



Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Oct. 8, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Stanley Library
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report, Sept. 14-27

Alarms	62
911 Calls	12
Burglary, Auto	
900 block 2nd St	
1000 block Buchan Dr	
Burglary, Residential	
600 block Old Jonas Hill Rd	
900 block 3rd St	
1100 block Estates Dr	
Disturbance	
900 block 2nd St	
Acalanes High School	
DUI	
Acalanes High School	
Embezzlement	
3100 block Old Tunnel Rd (2)	
Hit & Run	
Springhill Elementary	
Mt Diablo Bl/Moraga Rd	
Ace Hardware	
Health & Safety Violation	
Acalanes High School	
Intoxicated	
Brown Av/Miller Dr	
50 block Lafayette Cr	
Loud Music/Noise	5
Missing Adult	
800 block Mountain View Dr	
Petty Theft	
Diablo Foods	
Public Nuisance	
3300 block Moraga Bl (2)	
3400 block Lana Ln	
900 block Janet Ln	
Foye Dr/Moraga Bl	
Mosswood Dr/Village Center	
Reckless Driving	
Mt Diablo Bl/Moraga Rd	
St Mary's Rd/Cattle Chute Rd	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Restraining Order Violation	
70 block Lafayette Cr	
Shoplifting	
Safeway (2)	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Suspicious	
Circumstances	14
Vehicle	29
Subject	17
Traffic Stops	130
Vehicle Theft	Reported to LPD



STILL #1 FOR A REASON



2008 THROUGH 2014

Baywood, Lafayette

Traditional 5BR/3.5BA, 3766± sq. ft. home in a sought-after gated community. Beautiful .47± acre lot with pool & private gate to Briones Regional Park open space.

Call for Details



Coming Soon!



Dana Green
License #: 01482454

DanaGreenTeam.com | 925.339.1918

Zoning in on Tree Protection

By Cathy Tyson



Photo C. Tyson

There's a rule change in the works that would strengthen the protection of local trees from major tree removal projects and increase the penalty when more than 25 trees are removed. Once Ordinance 633 is adopted, which is slated for the Oct. 14 Lafayette City Council meeting, a permit will be required if an entity, individual, or utility company wants to cut down a substantial amount of trees on public or private property.

There are existing tree protection regulations on the books, which were last updated in 2009, but city leaders wanted to make clear in light of recent proposals that the city feels compelled to ensure protection against these large scale projects in the future, explains the staff report for the Sept. 22 council meeting.

While a jurisdiction can update rules about a variety of topics from chicken ownership to parking, the new tree protection rules seem directed at mitigating potentially aggressive tree removal in connection with PG&E's controversial Pipeline Pathways program that seeks the removal of trees and overhead structures near gas transmission lines.

In light of the devastation from the San Bruno explosion, PG&E proposed Pipeline Pathways: \$500 million dollars paid by shareholders to be spent over five years that would enhance the safety of 6,750 miles of underground gas lines statewide. The plan went over like a lead balloon when it was announced earlier this year. Transmission lines run right through the center of Lafayette, directly adjacent to and sometimes under lush greenery. The initial PG&E plan called for cutting down these trees, so that the utility could have better access to pipelines for inspection and maintenance, and to ensure tree roots weren't causing corrosion.

PG&E has hit the pause button for the project, and is now working with cities in Contra Costa County. "PG&E has openly recognized that it made

a big mistake when it failed to consult East Bay cities regarding its pipeline protection plan," explained City Manager Steven Falk. "To correct that mistake, the utility directed one of its top officials, Jose Soto, senior vice president for engineering, construction, and operations, to work cooperatively with cities to develop a program that works for all parties. To this end, Mr. Soto wrote the cities a letter which stated that "... PG&E reiterates our commitment to work collaboratively with each of you; we will not move forward with any (Pipeline Protection project) work in your communities until we reach an agreement on how to proceed."

A group of city managers from jurisdictions within Contra Coast County came together to work with PG&E on this agreement framework that spells out the utility's commitment going forward. The agreement hasn't been presented to Lafayette yet, but Falk is confident that PG&E intends to comply with the agreement – the framework, which includes each city's encroachment permit procedures and requirements, identification of trees protected by the local tree protection ordinances, and mitigation measures for the removal of protected trees.

PG&E spokesperson Shaun Maccoun explained their first concern is public safety and that the utility is "re-evaluating" and working with cities within Contra Costa County on a one on one basis. Currently they are in talks with Pittsburg, and likely won't get to Lafayette until 2015.

Narrowing Options on Two City-Owned Properties

By Cathy Tyson

Proceeding cautiously, the Lafayette City Council voted unanimously Sept. 22 to narrow down the options on two city-owned properties – the old library and the 949 Moraga Road parcel across the street – seeking the highest, best and most fiscally responsible uses for those properties.

After months of meetings and weighing various options, a 16-member volunteer task force recommended to the council that the old library building be used for a public purpose – either city offices or to meet needs of the Lafayette School District. The school district has a deadline of Jan. 30 to express a willingness to enter into a lease/purchase agreement for the site.

Although there were a number of proposals for the old library, these two options were selected because they were the most fiscally responsible. Because none of the nonprofit proposals offered "market rate" rent to the city, the task force concluded that it wasn't financially prudent for the city to subsidize a nonprofit tenant, especially while paying "market rate" rent for city staff offices.

It was also determined that it wasn't wise to put off a decision; the building has already been vacant for five years, hence the deadline for the school district. If the district doesn't decide to go forward, the city will direct staff to develop a timeline and budget for converting the old library into city offices at a meaningful, long term savings. In the end, owning the building would be less expensive than continuing to pay rent, according to calculations.

The future of the 949 Moraga Road parcel across the street is still a bit murky. There are concerns over a number of factors. The current parking area and aging doctors' office was purchased with \$2.31 million of parking funds collected over the years. Because of this, the task force felt that parking had to be a priority there, reported Tracy Robinson, administrative services director. In addition, the site is designated for affordable housing and counts toward the city's required fair share of affordable housing

spelled out in the Housing Element.

"Public parking and a necessary affordable housing site; it's hard to figure out how to reconcile those two needs," said Council Member Brandt Andersson.

A total of 60 parking spaces are possible on the site, or potentially 100 if a parking structure is erected. The site could also be used for affordable housing – Eden Housing had a proposal to use the property for low income housing, but it would be contingent upon the city donating the land, said Robinson,

which is an issue since it was purchased with parking funds. Council members were intrigued with the potential to accommodate both affordable housing and parking.

A boutique hotel was considered, but did not receive unanimous support from task force members who were looking for a broad public benefit. This option could generate revenue for the city, but would likely cause congestion on the already clogged Moraga Road. A land swap with the Methodist church was also

considered, but the church was not in a position to make a firm decision and further analysis is needed.

For now, the bottom line for the 949 Moraga Road property is to have city staff look at one or more options: parking, affordable housing, or a hotel or other private development.

"I think the task force did a great job," said Council Member Mike Anderson, "it was a very thorough process – 949 (Moraga Road) is kind of an open question; it's going to take some creative thinking."



Hundreds of Bay Area families choose Home Care Assistance.



Trust our award-winning care to suit your family's needs. We're the best!

24/7 Live-In Care Specialists. We offer around-the-clock care for a reasonable price despite recent overtime laws.

Brain Health Experts. We are the only home care agency that offers Cognitive Therapeutics, a research-backed activities program that promotes brain health and vitality in our clients.

Lamorinda's Best Caregivers. Each has at least 2 years experience and undergoes extensive training and screening, including a DOJ background check, drug test and proprietary psychological exam designed to test for honesty and conscientiousness.

Meet Jill. Jill Cabeceiras is the client care manager for the East Bay. She has been working with older adults for more than ten years and is an expert on managing care within the home. Let Jill help you and your family!



Call Jill to schedule your free consultation today!
925-820-8390 • HomeCareAssistance.com
190-G Alamo Plaza, Alamo, CA 94507