



Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council
Monday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, Sept. 5, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us

Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

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PG&E to address safety concerns at special meeting

By Pippa Fisher

The city will hold a special meeting Sept. 10 with officials from both PG&E and from the California Public Utilities Commission in order to address more than 150 safety concerns raised by local residents.

Members of the public took issue with a spring 2017 council decision allowing PG&E to remove hundreds of trees which, the utility company claims, hinder access to and pose a safety threat to the high transmission pipelines beneath them. The work is part of the Community Pipeline Safety Initiative.

Residents' concerns spread

from the tree-cutting, which they claim is unnecessary, to other safety issues such as exposed pipeline, aging infrastructure and the lack of safety shut-off valves. In response residents formed the group Save Lafayette Trees. They are currently involved in a lawsuit they brought against the city and PG&E.

Public frustration with the utility company has led to this meeting, called by Vice Mayor Cam Burks.

"When I called for this city council public meeting, it was my hope that it would build and enable a new level of trust, transparency and confidence between the people of Lafayette and PG&E in the area of pipeline safety, and serve as a catalyst for follow-on, more functional and effective engagement," says Burks. "I am confident that we will achieve this goal to some degree on Sept. 10."

However SLT is a little less optimistic.

SLT co-founder Gina Dawson says that they appreciate the city council asking PG&E to answer their many questions, but notes, "The Sept. 10 meeting may be a step backwards, not forward. There's no guarantee PG&E will be complete, specific and truthful in their answers or that they don't see this meeting as a check-off box before they start removing trees from our neighborhoods."

PG&E spokesperson Jeff Smith says that the company appreciates the opportunity the opportunity to address questions and concerns at the meeting. "We want our customers to be fully informed about our safety work," he says, noting that they will be providing written responses to the commu-



Exposed high transmission gas pipeline along the Lafayette Moraga trail.

Photo provided

nity's questions. The city expects these responses in time to be available for the meeting.

Burks expressed appreciation for PG&E's willingness to appear before the public with their foremost experts and leaders and says he's grateful to the CPUC for agreeing to attend. "The CPUC's presence was a critical objective of mine as it establishes an important factor of accountability tied to PG&E's responses to our community's questions and concerns."

"Since May 2017, as part of the CPSI, we have conducted a va-

riety of outreach to share information, answer questions and receive feedback from the community," says Smith. "This includes informational booths at the Lafayette Reservoir and along the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail, door-to-door outreach, one-on-one meetings, and more recently, hosted an open house where residents could engage directly with our subject matter experts. Through these efforts, we interacted with over 200 local residents and provided hundreds of written responses."

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Class of '68 school spirit



Photo provided

The patio bar outside at El Charro was packed Friday Aug. 24 as the Acalanes High School class of '68 gathered in their usual tradition. The event, scheduled to run from 5 to 6:30 p.m. was still going strong late into the night. A couple of Acalanes teachers from 1968 even showed up.

Earlier in the day, the alums had

played golf and gone on a tour of the high school. More than 60 took part in the tour in three separate groups led by current honor roll students. The festivities continued throughout the entire weekend, with a celebration at Orinda Country Club on the Saturday evening and a picnic at the Lafayette Reservoir on Sunday. — P. Fisher

First day of school at Happy Valley



Photo courtesy City of Lafayette

It was all smiles – well, mostly all smiles – on the first day back at Happy Valley Elementary School Aug. 21. — P. Fisher

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MAIN STAGE
2018/19 Main Stage Season
LOST & FOUND

THE REVOLUTIONISTS SEPT. 27-OCT. 20, 2018
by Lauren Gunderson
directed by Susan E. Evans

GREAT EXPECTATIONS NOV. 29-DEC. 16, 2018
adapted by Grace Childs Daly
based on novel by Charles Dickens
directed by Dennis Markam

BROOKLYN BRIDGE FEB. 28-MAR. 23, 2019
by Melissa James Gibeon
directed by M. Graham Smith

WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN MAY 30 - JUN. 22, 2019
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book by Jeffrey Lane
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