

Lafayette Party Shack Smashed

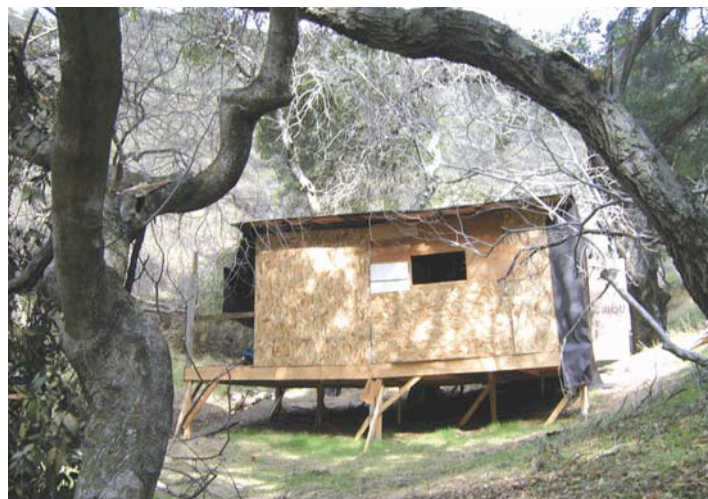
By Cathy Tyson

Due to the quick actions of Lafayette Youth Services Officer Mark Greenwood, a keg party at "The Shack" was stopped. He found a flyer advertising the event circulated at Acalanes the day of the party, Friday November 9th, advertising \$2.00 beers and \$1.00 refills. With some detective work, Greenwood found the party venue off of Franklin Lane and Happy Valley, tucked way back in a little ravine, off of a private road.

Because it was located on East Bay Regional Park land, Park police came with a large 4 x 4 truck equipped with winches to help Lafayette officers destroy the shack prior to party time. Leveling the 600 square foot structure was not easy. "It was amazing the amount of planning, time and effort that obviously went into this thing. It's not just a tree house," notes Greenwood.

Officers were stunned by the use of brand new lumber for the floors, the tar paper covered roof, outdoor fire pit, couches, comfortable chairs, bar and electric lamp, suggesting a generator was there at one point. What was not a surprise was the amount of contraband found, namely used condoms and empty alcohol bottles. The outdoor fire pit was troubling as well; drunk teens, an open fire and tall dry grass are not a great combination. Speculation remains that the construction and parties started in the summertime, when fire danger was extremely high.

"Our main concern was stopping the party that night," Greenwood explained. To that end, after demolishing "The Shack," an officer was



posted at the entrance to turn teens away.

Word on the street is "The Shack" is known as an Acalanes senior hangout. It's clear that more than a couple of people over a period of time worked on the structure. Lafayette parents of teens, who happen to be missing some lumber and building supplies, take note.

Prosecution will be up to East Bay Regional Park Police, as "The Shack" is in their jurisdiction.



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