

# Lamorinda

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## OPEN HOUSE

Monday, February 25th

9:30—10:30

See our Open House AD on Page #B1

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CEO Jim Bouquin (left) with Chief Development Officer Peter Dudley stand among the heritage oaks on the hillside that will become a natural retreat behind the proposed Cancer Support Community building. Photo Pippa Fisher

## Cancer Support Community to bring holistic healing to Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher

CEO Jim Bouquin knew as soon as he set eyes on the 5.75-acre parcel of land adjacent to the Lafayette Reservoir that this would be the perfect location for the new Cancer Support Community building and grounds.

Now Bouquin's vision is drawing closer. Bouquin had searched long and hard to find a property that could meet the needs of the nonprofit

CSC, which has been operating out of its current Walnut Creek location for the past 28 years and has outgrown it. In contrast with the residential neighborhood of the existing center, the company was looking for an area of natural beauty with space for community gardens and trails combined with accessibility. Bouquin says that he hadn't found anything that was anywhere near as perfect as this location.

The land, once part of a larger dairy farm owned by Gus Macedo, was sold for what became the Lafayette Reservoir, apart from the almost-six acre

parcel that remained in the family. Although negotiations were underway to purchase the land for \$5 million, the owners, Macedo's nephew and his wife, Ray and Angelina Leal, decided this past fall to gift the land to CSC instead.

Furthermore the fundraising campaign for the roughly \$12 million project is off to a strong start with a generous \$2 million donation from local philanthropists Myrna and Dennis Cheney, for whom the building will be named.

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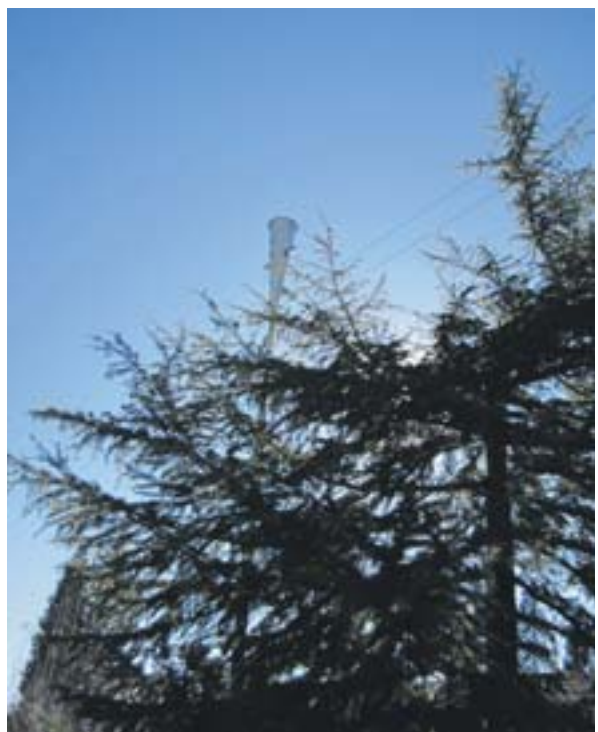
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## PG&E to conduct Wildfire Safety Program in Moraga



Trees growing too close to power lines Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Before the next fire season gets underway Pacific Gas and Electric Co. has expanded its Community Wildfire Safety Program to include Moraga within the coming months, depending on weather and other factors. The program is a precautionary measure to reduce the risk of wildfires and keep the community safe.

Moraga is designated as an "extreme fire threat area" due to all of the vegetation in and around the town. Jennifer Shepherd, a PG&E wildfire safety location specialist, said, "Letters will be sent out by mail to inform residents of the upcoming increased activity and presence of PG&E personnel. We want people to be aware that we will be there in a proactive capacity."

The crews will be inspecting transmission towers and lines. This will include both visual and aerial inspections from top to bottom.

The visual inspections will require the ground examination of poles and climbing of towers. The work will be performed by up to four people and take approximately two hours per structure to complete.

Aerial inspections may include flying a drone around the tower for 30-45 minutes depending on the structure. For some tower locations, a helicopter may be required to inspect or to transport crews to remote areas.

PG&E wants to "enhance our routine vegetation management work to meet and exceed state vegetation and fire safety standards, which require clearance of four feet around power lines in high fire-threat areas with recommended minimum clearances of 12 feet or more, at time of trim, to ensure compliance year-round."

The upcoming inspections will allow PG&E to address the issue of overhanging limbs and branches above and around the power lines. They will also conduct targeted removal of dead and dying trees.

Many factors are involved in assessing trees that can cause fire risk to power lines. Oak trees, pine trees, Douglas fir and eucalyptus are just some of the vegetation that are problematic when they are in poor health or dying. Because these trees can grow tall and have outreaching limbs, striking a nearby power line while falling is a good possibility.

Shepherd noted, "If, during the inspections, any of the dangerous trees are located on private property, PG&E will notify the resident through a company representative. If no one is home, a doorknob-hang notification will be placed on the front door with pertinent information and procedures."

Anyone with questions for PG&E can call 1-800-PGE-5000 or email [wildfiresafety@pge.com](mailto:wildfiresafety@pge.com). To learn more about the Community Wildfire Safety Program visit [www.pge.com/wildfiresafety](http://www.pge.com/wildfiresafety).

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