



# T H E L E T T E R

LAFAYETTE ASSOCIATION OF HOMEOWNERS, INC. NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE BOARD

# What's Happening

By Jennifer Skaife, President



Yet another month goes by and again I find myself with a reminder from Geronimo that this month's "From The Board" is due! It has been a hectic few weeks for me with my own work, the time spent on Board commitments and my own small project in the Campbell Building -- a perfect segue into **Commercial Properties!**

We have a new tenant in a small part of the former 2nd floor Wedding Chapel, which by agreement with the Commercial Committee and Board will now be known as the "**Campbell Studios,**" that tenant being me. I am remodeling a previously derelict room for my Design Studio, and work is progressing well. I anticipate occupying by mid-May and you are welcome to come and see what will have been done by then!

**District Wine** in 144 Linden is now open for business, and what a business! I know many of us have already visited, and we all look forward to lively and prosperous operation! Soon the outdoor seating will be in place, so as summer comes (when will that be?) we can sit outside and enjoy a glass of wine and good company into the late evenings.

**The Bike Shop** at 540 Broadway continues to do good business and is working with us and the City to develop his signage design. As a historical building this can be quite a project for our tenants so we do

what we can to support and encourage their efforts, keeping in mind the need for appropriateness.

Both **Salon 500** at 500 Broadway and **Village Treasures** at 146 Linden remain our loyal tenants and toward the end of 2010 we will be working on negotiating their new leases with the professional support of our representing agent Phil Appleby of **Appleby Real Estate.**

There has been some interest in the offices at 530 Broadway and the adjacent former "Dome Room" at 528 Broadway from the **American Museum of Straw Art.** The Committee and Board are carefully considering their proposal and will keep you posted!

The relocating of the **Bike Room** from the 5th floor to the area behind the Bike Shop -- 540 'B', is currently tabled as the cost of properly securing, lighting and fitting out the room exceeds available funds. As soon as we feel able it will come back on line.

One of the projects that I have found myself involved in is the selection of **colors** for the **repainting** of the Lafayette & Broadway Buildings. Ironically my past experience in the UK included a great many projects reassigning authentic Art Deco buildings and designing color schemes for their complex exteriors. It was with great pleasure that I worked with **Sherwin Williams** to develop the scheme that is currently before the City. A cast of thousands (actually 6 or 7) painting contractors did a walk through with Manager Sharon Hays and me in preparation for submitting their bids

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...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 for the much needed and overdue work. It is a complex process and will take time to analyze the submissions, etc.

Thank you all for your patience and flexibility in using the existing **gym** on its new schedule. The new gym is coming along great guns, and is getting close to completion. I hope in my next month's letter I can report a reopening date!

If there is something that you, as a **homeowner**, feel strongly about, know that the only way it can be addressed is if we know about it. Please send either an e-mail or hard copy letter to the office, and we will do our best to address your ideas, concerns and comments in a timely manner.

We welcome the support and active involvement of homeowners on **committees**. We currently have a **Commercial Properties** Committee that, as you may imagine, can be kept pretty busy, and a **Storage** Committee, always ideas welcome there, and we need a **Dog/Pet Policy** Committee to assist with the dog licensing and number of pets per unit issues. If you want to be a member of our community--become active!

Finally, please remember that **Board** comprises of 5 resident homeowners, each of us **volunteers**. We individually spend considerable time weekly, often daily, on Lafayette matters, and lately things have been so hectic that we have undertaken to meet in informal work in progress/project **status meetings** every single week in order to keep up with business. It can be tiring, upsetting, stressful, time consuming and sometimes quite unsettling, for me anyway, but most of all it is amazingly rewarding as I have really felt a 'part of' something--The Lafayette Village. 🏡

#### WELCOME TO THE LAFAYETTE

## New Residents

**Unit 336 Sarah Barnard**

**Unit 403 Katie Ramirez**

**Unit 512 Liz Pena Bonilla**

**Hugo Pena Bonilla**



#### NONPROFIT NEWS

## Camel Approved

*By Jack Nendel, Friends of the Historical Lafayette*

At their April 12, 2010 meeting the **Cultural Heritage Commission** approved the installation of the approximately 64 square feet camel mural on the exterior wall of our complex.

It has been a long journey for the mural since it was a little over two years ago (March 2008) that the mural was **discovered** underneath twelve inches of sand, tiles, asphalt and tar on the Campbell building roof.

The journey included fundraising activities and a grant from the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association for cleaning, polishing, repair of tiles and ultimately installation.

The Commission had a number of inquiries and the technical questions were addressed by **Mr. Brian Kaiser**, who was one of the principals involved in the restoration. The Commission offered favorable comments regarding the quality of the finished product.

We appreciate the support of Lafayette residents who attended the meeting or previously offered their comments on the placement of the mural.

**John Thomas**, President of the Art Deco Society of Los Angeles, also spoke in favor of the project. There are a few minor conditions associated with the approval that are being resolved before we can start the installation. 🏡

## A VIEW FROM THE 6TH FLOOR

# Johnny Rocket Has Died...Died

*Photo and story by Thomas Wasper*

I got the call late last night that Johnny "Rocket" had died. Again.

You could say that he was my friend, but..

That's not quite right.

It was different than that.

And he was more than that.

We never had the other over for dinner. Or went to the movies together or shared much of anything that could be considered of an intimate nature.

Or at least I never did. He had a tendency at times to share far too much.

But...

He was reliable.

He was quick with a joke.

He was my bartender.

At this point in my life I've gone through a lot of friends. Some I thought of as good friends.

Admittedly, I haven't had as many good bartenders. I could easily count that number on one hand.

The first time "Rocket" died was on April 12th.

The next day I got word that reports of his earlier death had been premature.

I laughed and thought, "Johnny 'Rocket' has not only risen, but he beat the previous record held by one Jesus H. Christ by two whole days."

The explanation I heard was that while the priest was giving out last rites the grieving girlfriend had left the room and, mistakenly it turns out, passed on the word of "Rocket's" demise.

Like many times before, "Rocket" had provided me with an unexpected laugh.

Turns out he wouldn't be leaving us with a whimper or a bang, but with a rimshot.

I don't know where Johnny got his nickname but written out, it was spelled "Rocket" or "Rock-It." Both were acceptable.

Any number of circumstances could have led to a far different and unflattering moniker for our boy.

He had a giant parrot tattooed on his calf based on his love for the music of Jimmy Buffet.

At times he had a tendency to mumble to the point where, depending on the level of your own intoxication, his speech was rendered near indecipherable.



He rooted for Florida sports teams.

Johnny "Rocket" got himself a good nickname.

Better than one could reasonable hope for given the way in which these things are usually handed out.

And the same could be said of him as a bartender. He was much better than one could reasonable hope for.

We lost one of the good ones. ☹️

*A celebration of Johnny's life was held on Sunday, May 2, 2010 at O'Connell's Bar with a Cheeseburger In Paradise theme. Attendees were encouraged to wear their loudest, festive shirt.*

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

# Who's Who at the Lafayette

## 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Jennifer Skaife

Treasurer: Rick Blackshere

1st VP: Joe Hill

Secretary: Joanne Lovejoy

2nd VP: Dennis Cornax

## CONTACT THE BOARD

In **writing**: Each board member has a mailbox in the office. All written comments will be addressed in a timely manner. Or you may email them through the office: [lafayet@charterinternet.com](mailto:lafayet@charterinternet.com).

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 Cell: 562-499-9979

Email: [lafayet@charterinternet.com](mailto:lafayet@charterinternet.com)

**Reminder**: Meeting minutes may be viewed at the office or are available for download on our website [thelafayettelb.org](http://thelafayettelb.org). ↗

## Realtor Lockbox Policy

As a convenience to realtors who represent Lafayette residents who are selling their homes, the Lafayette allows the placement of realtor lockboxes on the wrought iron gate by the garden area.

The following procedures are the conditions for the placement of said lockboxes:

- Placement of a lockbox is permitted on the gate as long as the listing is deemed an active listing, including pending listings and back up offers.
- Upon the close of escrow or cancellation, expiration or withdrawal of a listing, the lockbox must be removed within 15 days of the action. Hold-do not show status will be treated as inactive.
- Each lockbox must clearly display the condo number or the name of the realtor.
- Only one lockbox per unit is permitted.
- Lockboxes can not be installed on the door of the condo
- Lockboxes are not permitted for condos that are being leased
- Any installed lockbox, which does not conform with this policy, will be removed and discarded. ↗

## Calendar

### **Tuesday, May 4, 2010**

Board of Directors Meeting  
7pm in the 11th floor Solarium

### **Sunday, May 23, 2010**

Tribute to Trudy Wolfe  
6-7pm, 11th floor Solarium  
Come celebrate with neighbors to remember longtime resident Trudy Wolfe on what would have been her 98th birthday!

## NEWSLETTER TEAM

SHARON HAYS

GERONIMO QUITORIANO

JACK NENDEL

JENNIFER SKAIFE

THOMAS WASPER



THE LAFAYETTE LETTER IS PUBLISHED PERIODICALLY FROM THE OFFICE OF THE LAFAYETTE ASSOCIATION OF HOMEOWNERS. 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).