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## Civic News Lafayette

### What's in the Boxes?



Photo Cathy Dausman

Looking a bit like something from a sci-fi movie set, these 12 steel containers actually hold only water. Pacific Gas and Electric is using them in a process called hydrostatic pressure testing. A section of gas pipe is pressurized with water to test its strength. Each single walled "frac tank" holds up to 21,000 gallons of water, and will be linked together with piping. The tanks will remain in place until

testing is complete sometime in early September, said PG&E spokesperson Tamar Sarkissian. Questions about the testing should be directed to PG&E at (800)743-5000. For more information, go online to <http://www.pge.com/myhome/edusafety/system-works/gas/pipelinesafety/hydrostatictesting/index.shtml>.

C.Dausman

## Civic News Moraga

### Work in Process

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Comprelli later explained that agendas are not the correct place to provide detailed information about processes, although he asked planning staff to make sure that agendas are written in common English and avoid planning jargon as much as possible.

There was one item on the evening's agenda that had a resolution attached to it - an amendment that extends to multi-family and commercial districts the same de-

sign review exemptions that single-family residents enjoy when minor inside or outside remodeling is done.

Prior to this modification, if residents of a multi-family dwelling wanted to resurface a deck, upgrade their windows or change something inside their home they had to go through a design review board hearing, a costly process that delays projects. The amendment allows planning staff to review the project

and determine the level of environmental scrutiny it should go through; simple projects can get administrative approval.

The list of 18 projects exempt from design review includes interior remodel, replacement of doors and windows, installation of a small satellite dish, demolition and removal of outdoor structures, replacement of flooring material for decks, and installation of low voltage path lights and solar tubes.

## New Representative to Agency on Aging

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CCCAAA also manages the Senior Nutrition Program serving an average of 16,000 meals a month at 21 different café sites throughout Contra Costa County. CCCAAA offers health insurance counseling and advocacy. Finally, CCCAAA disseminates to its members information about changes at the federal level that affect seniors and listens to the concerns the representatives bring forth.

Katzman was sworn in as Moraga's CCCAAA representative in July, but he didn't wait until then to begin work. "I joined the Moraga Movers and started talking to those I am now representing," said Katzman, who had to get a special exemption to join the organization

because he is not yet age 55. He added that since he was raised in Moraga, he recognized many parents of his former classmates at the first Moraga Movers dinner he attended. Fisher noted that Katzman is also in the process of getting his Class B drivers license to help with the transportation of seniors when they go on excursions together. In addition, Katzman attends meetings of the non-profit Village to Village that's forming.

"One of the first things I want to do is organize a communication system to reach all of Moraga's senior residents," said Katzman. His first concern is safety. As a Community Emergency Response Team gradu-

ate, he is very aware of the importance of local communication in times of grave disaster; he even recently passed the Ham Radio exam to be even more connected. "Maybe it could take the form of a phone tree with, at the top of the tree, those who are most comfortable with email and texting," he said.

Katzman will also follow the question of senior transportation in Moraga. He is aware of the challenges that the Spirit Van is facing and will be studying all the different systems available in the county. A real estate agent by trade, Katzman says he wants to give back to his town; the method he has chosen is no small task.

## Civic News Orinda

### That Sinking Feeling - Orinda's Tarabrook Repair Costs May Triple

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Council members asked probing questions of staff during deliberations. Areas of concern included potential safety and financial issues, as well as the appearance of expense padding by the bidders in less critical project areas such as tree planting costs now projected as 10 percent higher than initial estimates.

Councilmember Steve Glazer recommended apologizing to Tarabrook residents before delaying the project until a more favorable bid

climate could be found; however, mayor Amy Worth felt that the bid climate would likely not improve. With more people working in an improved economy, companies are now simply able to charge the city more. She also observed that the city will receive significant bang for its buck in that the replacement pipe will offer a significant improvement over the old one.

"We have no good options," said councilmember Victoria Smith.

"There is nothing that makes us happy about having to spend more money than expected. Councilmember Dean Orr concurred. "I have a fair amount of fear of another winter out there."

The council authorized staff to accept the low bid and begin the Tarabrook repairs on a 3 to 1 vote (Severson excused; Glazer voting no). Construction will likely begin in September and take roughly 90 days.

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