

Three Lafayette City Council members' terms ending this year

Three Lafayette City Council members – Mayor Teresa Geringer, Council Member Susan Candell, and Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok – will have their terms expire in 2022. The nomination period for candidates opened July 18 and the deadline for nominations is at 5 p.m. Aug. 12. Candidates may obtain nomination materials and file documents with City Clerk Joanne Robbins by appointment only Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to the city's website. Robbins said she does not have any advance notice

on whether the incumbents intend to run for re-election.

If an incumbent eligible for re-election does not file nomination documents by the Aug. 12 deadline, the deadline is extended to Aug. 17 at 5 p.m. for non-incumbent candidates.

The secretary of state will conduct a randomized alphabetic drawing on Aug. 18 to decide the candidates' name order on the Nov. 8 ballot.

For more information, contact Robbins at jobbins@lovelafayette.org or call (925) 284-1968.

– J. Wake

Lafayette neighborhoods have new ConFire Firewise liaison



Photo J. Wake

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

By Jennifer Wake

Wildfires grow in strength as they run uphill and a fire in steep and hilly terrain makes it difficult to access with a fire truck or even on foot, according to the National Fire Protection Association. "If your home or neighborhood is remote from water supplies and has narrow, winding roads and driveways, it is especially challenging to fight fire at each structure," states the NFPA. "If dozens of homes in your area are threatened, chances are there are not enough firefighters, fire trucks, or water supplies to protect every home."

The NFPA also notes most homes that burn during a wildfire are ignited by embers or firebrands landing on the roof, in gutters, on or under decks and porches, or in vents or other openings in the home. Other homes burn from small flames (surface fire) that can touch the house – such as dry grass that can allow a fire to run right up to the siding.

The Firewise USA communities program encourages local solutions for safety by involving homeowners in taking individual responsibility for preparing their homes from the risk of wildfire.

One of the biggest benefits of being part of a Firewise neighborhood, according to Lafayette Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok who coordinated homeowners in his neighborhood to become Firewise, is having a fire inspector come to homes in high fire

hazard severity 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/



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, July 25, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, Aug. 15, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, July 27, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

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