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Lafayette neighborhoods have new ConFire Firewise liaison

By Jennifer Wake



Many Lamorinda neighborhoods sit atop hillsides like this one high above Springhill Elementary School in Lafayette. Photo Jennifer Wake

zones and let homeowners know what they need to do to meet fire code standards, without the fear of receiving a citation.

At Lafayette's July 13 Emergency Preparedness Commission meeting, Kwok and other EPC members discussed ways to educate the public about the benefits of becoming Firewise, and increasing the number of neighborhoods involved in the program. Lafayette currently has four recognized neighborhoods, while Moraga and Orinda have 25.

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District has a new Firewise Liaison, Chris Giddis, who is taking over for Inspector Taylor King who moved to a different city. According to Kwok, who recently had a 90-minute meeting with ConFire Chief Lewis Broschard and Deputy Fire Chief Aaron McAlister, Giddis is in place now and is ready to offer support.

Kwok said insurance companies look favorably at homes in Firewise neighborhoods, adding that Lafayette high fire hazard severity zones are predominantly north of Highway 24 or near Lafayette Reservoir.

Emergency Preparedness Commission Chair Duncan Seibert noted that there is a Firewise form available on the CERT website (below) that can be completed and will help track where there is interest in creating Firewise neighborhoods in Lafayette.

For more information about Firewise, visit www.lamorindacert.org/resource/firewise-usa/

Reach the reporter at: jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com

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