



Public Meetings
City Council
 Monday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Planning Commission
 Wednesday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Design Review
 Monday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
 Arts & Science Discovery Center,
 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
School Board Meetings
Acalanes Union High School District
 Wednesday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m.
 AUHSD Board Room
 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
 www.acalanes.k12.ca.us
Lafayette School District
 Wednesday, Oct. 10, 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

- ◆ HARDWOODS
- ◆ CARPETS
- ◆ RUGS
- ◆ LINOLEUM
- ◆ TILE
- ◆ LAMINATE

FAMILY -OWNED
 30 YEARS !

3344 Mt Diablo Blvd
 in Lafayette
 925-284-4440
 lamorindaflors.com



THE DANA GREEN TEAM Proudly Presents

<p>810 ACALANES ROAD, LAFAYETTE</p> <p style="background-color: orange; color: white; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">JUST LISTED! 1ST OPEN SUN 1-4!</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CUSTOM HIDDEN VALLEY RETREAT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5271± SQ. FT. HOUSE ON 1.13± ACRE LOT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Offered At \$2,695,000 810AcalanesRoad.com</p>	<p>1066 VIA BAJA, LAFAYETTE</p> <p style="background-color: orange; color: white; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">JUST LISTED! OPEN SUN 1-4!</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">NATURAL HAPPY VALLEY RETREAT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2931± SQ. FT. HOUSE ON .50± ACRE LOT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Offered At \$1,595,000 1066ViaBaja.com</p>
<p>PACIFIC UNION CALL ME FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO VIEW THESE EXCITING NEW LISTINGS!</p> <p style="font-size: small;">LAFAYETTE'S #1 REALTOR FOR 10 STRAIGHT YEARS!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">925.339.1918 LICENSE # 01482454</p>	
<p>DANA GREEN </p> <p style="font-size: small;">DANAGREENTEAM.COM</p>	

Residents make their case for saving trees and pipeline safety at special meeting

By Pippa Fisher



Photo Pippa Fisher

Dialogue is set to continue and chainsaws appear to be set aside, for now at least, following a special meeting which saw top executives from PG&E facing a variety of tough questions and concerns from residents.

The special meeting, called for by Vice Mayor Cam Burks, brought together the utility, the California Public Utilities Commission and residents for a meeting with city council leaders Sept. 10.

The conversation in front of the regulatory body CPUC is a result of over a year's frustration by residents who want answers to over 150 safety-related issues.

Initially concerned by the spring 2017 decision made by the council, allowing the removal of hundreds of trees on both privately and city-owned land which PG&E claims is needed for pipeline safety as part of the Community Pipeline Safety Initiative, residents' concerns grew to address the lack of automatic shut-off valves, exposed pipe-

line, lack of testing and aging infrastructure. Residents formed the group Save Lafayette Trees, which brought a lawsuit against PG&E and the city.

In a packed room following a lengthy presentation from PG&E during which time Council Member Mike Anderson intervened to keep the meeting on track to save enough time for all residents to speak, close to 30 of those residents argued their points articulately and wanted their voices heard.

Speakers included high school students, engineers, biologists and first responders who took issue with many of PG&E's claims that tree roots potentially damage pipeline and that trees should be removed to allow emergency response access. Several speakers demanded the \$500,000 paid to the city by the utility as part of the agreement should be returned and put toward making Lafayette's pipelines safer.

SLT co-founder Michael Dawson accused PG&E of scare

tactics and said that residents have lost trust in the utility. "This half-billion dollar Community Pipeline Safety Initiative is an unregulated and unnecessary program, not required by law. Six years after its rollout, PG&E has not improved their pipeline safety record," he said.

Michael Dawson and many of the speakers asked for PG&E to release the city from the 2017 agreement and for the formation of a citizens advisory committee to work with the city and the utility.

Having heard public comments Anderson suggested the first step would be for PG&E to release the city from any deadline. He said he was happy for the city to return the money and wanted the issue placed on a future agenda. Since Mayor Don Tatzin and Council Member Ivor Samson both recuse themselves from meetings with PG&E, such a future meeting will have to be when all three remaining members of council can attend.

It did seem that PG&E was listening and is open to continued dialogue.

PG&E Marketing and Communications Manager Jeff Smith commented after the meeting that they would be open to continuing a dialogue with those parties provided it includes the city and the CPUC. "We are in the process of deciding on next steps," he said.

Smith said that PG&E appreciated the city's interest in looking to facilitate a path forward to address this important public safety issue and pointed to the

utility's previous participation in "multiple good-faith discussions with well-intentioned members of the community looking for more information on how to make their city as safe as possible."

SLT co-founder Gina Dawson was a little more positive after the meeting. "It was awe-inspiring to me. From the Campolindo Environmental Club students to the octogenarian, what a range of people passionately united on a community-wide issue," she said.

Gina Dawson credits Burks for getting PG&E and CPUC in the same room. "Kudos to Mark Mitchell and Mike Anderson for ensuring residents adequate time to comment. Hearing everyone's voices was critical. Mike's offer of return of CPSI money and question of tree cutting deadline was incredible and certainly the right thing to do, in my opinion. The public witnessed a genuine, unfettered response to their concerns," she said.

Burks too was optimistic. "It was a very constructive meeting. My hope is that PG&E and Save Lafayette Trees will keep the dialogue going and will bring back to the council a solution – one that balances both safety and citizens' concerns – so that the council can act in the best interests of all Lafayette residents."

Gina Dawson acknowledges there's still a lot of work to be done, but says "I think the city and PG&E have clarity on what the community thinks necessary to restore credibility."

Perfect weather for Lafayette's 23rd annual Art and Wine Festival



Photos Pippa Fisher

By lunchtime on Saturday the festival was already bustling with crowds browsing the booths such as the one shown here – Tsalt, an Oakland-based gourmet seasoning company started by Cole and

Tsatsaa Campi. Under cloudless skies and a temperature hovering around 70 degrees, it was a picture-perfect day to stroll, enjoy wine and examine local art. – P. Fisher



285 Kathleen Drive, Pleasant Hill

Welcome Home!

3 bedrooms so you can have an office, a guest room or maybe a baby's room and 1 bathroom on 0.16± acres. Downsizing? Why go far away? Consider this updated home in a perfect location. With single-story living and a low maintenance front yard, have the time to enjoy the people and places you've always loved!

Adorable and affordable! All for \$679,000 | 285KathleenDr.com

Call Pamela and Melanie today to explore options about what could be the next exciting chapter in your life. The World is waiting!

<p>Pamela Halloran Real Estate Broker 925 323 4100 pamela@pamelahalloran.com pamelahalloran.com License #: 00936191</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Listing and Selling for over 25 years!</p> <p>Melanie Peterson-Katz Realtor 925 765 4444 melanie.peterson@pacunion.com melaniepeterson.pacificunion.com License #: 00890767</p>
---	--

PACIFIC UNION INTERNATIONAL

201 Lafayette Circle, Suite 100 | Lafayette, CA 94549