

the city's small town, "semi-rural" feel by limiting building heights downtown, prohibiting development on protected ridgelines, and maximizing open space. In spite of continued pressure to bend if not break the spirit of the General Plan, I have found Carl to be its staunchest defender.

The city is now in the process of developing a downtown strategic plan, and will be under even more pressure to intensify development. While many of us want to see a family-friendly, livable, and economically vital downtown, we don't want to lose the semi-rural character we all enjoy. Carl is one person I would want on the council to balance competing interests and arrive at a solution that is in the best interests of Lafayette's citizens.

Clifford Tong
Lafayette

Dear Editor:

I urge all Lafayette voters to re-elect Carol Federighi, Carl Anduri and Mike Anderson to the Lafayette City Council on November 4.

I have seen how hardworking and thoughtful they are on behalf of our City. Each brings many years of community service before they joined the City Council. Each has a unique perspective to represent the varied interests in our neighborhoods.

In Carol's professional life as an attorney she has dedicated herself to helping juveniles who have become dependents of the court, and giving legal assistance to seniors.

Carl specializes in business law with an emphasis on finance. He is uniquely situated to help Lafayette manage its limited finances, protect our hillsides and land use ordinances.

Mike works for the East Bay Regional Park District; he is an invaluable resource for Lafayette's Parks and open space interests. Mike and the other council members have all served on the Planning Commission, adding years of experience and service to our City.

They all have supported the new library and the Senior Housing Task Force. Through their stewardship Lafayette is one of a few cities that is not in financial trouble, because they have been prudent in maintaining a balanced budget.

Anne Grodin
Former Mayor
Lafayette

Dear Editor,

In this very important election there are four people running for three positions on the Lafayette City Council. I am writing to urge all voting citizens of Lafayette to vote for the three incumbents, Carl Anduri, and Carol Federighi and our Mayor Mike Anderson, They are compassionate and thoughtful people with exceptional experience and backgrounds, who care very deeply about the concerns of people of all ages in our city. They work to provide services that help make our lives comfortable and fulfilling. They are the essence of what City Council members should be.

In my 44 years of living in Lafayette, this city has always been far ahead of its time. 18 years ago, when I became a member of the Lafayette Senior Services Commission very few cities the size of Lafayette had advisory commissions which focused on the concerns of Seniors. Because we have people like Carl, Carol and Mike on our City Council, we are still ahead. We have the best schools in the State for our children, a new Library which will be a model for other cities across this nation, and plans for a downtown where we can "Shop Lafayette", so that the sales tax goes to Lafayette instead of surrounding communities, and Seniors (20% of our population) will be assured they can "age in place" in Lafayette. I have attended many City Council meetings and have spoken on behalf of a number of issues. What truly impresses me about Carl, Carol and Mike is that they LISTEN, THINK and CARE deeply about what is being said. I know that I have had their full attention. We are for fortunate that they volunteer their time and energy to serve us all. So please vote for them, and keep Lafayette on the right track.

Sandra A. Smith
Lafayette

Moraga: Measures J and K

Editor:

Without some growth, Moraga will die. Picture vacant stores, as currently in the Rheem shopping center.

If Measures J or K pass, it is very likely that the Town will be sued and will have to spend money it doesn't have to defend itself. To provide that defense means taking from police, parks, roads and other services as the Town has no budget for this type of expense. Note last Friday's article on the front page of the Contra Costa Times citing that Police Chief Ruppenthal has to do patrol duty himself because of inadequate funding for staff, while burglary, assault and theft are rising.

The existing General Plan adequately protects Moraga open space and does not need fixing.

We urge you to vote no on both Measures J and K.

Sincerely,
Howard & Deborah Hall
Moraga

Dear Editor,

Moragans received a glossy mailer from the Measure J camp this week, featuring a letter from Joan Bruzzone. I understand that Joan is a very pleasant person so it is sad to see her campaign write such a misleading letter for her signature. The brochure is a flagrant attempt to sway the undecided vote through scare tactics and outrageous statements.

To address a few of the most egregious:

1. Measure K is not the work of "Berkeley fringe groups" – I'm one of dozens of Moraga volunteers for Measure K and 9 out of 10 of us are town residents (the rest are residents of unincorporated Moraga plus one from Orinda).

2. Measure K does not "ban single family homes." Measure K explicitly allows single family homes, along with secondary units. (See Measure K, Section 9(a))

3. Measure K does not apply to downtown or promote low-income units downtown. The development of the downtown remains entirely under the control of the Bruzzone family and the Town.

4. Only Measure K protects Moraga's threatened ridgelines. The Bruzzones have submitted a 126-lot development plan that would build 35+ houses along Bollinger Ridge, which rises to 1000 feet and is visible to much of Moraga. Measure K would keep development off that ridgeline.

We are all busy people with limited time to spend investigating Measure J's allegations. And this is what its proponents are trying to exploit. In this single mailer, there are so many distortions that it's impossible to respond here to every misleading statement that is made. But that's the political technique used when one's own program is bankrupt.

This election is one of the most important in Moraga since its founding in 1974. Moraga's remaining open space is threatened with several hundred houses under current laws. Measure K would reduce those to approximately 50 houses and ensure that they are not permitted to destroy ridgelines, scenic views, and natural resources. Measure K would also prevent an additional 3000 car trips each day on our roads. Please vote yes on Measure K to prevent overdevelopment that will harm Moraga's quality of life.

Jan Blumer
Moraga

Dear Editor,

Despite opponents' false claims, Measure K is not about downtown development

Measure K, the community-sponsored open space protection measure for Moraga, does not contain a single provision that applies to downtown Moraga. The Town's official "9212 Report" on Measure K makes clear that it applies to the specific open space parcels listed in the initiative, not one of which is downtown.

Nevertheless, the Bruzzone campaign—having evidently determined from phone polling that the current Specific Plan proposal for high-density development on Bruzzone-owned land downtown is highly unpopular—is attempting to link that development to Measure K. They do so by asserting—with no factual basis—that Measure K's "true agenda" is to support "lower income" apartments downtown.

Don't believe this deceptive propaganda. Measure K has one agenda and one agenda only: to protect Moraga's open space and scenic ridgelines from overdevelopment and prevent the excessive traffic that large-scale subdivisions in these areas would cause. Measure K is about preserving our small town, not about helping the Bruzzones develop the land they own next to the shopping center.

Susan McNeill
Moraga

Orinda: Council Candidates and Kudos

To the Editor:

I recently attended a presentation by the engineer Tom Chan, a member of the Orinda Public Safety Advisory Commission. The Orinda Chamber of Commerce sponsored this update on disaster preparedness. It was very informative for merchants & small businesses.

As a physician with a Masters in Public Health from U.C. Berkeley, I support disaster preparedness in Orinda. A list of volunteer physicians, nurses & crisis counselors should be established. A major earthquake on the Hayward Fault will likely disable Highway 24 for 1-4 weeks according to Mr. Chan. There will be injuries. There may not be access to hospitals & emergency facilities for some time after a Big Quake. We must be prepared to take care of ourselves. A clinician roster, a cache of medical supplies & designated triage sites should be established expeditiously.

Orindans and other Contra Costa County residents need a flu vaccination program. 100 million people died in the Pandemic of 1918 when the world's population was far less than today. The Centers for Disease Control have forecast millions will die or become disabled should Avian flu hit the North American continent & we are unprepared. Better to be safe than sorry. A program for vaccinating our older residents, those with respiratory conditions & public safety officers should be established now. The flu season is approaching.

Our community through active planning should pledge that mismanagement of a disaster like Katrina will never happen in Orinda, Lamorinda or Contra Costa County.

Thank you for your consideration,
Dr. Bob L arsen
Orinda

To the Editor:

Orinda City Councilmember Steve Glazer is running for reelection to the Orinda City Council on the November ballot. It's worth noting that Mr. Glazer's business is that of advisor to developers.

It was proposed in a recent City Council meeting that the PG&E towers be moved from downtown Orinda and relocated in the El Toyonal hills. The enraged residents of the El Toyonal Hills showed up and pointed out

that it has been proven that the high-voltage electricity in the PG&E power lines causes cancer and that both their health and their property values would be severely downgraded by the relocation of the towers. Even after hearing the severe hazard to residents Mr. Glazer voted to continue the study of relocating the PG&E towers.

It is obvious that Mr. Glazer values business interests far more than residents' welfare and safety. What else would you expect from a developer's consultant?

If you wish your City Council members to protect your interests you should vote for another City Council candidate and not Mr. Glazer.

Clyde Vaughn
Orinda

Dear Editor,

We wholeheartedly support Victoria Smith for a second term on the Orinda City Council! Victoria has been a tireless servant to "what's best for Orinda" from her contributions to the Parent's Club at Miramonte and Scouting to her service on the Planning Commission and the last four years for her leadership on the Council and as Mayor.

As a Council member and Mayor, she has provided sound leadership on city priorities and day-to-day issues and judicious financial stewardship over our limited city budget. Some recent accomplishments working with the Council include: Repairing Moraga Way from Camino Encinas to the Moraga border, creating the Traffic Safety Advisory committee to resolve traffic "hot spots" in neighborhoods, working with the Lafayette and Moraga Councils to develop a Lamorinda emergency preparedness plan, and working with the Chamber of Commerce to promote Orinda retailing and restaurants that provide additional tax dollars to the city.

While working directly with Victoria on the roads and infrastructure campaign (Measure E), the Public Safety Commission and local neighborhood issues, we find her to be a keen listener focused on constructive solutions, collaborative in working with people and possessing impeccable personal integrity.

Public service (especially for volunteers) is noble in every sense of the word when the individual delivers on the priorities of the community and it's constituents. Victoria has consistently focused and delivered on our community priorities over the past four years and we will be very fortunate to have her leadership on the City Council for a second term. She is "what's best for Orinda."

Victoria has our enthusiastic vote for City Council and we urge other Orinda residents to vote for her as well.

Russ and Mary Belden
Orinda

Editor:

The recently completed Moraga Way reconstruction project has accomplished more than just providing a smoother ride for motorists. As a resident who lives near Moraga Way, this project has substantially improved the quality of life for me and my neighbors. The rubberized asphalt pavement has noticeably reduced the traffic noise from the road to the point where I can now enjoy being outdoors in my yard. And recycling of old tires benefits the environment, as well. I would like to extend my thanks to the City of Orinda and the City Council for doing this much needed project and doing it right.

Equally improved is ambient noise level in the Crossroads/Theater Square area since Highway 24 has been repaved with rubberized asphalt. You can now sit outside at Starbucks, Casper's or the Greek Café and enjoy the street without the deafening roar of the freeway making conversation impossible, as was the case before.

So - kudos to the City of Orinda and Caltrans for improving the quality of life in our community.

Sincerely,
Fred Smith
Orinda

Dear Editor,

We support Victoria Smith for re-election to the Orinda City Council because her informed, thoughtful, and civil governing style. Her talents and experience are particularly needed to help solve a number of pressing issues, including street infrastructure and fire safety. We urge Orindans to vote to retain Victoria on November 4.

Wayne and Jo Alice Canterbury
Orinda

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