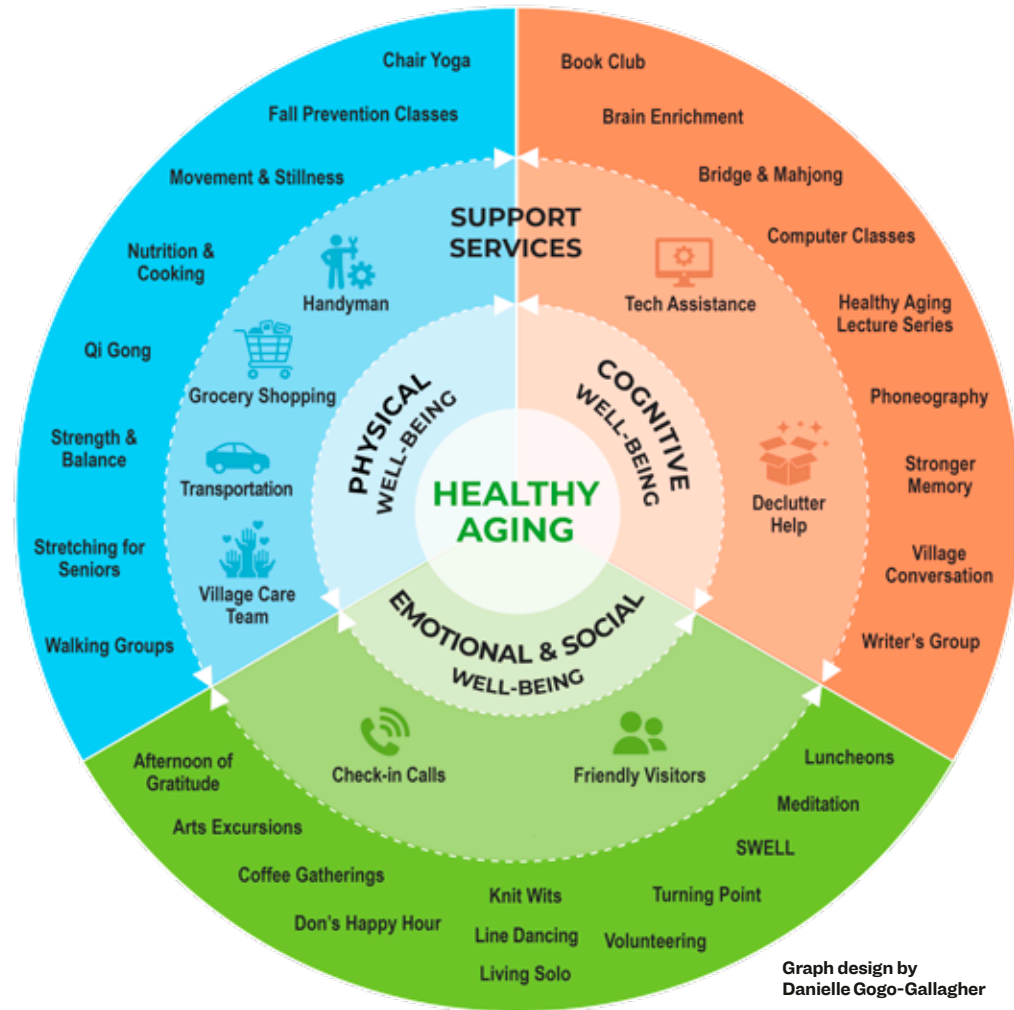
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A RECIPE FOR HEALTHY AGING: THE LAMORINDA VILLAGE APPROACH

BY LAURA-KATE RURKA, LAMORINDA VILLAGE



WHILE SUPPORTING SENIORS through volunteer-provided services remains the core of Lamorinda Village’s mission, the organization expanded its focus in 2022. At the suggestion of board member Gordon Chong, a committee was formed to explore the growing field of healthy aging. Led by Village member and retired Public Health Professor Emeritus John Swartzberg, the group includes retired nurses, physicians, therapists, and social workers.

The committee researched ways to increase healthspan — not simply living longer but living free of disease and disability — and quickly concluded that improving healthspan required a holistic approach. They identified three key areas of focus: physical, cognitive, and emotional well-being. Though genetics plays a role in disease risk and mental health challenges, research has shown that individuals can meaningfully affect their health outcomes through behavior. Guided by these findings, Lamorinda Village continues to develop programs that promote well-being across all dimensions of healthy aging.

Staying Strong
Because falls are a leading risk for older adults, Lamorinda Village offers strength and balance classes three days a week in Lafayette and Orinda. Chair yoga, breath and stillness, and fitness activities at the Lafayette Community Center benefit participants physically and support their emotional well-being.

Building Cognitive Resilience
Programs such as brain enrichment, writers’ group, bridge, mahjong, and book club help members stay mentally engaged. Weekly lectures cover topics ranging from art restoration and nutrition to Alzheimer’s research and emergency preparedness.

Forging Connections
Every Village activity provides opportunities for social engagement. Events such as community luncheons, Don’s Golden Happy Hour, and Senior SWELL at the Lafayette Library are especially designed to foster connection. Smaller groups, such as Living Solo, offer more intimate settings where members build meaningful relationships based on shared experiences.

Research on healthspan continues to evolve, but the principles guiding Lamorinda Village programs remain constant: a life well lived requires nourishing the brain, body, and spirit.

To get connected, call (925) 283-3500 or visit lamorindavillage.org.



ELAM BROWN’S LANTERN The Light That Led the Way

BY JOHN KENNETT, LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It all started with a flicker.

In 1846, Elam Brown, Lafayette’s founder, traveled west, bumping along in his covered wagon from St. Joseph, Missouri, toward the wilds of California. His path was lit by a single candle set inside a hand-punched tin lantern, its star-shaped cutouts casting a ghostly glow.

That lantern was there through it all — wind, weather, and westward expansion. It glowed in Illinois before 1840, lit the way across prairie trails, and eventually shone in the untamed reaches of Contra Costa County. When Brown settled in what would become Lafayette, the lantern hung quietly through the town’s earliest days, when rattlesnakes likely outnumbered residents. He used it around his home on what was then Hough Street, now Lafayette Circle, perhaps scaring off a few raccoons and maybe even a bandit or two.

In 1879, ten years before his death, Brown passed the lantern to his friend and neighbor James Bickerstaff, who lived along Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Bickerstaff later gave it to his daughter Jennie, a beloved schoolteacher and budding historian who delighted local students with stories of Lafayette’s past. Jennie often carried the lantern to classrooms tucked safely inside a battered Challenge Butter box, sharing tales of dusty trails, pioneer life, and the town’s earliest settlers.

In 1960, Jennie donated the lantern to the county library to help preserve its history. But when it was loaned to the Lafayette Library Association for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in 1962, it vanished — misplaced in a Pleasant Hill library vault and seemingly lost to time.

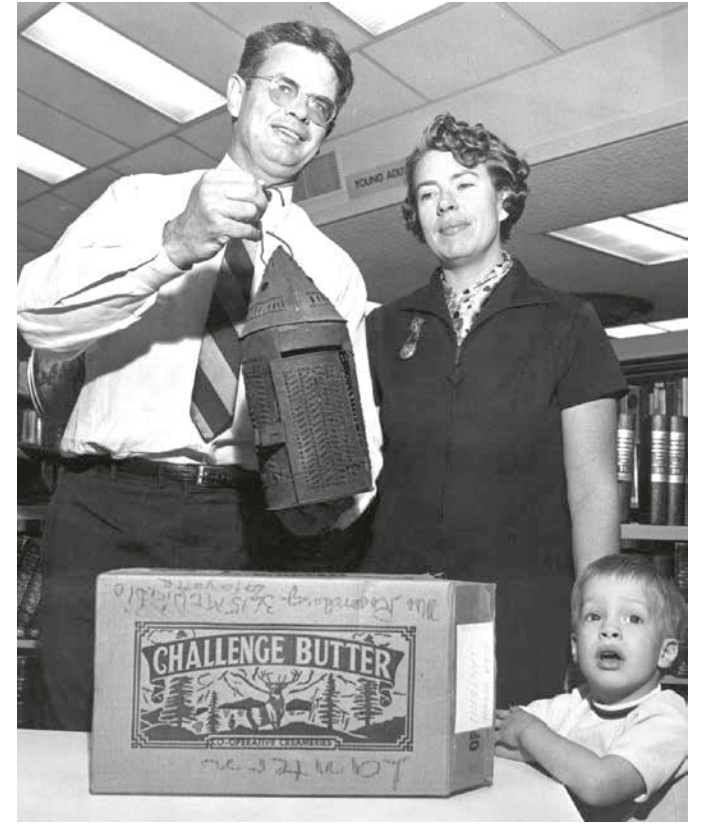
Members of the Lafayette Historical Committee made trip after trip to search the vault, but the lantern remained missing. Finally, in 1969, local historian Joan Merryman asked Pleasant Hill historian Thomas Gates to take one more look. “Look for an old butter box,” she suggested.

Moments later, Gates emerged from the vault holding a faded Challenge Butter box. Inside was the long-lost lantern. “I nearly had a heart attack,” Merryman later recalled.

Though rusted and fragile, the lantern was carefully restored by Lee Devol of Concord, who repaired its hinges and door with salvaged metal.

Today, the lantern that once lit Elam Brown’s journey west is proudly displayed at the Lafayette Historical Society on Golden Gate Way, a small but shining reminder of the light that led the way.

Special thanks to Aegis Living Moraga for sponsoring our Lafayette History section.



Local historian Joan Merryman and her young son look on as Pleasant Hill historian Thomas Gates reveals the long-lost lantern in 1969.

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The Board's resolution approving the parcel tax measure indicates that "the State of California does not provide adequate funding to maintain [the District's] successful programs, and funding from the State and other sources is unpredictable and not consistently aligned with local priorities." California's overall investment in public education has historically ranked below the national average and fluctuates with the state economy. Within this system, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) directs additional state funding to districts serving higher proportions of students with greater needs.

While this approach supports equity statewide, it also means that districts like Lafayette receive significantly less funding per student than many other Bay Area districts. As stated in the Board's resolution, "locally generated funding is critical to protect the District's schools and maintain the quality of education and programs relied on and expected by the community." Such local funding includes parcel taxes and contributions from Lafayette Partners in Education (LPiE).

The Governing Board's action to place a measure on the June ballot reflects the District's effort to plan responsibly for the future while maintaining transparency with the community. Over the past three years, the District has taken steps to reduce expenses and realign resources, resulting in more than \$5 million in savings. At the same time, Lafayette continues to face rising costs, including employee salaries and benefits, required services, and operational expenses that are largely fixed or mandated. Together, these factors reflect an ongoing structural funding challenge in which available revenues do not keep pace with the District's expenses.

Staying informed is an important part of supporting the continued success of Lafayette's schools.

Visit lafsd.org for more information about our District.

Special thanks to In the Deets and Konstructo for sponsoring our School Scene section.

At a recent meeting, the Lafayette School District Governing Board voted to place a local parcel tax measure on the June ballot, Measure H. The express purpose of the measure is to provide funding for core academic programs, including math, science, engineering, technology, reading, music, and arts; attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers; and maintaining manageable class sizes.

Our local schools are widely recognized for strong academic outcomes, enrichment programs, and a well-rounded student experience. Across four elementary schools and Stanley Middle School, Lafayette students benefit from dedicated, experienced educators; a rigorous math and English curriculum; robust STEM, arts, and music offerings; a full continuum of special education services from TK through eighth grade; and a wide range of additional academic and extracurricular opportunities.

True Blue

Meet Blue, a Catahoula mix with a striking coat and a personality to match. A loyal sidekick with a playful spirit, he's right at home with Kimberly Larson and her family in Lafayette.



Tell us about Blue. Blue is about 11 months old and is a mix, mostly Catahoula, which gives him his beautiful coat.

How did you find him? He was at a local shelter in Lafayette and was already named Blue. The kids loved it, so it stuck! We adopted him through ABC Animal Rescue and feel so lucky we found him.

How would you describe his personality? Blue is a sweet goofball! He loves to cuddle and be close, but he's also very playful and fully at home running around our yard and showing off his best zoomies.

Have you always been a dog person? Always! I grew up with dogs and had one for years before Blue. Blue came into our lives just as our hearts were ready for a new pup.

Any surprises or funny moments so far? He can be mischievous, but all in good fun. He likes to steal things in a very obvious way to get us to play with him, usually stuffed animals or socks.

What do you love most about Blue? He has herding tendencies in his mix and loves to be close by. Even when walking around the house, his shoulder is on my leg.

Anything else we should know? He is the sweetest guy and was so happy to join our wonderful dog-friendly community. He's in full adolescent mode at the moment, so forgive him as he learns his on-leash manners if you see us around town!

Special thanks to RecycleSmart, a valuable resource for residential recycling information, for sponsoring our Pets with Personality section.

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