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Is BART safe?

... continued from Page A1

It is however rooted in the lived experiences of youth. “Alliance for Girls brought us a report showing that youth in the Bay Area were frightened to ride BART because of cat calls, leering, staring, and following – not just on the train or on buses but on the way to take public transit. Some people weren’t going to school or work because of it,” Trost recalls.

With the input of youth, BART has responded with a comprehensive plan that includes policy and protocol changes, as well as a bystander campaign, which comes with business card size intervention cards. It’s also cleaned up and modernized its cars and added messaging about safety. “When we make the trains safer for girls and women, we’re making them safer for everyone,” Trost says. She described how the intervention cards can be used by anyone. “We saw this as an opportunity to talk to people about bystander intervention,” she added.

BART’s bystander cards are available from station agents. One says “You got me? Someone is harassing me right now,” and the other says “I got you. Do you need someone to stand with you right now?” Both cards list BART and community resources, as well as a four step process for offering support to the impacted person.

“The idea is that if someone is harassing you, you can slip someone the card right now without saying anything and get support,” Trost says.

To access the safety bystander cards, riders must approach the station agents and ask for them, and in some cases, be prepared to explain them. One of the two agents at Lafayette Station was immediately able to provide the cards. Agents at Rockridge, MacArthur, and Ashby were able to provide the cards after getting an explanation.

Lili, a rider enroute from Lafayette to 19th Street Station, says she’s become extra cautious since witnessing a chaotic situation she believes was drug induced years earlier. “I only ride on my own during daylight hours,” Lili explains. “If these cards were available near the entrance where we insert our tickets, people would use them. I would.”

74 year old Lafayette resident Lenora Jacob had no idea about the bystander program or cards, but proudly takes the BART at least twice a week to the very same station where Nia Jacobs began her last ride. “I wish there were more people on the BART train,” Jacob says, while describing the decline in passengers she’s observed after riding for three decades. “I feel safe on the BART. The new trains are nice and clear. Nobody bothers me. I try to talk to

somebody. I think more people should ride.”

33-year old Brandi Green has been riding the train her whole life and she’s never seen the bystander cards or noticed the billboards advertising the ‘Not One More Girl’ initiative. “A lot of times I notice, people don’t help,” Green said. “We’ve all gotten a little antisocial since the pandemic. Hopefully people can grow back into wanting to be around each other and help each other.”

Green says that while incidents like the recent Orinda derailment and mentally unwell people who she’s witnessed taking out their frustrations on passersby concern her, they won’t stop her from riding. “I don’t have a car and didn’t grow up with one, so I’ve always used BART. I’m vigilant. I sometimes wear earphones and I’m always aware of my surroundings. I carry pepper spray and a knife, but I’ve never had to use it,” Green says. “I have heard some terrible situations happen with not just girls and women, but also men, so I think if we can have inclusive messaging saying ‘I got you’ no matter who you are, it’ll be good. I think it’s important that we look out for each other.”

A BART Station Agent, who identified only as Robert, has been on the job for 16 years. He says he’s not surprised by some riders feeling more afraid than they used to because agents are also afraid. “We



Photo Sharon K. Sobotta
Lafayette resident Lenora Jacobs has been riding BART for decades.

deal with a lot in an eight hour day. There are a lot of mental health issues, some drug use, and things are unpredictable,” Robert explains as someone jumps the entrance without paying. “I have seen people really scared and at times, have offered to stand with them until their train arrives. I think the intention behind the cards is really good. I do see the ads and the billboards but I’m not sure how many people pay attention to them and I’ve never had anyone really ask for the cards.”

When asked what ideas he had to get more cards in peoples hands, Robert suggests signage on the windows of the agent booth telling BART riders to ask for them or a small dispenser.

What can riders take from this? Initiatives like ‘Not One More Girl’ and bystander intervention methodologies like the “You got me?” “I got you” card campaign have the capacity to make a difference.

NOTICE OF VACANCY EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Notice is hereby given that a vacancy exists on the Board of Directors of the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) for the seat representing Ward 2. Ward 2 lies in Contra Costa County and its boundaries include the Cities of Alamo, Lafayette, Walnut Creek, Town of Danville; portions of San Ramon and Pleasant Hill and communities of Blackhawk and Diablo. The position will be vacant due to the resignation of John A. Coleman effective March 8, 2024. The EBMUD Board of Directors will appoint an individual to fill this seat.

The appointee will hold the seat until the next general election in November 2024. The individual subsequently elected in November 2024 would then serve the remainder of Coleman’s term - until December 31, 2026. The person selected to fill this vacancy in Ward 2 must be a registered voter and resident of the geographical boundaries of Ward 2. Eligibility can be verified by calling the Contra Costa County Registrar of Voters at (925) 335-7800 and by checking your address on EBMUD’s interactive ward map at <https://www.ebmud.com/about-us/board-directors/your-board-members>.

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 11:00 a.m. Additionally, duties include service on Board Committees (which typically meet in the morning on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month), representing EBMUD on Joint Powers Authority boards, and attendance at special meetings and other meetings as required. Board members that meet minimum meeting requirements receive \$1,606.50 in monthly compensation. Board members are also eligible to receive medical, dental, vision and other benefits provided by EBMUD.

Persons wishing to be considered for this seat must submit an application packet consisting of a letter expressing their interest and qualifications for selection (no more than two pages), a resume, and a minimum of three (3) letters of reference. Application packets are due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 22 and can be submitted as follows:

- Email:** Rischa.Cole@ebmud.com
- Mail:** EBMUD, Attn: Board of Directors, P.O. Box 24055, MS806, Oakland, CA 94623
- In person:** EBMUD, Office of the Secretary, 375 11th Street, MS806, Oakland, CA 94607
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For additional information about EBMUD or the appointment process, please visit <https://www.ebmud.com/about-us/board-directors/board-elections/board-directors-ward-2-vacancy> or contact the Secretary of the District at Rischa.Cole@ebmud.com or (510) 287-0404.

The Board of Directors is scheduled to interview candidates at its Regular Board meeting starting at 4:00 p.m. on April 9, 2024 or if needed, at a Special Board meeting starting at 4:00 p.m. on either April 16 or April 17, 2024. The appointment will be made at a meeting of the Board not later than April 23, 2024.

A copy of this NOTICE OF VACANCY is being posted in three or more conspicuous places in the District as follows: EBMUD Administrative Offices in Oakland; City of Lafayette Administrative Offices in Lafayette; and City of Walnut Creek Administrative Offices in Walnut Creek. This notice is also being published in the Contra Costa Times, Oakland Tribune, San Ramon Valley Times, and other publications in Ward 2.

I, Rischa S. Cole, Secretary of the District of the East Bay Municipal Utility District, hereby declare that I have caused to be posted a NOTICE OF VACANCY on March 1, 2024.

Rischa S. Cole
Secretary of the District



Letters to the editor

Safety Hazard Resolved

My thanks to our Town Manager, Scott Mitnick, and crew for their timely work done to eliminate a street safety hazard along Fernwood Drive near Stafford. This hazard has been an ongoing problem for several years. It appeared to be the result of nearby tree roots buckling the paving thus posing a possible loss of driver control to cyclists and drivers. It’s gratifying to see our tax dollars at work in the Moraga community.

Dick Socolich,
Moraga

PG&E gas safety and tree cutting

Like other Lamorinda residents, I cherish my family’s safety and our amazing natural surroundings. That’s why I and many others have demanded PG&E inact better gas safety instead of destroying hundreds of cherished trees with a discretionary and discredited right-of-way clearing program.

PG&E’s gas safety lapses are disturbing. Two of the five Lafayette gas transmission pipelines have never been hydrostatically strength tested. PG&E failed to install automated

safety valves to most quickly shut off gas during an emergency. The CPUC found PG&E in violation of adequately identifying High Consequence Areas, an important determination that triggers integrity management processes. For decades, PG&E left exposed pipelines with coating damage unaddressed in high wildfire areas. The list goes on.

Instead, PG&E pursues the removal of many heritage oak trees while fighting the City’s Tree Protection Ordinance. The City hired a pipeline expert who wrote in 2023: “I see no technical pipeline need to remove healthy trees on

or near PG&E’s gas pipelines with the City”. That conclusion should be no surprise to PG&E who admitted trees have never caused a transmission pipeline accident.

Since 2017, residents have demanded PG&E should stop this tree cutting. Let’s all now work together on better gas safety, including reducing third-party dig-ins. Until then, local gas safety is an empty promise unremedied by any amount of tree removal.

Michael Dawson
Co-Founder, Save Lafayette Trees
Lafayette

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer’s name and city/town of residence — we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters must be factually accurate. Lamorinda Weekly reserves the right to refuse publishing a letter submission. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556



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RecycleSmart.org/survey

Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours
925-284-5010

Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or www.nixle.com
Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
925-283-3680

Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt
925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line
94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues
94549Traffic@gmail.com

Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049

Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Feb. 18 - March 2

Alarms	48
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	11
Traffic	80
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	15
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Service to Citizen	28
Patrol Req./Security Check	38
Public/School Assembly Check	13
Supplemental Report	27
Vacation House Check	14
Welfare Check	15
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations	
Accident Injury	
Police Department	
Auto Burglary	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (8)	
1100 Block Martino Rd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd.	
Dui Misd	
1St St/Eb Sr 24	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
50 Block Lafayette Cir.	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3Rd St/Moraga Blvd.	

Reliez Station Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Police Department
Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1St St.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Reckless Driving
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
Bank Of America
Tc - Property Damage
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
Deerhill/Oakhill
Burton Dr./Glenside Dr.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1St St./Deer Hill Rd.
Miller Dr./Deer Hill Rd.

Vehicle Theft
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
Other criminal activity
Fraud Credit Card
Bank Of America Laf
Fraud False Pretenses
800 Block Revere Rd.
1000 Block Via Baja

Identity Theft
90 Block Hardie Dr., Mor
3500 Block Springhill Rd.
Panhaling
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Petty Theft
3500 Block Golden Gate Wy
3300 Block Hillside Terrace
3500 Block Brook St.
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Residential Burglary
3500 Block Via Los Colorados
Shoplift
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-fight
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Loud Motorcycle
1000 Block Buchan Dr.
Loud Music
3800 Block Quail Ridge Rd.
3900 Block Franke Ln.
Loud Noise
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Public Nuisance
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Happy Valley Rd./Deer Trail
Willow Dr./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block Oak Hill Rd.
Vandalism
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Bacon Ct./Bacon Way

Other
Loitering
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.
Stray-traf Haz
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.

Threats
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Warrant Service
3200 Block Camino Colorados

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Jan. 23 - Feb. 5

Alarms	7
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	3
Traffic	30
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	0
Suspicious Vehicle	2
Service to Citizen	10
Patrol Req./Security Check	10
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Supplemental Report	1
Vacation House Check	1
Welfare Check	0
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations
Accident Property
200 Block Scofield Dr.
Seven Eleven
Excessive Speed
Canyon/Valle Vista Staging Area

Moraga Way/School St.
Reckless Driving
Moraga Commons Park
Tc - Property Damage
Campolindo High School

Other criminal activity
Petty Theft
500 Block Moraga Rd.

Nuisance to the Community
Loud Noise
Not Available
Vandalism
1900 Block St Marys Rd.

Other
Mentally Ill Commit
1300 Block Rimer Dr.
Weapon At School
Joaquin Moraga Int School



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back



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