

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

26,000 copies delivered biweekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses

925-377-0977

www.lamorindaweekly.com

FREE



**2015 Lafayette Reservoir Run**  
**Sunday, October 25, 2013**  
**8:00am Downtown Lafayette**  
 2 Mile Fun Run (8:00am) • 5K (8:30am) • 10K (8:45am)  
 Online Registration at:  
[Http://bit.ly/resrun2015](http://bit.ly/resrun2015)  
[www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org)



Specially trained linemen stand atop PG&E's lattice steel structures after being lifted by the helicopter hovering above.

Photo Andy Scheck

## PG&E High Wire Act Wraps Up

By Cathy Dausman

If you looked skyward in Lamorinda lately, you probably noticed helicopters hovering near local transmission towers. The linemen, air crew and their ground counterparts are working to upgrade Pacific Gas and Electric Company's 230-kilovolt transmission lines in the Lamorinda corridor. The project is a portion of a 27-mile-long upgrade stretching from the Oakley power plant substation to the Moraga substation in Orinda, said PG&E spokeswoman Tamar Sarkissian.

"This is a significant capacity and reliability project," Sarkissian said, "which serves approximately 26,000 customers. It is also the first time since its establishment in 1950 that this particular line has undergone a project of this nature."

Last year, a similar project in the East Bay was completed, Sarkissian said, but this 27-mile replacement-upgrade is one of the longest. The transmission towers, technically called lattice steel structures, are being upgraded with foundation reinforce-

ments and the installation of 16.5-foot cage tops to raise the conductor.

Using helicopters allows PG&E to bypass the need for heavy trucks and equipment on the ground. This reduces the project's environmental impact, Sarkissian said. "Crews can work safely and quickly, and it's physically easier on the linemen than climbing each tower, which is 80 to 150 feet high," she said.

... continued on page A10

Advertising

### LAMORINDA WEEKLY

News	A2 - A10
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B10
Not to be Missed	B8-B9
<b>HOW TO CONTACT US</b>	B9
Food	B10
Service Directory	B10
Sports	C1 - C3
Classified	C2
Shop Orinda	C4
Our Homes	D1 -D16

#### This Week Read About:

Developer adds story poles	A2
Field Lighting at SMC	A4
New Town Council facility	A5
Fire blight on pear trees	A4
Orinda 2016 pavement project	A6
OUSD superintendent search	A6
OCF grants	A7
Home-style happy hour	A9
Lafayette Little League standout	C2

#### Civic News A1-A10

Lafayette School District deals with aging infrastructure and additional students – page A3.

#### Fire Districts A8

What it really takes to become a firefighter – page A8.

#### Life in Lamorinda B1-B10

Wampler to speak about overcoming adversity with disability – page B2.



### VAL BRINGS VALUE IN REAL ESTATE AND THE COMMUNITY



**Valerie Durantini**

925.253.4657  
[www.valeriedurantini.com](http://www.valeriedurantini.com)  
 CalBRE# 01376796

©2015 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. CalBRE License # 01908304

- Campolindo Football Hall of Fame Founding Chair Person 2008 to present.
- Campolindo Football Team Parent 3 years
- Stanley Middle School Jazz Liaison 2 years
- Lafayette Little League Vice President 2 years
- Burton Valley Teacher's Aide 1 year



## Group Demands Weil's Ouster from MOFD Board

By Nick Marnell



Fred Weil  
 Photo Lamorinda Weekly archive

A grass roots group of district residents began a petition drive in October to force Fred Weil to resign from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board of directors. The petition, posted on the Care2 website, states that Weil, as board president, vi-

olated the public trust in 2008 by authorizing retiring MOFD Chief Pete Nowicki's compensation beyond what his contract allowed, costing the district \$4 million in pension charges over the chief's expected 30-year retirement period. The Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association board in September stripped Nowicki of more than \$1 million of his pension when it determined that his pension had been calculated improperly.

"You will note that the petition is not for recall, only for Fred to act unilaterally in the community's best inter-

est. The petition is really for Fred. He knows what he did," said Steve Cohn, spokesman for the Orinda Citizens' Emergency Services Task Force, sponsor of the petition. "This is not right and there should be repercussions." The task force notes that since Weil's term ends in November 2016, a recall would not be worth the effort and expense. Rather, the group encourages Weil to remove himself from the board immediately "so as to allow the board and the community to move on without distractions."

"As long as he remains a voting member of the

MOFD board, his judgment will be questioned," reads the petition. "If the other members of the (2008) board were still public officials, they would be included. But they are not," said Cohn.

"The petition is part of Steve Cohn's malicious smear campaign, motivated, I believe, by a desire for revenge," said Weil. "He has resented for years my willingness to publicly challenge his dubious proposals, including his latest attempt to derail the rebuilding of Orinda's fire station 43 on Via Las Cruces, (which is a station) so important to the safety of north Orinda."

Cohn wrote to Supervisor Candace Andersen in October blaming MOFD and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District for costing the districts millions of dollars by halting plans to build and operate joint fire station 46 in western Lafayette, and asking her to intercede. MOFD opted to rebuild station 43 and Contra Fire chose to repair Lafayette station 16. "I was in favor of station 46, but the situation has changed," said Andersen. "The important thing is that Lafayette and Orinda will have excellent coverage."

... continued on page A10

#### Sports C1-C3

Strong start for SMC men's golf – page C2.



#### Our Homes D1-D16

Tips for fabulous, stress-free table décor – page D6.

