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Lafayette Chamber announces Mike Anderson as the 2023 Lafayette Citizen of the Year

LAFAYETTE, CA: On the morning of February 14, 2023, the Citizen of the Year selection committee consisting of the previous year's honorees, the current Chamber Board President, a Lamorinda Weekly representative, and an Executive Chamber Board Member unanimously selected Mike Anderson as Lafayette's 72nd Citizen of the Year. The Lafayette Chamber received 37 nominations for 10 nominees during the nomination period that ended February 10, 2023. 2022 Co-Citizen of the Year Janet Thomas delivered the news in person on Valentine's Day to Mike and his wife, Courtney Murphree.

The 2023 Citizen of the Year Dinner Honoring Mike Anderson will be held on **Friday, March 24, 2023** at the [Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa](#). Reception with no host bar 6pm-7pm. Dinner at 7pm. Evening ends at 9pm. Seating is limited. [Purchase tickets for the dinner online HERE](#). <https://lafayettechamber.org/coy>

"You cannot fully understand what an honor it is to receive the Chamber's designation until you have completed the cycle by going through the following year's nominating/decision process." William Fraser, 2022 Co-Citizen of the Year, commented after the unanimous selection of Mike Anderson for 2023 Citizen of the Year.

For approximately 25 years, Mike was involved in Lafayette with volunteer civic activities including the General Plan Advisory Committee (1993-2003), the Planning Commission (as Lafayette Planning Commissioner 2000-2004, Chair in 2003), and the City Council (member 2004-2020, Mayor in 2008, 2013, 2017, 2019-2020). At a rate of approximately three meetings per month (and often more) this means he attended over 1,000 meetings on behalf of Lafayette residents and businesses.

“He is a man of character and integrity and has been a wonderful ambassador of our community. His civic pride and generous gift of his time and talents have made Lafayette a better community.” Noted Mary McCosker, 2002 Lafayette Citizen of the Year.

Anderson was the recipient of the Lafayette Chamber’s Ann Denny Memorial Community Award in 2021.

Mike Anderson graduated from UC Berkeley with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design/Landscape Architecture in 1977. Prior to retiring in 2013, Anderson served as Asst. General Manager for Planning/Stewardship and Development with the East Bay Regional Park District. Over his 32 years with the Park District, Anderson worked as a park planner, landscape architect, chief of design, and finally assistant general manager for Planning, Stewardship, and Development. During this time, Anderson designed or managed many regional, as well as local park and trail developments. Outside of his duties with the Park District, Mike actively participated in the leadership of multiple East Bay organizations, including serving as a board member for the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority from 2005-2020. He has also served as a past board member of Green TV, Inc., an environmental video production company, as a past board member of Hanna Boys Center, an alternative school for troubled boys, and as a board member of Planned Parenthood Shasta-Diablo.

Mike and his wife Courtney moved to Lafayette in 1991 in part because their tomatoes would grow better in the warmer climate on this side of the tunnel. Anderson was born in Columbus, Ohio, moved to Berkeley before he was one year old. Attended Berkeley High School, growing up during the turmoil of People’s Park. Attended Bowdoin College in Maine for two years, starting on the varsity football team, hockey team, studying psychology, and discovering the Northeast Coast of the country. Returned to California to work as a janitor for the City and Port of Oakland while picking up credits at Laney College. Was mentored in architecture by Aaron G. Green, F.A.I.A, a Frank Lloyd Wright disciple and father of a childhood friend. Attended UC Berkeley’s College of Environmental Design, working during the summers for the City of Walnut Creek’s Park maintenance department then after graduation in the City of Walnut Creek’s Engineering department.

About the Lafayette Citizen of the Year

The Lafayette Citizen of the Year program and dinner is presented by the Lafayette Chamber.

Criteria for Lafayette's Citizen of the Year are as follows:

- Must NOT be a current elected or paid member of any City Council or school board.
- Must be a current Lafayette resident.
- Must be someone who has given of their time, money or energy to help make Lafayette a healthy community, where people will want to live, work and shop.
- Must be someone who models excellence in everything they do.
- Must be someone who brings this community together and/or makes us proud to be a member of the community.

Previous recipients: W.B. Ellis, Ralfe Miller, Margaret Bainbridge, Mel Nielsen, John R. Jacques, M.H. Stanley, C.R. Turner, Theron Nelson, William Zion, Stanford White, Jack Hageman, Lou Repetto, Jop Van Overveen, Vern Odegard, Jack Marchant, Donn Black, Charles Franklin, Chris Adams, John Kennedy, Clifford Feiler, James Lloyd, Boardman Moore, Robert Augenthaler, Percy Whitten, Barbara Bupp, Irene Graff, Ed Stokes, Robert Fisher, Ernie Marriner, Ken Clifford, Don Young, Irene Thomas, Ned Robinson, Alice Johnson, Hirsh Morton, Sue Cross, Tom Cleveland, Herb Joyce, Skid Thomas, Su Stauffer, Tom Courtright, Lynn Hiden, Avon Wilson, Bill Wakeman, Richard Holmes, Guy Atwood, Connie & Mike Collier, Judy Garvens, Anne Grodin, Ellen Peterson, Norma Evans, Robert Wood, Mary McCosker, Budd MacKenzie, Kathy Bowles, Ivor Samson, Gwen Watson, Judy Carney, Jeanne Ateljevich, Team Library, Karen Mulvaney, Gayle Uilkema, Greg Moeller, Toni McShane, Marechal Duncan, Tom Steuber, Dick & Robin Holt, Donovan Jenkins, Don Tatzin, Rick and Janet Cronk, William Fraser and Janet Thomas.

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About the Lafayette Chamber

The Lafayette Chamber is a volunteer-based organization serving the interests of the business community with an ongoing commitment to the City of Lafayette. In 1947 a group of concerned businesspersons launched the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

The stated mission of the organization was: "To promote and maintain a healthy business climate and to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Lafayette."

75+ years later, the Lafayette Chamber has grown to include a membership of more than 680 businesses, professionals and "Friends of the Chamber" in Lafayette and neighboring areas. It remains the principal advocate for the business community, working to promote businesses in the City of Lafayette and encouraging new enterprises to locate here.

All aspects that make up a community are important: schools, residents, churches and synagogues, community organizations, activities, and the city government. Chamber members work with representatives of all these groups for the betterment of the community. Annual Chamber events include the Taste of Lafayette, Rock the Plaza Concert Series, Lafayette Art & Wine Festival, Lafayette Res Run for Education, Trick or Treat Street, Community Thanksgiving Breakfast, and It's a Wonderful Life in Lafayette Holiday Celebration. Proceeds from Chamber events are shared with deserving nonprofit organizations in the community. Learn more at <https://lafayettechamber.org>.

A special thank-you goes out to Lafayette Chamber's Premier Members: Cobain Orthodontics, Diablo Foods, Douglass Designs, Mechanics Bank, Oakwood Athletic Club, Pacific Veterinary Emergency + Specialty Hospital and ParkSmart, Inc.

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Photos provided upon request.