Lafayette Tennis Club a total loss after Oct. 27 wildfire

PG&E equipment the cause of Lafayette Tennis Club fire

By Nick Marnell

Major fires the last Sunday of October pushed the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District to its limits and caused the evacuation of thousands of residents in Lafayette, all part of possibly the busiest day in the fire district's history.

"We faced an historic and massive challenge Oct. 27, the likes of which we have not encountered before and one that could have turned out much differently in loss of property and even life," Con-Fire Chief Lewis Broschard said.

ConFire responded to 28 incidents in Lafayette that day, with the major event the 6-acre grass fire that destroyed the Lafayette Tennis Club along the south side of Camino Diablo. "You could tell by the voices on the dispatch that this was big," Capt. Jeff Landis said. "When I arrived on the scene I thought, 'This looks like a video I saw of the Oakland Hills

fire."

Wind gusts up to 34 mph impeded the firefighting efforts, as did a large PG&E power pole lying across Camino Diablo. "We did not have great access because of that pole. Camino Diablo was cut off. The tennis club was completely involved, so we checked to see that no other structures were in danger," Battalion Chief Dominic Ciotola said.

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LUXURY

Orinda to ban non-hosted short-term rentals following mass shooting



Photo Sora O'Doherty

A memorial was erected in downtown Orinda for victims of the 114 Lucille Way mass shooting on Halloween.

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Library Auditorium was full and an overflow room in the community center was opened Nov. 5 as the city council tried to decide what to do about short-term rentals in the aftermath of a shooting on Halloween that left five people dead and one victim in a coma.

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Mayor Inga Miller opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the victims of the mass shooting at a party at 114 Lucille Way. She named the dead as Oshiana Tompkins, 19, of Vallejo/Hercules; Omar Taylor, 24, of Pittsburg, Ramon Hill Jr., 23, of San Francisco/Oakland Javin County, 29, of Sausalito/Richmond; and Tiyon Farley, 22 of Antioch. Armani Reynolds remains in a coma. Miller noted that Supervisor Candace Andersen says that Contra Costa County has resources available to help people dealing

with the trauma of the shooting.

During the public forum, many of the speakers prefaced their remarks with expressions of sympathy and grief for the families of the victims. It was also announced that the property in question has been removed from Airbnb and Booking.com and will no longer we used as a short-term rental. The nearly 4,000-squarefoot home with 11 rooms was purchased at the end of 2017 and registered as a shortterm rental in 2018. According to one speaker, the owners of 114 Lucille Way own 11 other properties in Contra Costa County.

Police Chief David Cook gave the city council a summary of the incident. He thanked residents who offered both support and assistance to the police. Cook said that he understood that people had questions about the timeline of events on Halloween.

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