



# T H E L E T T E R

LAFAYETTE ASSOCIATION OF HOMEOWNERS, INC. NEWSLETTER

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

# Dana Cormie

By Thomas Wasper

**1. As a flight attendant, how many times have you thought you were going to die while on a plane?**

Only once. Lightning struck our plane while we were descending into Florida. The bolt went right through the plane.

It was my second month flying and I said "Oh s\*\*t" in the middle of the aisle. I'm sure that comforted the passengers around me. I got my cell phone to call the family just in case I was going down! Obviously I survived. There was two huge, black singe marks on the front and back end of the plane. I still get a bit nervous flying into a thunderstorm, but that was the scariest.

**2. Drunken pilots...how do you handle them?**

Thankfully at my airline, I only have to handle them at the bar on a layover and not in the cockpit. I have heard every cheesy pick-up line in the book. They get real lonely on those layovers!

**3. Ever dip into the drink cart?**

The drinking that happens off the plane on layovers is quite plentiful so there is no need to mix business with pleasure! Although I do like to get my boyfriend, and friends liquored up on my flights when I am working.

**4. Obligatory mile high club question: Have you witnessed anyone being initiated into the club? Are you a member?**

I have witnessed it a few times. I really don't care what people do as long as they are not ringing the damn call button, doing yoga in my galley with their ass in my face or standing over me while I am eating.



Dana Cormie and Ed Nussbaum (Photo courtesy of Dana Cormie)

There are two oxygen masks in the lavatory, so technically it's not illegal to have two people in there.

Personally, I find the lavatories disgusting and try not to ever use them, so as far as the second part of the question, I am not a member. Anyway, the best time to make out on an airplane is on a red-eye, everybody knows that! :)

**5. Since becoming an attendant what have you learned about air travel that might shock the rest of us?**

Humans are pigs! Just to name a few things I have found in seat back pockets: teeth, nails, empty condom wrapper, dirty diapers, chew spit, used sunflower shells, and puke!

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Almost There

By Jean-Louis DeBien

Wow! What a difference six years makes, or does it? It was six years ago this month that I was first elected to the Board or Directors and then nominated for President and it struck me, as I was looking for material to write about, how the old saying “the more things change, the more they stay the same” had an unfortunate ring of truth regarding the Lafayette.

Don't get me wrong, since 1999-2000 the Lafayette has gone from hand-to-mouth subsistence onto one-pay-check-ahead working poor and is now firmly climbing the rungs of middle class reality with close to **\$300,000 in reserves**. Let me tell you, that is a colossal leap forward that few imagined back then. In addition; the Lafayette has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to fix and replace all manner of **electrical and plumbing** throughout the Lafayette, Broadway and Campbell buildings, has cleaned and restored the basement areas to a functional state, replaced the Lafayette building roof, re-carpeted the whole complex and brought our commercial properties into the 20th century along with the accompanying steady cash flow of rental income. All big projects and all in the last eight years.

We've also had the benefit of many tireless and hard working **volunteers** who really made a difference no matter if they served on the Board, the Committees, or just came through to work on specific projects. This includes the newly created **nonprofit Friends of the Lafayette** which brought us the very successful “Walk Thru Time” events as well as the new look of the Solarium. These many individuals stepped up to the plate to take the Lafayette up another notch and deserve much more recognition than the anonymous citations I make here.

That being said I find myself saying too often “we're still dealing with that?” along with it's cousins

“when is that going to get done?” and “I thought that was taken care of?” all of which brings me to the title of this article, *Almost There*.

The next two to three years will be big for the Lafayette. All of the effort and expense of the last eight years is set to take us to another level, but we're not there yet. The **2008 Board** has an ambitious agenda with the usual big projects and future plans, but to the point of this article there are also dozens of small projects that combined would make a very big and very real impact on the quality of life here, finally. And you can help chose what they are and how fast they get done. Yes, that's right, **YOU**.



“The Lafayette” is essentially whoever the heck is helping out at that moment. I am sorry to inform you that a single employee and five volunteer Board members does not an association make, even with all the much needed efforts of those who have helped in the past. We need some new blood, and quite frankly some old blood to come back. I won't lie; volunteering here is an education and sometimes a very thankless one. However, here's another truth. This is OUR building. We OWN it. We PAY the dues for it. And WE can make it a truly beautiful and functional place to live or... we can just sit on our asses and forever wonder why X, Y, and Z are still the same.

P.S. I'm no angel, I've volunteered and then disappeared many times but that is exactly the point. I'm not asking, and the Lafayette doesn't need, its owner to put in twenty hours of volunteer time in every week forever. It does need owners, when they have some time or even more importantly, those owners who have an issue they would like to see resolved, to come forward and work on a single project until it's completed. That's it. Work on a **single project**, get some recognition, (and more grey hair) and then disappear till next time. Now don't be surprised when you see my face on the other side of your door in the weeks to come asking you how you feel about the Lafayette, what issues are important to you, and about giving some of your time. Because that will happen. ☺



**FROM THE TREASURER**

*By Rick Blackshere*

We've been concentrating on increasing the **reserves** over this past year. We've brought the funds up to approx. 65% funded - from 10% just a few years ago. The roofs on the Campbell building and above the First and Mezzanine levels are being replaced with some patching at the Lafayette (no more leaks in the lobby!) and on the 7th floor by the Lafayette elevators and in the gym and at Koo's.

Our next expected big project will be **painting** the Lafayette and Broadway buildings. We've begun to research contractors and suppliers. We hope to start the work in early 2009. ♪

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

*By Frank Flores*

Regarding the **elevator committee** we are starting from scratch! I have been given a list of elevator companies and will hopefully begin interviewing companies in the near future! We have designs put together for both the Lafayette elevator and the Campbell building elevator! To let people know what has happened; any construction, changes to the elevators have to be completed by a person or company that has a conveyors license! This consequently makes the costs higher for cosmetic repairs in elevators and also more difficult in that people have to be found with these credentials! In the mean time, we have made some temporary cosmetic changes.

Regarding the **social committee** calendar for the Lafayette, we recently had a movie night in the domed ball room! "Out of Africa" was shown to half a dozen people! Complimentary wine and popcorn was served! It was a cold night so people were able to bundle up in blankets and ear muffs for a cozy night to watch a romantic movie! Any suggestions for movies in the future are appreciated and we would like to hear from people if they are up for another Bacardi and Bingo night! ♪

**WELCOME**

# New Residents

Please don't forget to read the Rules & Regulations. No moving or bicycles through the main lobby and window covers must be white or off white! Also, the last green dumpster in the back is for recycling only! Please do not place trash in the green dumpster.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 144 Linden Ave. | Uvas   |
| Unit 283/284    | Sarah Sandin                                     |
| Unit 357        | Arlene & Renato Odion                            |
| Unit 412        | Brian Gribben                                    |
| Unit 432        | Geoffrey Macon                                   |
| Unit 451        | Leah Wyman                                       |
| Unit 454        | Richard Migliaccio                               |
| Unit 534/536    | Eddie Stanton                                    |
| Unit 556        | Frederick Chun                                   |
| Unit 604        | Richard Griner                                   |
| Unit 615/617    | Ramon Garcia/Mark Lonergan                       |
| Unit 616        | Clayton LaByron                                  |
| Unit 628        | Mandana Visi                                     |
| Unit 634/636    | Scott Griffiths                                  |
| Unit 653/655    | Halli Pinson, Michael Leanos,<br>Kari Krohnfeldt |
| Unit 714        | Ellen Rae Reina                                  |
| Unit 742        | Kavita Rodrigues                                 |
| Unit 852        | Kevin Staniec                                    |
| Unit 955        | Charlotte & David Guerra                         |
| Unit 958        | Ben Jarvis                                       |
| Unit 1058       | William Petersen                                 |

Congratulations to Betty Lin and Dean Sweat (unit 732) on the birth of their daughter **Emma Sweat**, born December 22, 2007.

Congratulations also to Elisa Jozwiak and Ben Landeros (unit 962) on the birth of our newest resident, **Jacob Alexander Landeros** (see photo), born on March 4, 2008. weighing 10 lbs and 2 ounces. ♪



**A VIEW FROM THE 6TH FLOOR**

# Long Beach: All Our Tomorrows!

*By Thomas Wasper*

Long Beach is a city unlike any I have ever experienced. It celebrates that which it destroys. It remembers fondly that which it forced out of existence. The original Pike is long gone having been replaced by a movie theater and shops that seldom receive visitors. Many of its storefronts are vacant or look to be that way soon.

There are markers within this New Pike-remembrances of what once occupied this barren space. Photographs of a place that people actually did visit and where people actually did spend their money. These pictures of the Pike surround a fountain outside a vacant building, which for the last couple years has advertised that a comedy club will be coming soon.

The brand new West Ocean luxury condominium project across the street from the courthouse on Ocean Blvd. has photographs embedded in its exterior wall of the majestic Virginia Hotel that once resided at this location. Follow the nostalgic pictures



down the stairs that once led directly to the surf that once attracted throngs of tourists and locals alike, but now leads to a parking structure on the edge of our City's vision of progress, the aforementioned

new improved Pike.

Our beach we killed a long time ago and at times you can still smell its slow rotting corpse. Occasionally there is talk of reviving her, but that's all it is and most likely all it will ever be. Volunteers who refuse to give up the ghost regularly come to clean her—removing the trash that lay like scabs on her body while gentle brown waves weakly expire on the shore with a last audible gasp.

Until recently our city logo had waves in its design. Our tourist industry gives money to magazines and televised sporting events to (falsely) advertise a pristine shoreline and the surfers who enjoy it. Our daily paper, without a hint of irony, runs large, colorful front-page photographs of surfers full of grace riding beautifully curling waves.

Our City is broke. The Aquarium, the New Pike and Wal-Mart didn't keep their promises. And the coming soon Comedy Club isn't providing any laughs these days either.

Welcome to the City of Long Beach where tragedy plus time equals business as usual. ☹

**MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR  
CONTINUED from page 1**

I have also learned that on an aircraft people tend to forget common sense. Example: People will freak out if the space directly above their seat is filled with someone else's stuff, not even considering that directly next to that ONE spot there is open space. I actually had a passenger yell at me to move the other person's belongings. I calmly reminded him that he purchased the seat on our aircraft, not the overhead bin. Needless to say I did not help him find the space for his bag but he did finally notice the huge space right next to it. I call this "situational awareness" and most of the time people lack it on an airplane. I teach little lessons everyday to try and remedy this problem. It is my public service!

**6. What's your boyfriend's name? How did you meet him?**

His name is Ed Nussbaum and we met at the Long Beach Grand Prix last year in April. My sister's neighbor builds ramps for a BMX show company and

Ed was one of the riders in it. I go and watch the shows every year. After the show my sister's neighbor had a party; I was scoping Ed out earlier in the day and knew he would probably be at the party so I went. After 3 hours he finally came over and talked to me, liquid courage I guess! We immediately hit it off and for our second date I flew him out to New York so that we could run around my favorite city for a few days. We really haven't left each other's side since. He is originally from New Jersey, moved out to Long Beach after getting an archeology degree at Rutgers University, (why archeology you ask?



"because Indiana Jones got the girl"). He lived in Long Beach for 5 years, all within a block of the Lafayette, and managed the old Bike Station. Moved to Toronto for 3 years, then to San Diego, and I

brought him back to the LBC! He is a professional BMX Flatland rider and also owns a nationally known bike company named Sickchild bikes. He designs BMX bike frames and handle bars. One of only two bike companies whose products are made in the US. He is also a fabulous cook, (if you smell curry cooking, that us!), a great house/room painter (for hire :)), and a fantastic dogwalker (I do have to share him with my dog Lily, she thinks he's her boyfriend too).

**7. Are you aware that two insane broads used to live in your unit?**

They were always nice to me, but terrorized much of the rest of the building. (*Ask Sharon*)

**8. So, what is the nuttiest thing your neighbors will say they've witnessed about you since you've lived at the Lafayette?**

I have heard a little bit about those crazy girls, would love to hear more! I did have my car stolen out of our paid parking lot at noon in December.

Apparently mine was the first ever, that SUCKED! I try and keep my nuttiness confined to my unit! The nuttiness that happens outside my window is another story all together! My unit looks right onto the Inn of Long Beach's pool. Wow is that

place entertaining!

**9. If your neighbors were to call the cops on you because of loud music, what music are you most likely to be listening to?**

I listen to electronic music, House mostly. I do like all types of music from Billy Holiday to The Bloc Party.

**10. Arrange these movies in order of preference:**

*Airplane*

*Airport*

*Air Bud: Seventh Inning Fetch*

I've only seen Airplane. I do love the airplane scene in "Meet the Parents" though.

**11. I'm sure there's much more to you than just your job as a flight attendant. Right?**

Oh yes, much more! The two reasons I am a flight attendant is #1 The flexible schedule, I only work about 13-15 days a month as a full time FA. I have a great schedule because I am senior in my company, I have been there for five years, two of which I spent in New York, that is where our main hub is. I am from Huntington Beach, born and raised. I own a stationary company "Pomegranate Press", I design and print invitations, personalized stationary, address labels, all things paper. My dad has had a successful commercial printing business in HB for 20 years, which is where I developed my love of paper. I am working on a website at the moment and would someday love to have a retail shop.

I obviously love to travel, which is reason #2 for my career. I try and go somewhere new ever year. My favorite places to be are: The beaches of the Cinque Terra in Italy, the main square drinking Pilsner Urchel in Prague, drinking the freshest Sangria on the sidewalks of Barcelona, enjoying the music in South Beach every March, eating at my favorite spots in Manhattan, enjoying the world famous New England clam "chowda" in Boston (my second favorite US city), drinking a Stella served by Pam at the House of Hayden (Ed's drink of choice is PBR), having mimosa's at La Creperie in Belmont Shore on a Sunday afternoon, and finally, in my cute 550 sq. foot condo watching "Top Chef" with my boyfriend and my dog. 🐕



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

# Who's Who at the Lafayette

2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Jean-Louis DeBien  
 Vice-President: Frank Flores  
 2nd Vice-President: Joe Hill  
 Secretary: Dennis Cornax  
 Treasurer: Rick Blackshere

[lhoa7@yahoo.com](mailto:lhoa7@yahoo.com)  
[ffloresreps4u@aol.com](mailto:ffloresreps4u@aol.com)  
[onejoehill@charter.net](mailto:onejoehill@charter.net)  
[dionysus6652@yahoo.com](mailto:dionysus6652@yahoo.com)  
[andnod@yahoo.com](mailto:andnod@yahoo.com)

CONTACT THE BOARD

In **writing**: Email them. Also, each board member has a mailbox in the office. All written comments will be addressed in a timely manner.

In **person**: Come to the board meetings usually every first Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Solarium (11th floor Campbell Building) unless a schedule change has been posted.

OFFICE MANAGER

Sharon Hays  
 Phone: 562-436-5391 9:30am to 5pm weekdays  
 Fax: 562-436-8762 Email: [lafayet@charterinternet.com](mailto:lafayet@charterinternet.com)

**Reminder:** Meeting minutes may be viewed at the office or if you would like them emailed to you, let Sharon know.

FROM THE MANAGER

## Condo Comments

By Sharon Hays

In case some of you are wondering if you need to purchase **condo insurance** that will cover the damages in the event of a water leak, the answer is **YES!**

The Lafayette CC&R's, Article XII Section 5 – Residential Unit Insurance states that: “Each owner is responsible for purchasing whatever amounts of insurance he deems necessary to cover his/her Unit contents, premises liability, additional living expenses and loss assessment coverage.”

The policy carried by the Association covers the “Common Areas” of the building only. So contact your local insurance company soon.

Also if you have **new contact information** (phone numbers, email addresses) please contact the office so we can update our contact lists. ✍️

## Calendar

**Wednesday, March 19, 2008**

**Joint Neighborhood Association Meeting with Mayor Bob Foster & City Manager Pat West Courtyard Marriott 1st & Linden, 6:30pm**

\* \* \*

**Tuesday, April 1, 2008**

**Board meeting In the Solarium, 7pm**

## NEWSLETTER TEAM

RICK BLACKSHERE  
 JEAN-LOUIS DEBIEN  
 FRANK FLORES  
 SHARON HAYS  
 GERONIMO QUITORIANO  
 THOMAS WASPER



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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LETTER, PLEASE CONTACT GERONIMO AT (562) 435-4775 OR EMAIL: [GPOLAROID@MAC.COM](mailto:GPOLAROID@MAC.COM).