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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, April 8, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, April 1, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, April 8, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
 Arts & Science Discovery Center,
 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
 Wednesday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.
 Del Valle Education Center, 1963
 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek.
 www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, April 10, 7 p.m.
 Regular Board Meeting
 Stanley Library
 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

Please submit Letters and Opinions:
 letters@lamorinda weekly.com



Planning Commission Looks at Shared Fire Station

By Cathy Tyson



View of proposed location of shared fire station, Lorinda Lane at El Nido Ranch Road, on the far western edge of Lafayette. The home on the left is in Orinda. Photo Cathy Tyson

Very basic potential plans for a joint Orinda/Lafayette fire station on El Nido Road were presented to the Lafayette Planning Commission last week in a study session. Looking for constructive feedback prior to submitting a building application is a productive way to test the waters of the planning commissioners who may ultimately approve or deny the project.

Located literally on the border of Lafayette and Orinda—one edge of the property line is on the city limit—this potential 2.5-acre site could not be more centralized to serve both communities, however there is a large hill on the property that would limit available construction locations. The Moraga-Orinda Fire Department (MOFD) and Contra Costa Fire Protection District (Con Fire) are interested in sharing the station, although they haven't formally agreed on all the details.

MOFD's chief Randall Bradley, along with architect Alan Kawasaki, presented a bare bones pre-

liminary drawing of what a station at this site might look like. ConFire's chief Daryl Louder was unable to attend the meeting. One key element of the design is the drive-through apparatus bay or fire truck garage with openings on either end. Also on site would be housing and adequate parking to accommodate fire personnel.

"We'll do everything we can to address concerns of the adjacent neighbors," said Bradley. He estimates a station here would receive about three calls per day and most of those, 80-85 percent, would be medical calls. The chief addressed noise concerns, noting they only use the siren as necessary to get through traffic and that late at night "we don't use sirens."

If MOFD and Con Fire officially agree to work together, they would need to file an application for a land use permit, then go through the rigorous design review process and finally be approved by the planning commission.

Some neighbors who live in the immediate vicinity weren't convinced that a station in the El Nido area is a good thing, citing privacy, traffic and noise concerns. "I don't want a two-story fire station looking down on my backyard," said one neighbor; another, who lives on El Castillo, said he'll be "greatly impacted." However Anna Beck, who lives on the Lafayette side, was fully in support of a new station. "We love it, love the security," and she added, "Lamorinda should work together on this."

George Burt of the Acalanes Valley Homeowners Association has sympathy for neighbors but said, "We're in trouble right now," referring to the unexpected closure of the Lafayette Los Arabis station in Happy Valley, leaving residents on the west side of town with no fire station close by.

Planning commissioners had mixed feedback for the potential applicants. Commissioner Jeanne Ateljevich encouraged the fire departments to go forward with making a more detailed plan, commissioner Patricia Curtin-Tinley shared neighbors' concerns of location and privacy, questioning the large parcel, and commission chair Karen Maggio mentioned that she used to live near the now-closed Los Arabis station and appreciated the sense of security, describing the station and staff as good neighbors. She suggested, "It's important to look at the greater good," and "this is an ideal location, good street access." She also expressed confidence that the design review process would address privacy concerns.

(Editor's note: MOFD's board of directors was scheduled to vote March 26, after our press deadline, on whether to allow the \$15,000 deposit for purchase of the property at 1035 Lorinda Lane to become nonrefundable. Check our website for updates.)

Unusual Thanks for Road Repair

By Cathy Tyson

Usually when the Capital Project Assessments Committee gives its annual update on the capital improvement program, it can be a little dry. Highlights include how many streets got paved in the last year—obviously big news if you happen to live on a crumbling street. Contributing to the recent uptick in

asphalt repairs is the addition of \$3 million to help address the backlog of failed roads in Lafayette. The Lafayette City Council decided to allocate this money, originally promised as matching funds, even though the recent Measure G "Fix Our Roads" campaign narrowly failed.

Resident Ann Burns was so moved that the city kicked in additional revenue, she wanted to thank city council members with a very special token of her appreciation: a gift-wrapped chunk of asphalt from the road in front of her house. Admitting she was initially "angry and frustrated" at the pace of road re-

pairs; finding out about the \$3 million addition, spread out over a few years, helped clarify the commitment of the council to deal with the road repair backlog. Ten roads will be paved this season with \$1.1 million—that figure will jump to \$1.8 million for 2014, said Tony Coe, engineering services manager.



Police Report

March 3-16, 2013

Alcohol:

3/15 DUI Deer Hill/Stanley Bl
 3/16 DUI 1st St/Deer Hill
 DUI Reliez Valley/Withers

Auto:

3/5 hit & run 3400 block Hamlin Rd
 3/7 reckless driving 1200 block Pleasant Hill
 3/8 theft from vehicle 900 block Moon Ct
 burglary 200 block Lafayette Cr
 reckless driving Mt Diablo/Pleasant Hill
 reckless driving Reliez Valley/Silver Dell
 burglary 1000 block Rahara Dr
 3/9 reckless driving 1st St/Mt Diablo
 stolen vehicle 100 block Pidgeon Ct
 burglary (2) 3300 block Betty Ln
 reckless driving Camino Diablo/Stanley Bl
 3/10 object thrown at veh. Olympic/Pleasant Hill
 3/11 accident 3600 block Mt Diablo
 3/12 reckless driving Glenside/St. Mary's
 auto burglary 3300 block Deer Hill Rd

3/13 auto burglary Brown/Mt Diablo
 reckless driving Central Lafayette exit/Hwy 24
 felony hit & run Dewing/Mt Diablo
 3/14 hit & run 400 block Mt Diablo
 3/15 auto burglary 1700 block Reliez Valley
 auto burglary 1800 block Reliez Valley
 theft from veh. 1800 block Reliez Valley
 reckless driving Deer Hill/Pleasant Hill
 auto burglary 1700 block Reliez Valley
 reckless driving 100 block Camino Ct

Burglary/Theft/Robbery/Forgery:

3/4 ID theft 3600 block Mt Diablo
 petty theft 3600 block Mosswood Dr
 3/5 petty theft 100 block Greenbank Dr
 grand theft 3000 block Bradbury Dr
 3/6 grand theft 3300 block Walnut Ln
 auto burglary 1000 block 2nd St
 3/7 petty theft 3600 block Mosswood Dr
 3/8 felony embezzlement (2) 3700 block Mt Diablo Bl
 petty theft 3600 block Crescent Dr
 prowler 300 block Castello Rd
 petty theft 3500 block Mt Diablo
 3/9 petty theft 3300 block Betty Ln
 3/11 petty theft 200 block Lafayette Cr
 Residential burglary 1300 block Martino Rd

3/12 ID theft 100 block Hidden Valley Rd
 3/13 ID theft 3100 block Sandalwood Ct
 forgery 3400 block Lana Ln
 petty theft 1000 block Oak Hill
 3/14 commercial burglary 3300 block Mt Diablo
 petty theft 1300 block Sunset Lp
 3/15 residential burglary 3600 block Lincoln Wy
 commercial burglary 1000 block Blackwood Ln
 3/16 petty theft 3500 block Mt Diablo
 residential burglary 1100 block Glen Rd
 residential burglary 3200 block Marlene Dr

Miscellaneous:

3/3 mentally ill 3400 block Monroe Av
 3/4 battery 900 block Hough Av
 missing adult 3200 block Lucas Cr
 3/7 missing adult 3200 block Judith Ln
 3/10 trespassing 1200 block Monticello Rd
 harassment 1000 block Windsor Dr
 3/11 battery 3500 block Mt Diablo
 3/13 missing juvenile 500 block Merriewood Dr
 3/15 uncontrollable juvenile 1200 block Pleasant Hill
 3/16 missing juvenile 3300 block Ridge Rd

Traffic Stops over the two week period: 250