

SUMMERTIME BLUES: PG&E CONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO CLOSE ST. MARY'S ROAD

This summer, PG&E will be undertaking the installation of 6,035 feet of new gas pipeline to replace the aging existing pipe along St. Mary's Road in both Lafayette and Moraga. The project also includes replacing the valve at the South Lucille Station. Work is due to begin June 7, and PG&E has advised the City of Lafayette that there will be full closures of portions of St. Mary's Road during the course of the project.

At a Council meeting on April 23, 2018, the public and the Lafayette City Council provided input to PG&E on the timing and on how the project could be executed to minimize disruption to residents who live adjacent to St. Mary's Road, as well as the commuters who use the route. PG&E told the public and Councilmembers that the 60-day project is expected to run from June 7 through September 17, 2018, in four phases, as follows:

- **Phase 1: Community Park to Rohrer Drive:** Full Road Closure – June 7 to July 10 Day Work: Monday through Saturday, 7am to 7pm
- **Camino Colorados to Wallabi Court:** Full Road Closure – June 7 to July 12 (local traffic allowed), Day Work: Monday through Saturday, 7am to 7pm
- **Phase 2: Wallabi Court to Bollinger Canyon Road:** Full Road Closure – July 6 to August 3 (local traffic allowed), Day Work: Monday through Saturday, 7am to 7pm
- **Phase 3: Rohrer Drive to Camino Colorados:** Full Road Closure – July 16 to August 14 (local traffic allowed), Day Work: Monday through Saturday, 7am to 7pm

- **Phase 4: Valve Lot at S Lucille Lane:** One Lane Closure – August 22 to September 17, Day Work: Monday through Saturday, 7am to 7pm



According to PG&E, their schedule was created with the goal to execute the majority of the pipeline installation on St Mary's Road within the June 7 to August 21 timeframe – when school is out. PG&E has said that it is not planning any night work unless it becomes necessary.

This project, PG&E says, is a priority as the existing welded steel pipelines are considered critical infrastructure and were installed along St. Mary's Road in 1952. Pipe installed in this era

was welded before modern radiography was used to inspect welds and as such the welding inspection was only visual. Additionally, modern manufacturing practices are far superior to those of that era.

PG&E plans a major public awareness campaign prior to the start of the project. Letters will be sent to Lafayette and Moraga residents describing the overall project scope and general traffic impacts. PG&E will also hold open houses to provide information regarding road closure schedules, detour information, project scheduling, work scope, etc.

Residents with questions or concerns are urged to contact PG&E's Customer Outreach Specialist on the project, Julian Lacson, at 925-348-3532, or by email at J5LR@pge.com. PG&E has stated that all questions and/or complaints will be handled by their Customer Outreach Specialist within one business day of receipt.

New Planning Commission Policy

This spring, the City Council, after months of consideration and debate, adopted a revised conflict of interest policy for Planning Commissioners and Design Review Commissioners. Whereas the old policy allowed commissioners with professional conflicts of interest to recuse themselves from certain policy discussions and decisions, the new policy demands that, in many situations, they resign permanently from the commission if they do business in town. For more information go to Hot Topics on the City's website at www.lovelafayette.org.

Shortly after the adoption of the new policy, five planning commissioners (Jeanne Ateljevich, Thomas Chastain,

Patricia Curtin, Peter Gutzwiller and Will Lovitt) resigned, leaving Gary Huisingh and Steven Bliss. This left the Commission without a quorum. So, while interviewing candidates to fill the vacancies, the Council reduced the size of the Commission to five members and Council temporarily acted as the Commission to ensure that items before it could move forward.

Gregory Mason was appointed to the Commission on April 23rd. This now allows the Planning Commission to achieve a quorum and conduct business while the City Council interviews new candidates for the remaining two positions.

MEET OUR NEW POLICE CHIEF: BEN ALLDRITT



Last month, Ben Alldritt was selected by City Manager Steven Falk to follow Eric Christensen as Lafayette's next Police Chief. To ensure a smooth transition, Ben shadowed Eric during his final week with Lafayette.

Ben is well qualified for this position. He worked for the California Highway Patrol for four years before joining the Contra Costa County Sheriff's office in 2006. After starting with the Sheriff, Ben worked in the Custody Services Bureau and then spent five years working patrol, traffic, and investigations for the Town of Danville. As a Sergeant, Ben supervised the Sheriff's Investigations Unit and the Homicide Unit. Most recently, Ben has served as Watch Commander for Contra Costa County and is currently the Assistant Commander of the Patrol Division.

Ben holds a Master Degree in Public Administration from Golden Gate University, and is father to two young children.

In a message to residents, Ben offered his appreciation to Sheriff David Livingston for his continued and unwavering support for the Lafayette police contract. He offered thanks to those members of the community who assisted with the interview and selection process, including City Manager Falk, Superintendent Rachel Zinn, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson, Moraga Police Chief John King, Deputy Fire Chief Lewis Broschard, and retired Moraga Town Manager Bob Priebe.

He also thanked everyone for the warm welcome he received over the last several weeks, saying, "I am grateful to have been selected as your new Chief of Police. Each person I have had the privilege to meet has made me feel a part of the community."

Ben says that he looks forward to working with all Lafayette citizens to keep the City safe. He said, "I want to thank our citizens for being vigilant and I look forward to serving the City of Lafayette and partnering with our residents to ensure that Lafayette remains a great place to live."

MEET JEFF HEYMAN, CITY'S FIRST COMMUNICATIONS ANALYST

The City of Lafayette is pleased to announce that Jeff Heyman has joined the City as its first communications professional. After more than 18 years heading public information and communications at the Oakland-based Peralta Community College District, Heyman joined the City as its Communications Analyst on April 9.

"For a long time, the City has done the best job it can in communicating with residents about the many things we do, but with the world of communications and media ever-changing, and the rise of social media, we needed a new approach, and this is a set of skills staff does not currently have," said City Manager Steven Falk.

"The City Council added this position to the City's roster last December, and Jeff is remarkably well qualified to fill it." Falk said. "He is skilled in writing, publishing, video, social media and is a good photographer as well. We welcome him to the City."

At the Peralta Colleges, Heyman oversaw all communications for the 25,000-student district, including its websites, radio and TV stations, media relations, internal and external messaging, publications and social media. Upon leaving the Peralta Colleges, Heyman was presented with resolutions and proclamations noting his service to the community from the college district and the cities of Oakland and Alameda, where he resides with his wife, Sari, and their rescue greyhound, Katie Bugs.

Prior to his work for the Peralta Colleges, Heyman was an Information Officer and Deputy Spokesperson for the United Nations Peacekeeping Department. Heyman, who set up media operations and conducted press conferences for the UN, served in Cambodia, Rwanda, Angola and former Yugoslavia. A second generation San Franciscan, and a graduate of San

Francisco State University in Fine Art Photography and Broadcast Communications, Heyman spent his teenage years in Alamo and graduated from San Ramon High School in Danville.

"I am very excited about the many possibilities that this new communications role offers and I am honored to have been tapped to fill this first-time position," Heyman said. "It feels a lot like coming home," Heyman added.

"My wife is from Moraga and I have many friends and have spent many happy times in Lafayette over the years. I am honored to be representing a city I admire and providing information to the community about one of the most beautiful places anywhere."

Heyman, who taught social media at Laney College and was a columnist for the *East Bay Times*, will be enhancing the City's social media presence and working to facilitate robust dialog with the community using platforms such as Next Door, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other outlets, such as the City's Lafayette Listens, the *Almost Daily Briefing*, the *Weekly Roundup* and the quarterly newsletter *Lafayette Vistas*.

"It's impressive that the City has done such a great job communicating openly with residents and neighborhood groups. I will continue this tradition of transparency and will work closely with the community to expand the conversation so that everyone is engaged and everyone is aware of all that is happening in Lafayette," Heyman said.

Contact Jeff anytime at 925-299-3241, or email: jheyman@ci.lafayette.ca.us. You can also sign up to receive the City's *Almost Daily Briefing* and the *Weekly Roundup* at www.lovelafayette.org.



FIRE STATION 16 GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

On Thursday, April 11, 2018, a host of neighborhood residents and local dignitaries, including District II Supervisor Candace Andersen and Con Fire Chief Jeff Carman, gathered in a groundbreaking ceremony for what will soon be the most advanced fire station to serve Lafayette. The new Station 16 replaces the one that was closed in 2012.

In his remarks, Lafayette's mayor said, "The beautiful countryside that surrounds us is flammable – explosively flammable in the wrong conditions." He added, "Fortunately, we are served by a dedicated fire-fighting force, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. The rebuilding and staffing of Station 16 increases the chance that a fire can be stopped before it becomes a conflagration. Station 16 makes us safer."

Chief Carman assured neighborhood residents that he would help minimize any inconvenience the construction of the station might cause. And with reference to the devastating fires



in Napa and Sonoma, Chief Carman noted that the \$3.4 million station is strategically located in northwestern Lafayette to better protect the neighborhood – with its combination of residential construction, hilly terrain and heavy vegetation – from the threat of wildfires.

Most calls for service from the new Fire Station will be for medical issues, where fast response is vital for survival. Station 16 will provide faster response times for Western Lafayette than we have now so it's likely that this project may literally save lives.

L A F A Y E T T E B R I E F S

Transit Development Proposals (SB827 & AB2923)

In April, Councilmembers directed the Mayor to draft a letter opposing AB 2923, a proposed bill that could allow the Bay Area Rapid Transit District to undertake development within a half-mile radius of existing and future BART stations. The letter, which was sent to the bill's authors, Assembly Members Chiu and Grayson and co-author Assembly Member Mullian, makes clear the City's concerns and questions the bill's applicability. In his letter, the Mayor noted that the City of Lafayette is committed to working collaboratively to find ways to address current and future housing needs. In addition, another transit development bill, SB 827, which the City of Lafayette opposed, died in the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing. This bill, which may come back in a different form, would have allowed for potentially denser development within a specified radius of transit corridors, such as Lafayette's BART station. You can read the full text of the Mayor's letters on our website www.lovelafayette.org.

City Council Makes Appointments

New appointments were made last month by the City Council to the Circulation and Planning Commissions. Appointed to the Circulation Commission were Susan Candell, Kim Robinson and Vianney Serriere. Gregory Mason was appointed to the Planning Commission.

Susan Candell is an engineer with Carl Zeiss X-ray Microscopy, Inc., and has lived in Lafayette for 21 years. She holds a Master's Degree in Nuclear Engineering from MIT. She serves on the boards of the Lafayette Community Foundation, the Springhill Valley Homeowners Association and other organizations. Her term expires June 30, 2018. Kim Robinson, whose term expires June 30, 2018, is an attorney with the US Department of Labor and has a Master's Degree from Harvard

in education policy. She has been a resident of Lafayette for less than a year. Vianney Serriere, who has lived in Lafayette for 27 years, is an avid bicyclist and astronomer. In addition to his public service, he has 35 years of art direction/graphic design experience working for large corporations. His term ends June 30, 2019.

These new members join Elizabeth Johnson, Chair, Carl Di Giorgio, Vice Chair, Lynn Hiden and Kristina Sturm on the Commission. The Circulation Commission reviews policy matters that affect the City's right-of-way and relate to the Circulation Element of the General Plan. The Commission advises the City Council on matters pertaining to traffic safety, bikeways and other issues.

Gregory Mason is a Senior Structural Plans Examiner with West Coast Code Consultants and has lived in Lafayette for 55 years. He has undertaken a number of volunteer engineering and structural assessments for non-profit organizations. His term expires June 30, 2018. Gregory joins Gary Huisingsh, Vice Chair, and Steven Bliss on the Commission. The City Council Planning Commission liaisons are still interviewing candidates for the remaining vacant seats on the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is charged with development of the General Plan, implementation and administration of the Zoning Ordinance and review of development applications.

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Poet Laureate Amy Alysa Glynn

The Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) introduced Poet Laureate for Lafayette and Orinda, Amy Alysa Glynn, to the Lafayette City Council at its meeting on Monday, April 23. After a three month search by LAC, Glynn, a Lafayette resident, was chosen by an independent selection committee to serve the two-year term as Poet Laureate. Glynn is a poet, essayist, and fiction writer whose work appears widely in journals and anthologies including *The Best American Poetry*. She has been a James Merrill House Fellow, a Bread Loaf Orion Environmental Writers' Conference Scholar, and a Mona van Duyn Scholar at the Sewanee Writers' Conference. She has co-curated "Favorite Poem Project" readings with former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky at Amherst College in 2015 and the Head-Royce School in Oakland in 2017. During her two-year term as Poet Laureate, Glynn, who receives a yearly \$3,000 honorarium from LAC, will be called upon to write poems of occasion for community and civic events. She will also support LAC's Poet Laureate Program of activities for all ages in the community and schools, and serve as a liaison with literary organizations. For more information about LAC and its program, please visit www.lamorindaarts.org/volunteer, and check the Poet Laureate box to join us in organizing poetry events and activities. When Glynn was received by the City Council, she recited a poem, *Chamise Adenostoma fasciculatum*, which you can read at www.lovelafayette.org.



Poet Laureate Amy Alysa Glynn was received by the City Council in April.

Oakland in 2017. During her two-year term as Poet Laureate, Glynn, who receives a yearly \$3,000 honorarium from LAC, will be called upon to write poems of occasion for community and civic events. She will also support LAC's Poet Laureate Program of activities for all ages in the community and schools, and serve as a liaison with literary organizations. For more information about LAC and its program, please visit www.lamorindaarts.org/volunteer, and check the Poet Laureate box to join us in organizing poetry events and activities. When Glynn was received by the City Council, she recited a poem, *Chamise Adenostoma fasciculatum*, which you can read at www.lovelafayette.org.

Two City Residents Win Annual Lafayette Green Awards

This spring, the Lafayette City Council presented the annual Lafayette Awards of Environmental Excellence, more commonly known as the Lafayette Green Awards, to two City residents, Kelsey Levant and James Leach. The Council recognized the award winners for their outstanding contribution to making Lafayette a more sustainable community and helping the City achieve its environmental goals.

Kelsey received her Lafayette Green Award for inspiring and educating the Lafayette community about environmental sustainability. Kelsey has been part of the Campolindo High School Environmental Club, where she has participated in the weekly lunch meetings, helped in the garden after school on Thursdays, has taken a course to learn how to build an aquaponics system for Campolindo High School.

James' award was for educating local residents on the climate crisis. James was trained by the Climate Reality Project and is the author of "The Sustainable Way: Straight talk about global warming – what causes it, who denies it, and the common sense transition to renewable energy." James has been working with Sustainable Lafayette with an emphasis on promoting air quality monitoring. James' numerous outreach efforts have educated residents on the importance of reducing emissions helping the community contribute toward the core goals of the City's Environmental Strategy.



Kelsey Levant and James Leach were presented their Lafayette Green Awards by the City Council.

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If you observe illegal dumping in creeks & storm drains or accidental spills on roads, call Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Division 925-646-2286.

Lamorinda School Bus Program

Juliet Hansen, Program Mgr. 925-299-3216

Parks, Trails, Recreation 925-284-2232

Jonathan Katayanagi, Director

Senior Services 925-284-5050

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Police Dispatch: 24 Hours	925-284-5010
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