

Civic News Lafayette

BART Solar Project Moving Forward

By Cathy Tyson



Image of canopies system provided do this in the summer. With Board approval, the plan is to start installing the solar canopies in the fall and have the work completed by the end of 2012."

In a brief presentation to the Lafayette City Council, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Director Gail Murray and the manager of BART's Energy Division, Frank Schultz, gave an update on changes to the proposed solar panel installation slated for the eastern parking lot section of the Lafayette BART station.

"BART staff is now completing project development work," said Schultz. "The next step is to bring the project to the BART Board for approval to start construction. We plan to

The last time the pair presented the work in progress concepts, back in September of 2011, they received a lukewarm reception from residents who were looking for a more attractive solar panel installation.

The revised design features steel support beams that will look more trellis-like, be painted a dark brown walnut color, with real stone footings

at the base similar to the stone used on the Veteran's Memorial Hall and landscaping. Schultz noted the BART district architect listened to the original feedback and made some changes. Parked cars will get to enjoy the shade of the solar panels, free of charge.

Looking to put power generation where the load is, the solar panels will generate a considerable amount of electricity – approximately 750 kilowatts—that will be able to power the entire Lafayette station and have more to share.

Schultz reassured that there will be tree coverage around the perimeter and construction will be done in phases for minimum disruption – with roughly one-third of the parking lot cordoned off at a time while installation occurs. Once complete, during nighttime hours, energy efficient LED lighting will illuminate the parking area. "It will match the twinkle lights," joked a Council Member.

Lafayette Community Foundation is Giving Money Away

... continued from page A3



Lafayette Community Foundation Board Member Marechal Duncan hands over a check for \$3,000 to Elaine Welch of Senior Helpline Services at the charity's office near Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Carol Lane. Photo Cathy Tyson

Roughly 130 volunteers donate their time to transport seniors to medical appointments and for other basic necessities. Welch joked that her MBA stands for "Master of Begging and Advocacy." Looks like her degree is

paying off.

Volunteer drivers and funding are always in short supply; for more information contact Senior Helpline stands for (925) 284-2207 or go to www.seniorhelpline.net.

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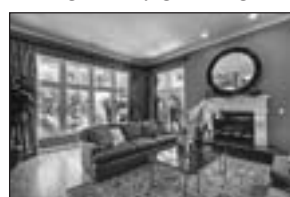
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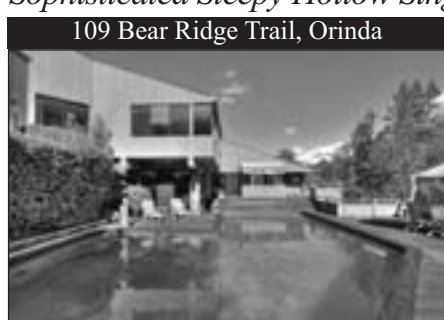
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For the Good of the City: Honoring Frank and Margaret Baldwin

... continued from page A7

"We had a whole night where we had really thoughtful discussion," said Worth.

Baldwin's ability to get people talking – and keep them communicating – was cited as one of his major strengths. "Right after Frank Baldwin became Pastor at Orinda Community Church," said former Mayor Bobbie Landers, "I came onto the Board of the Orinda Senior Village. At the time there seemed to be some turmoil between the Church and the Board, but within a few small meetings Frank was able to smooth out the wrinkles."

She also recalled his support for Orinda's Sister City program. "We were able to hold several fundraising concerts in the Church and Tabor sent a delegation to Orinda with a crystal flagon for that congregation. But, what I did not know then, was Frank was a great history buff and, as a result, the City appointed him to the Orinda Landmark Committee... Frank almost single-handedly helped restore the Olde Train Station."

The Baldwins attribute the manner in which they approach challenges to their families, saying they were both raised "in a climate of kindness."

"Both teachers and preachers have a responsibility to set a tone – in the classroom and in the congregation," said Baldwin. Grace, forgiveness, and compassion "creep out of the congregation and into the community."

"Kindness does not mean weakness," agreed Margaret. It is simply "an attitude of respect" that one shows toward others even in difficult situations. It is the standard for how to behave.

The Baldwins spoke of their gratitude to the community with Frank saying he would "like to be remembered as someone who loved this congregation and loved this town." Margaret hopes "that a generation of kids learned to love learning," and "loved learning language because of Madame Baldwin."

Margaret and Frank will be relocating to Portland, where they plan to spend time getting reacquainted with the area where they lived 40 years ago. "Anxious to do some gardening," Margaret also hopes to become part of a French-speaking community there, and is looking forward to having time to take walks every day.

Frank plans to return to interests he has deferred over the years. Good with his hands and tools, he'll likely spend time working on the older house they're moving into, as well as indulging his other passion – the restoration of old British sports cars. They'll also spend time with grandkids and travel, eventually returning as tourists to the Bay Area.

Asked for a last message for the community, Baldwin paused for quite some time before responding. "See what love can do," he said. "Love is a mystery. We often don't know where it's going to lead us. You can trust it and be glad in it. It will never let you down."

Orinda residents will have one more chance to express their love to Frank and Margaret Baldwin. A concert and gala dinner will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 27, at the Orinda Community Church. For details, visit orindachurch.org.