

Welcome to LAFAYETTE

Here, set among the East Bay Hills, Lafayette homes and small ranches exude a quiet, rural atmosphere.

Oak trees, pyracantha bushes and horse trails thrive next to swimming pools and tennis courts. These tree lined residential areas surround a downtown area which includes smaller homes and apartments, as well as schools, churches, a library, and a business section, which offers the necessities and amenities of contemporary life.

Lafayette is in central Contra Costa County, one of the most rapidly growing areas in the State of California. A freeway, Highway 24, intersects the city and connects with another major artery, Interstate 680, near the eastern border of Lafayette; these provide access to the west, north and south. BART, Bay Area

Rapid Transit, the Bay Area's mass transportation system linking major population centers to San Francisco, also runs through town. A large percentage of employed residents of Lafayette are executives and professional people. In many cases, they have sought out Lafayette for its quiet



sophistication, its easy access to the rest of the Bay Area, and its outstanding schools.

Twenty-seven percent of the office space in Lafayette is rented to industrial or insurance sales organizations. Nineteen percent of

Lafayette

the offices are professional services

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(i.e. accounting, architecture, engineering, law).

If you are interested in joining a women's club in Lafayette, your choices are ample: Lamorinda Circle Women's Club, Lafayette Women's Club, Suburban Women's Club of Lafayette, and Lafayette Junior Women's Club.

Located in the San Francisco Bay Area of Northern California, Lafayette is 24 miles east of San Francisco in central Contra Costa County. It is bordered by the residential communities of Orinda on the west, Moraga on the south and by the larger city of Walnut Creek on the east.

Once an area made up largely of commuters to the industrial centers to the west, Contra Costa County is rapidly developing its own economic base. Thus, more of its citizens live and work in the county. In addition, as this county grows, so does its educational, cultural and entertainment opportunities. The Town Hall Theater in Lafayette, the Concord Pavilion, the Rheem Theater in

Moraga, the Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, and Diablo Valley College are just a few examples.

Lafayette is particularly well located because of its easy access to the transportation systems which link the cities of the Bay Area. This network of bus, BART, and highway systems make theater, restaurants, sporting events and museums in Oakland, Berkeley, and San Francisco readily available.

While all of these opportunities exist in the metropolitan area of which Lafayette is a part, residents can enjoy the good life without leaving town. The Lafayette Reservoir is the local place for fishing, walking and relaxing. There are many hiking and biking trails throughout the city, along with quiet residential streets and a downtown business section which invites browsing and leisurely fine dining.

Schools, community organizations and business people work together to make events happen and to make the city one of which everyone can be proud. Lafayette's citizens share activities such as the Loop Run, Bastille Day, the

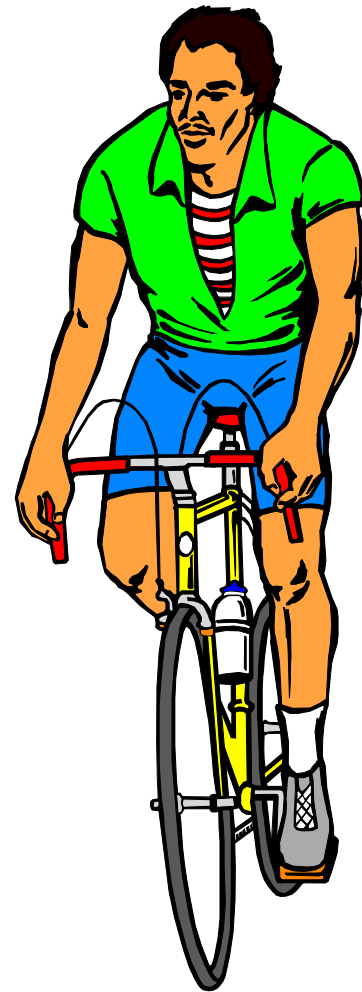
WELCOME (continued)

Lafayesta Days Parade, and the Coucours d'elegance de Lafayette. Lafayette is made of up people who work hard to achieve excellence in their schools, homes, community, and in their personal and business lives.

Many citizens hold professional or executive level positions. Half of the population over 25 years old has a college degree. The schools of Lafayette reflect a strong desire for outstanding education, which serves to maintain and raise the cost of housing.

The Lamorinda area (Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda) has more Norwegians than any Bay Area city. Politically, Republicans outnumber Democrats 6,899 to 6,555, with 1,775 voters registering as Independents or third part.

One-half million people enjoy the use of the Lafayette Reservoir each year. Tennis, swimming, jogging and bicycling are all popular activities in this affluent community, as is dining in any of the over 40 restaurants in the area.



Lafayette HISTORY

The first pioneers who came to each area of California in the early days usually stayed only long enough to hear news of another area, to which they moved in hopes it would be their El Dorado; not so Lafayette's first two citizens. Not even the news of the discovery of gold at Coloma moved them.

In 1846, Elam Brown, a widower with four children, and Nathaniel Jones, a married man who later became Contra Costa County's first Sheriff, crossed the plains in the same wagon train. After a short stay at Sutter's Fort in Sacramento, they rolled their wagons through the Livermore Valley to Mission Santa Clara.

Along the way, Brown married Margaret Allen, a member of their wagon train whose husband had died on the trek west. She had eleven children.

In the spring following their arrival, Brown and Jones hired out in Contra Costa County's redwood

logging district. This area, in the valleys southwest of Moraga today, consisted of three stands of very large trees; Moraga Redwoods, Peralta Redwoods, and San Antonio Redwoods. The two pioneers whipsawed lumber at the San Antonio Redwoods, hauled it by ox team to the Oakland Estuary, and transported it to San Francisco.

While delivering lumber, Brown heard of 3,300 acres being offered for sale within the easy riding distance of where he was working. Though Brown had no money of his own, his new wife had \$900 she had hidden in a crock among the things she brought west. The seller, William Leidesdorff, a San Francisco trader, accepted Brown's offer of \$900, and the land was his.

From Oakland to his acreage, Brown crossed hilly country. The trails across, unnamed in 1846, became known as Summit Road,

Telegraph Road, and in 1903,
Tunnel Road. He passed through
almost impenetrable groves of a

Lafayette

HISTORY (continued)

variety of oaks, and finally, on his own property, crossed the trail of oxen pulling loads of lumber from the lumber camps to Martinez.

Elam Brown sold his friend Nathaniel Jones 372 acres for \$100, glad to have a good friend as his only neighbor. Grain grew profusely all over Contra Costa County in those days of virgin soil. Brown and Jones harvested heavy crops of wheat and hauled it in wagons pulled by oxen to the nearest flour mill at San Jose, but valuable time was wasted in the trips back and forth. In the spring of 1853, Brown bought a second-hand horse-powered grist mill at Benicia and installed it on what is today Plaza Way near First Street.

Soon, disappointed miners and tradesmen looking for an opportunity to establish themselves in the new State stopped at Lafayette, and some settled down. Among the first was Milo Hough, who built a hotel with a bar. Teamsters walking behind their oxen, hauling lumber from Canyon to Martinez, rested their teams and partook of Hough's hospitality.

Jack Eston opened a blacksmith shop in 1853 in what became the center of the community, the area between Brown's mill and Lafayette Creek, at approximately the site of La Fiesta Square.

Benjamin Shreve, a disappointed gold seeker, stopped in the village in 1853 and taught the first school there. In 1855, he closed the school and began operating a general store. He supplied the needs of the villages and some of the lumber mill workers in the redwoods. Later, Shreve applied to the United States Post Office Department for permission to open a branch at what he named Centerville. Because of a conflict with another town of the same name in California, Shreve changed the name on his application to Lafayette.

When lumbering in the redwoods stopped in the mid 1850's, traffic through the village also stopped. Growth halted, and by the 1870's, Martinez and Walnut Creek and Concord were the trading centers. A railroad served in the latter two towns beginning in 1891, but a trip to Lafayette was either by stagecoach or horseback.

The slow ride over Telegraph Road remained a deterrent to the

single horse-drawn vehicle until
1903. In that year, Alameda
County drilled a

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WELCOME (continued)

tunnel through the Berkeley Hills, cutting down the grade to be surmounted by 300 feet. The Merchants Association of Alameda County paid more than 50% of the cost. This first tunnel, some 200 feet above the present Caldecott Tunnel, was sufficient for slow moving horse-drawn vehicles.



When automobiles started going through the tunnel at speeds faster than a walk, drivers needed to look through the bore to see if their way was clear. If not, the second vehicle waited for the first to exit before entering. In the early days of automobiles, not all came equipped with a top. Water always dripped from the ceiling of this high-level tunnel, and many passengers emerged from the tunnel with mud-spattered clothes.

At the time of the opening, two hotels were operating in Layette. The original school (Mr. Shreve's) had been on Second Street, and now in 1903, the second school was built on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Today it is a bar.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, the only house of worship, was known simply as "the Church on the hill".

Social life in summer pivoted around the Pioneer Store and the park across from it, given to the community by Elam Brown. Known as the Historic Triangle, three historic buildings still face it: The Pioneer Store (1854), Geil's Building (1880's), and the Wayside Inn (1894). Today one may find a plaque identifying the park with one of Mr. Brown's grinding wheels embedded in concrete. Added to the park in 1991 is a statue of the City's namesake, the Marquis de Lafayette.

In 1902, the Berkeley Oil Company, which has been selling stock since it leased farmer Edward Flood's property in 1900, began drilling for oil. The drillers came up empty-handed and left Mr. Flood with a derrick as a

reminder of their venture. By this
time, the

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WELCOME (continued)

population of the community of Lafayette had grown to 150.

When Lafayette was still a community of small farms, dances were held in one of the town's large barns. In 1911, group of public-spirited citizens assembled at the Pioneer Store on the evening of November 11, and formed the Lafayette Improvement Association. Their goal was to finance the building of a Town Hall. Eventually they succeeded in their aim, and on May 2, 1914, staged their Grand Opening Ball.

Dances were held in the Town Hall into the late 20's. At that time, the Association began devoting its efforts to solving local problems as a quasi-government and was less interested in the social life of the community.

Electricity came in 1920, and telephone service arrived two years later. In 1927, the town still didn't have any street lighting. The East Bay Municipal Utility District completed building the Lafayette Reservoir in 1929, and began providing Lafayette with water in 1931.

While families were moving to Lafayette throughout the 1920's and 30's, the numbers seem small compared to the growth of the community after completion of the Caldecott Tunnel in 1937. With its two bores of two lanes each, people were able to go through the tunnel in time they never thought possible. At this time, 4,000 people called Lafayette home. Fifteen years later over 10,000 lived in the community.

Lafayette operated as an unincorporated community until July 1968. Volunteer groups acted to improve the quality of life within the town. The Lafayette Improvement Association was the earliest and the most active, but others whose efforts have made impressions on the community include the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the Fiesta de Lafayette Committees, and the Lafayette Design Project Committee. Many others accomplished worthy goals, often without recognition.

Important PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY 911
(Ambulance, Police, Fire, Rescue)

ASSISTANCE

Chamber
of Commerce 284.7404
Post Office 283.8229
Library 283.3872
City Offices 284.1968
Planning Dept. 284.1976
Public Works 299.3259
Parks
& Recreation 284.2232
Police
Business Phone 284.5010
Fire Department
Business Phone 930.5500
Animal Control 646.2995

SCHOOLS

Acalanes Union High School
District 935.2800
Acalanes H. S. 935.2600
Campolindo H. S. 376.5986
Lafayette
School District 284.7011
Burton Valley Elem. .. 284.7046
Happy Valley Elem. ... 284.7049

Lafayette Elem. 284.6231
Springhill Elem. 283.8281
Stanley Inter. 283.6282

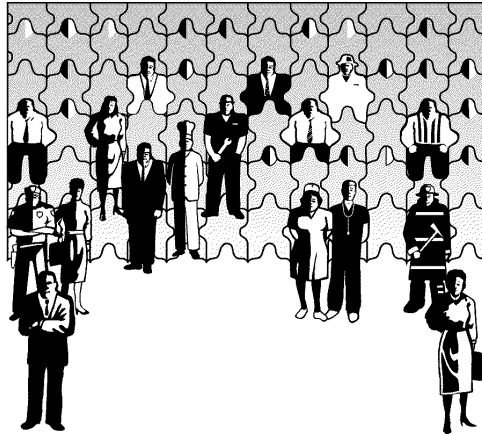
SERVICES

Pacific Bell
(telephone) 1.800.310.2355
E.B.M.U.D.
(water) 820.6600
Garbage 685.4711
Valley Waste Management
(Recycling) 935.8900
Pacific
Gas & Electric.. 1.800.743.5000
AT&T 1.800.870.5140
(cable TV & radio)

TRANSPORTATION

County Connection
(bus) 676.7500
BART
(Rapid Transit). 1.510.465.2278
Car Pool
Information ... 1.800.755.POOL
Department
of Motor Vehicles 935.4464
Airport
Connection 1.650.401.8300

Lafayette STATISTICS



Area: 12.89 square miles

Elevation: 200 - 1,136 feet

Annual Rainfall: 28 inches

Average Temperature:

High: 69.7 degrees

Low: 45 degrees

Population: 24,360

Housings:

Single-family 7,498

Single-fam. attached 303

Multiples 1,578

Employed in Lafayette: 12,803

Median age: 35 years, 9 months

Education level of population

18 & over:

High school 13%

Some college 20%

Associates degree 7%

Bachelor's degree 34%

Graduate degree 22%

Voter registration:

Republican 6,899

Democrats 6,555

Third party/Independent 7,775

Lafayette

COMMUNITY CENTER

A GATHERING PLACE

The Lafayette Community Center offers a variety of activities for pre-schoolers through older adults. It is a place where parents can enroll toddlers in safe loving activities; where teens can sign up for exciting trips, as well as attend drug/alcohol-free events; where adults can choose from a number of fitness programs, painting classes, dog training, French kickboxing; belly dancing; line dancing, have their “colors done”, their chi strengthened. The City Council and City Commissions also meet at the Center. Special rooms can be rented by groups and individuals on the weekends. The Center staff is available to answer questions at 284.2232.



SENIORS

Lafayette's Senior Center is at the Community Center. Open t offers programs, activities and special events for seniors.

Tea dancing, bridge, movies, yoga, line dancing, walking, exercise classes, fabulous trips, and Hawaiian dancing are some of the activities.

Services offered include: Blood pressure screening, health insurance/long term care consultation and health screening. The Center has senior discount BART tickets (\$4.00 for \$16 value), Gold Cards (senior discount program with local merchants), and SALE (Shopping Assistance for Lafayette Elders). Call 284.5050 for more information.

ADDITIONAL SENIOR SERVICES

Lafayette

County Information & Referral Service: 335.8720

Places of WORSHIP



Calvary Baptist of Lafayette
3201 Stanley Blvd.
935.7505

St. Perpetua's Catholic Church
3454 Hamlin Road
283.0272

Lafayette Christian Church -
Disciples of Christ
584 Glenside Drive
283.8304

Sun Valley Bible Chapel
1031 Leland Drive
933.0753

Temple Isaiah Synagogue
3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
283.8575

American Buddhist Sangha Assoc.
4110 El Nido Ranch Road
283.3534

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
283.3722

Lafayette United Methodist
955 Moraga Road
284.4765

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
682 Michael Lane
284.7420

Lafayette-Orinda
Presbyterian Church
49 Knox Drive
283.8722

Lafayette RECREATION

Whatever your preference for leisure activities, it is likely to be available in Lafayette.

The **EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT** includes Contra Costa County and neighboring Alameda County. There are 46 regional parks with 60,000 acres, 500 miles of internal trails, and more than 100 miles of interconnecting trails in these two counties. For general information on any of these parks, call 1.510.635.0135.

In addition to several miles of hiking trails, the **LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR** is in Lafayette. Just off of Mt. Diablo Boulevard, the main business street in town, the Reservoir is a body of water, surrounded by hills. It offers the visitor a serene retreat just minutes from the busy downtown area and the freeway.

The **LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY CENTER** is located at 500 St. Mary's Road. A great number of classes, social gatherings (rooms are available for rent), and meetings take place here. Offices of the Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department are here. For more information, call 284.2232.

The **DELTA** is an area of islands and sloughs formed by the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers which connect to the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. The Delta is just a few miles north of Lafayette. It offers fishing, hunting, boating, swimming, water skiing and houseboating.

The visual high point of Contra Costa County is **MT. DIABLO** (elevation 3,849). It is visible to the east from many homes in Lafayette, occasionally snow-capped in the winter. Entered from Walnut Creek, Mt. Diablo State Park provides 14,000 acres of recreational opportunities.

Lafayette PRESCHOOLS

Burton Valley Pre-School
584 Glenside Drive
283.6170

The Child Day School (Ages 2-8)
1049 Stuart
284.7092

Diablo Valley Montessori School
3390 Deer Hill Road
283.6036

First Step Learning Center
3201 Stanley Blvd.
933.6283

Happy Days Learning Center
3205 Stanley Blvd.
932.8088

Joyful Beginnings Preschool
955 Moraga Road
284.1143

Lafayette Nursery School
979 First Street
284.2448



The Meher School
999 Leland Drive
800.500.7797

Merriewood Children's Center
561 Merriewood Drive
284.2121

Old Firehouse School
984 Moraga Road
284.4321

Seedlings Preschool
49 Knox Drive
284.3870

EDUCATION in Lafayette

The Lafayette School District governs grades 1-8. Lafayette is part of the Acalanes Union High School District.

The Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation is a non-profit corporation made up of concerned volunteer parents working closely with teachers and administrators to augment programs in K through 12th grades. Classroom curricula are augmented through additional programs in visual arts, music, drama, creative writing, computer education, and the sciences. If you would like to find out more, write to Box 923, Lafayette, CA 94549, or call LASF, Acalanes High School Office at 943.6559.

Lafayette School District
3477 School Street
284.7011

Burton Valley Elementary
561 Merriewood Drive
284.7046

Happy Valley Elementary
3855 Happy Valley Road
284.7049

Lafayette Elementary
950 Moraga Road
283.6231

Springhill Elementary
3301 Springhill Road
283.8281

Stanley Intermediate
3477 School Street
283.6282

**Acalanes
Union High School District**
1212 Pleasant Hill Road
935.2800

Acalanes High School
1200 Pleasant Hill Road
935.2600

Campolindo High School
300 Moraga Road
376.5986

Lafayette SERVICE CLUBS and ORGANIZATIONS

AAUW

(American Association
of University Women)

Boy Scouts Troop 204

Friends of the Lafayette Library

Futures Explored

Junior League

Kiwanis Club

Lafayette Forward

Lafayette Garden Club

Lafayette Newcomers Club

Lafayette Historical Society

Lafayette Junior Women's Club

Lafayette Knights of Columbus

Lafayette Langeac Society

Lafayette Lioness Club

Lafayette-Moraga Soccer Club

Lafayette-Moraga Youth Assoc.

Lafayette Republican Women

Lafayette Rotary Club

Lafayette Service League

Lafayette Suburban Women's Club

Lafayette Women's Club

Lamorinda Toastmasters

League of Women Voters

Lion's Club

Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise

Soroptimists Club

*The officers and membership of these organizations change frequently. To find the officers and phone numbers contact the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce at 925 / 284.7204.

Lafayette

Information Courtesy of

Placer Title Company

2 Theater Square, Suite 208, Orinda, CA 9456

925-253-4810

Judy Dickey, CRS

Licensed Real Estate Broker

State of California

BUYER/SELLER COACH

925-376-9458

Information was obtained from reliable sources but there may be some inaccuracies.