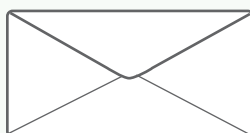
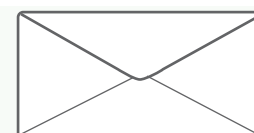


Letters to the Editor



Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and town (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for length or legal considerations. email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Orinda

Dear Editor:

A recent letter by Clyde Vaughn attacks Steve Glazer regarding discussions by the Orinda City Council on the issue of moving the power lines that cross the village side of our downtown. This matter of the effect of the high wire lines on Orinda's downtown has been under discussion by a citizen's Task Force for the past 12 months. No recommendation whatsoever has come before the Council. Members of the Task Force wanted to understand the cost and timeline if a formal study by PG&E were to take place. City staff posed these questions to PG&E and provided the responses to the Council.

The Council heard the staff report and took no action. Any resident can review the Council minutes at <http://old.ci.orinda.ca.us/agendas/pdfs/c080318m.pdf>. The minutes of the meeting show that every Councilmember, including Mr. Glazer, spoke in opposition to moving the towers into a residential area. In fact, the minutes of the meeting say: "Councilmember Glazer received clarification that, if the Council took no action on the matter, staff would not be authorized to proceed with a study and no action would be taken." This was the exact outcome, in total contrast to the fabricated account of the meeting put forward by Mr. Vaughn. While Mr. Vaughn has the right to his opinion, misstating the facts of a public record is a disservice to all and to the democratic process. Sadly, this is a long-time pattern with Mr. Vaughn, who regularly ignores facts and puts forward erroneous opinions.

When Mr. Glazer ran four years ago for the Council, he faced the same type of smear attacks, but was elected by an overwhelming majority. I am pleased to support his bid for re-election to the Council. As our former Mayor and as a Councilmember, he has worked diligently and successfully to promote transparency in city government and consensus-based solutions to problems.

Sue Severson
Mayor Pro Tem
Orinda City Council

Dear Editors,

Victoria Robinson Smith, long time Orinda resident and lawyer, is running for reelection to the Orinda City Council. I am glad to be able to recommend her for reelection. She has been a caring and intelligent councilmember, and is now a thoroughly experienced one too. Her interest and understanding of the businesses of downtown Orinda benefits this sector, and is important to us all. I am the owner of the 32 year old Orinda Book Store, and have been impressed with Victoria Smith's appreciation of local businesses and her availability to them. I think her presence on the City Council is vital to the "heart of Orinda," and I urge you to vote to keep her in office.

Sincerely,
Janet Boreta

Dear Editor,

We are writing to urge other Orinda voters to join us in supporting the re-election of Mayor Victoria Smith to the City Council. She has been a tireless advocate of public safety, including disaster preparedness, Safe Routes to School, and overall traffic safety, and has worked diligently to find a responsible means of repairing our roads. She has also been involved in the Chamber of Commerce 'Shop Orinda' program and efforts to revitalize our business areas. Her recent work on the Pulte and former library developments will help our city meet state requirements for affordable housing, prevent our loss of Measure C funding, and, hopefully, make it possible for people who work in Orinda to live in Orinda. Victoria Smith has served the citizens of Orinda well on both the Planning Commission and the City Council. She deserves our support. We need her energy and creativity on our City Council. Let's re-elect Victoria Smith to the Orinda City Council!

Ellen and Joffa Dale
Orinda

Dear Editor,

I would like to encourage all my friends and neighbors in Orinda to re-elect Victoria Smith to the City Council. We need Victoria Smith's continued leadership. We need a city council person who understands critical infrastructure needs and is willing to work for solutions. Victoria Smith understands that infrastructure has a profound effect on our local economy and the people who live in Orinda. Among Victoria's many accomplishments are the repaving of Moraga Way and the passing of Measure E, the parcel tax that provides the extra hours so that our library stays open 60 hours a week. She created the Traffic Safety Advisory Commission to help neighborhoods manage traffic and has served for many years as a Parents Club volunteer with our schools. Please join me in voting for Orinda's future. Vote for Victoria Smith.

Pam Pulley
Orinda

Dear Editor:

As an interested resident of the City of Orinda I routinely attend city meetings whether of the City Council or one of the City's committees, taskforces or commissions. There is usually a mechanism for giving input through the public forum

component at city meetings. I certainly support having input in that fashion. I realize there are some restrictions about how meetings can be run in compliance with the Brown Act. I am supportive of the idea that city government involve its residents and obtain their input on matters of importance for governance. I am not the first resident to suggest the idea of a "citizen ombudsman" to be utilized by the City of Orinda in representing its constituents. It would be helpful if there was a designated liaison that residents could go to with the authority to look into matters beyond what other staff have time for. I conceptualize this position as a quarter to half time position. The City could partner with the local universities in sponsoring an internship which would make this a low cost endeavor. The School of Public Policy at U.C. Berkeley, the School of Business at St. Mary's College and an appropriate department at J.F.K. University would be natural potential partners. These schools of higher education have as part of their mission maintaining ties to local communities. Internship programs are promoted at these colleges as a means of giving students real life experience. Communication between City Hall and the residents of Orinda is a crucial element to effective representative government. The proposed citizen ombudsman program has the potential for helping Orindans with their concerns and complaints. We have local talent that is available to help us in developing such a program. This would be a supplement to the existing open20forum and would not undermine those important efforts.

Very truly yours,
Dr. Bob Larsen
Orinda

To the Editor:

Orinda has many qualities of which we can be proud: our schools, our climate, the beauty of our surroundings. We can also look to our leaders. One of them, Victoria Smith, has served our community with particular distinction: as a Planning Commissioner, Member of the City Council and Mayor. She has been a key figure in dealing effectively with the major issues facing our city. Victoria is now up for re-election as a member of the City Council. Those who believe in good government should support her with great enthusiasm. In these trouble times we need representatives who understand the issues and who will exercise fiscal responsibility in dealing with them. We urge our citizens to vote for Victoria Smith for re-election to the Orinda City Council.

Bea and Dick Heggie
Orinda

Dear Editor,

Victoria Smith is a keeper. She is a careful financial steward with a reasoned, analytic approach to problems. As a true advocate of Orinda's best interests, she has been a long-time Parents' Club volunteer, organized the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee and has worked tirelessly to improve our public roads. Victoria's deep concern for our community's needs and her broad experience through work with the schools, the Chamber, advisory groups and the City Council combine to make her an outstanding leader in Orinda. Vote to keep Victoria Smith on the City Council.

Jean Lyford
Orinda

Editor:

We support Mayor Victoria Smith for her basic traits: integrity, intelligence, common sense, commitment to and understanding of Orinda, and a strong sense of fair play—qualities that are critical to continued excellent leadership in our community.

Chris and Anne Marie Kniel
Orinda

Dear Editor:

I had the good fortune to spend two years on the Orinda City Council with Victoria Smith and have closely followed her performance since then. Victoria gets top marks for her performance, especially this year when she has been Mayor. In fact, I don't think very many have done as good a job as she has done serving the people of Orinda. Victoria is both hard working and intelligent. She always does her homework and asks good questions. She approaches issues with lots of common sense and savvy. She uses her good judgment to make excellent decisions and always articulates her reasons in a clear and concise manner. Most importantly, Victoria's only agenda is doing what is right for Orinda and its citizens. I know Victoria will continue to be an excellent Council member and urge Orindans to vote for her on November 4th.

Bill Judge
Former Mayor of Orinda

Dear Editor,

I first met Victoria Smith in 2003 while serving as a Planning Commissioner

for the City of Orinda. I remember watching her transform from a newcomer to one the most effective Commissioners within just a few meetings. She was always well prepared, reasonable and well spoken. After serving as a Planning Commissioner, Victoria was elected to the City Council and has served as Mayor. If you go to a City Council meeting you will see what I mean about being effective. She does her homework on every item on the agenda and it shows. She makes informed decisions, speaks clearly and is to the point.

As a council member, Victoria had the foresight to spearhead the creation of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, of which I am a member. With her guidance we completed Traffic Calming guidelines for the City last year. With her strong support, we are now working on improving pedestrian and bike access in Orinda, with a focus on better walking paths to schools and the downtown area. Please vote to keep Victoria Smith on the Orinda City Council.

Tom MacKinnon
Orinda

Editor:

Please join me in voting for Victoria Smith for Orinda City Council. When I was on the original Infrastructure Committee, I learned that Victoria patiently listens to all points of view before forming her own opinion and reaching a decision. She decided to support both bond issues to fix our failing roads and drains. As Mayor, she has worked with the Council and City staff to restructure the budget to provide more money to repair our arterial and collector roads. The recent successful Moraga Way repaving project is proof that we are headed in the right direction in the use of our limited funds. Victoria is also active in improving traffic safety and implementing an emergency disaster preparedness plan. The next four years will be critical for Orinda because the State, suffering under its budget woes, will continue to look toward retaining more local funds in Sacramento.

Victoria Smith will be a vital member of the Orinda City Council during these difficult times by working to maximize these funds and make good, careful use of our City revenues. Vote for Victoria Smith; you'll be glad you did.

Bob Mills
Orinda

Dear Editor,

Please join me in voting for Victoria Smith for re-election to the Orinda City Council. I have known Victoria for over ten years, both personally and professionally as a fellow attorney. In whatever roles and responsibilities Victoria takes on, her approach is hard-working, level-headed, practical, and efficient. She has brought all of these talents and more to her seat on the City Council. One recent example of Victoria's excellent work that benefited all of us is the repaving of Moraga Way. Even though I live on the other side of town, I was dreading that project. With the brilliant planning of Victoria and the others who masterminded the timing and other crucial aspects of the project, I barely had time to become irritated with the dust and traffic delays when the repaving was finished. In addition to Victoria's highest priority of repairing Orinda streets, she has also dedicated her considerable energy toward the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee which was created at her request, and bringing a canine officer into the police force to assist in locating missing children and fragile seniors. These are only a few examples of the meaningful work Victoria has undertaken while on the City Council.

Let's enjoy at least four more years of this type of contribution to our community by re-electing Victoria Smith.

Dana Dumas Sankary
Orinda

Dear Editor,

I have been given the opportunity to endorse Measure E, a \$93 million bond measure. I have some serious concerns. Proponents are encouraging a Yes vote based upon the premise that the bond measure "does not raise tax rates." Tax rates may not go up, but this is a new tax. Seniors exempt from the existing bond will not be exempt from Measure E.

This is the type of spending that has gotten individuals, corporations and our nation into serious trouble. As a fiscally prudent Democrat, I am sure my Depression era Republican parents would want me to speak out. Many voting for this bond won't be alive when it is paid off. Twenty-five million dollars for adult education is a significant portion of the bond. For these reasons I have serious concern about the wisdom of this measure.

The Orinda City Council unanimously voted support for Measure E. There was no discussion about its cost nor adverse effects that its passage will have upon an infrastructure bond measure for our city. The Orinda Unified School District is considering a parcel tax. How many property tax assessments can we afford at a time when Orindans are retired, unemployed, underemployed or cutting back expenditures? Not everybody in Orinda makes over \$100,000. The City Council has again abdicated its responsibility for safeguarding the community's financial well-being. At risk of becoming a pariah in a town where I have always supported the schools, I am disappointed with the Council's fiscal irresponsibility and questionable judgment.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert C. Larsen, M.D., M.P.H.
Orinda

Moraga

Dear Editor,

As a fourteen year Moraga resident, I want to encourage other Moragans to cast their vote for Karen Mendonca for city council. Karen brings twenty-five years experience as a senior administrator in the Cal State University system, and is already actively engaged in our community through service on the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Moraga Beautification and Tree Planting Committee. Her decision to run is based on a strong desire to support a civil and constructive process in our community deliberations with a dedication to ensuring we have a sound budget and budgeting process. She is also committed to working on our town efforts to revitalize our local business offerings. Our town needs someone who has her skills in working with others to address and find solutions for complex problems. Sincerely,

Marti Roach
Moraga

Dear Editor,

I am wring this letter because of the critical times facing Moraga. We need to elect Janice Kolbe to the city council. Bring back to our local government a

Follow The Money

Taking Money from SPECIAL INTERESTS may be legal, but is it right?

Orinda City Council is an unpaid volunteer position. Why do Steve Glazer and Victoria Smith take money from the Special Interests?



Steve Glazer Victoria Smith

Orinda City Council members Steve Glazer and Victoria Smith have taken money from SPECIAL INTERESTS. They have taken money from Lobbyists, Political Action Committees, Big Business, California Real Estate PAC, and Developers to name a few.

Who do they represent? You or the Special Interests?

Vote for Change on November 4th - Vote No For Glazer and Smith

Paid for by Dr Bob - The Attentive

SPECIAL INTEREST