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The story behind the emergency preparedness and evacuation guide



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Roughly speaking, fire agencies have the knowledge to handle emergencies but have no authority to evacuate. Police departments have the authority to evacuate but have no means to communicate to the public. The ability to communicate emergency evacuation information to the public lies with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System, which alerts residents and businesses that may be impacted by an emergency.

In 2016, the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission established 18 evacuation zones in the city and posted the evacuation zones into the CWS computer. Lamorinda Community Prepared-

ness Coordinator Dennis Rein mapped out the evacuation zones for Moraga (23) and Orinda (24) shortly afterward and delivered the data to the warning system. "What could take 15 minutes in the field now happens very quickly," Rein said.

For example, during a fire emergency that hits locations within Orinda Zones 4 and 5, the incident commander calls the police chief not with a request to evacuate a long list of street addresses comprising the affected area but with a request to simply evacuate Orinda Zones 4 and 5. The police chief calls CWS and tells the agency to issue the evacuation order for those two zones only.

The booklet contains pages of

evacuation information, including explanations of red-flag warnings, mandatory orders and what to do if trapped. But the most important thing that Lamorinda residents can do, according to Seibert, is to sign up with the county warning system. "Less than 25 percent of people in Lamorinda are registered with CWS," Seibert said. Registration at the CWS website should take no more than five minutes, and the booklet provides all the necessary information.

"The booklet we just put out is another piece of the preparedness puzzle. If people heed all of the information in the booklet, the whole community will be safer," Rein added.

Nonprofit builds momentum in bid to 'Light up the Park Theater'

... continued from Page A3

With a vision of seeking a self-supporting model as an artistic and cultural venue that would help revitalize the downtown and serve multiple generations through a wide array of programs from film screenings to live music and theater to kid programs and as a venue for special events, TPTT is working with multiple community stakeholders. Its plan includes having a commercial kitchen.

The theater would be owned by the nonprofit and run by a for-profit operator.

TPTT found out early on through a building assessment that the theater is structurally sound. Some work, including a new roof will be required. First steps will be acquisition of the property and the fourplex residences behind the theater for the \$2.95 million price tag followed by renovations that are expected to be in the region of \$1.5 million.

And it was with that in mind that Farrell finished her presentation by delivering the trust's three "asks" to the council.

Farrell asked for the

council's recognition and endorsement of the work they are doing and as part of that she asked that the city consider participating financially, exploring various ways to do that.

"We know there are many worthwhile projects the city is considering," said Farrell, "but we believe that, based on what we have heard these many months, bringing the Park Theater back to life in the way we envision has, perhaps of all of them, the most potential to positively impact the entire Lafayette community."

Farrell explained, "We are very grateful for the recent financial award from the Lafayette Community Foundation. It was a huge vote of confidence in our efforts. A city contribution would significantly boost our momentum even more as we prepare to launch our general fundraising activities and greater community outreach."

The trust also asked for the council to support the density transfer concept that was first proposed last summer as a way to facilitate TPTT's ability to purchase the property.

Finally Farrell asked that city staff be allowed to meet with them and discuss TPTT's potential participation in the Historic Overlay District, allowing staff to waive requirements of written permission from the sellers so they can in good faith gather the information they need to address

parking guidelines for discussions with potential operators.

Following the council's generally receptive comments and a point made by Council Member Steven Bliss that this project would hit many of the city's current goals including downtown vibrancy, commu-

nity input and engagement as well as multi-generational inclusion, the council agreed unanimously for city staff to respond to the three requests by TPTT and bring it back to the June 24 meeting.

TPTT expect to have their website up very soon at www.parktheatertrust.org/.

City nails down timeline for selection of permanent city manager

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According to the city's announcement, the timeline will be as follows:

- July 8 - Avery will present its initial recommendation of candidates to the council. The council will decide which of the candidates presented it wishes to interview.
- July 19 - The council will interview the candidates it selected from Avery's initial recommendations.

- Aug. 2 - The council will hold subsequent interviews with the finalists selected after the first round of interviews. Community and staff panels (TBD) will also be held with the finalists.

All interviews will take place in closed session to ensure candidates' confidentiality. Kimura pointed out the risk of losing qualified candidates who could choose to opt out if their names were to become public.

To fill out a survey residents may go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KFHP7N7#_blank.

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