



Lafayette

- Public Meetings**
- City Council**
Tuesday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Planning Commission**
Monday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Design Review**
Tuesday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- School Board Meetings**
- Acalanes Union High School District**
Wednesday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us
- Lafayette School District**
Wednesday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
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

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City postpones follow-up meeting with PG&E officials

By Nick Marnell

Because of the unavailability of key community members, Lafayette postponed its meeting with Pacific Gas and Electric Company officials to discuss pipeline safety and other public frustrations with the utility. The meeting planned for Oct. 22 was rescheduled for Nov. 13.

Over much of this year community members, led by community group Save Lafayette Trees, lashed out at PG&E regarding their concerns over natural gas pipeline safety, tree removal on private property and lack of clear communication to the public over disruptive projects

like the closure of St. Mary's Road during the summer. In response to the complaints of his constituents, Vice Mayor Cam Burks organized a special city council meeting on Sept. 10 that included company officials and representatives from the California Public Utilities Commission to listen to the public and come up with answers and solutions to their concerns.

About 30 residents attended the meeting that Burks spearheaded and the vice mayor said that the dialog was frank and open but that a follow-up session was required for the company and the CPUC to

return to the public with solutions.

Several community members leading the efforts regarding pipeline safety will not be available for the planned Oct. 22 session. Gina and Michael Dawson of Save Lafayette Trees will be speaking in New Orleans at a conference hosted by Pipeline Safety Trust, a pipeline safety advocacy group.

"Even if we were going to be there on Oct. 22, we still haven't had a discussion with PG&E since Sept. 10," Michael Dawson said. "We need PG&E to engage with us now, but nothing has happened. We are anxious to get this done and I

hope the company shares the same energy."

"Everything is being evaluated right now with respect to this engagement," said PG&E spokesman Jeff Smith. Burks promised that a member of the city staff will attend a meeting with representatives of Save Lafayette Trees and company officials prior to the Nov. 13 council meeting, but though Burks and Smith said a meeting was in the works neither could commit to a date.

AUHSD board candidates offer their insights about education

By John T. Miller



Nancy Kendzierski



Paul Derksen



Christopher Severson



Bob Hockett Photos provided

Incumbent Nancy Kendzierski, along with candidates Paul Derksen, Christopher Severson and Bob Hockett are vying for three open seats on the Acalanes Union High School District board. Lamorinda Weekly reached out to the candidates to answer questions about educational priorities, milestones and challenges faced by Lamorinda high schools. The following are the questions and answers.

LW: What are your top three priorities (from Voter's Edge California website):

Kendzierski: Support the District's strong academic focus and performance. Maintain fiscal stability. Work closely with parents and the community to continue and enhance their invaluable support.

Derksen: Maintain and enhance academic excellence for all students at all schools. Preserve and promote fiscal stability and responsibility. Create opportunities to recruit and retain qualified teachers and staff.

Severson: Special attention to student wellness. Maintain superior public education. Efficient deployment of scarce resources.

Hockett: Support programs which meet the needs of each and every one of our students. Support aggressive recruitment of top-notch teachers in the face of the growing teacher shortage. Promote fiscal responsibility.

LW: What contributions to education are you most proud of?

Kendzierski: I am proud of our efforts to continuously explore ways to improve the educational experience for AUHSD students, including new initiatives like block schedules, academy periods, wellness centers, new science standards and new graduation requirements. Excellence isn't maintained by standing still. Contributions like these are the result of a team effort over time and I'm very proud to be part of a board, administration, staff and community that work together for the students' welfare.

Derksen: As an educational advocate, volunteer, and proud

member of our community, I am committed to keeping our schools exceptional. Whether I volunteered in a classroom, ran a school auction, kept the books, or lead the organization, every thing we do to maintain and enhance the education of our students, is a win. I think we can't educate a whole child without the engagement of parents and communities. I've been fortunate to contribute in many ways and want to take it up to the next level by running for the AUHSD governing board.

Severson: I was elected to the OUSD board during a critical time and served for four years as board member as well as president. We faced financial and school climate challenges and the district was on much better footing compared to when I started in 2010.

Hockett: I am proud of my 33 years of high school teaching. As a student at Acalanes, I was fortunate to have many enthusiastic teachers with a deep passion for teaching and student learning, and great respect for, and rapport with, students. I tried to be that type of teacher. Having a positive impact and influence on my students for 33 years is a source of pride and humility.

LW: What are your qualifications?

Kendzierski: I have been an active parent and community volunteer since moving here in 1995, including 12 years on the executive boards of PTAs and as a Moraga Education Foundation director since 2005. As a volunteer school legislative representative, I gained significant knowledge of education legislation and school funding and worked with all the schools and partner districts in the AUHSD attendance area.

I have five years of experience on the AUHSD board. My areas of focus have been finance and legislation, plus more recently equity and wellness/mental health. My experience as a high-tech research manager helps me understand decision-making and fiduciary responsibilities and provide leadership on

financial issues. I have worked with stakeholders through task forces, community meetings, educational forums, and individual conversations to encourage collaboration and communication among all parties.

Derksen: For nearly 15 years I have volunteered in public schools in a wide variety of leadership positions including treasurer, president, auction chair, and education foundation director. Currently, I am PTA president for Las Trampas Creek

Council of PTAs, working with all PTA schools in the AUHSD attendance area. Our legislative efforts reach out to all public schools in the area. I believe in the value of a quality public education. I want to work with teachers, parents and the community to ensure AUHSD students receive the outstanding education they deserve.

Severson: I understand the role and have already succeeded as a school board member. I have a working relationship with our superintendent

and have collaborative contacts across the communities served by the AUHSD board as shown by broad endorsement support.

Hockett: My experience as a classroom teacher for 33 years, as well as the knowledge obtained as an AUHSD board member for the past four years.

LW: What major difficulty faces the AUHSD and how do you propose to remedy it?

Kendzierski: As part of attending a high-performing district, AUHSD students also face issues of high expectations, pressure and stress, and are not immune to problems with depression, suicide ideation, bullying, alcohol/drug use, etc. Starting this year, each school has a Wellness Center where students can drop in and receive many different kinds of coordinated support to eventually help reconnect them back to learning.

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YES ON PROPOSITION 5 AND NO ON PROPOSITION 10

Homeownership and private property rights are on the California ballot this November and the election outcome will determine our state's housing future. REALTORS® throughout the state are committed to protecting homeownership and are urging our clients, colleagues and fellow Californians to look closely at this year's ballot. The state's housing future depends on it.

YES ON PROP 5

The Property Tax Fairness Initiative (Prop 5) removes the unfair moving penalty for seniors, the severely disabled and disaster victims across the entire state while still ensuring they pay their fair share of property taxes.

- Seniors will have the freedom to downsize or move closer to family.
- The severely disabled will be able to move to more practical homes.
- Many disaster victims will now have the opportunity to move without being penalized.

Too many Californians feel like they will never be able to become homeowners. Eliminating the moving penalty for seniors, disaster victims and the severely disabled will create more opportunities for homeownership for first time buyers and young families.

NO ON PROP 10

Prop 10 will make California's housing crisis worse. It's the wrong solution for a state that desperately needs to create more affordable housing for middle class families. Seniors, veterans, both gubernatorial candidates - Democrat Gavin Newsom and Republican John Cox - and affordable housing experts all oppose Prop 10 because it will make housing less available and less affordable.

Prop 10 will:

- Let government dictate rental pricing for privately owned single-family homes.
- Reduce home values by more than 10%, according to MIT researchers; an average loss of approximately \$39,000 per California homeowner.
- Significantly restrict what single-family homeowners can do with their homes.
- Could allow bureaucrats to charge homeowners a fee for taking their home off the rental market.

The facts are clear: Prop 10 will reduce affordable and middle-class housing in California and drive down existing home values. For more information, please visit www.housingforcalifornia.com.


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For more information, please visit: on.car.org/cayes5no10

We urge California voters to vote Yes on Prop 5 and NO on Prop 10.

Prop 5 will allow seniors, the disabled and victims of natural disasters to move to a home better suited to their needs without facing drastically higher property taxes. Prop 10, by allowing for the dramatic expansion in rent control, will actually decrease the availability of affordable housing because there will be no incentive for builders to create more housing.

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