

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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## Letters to the Editor

### Orinda

To the Editor:

As Orinda City Council member the past four years, Victoria Smith has provided leadership and support to Orindans. In 2004, my husband Sarge and I recognized her commitment to the betterment of our community in a caring and fiscally responsible manner. I don't need to repeat her accomplishments -- if you are not already aware of them, you can read about these elsewhere.

What I must stress is that we need the benefit of her ongoing efforts today, and so I most heartily encourage you to join me in voting to return Victoria to the City Council to continue those efforts.

Sue Littlehale

Orinda

Dear Editor,

Victoria Smith gets it! Her vision for Orinda is crystal clear- " safe roads ". She has worked tirelessly to improve the city's roads by being on the Campaign Committee for Measure Q and Co-Chair for Measure E to obtain funds to repave the city's failed roads. The repavement of Moraga Way happened during her watch!

I've known Victoria and her husband, Wick, and her two sons, Will and Daniel, for the last eleven years. I've known her as a leader in the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. She has also been a leader in the Parent's Clubs in Sleepy Hollow, Wagner Ranch, OIS and Miramonte. Whether it's as a parent, Planning Commissioner or City Council member, Victoria understands the needs of our families and our community. We need someone in the City Council who understands the needs of our community and can find a consensus to tough problems. Victoria Smith's tenure as a City Council Member has been about bringing diverse groups together to find workable solutions! We have a long way to go to fix our roads and we need to trust people like Victoria Smith to work with different groups and achieve a solution. You can trust Victoria. Vote for Victoria Smith for City Council of Orinda !

Carlos Baltodano

Orinda

Smith and Glazer are Keepers for Orinda City Council

We have had the opportunity to see both Victoria Smith (Orinda mayor) and Steve Glazer (Orinda City Council member and ex-mayor) in action, and we'd like to encourage our fellow Orinda residents to re-elect them for Orinda City Council.

After seeing the types of issues that they address, from city-wide projects and improvements to neighborhood planning issues, we realize that they have faced two classic problems: balancing interests that are sometimes conflicting and doing so much with so little. Both Victoria Smith and Steve Glazer have volunteered countless amounts of time and expertise, have done an outstanding job of improving our city, and have handled these tough problems with diplomacy, integrity, and ALWAYS the best interests of our special city, Orinda, in mind and at heart.

Please join us in voting to re-elect Victoria Smith and Steve Glazer for Orinda City Council on November 4th!

Sincerely,

Allison and John Banisadr

Orinda

Dear Editor

Orinda residents, please join me in voting to reelect Mayor Victoria Smith to the Orinda City Council.

I had the pleasure of working with Mayor Smith on the bond campaign to fund the repair of roads, drains and water lines in Orinda. I was impressed by her leadership which I was able to observe over many weeks. She demonstrated her concern over the issues raised by opponents to the bond issue and did everything possible to explain the necessity and feasibility of the proposal and to address the concerns of the opponents.

Although the bond issue narrowly failed, with Victoria's leadership Moraga Way has been restored, and a sound program for road improvements has been established with citizen participation and oversight. Road improvements are a major part of her agenda.

Mayor Smith has demonstrated her desire to be more responsive to citizens, to make city council business more transparent and to encourage citizen involvement in city government.

Mayor Victoria Smith deserves our vote to reelect her to the City Council.

Jack D. Wickware

Orinda

Editors:

What kind of ad is the Follow The Money ?

Somebody paid for it? Let's, as they suggest, FOLLOW THE MONEY.

I am an independent, undecided voter at this time, and I read the letters to the editor seeking information about the candidates. This kind of negative smear does not sit well with me. Why are the accusers willing to pay for what appears to be character assassination. In this country the law says we are entitled to know our accuser(s), to comprehend what we are being accused of, and to defend ourselves. Anyone can make any kind of claim, It may be true, or it may be totally without merit.

To publish what looks like an unsubstantiated smear is to slander the accused . If the charges are true, document them .

And the Lamorinda Weekly should allow the accused opportunity to defend themselves.

Penny Kermit

Orinda

Dear Editor,

As you probably already know, Mayor Victoria Smith is up for re-election. As many people have already stated, she has done an amazing job and I would also like to urge you to vote for her in the upcoming election. It would bring great joy to me to see her in office for another term.

Joe Loudon

Orinda

To the Editor:

Steve Glazer is a candidate for the Orinda City Council in this November's election. In Mr. Glazer's Candidate Statement in the Voter Information Pamphlet he lists his occupation as "Orinda City Council member." Councilmembers receive no salary; so how does Mr. Glazer support his family? The answer is that Mr. Glazer is a paid consultant for developers. Why does Mr. Glazer try to hide this from the voters? Also, why does Mr. Glazer not reveal his education as the other two candidates do? On Mr. Glazer's signs he states "Fresh Ideas and Proven Record." One of the "fresh ideas" seems to be the concealment of the fact that Mr. Glazer is a developer's consultant. Part of his "proven record" seems to be the concealment of his developer connections. With such evasion can we trust Mr. Glazer in other matters?

Barbara Vaughn

Orinda

To the Editor:

Novel and fresh ideas are desperately needed on the Orinda City Council. Dr. Robert (Bob) Larsen, now running for the city council, is Orinda's best hope for needed change. For years, Orinda has been governed by a entrenched group of fiscally reckless city council members. Larsen has promised to end the rancid tax-

and-spend atmosphere pervading Orinda.

Larsen would be a dramatic improvement over incumbent city council member Victoria Smith, who is running for re-election.

Grotesque conflicts of interests permeate Smith's campaign. She has received campaign contributions from companies which she is supposed to regulate.

According to Form 460, which can be obtained from Orinda's city government, Smith has received significant campaign contributions from AWIN management and from Waste Management, two companies in the rubbish-collection business. Smith is a member of the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, the entity which sets Orinda's garbage-collection fees. On March 1, the solid waste authority raised Orinda's garbage-pickup fees by 14.7% (Contra Costa Times, Feb. 1). Smith supported the fee increase, an increase several times the annual rate of inflation.

Are Smith's campaign contributions a reward for her support of the higher fees? Instead of supporting the higher garbage fees, Smith should have opened Orinda's garbage-collection system to honest, competitive bidding.

Smith cannot be trusted to govern wisely. Please vote for Larsen, not for Smith.

Larsen has not taken money from special interests.

Richard S. Colman

Orinda

Editor:

We enthusiastically support Dr. Bob Larsen for City Council for many reasons, not the least of which is the fact that we have known him for twelve years. His intelligence and integrity is above reproach. He is able to solve problems quickly and efficiently while working with people of diverse backgrounds. He is an experienced business owner and an accomplished medical doctor, honored with many professional achievements. Last but certainly not least, his ideas for improving our community are long overdue.

Not only does Dr. Larsen support continued public school excellence and stepping up the repaving of our horrific public roads, but he sees a critical opportunity to improve our Orinda community tax base and retail experience. Have you ever asked yourself why there are so many retail vacancies and such high business turnover here? Why do businesses choose other small towns nearby to locate to? Ask any store owner. They will tell you that Orinda is nearly impossible to deal with. We all end up paying a very high price since we have to personally fund more of our improvements or not fund them at all.

Dr. Larsen advocates a healthy business environment not just for tax revenues but to improve the services and environment for citizens. The City Council needs to offer compelling incentives to attract and keep business here.

The downtown area of Orinda can be refurbished to look more inviting and more attractive. Our city looks like the far flung assortment of storefronts that clearly lack a guiding and planning hand. Residents rarely shop here and our kids have nothing to keep them here. It's a travesty.

The expectations of our elected officials must be much higher. With Dr. Bob Larsen our community will have a stronger voice to carry out a progressive agenda.

Rosarie Hartmeyer, Ph.D. and Bailey Hartmeyer

Orinda

Editor:

The Current Orinda City Council allowed The Wilder (formerly Gateway) Development to erect monstrous Power Towers on our beloved hills, destroying the "semi rural" nature of our community, and formerly pristine views from both public property (eg Orinda BART platform) and private property (many homes, including my own). There was no communication to citizens about this possible change to our Orinda landscape.

Clearly the incumbents do not abide by the definition of Transparency.

Thank goodness we have an option this year: Dr. Bob Larsen - The Alternative.

Sincerely,

Susan Winchester

Orinda

Dear Editor,

We support Victoria Smith for re-election to the Orinda City Council, and feel that we are lucky to have a person of her stature willing to expend the energy and time to represent us. She is a positive force on the council, who researches the subjects

before the council and speaks for the well being of the total community. She is intelligent, available to the citizens, and works realistically within our severe budgetary constraints. She has supported the bond measures that sought to improve our roads, drains, and water pipes for fire safety.

Please vote for Victoria Smith for Orinda City Council.

Pat and Bob Dunn

Orinda

Dear Editor:

I support Steve Glazer for City Council because he is open to new ideas and has created many opportunities for citizens to get involved and share their thoughts where it will make a difference. Steve has been a driving force behind the creation of citizen task forces such as the Citizen's Infrastructure Oversight Commission, the Revenue Enhancement Task Force and the Planning Process Review Task Force. These committees are comprised of citizen volunteers who are sharing their expertise and ideas on ways to make Orinda a better City. In the Planning Process Review Task Force, innovative ideas are being surfaced that could streamline home owner improvement project approvals and revitalize our commercial districts. These ideas are being surfaced so the citizens of Orinda can have a real choice in how their City is run. I applaud Steve for working so hard to make Orinda a better place to live and I find it ironic that he is being criticized by some for a "lack of transparency" when he has done so much to foster citizen participation in Orinda government.

Rick Booth

22 Year Resident & Orinda Planning Commissioner

Dear Editor:

We want to add our voice to our many neighbors who are supporting Steve Glazer for re-election to the Orinda City Council.

Steve has been an incredible addition to the council. He is accessible, open minded and a good listener. He is a constructive problem solver, as well as a forceful advocate for open government and transparency. His energy and focus have been on basics of city government: public safety, road repairs, planning matters and fiscal accountability.

We also appreciate that he stepped in and helped make the Safeway remodel happen.

We are disappointed to see Bob Larsen's smear campaign against Mr. Glazer. However, we remain confident that our Orinda neighbors will look at the issues, recognize the hollowness of Mr. Larsen's charges, and join us in supporting our energetic and sensible Councilmember Steve Glazer.

Carol and Steve Whittaker

Orinda

## Moraga

Dear Editor:

Those of us who treasure the small town tranquility of Moraga are deeply disturbed by the nasty political attacks against Karen Mendonca's candidacy for Moraga Town Council. Some of these attacks have turned particularly virulent, as a group of covert activists have played what many see as the "the race card" against Karen's candidacy. Deception, misrepresentation, and offensive innuendo have no place in civil discourse. Here's the situation and what we need to do about it:

1. Unlike other candidates, Karen Mendonca's road side posters have repeatedly been vandalized or stolen from public right of ways and private property where permission has been granted by the owner. This malicious behavior occurs in the dead of night and requires a continuous effort on the part of the Mendonca campaign to replace and repair signs. This is especially problematic because Karen is the only candidate that has not been allowed by the Bruzzones to post signs on their land, so the area in which she can post signs is quite restricted in comparison to her competitors.

2. Unlike other candidates, Karen Mendonca has been the target of false emails about her candidacy, with misrepresentations regarding campaign contributions, expenses and relationships. These misrepresentations are a disservice to our community and an insult to our intelligence. Reports of campaign expenses, as well as the amount and source of campaign contributions, are matters of public record.

3. Finally, and most egregious, is the recent surfacing of what many see as hate mail from a group calling itself "Moragans for Government Integrity". At its website and in emails, it has concocted a subtly racist attack on the local Asian community, because some members of that community support Karen's views and endorse her campaign.

Building a common vision for Moraga and future generations requires a commitment to civility, mutual respect, truth and thoughtful analysis. No matter who you vote for in the coming election, we must realize that we cannot build a future based on integrity and trust if we foul the community with fear and loathing.

Barbara Ochota  
Moraga

Dear Editor,

Though time has taken its toll on the political signs around town, I found it interesting to observe two weeks ago that of all the signage lining Moraga Way upon entering Moraga, the only signs not standing proudly were the three urging Yes on Proposition 8. Their remnants lay in the grass and roadside rocks, torn and pulled from their support rods. A random act of vandalism? If so, why only these signs, and why on both sides of the street?

Whether you favor or oppose a candidate or proposition, denying the opposing group the equal opportunity to advertise its position is a characteristic of a fascist state (i.e., if you don't support my views you have no say!) Not allowing the democratic process to work its way does nothing to gain support for those who want equality under the law. Let the evidence at the end of the election day indicate the true community support of your candidate or position, giving all voices a chance to be heard.

Rick Dinkle  
Moraga

Dear Editor,

On October 13, the Moraga Room at the Soda Center at St. Mary's College, was full of attentive, interested voters, gathered for the Initiative Forum that was sponsored by Moraga Citizens Network. As sponsors, we want to thank the College for making this room available for a very important town event. As coordinator of the Forum, I experienced excellent cooperation and professional support from every college employee and student with whom I worked. This was truly a piece of our dream where the town and the college came together to collaborate. I hope we citizens will continue to be alert to finding other ways for mutual town and college exchanges, support, cooperation.

Thank you, St. Mary's College, for giving Moraga residents a large enough space for everyone to sit down to learn about the land use initiatives.

Ellen Beans  
President, Moraga Citizens Network

Dear Editor,

YES ON K KEEPS MORAGA'S OPEN SPACE.

Moraga voters have a choice this November concerning their prized open spaces. Residents who value the hills and ridgelines surrounding the town, appreciate the semi-rural setting, and don't want to see new sub-divisions clogging up the scenery (not to mention the roadways) should vote yes on Measure K.

Opponents of Measure K, including the "no-no" crowd, want us to believe that everything is fine and the existing "process" is working. But the process is only as good as the underlying laws governing it, and those laws are too weak at present to prevent the big developments coming Moraga's way.

Palos Colorado is an illustration: after over 15 years of public hearings, untold hours of staff time, and two lawsuits against the Town, the end result will be a 123-lot subdivision--that Moragans didn't want in the first place--to begin construction next spring. Is that what the "no-no" faction means by the "process" working?

Now the Town is about to approve a new subdivision along Rheem Boulevard—again after years of public opposition—because there's nothing on the books to stop it. Bollinger Canyon (not covered by any of Moraga's existing open space guidelines) and Indian Valley (currently allowed up to 200 houses) will be next. What the no-no people don't realize is that the status quo is the problem, not the solution.

Measure K will fill in the missing safeguards to protect these areas and their

ridgelines from big development.

The 'no-no' people also say to vote 'no' in response to developers' litigation threats. Thank goodness Moraga voters didn't listen when they said the same thing in 1986 about MOSO, the first open space initiative. If they had, there would be houses all over Mulholland Ridge and Campolindo Ridge today: those projects were stopped only thanks to the voters. Moraga shouldn't forfeit its open space because of developer bullying.

As responsible citizens, we need to step up and adopt laws to protect Moraga for the people and wildlife who live here today, and for Moraga's future generations. Please vote yes on Measure K.

Leslie J. Swartz

Moraga

Dear Editor,

I would like to ask all Moragans to vote for Janice Kolbe. As a member of Moraga CC I have worked closely with Janice for the past 5 years & she is a dynamic leader, team player, & has the ability to prioritize what needs to be done & then gets it done. The financial status of MCC is the best it has ever been & it has a comfortable reserve! Vote for Janice Kolbe she's just what the doctor ordered!

Wesly T Spewak

Moraga

To the Editor:

Opponents of Moraga's Measure K—namely, the "Yes on J" and the "No on J and K" groups—have resorted to incredible distortions and outright lies intended to scare voters into rejecting a very sensible and rational approach to preserving the character of our town. Measure K is simple: It limits the amount of development that will be allowed in three areas of Moraga: Bollinger Canyon, along Rheem Boulevard, and Indian Valley. Instead of roughly 350 houses in those areas, only 50 will be permitted. That's it! I repeat: That's it!

Yet, opponents of this straightforward measure have conjured up the insidious influence of Berkeley radicals to incite a kind of fear and prejudice in our community. Absolutely nothing in the measure pertains to low-income granny flats, high density condos, or mobile homes. The spectre of an endless string of future lawsuits is a sham. Let us hope that informed Moragans won't be misled or swayed by falsehoods and innuendos. Let them proudly cast their votes for Measure K.

Sincerely,

George Ehrenhaft

Moraga

Editor:

I would like to report the fact that my McCain/Palin 2008 poster was taken from my porch today (10/21) between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. I am not happy with the fact that number one it is a total invasion of one's privacy, number two who ever it is took something off of MY porch that belongs to me. What a sad world we live in! Who ever you are, the police have been contacted. They will be on the lookout for anyone "stealing" signs of any kind from anywhere! I noticed while driving on Saint Mary's road yesterday, there was a McCain/Palin sign in one particular spot and was replaced with Obama/Biden.....Come on people.....Everyone is entitled to vote how they want! That's what makes this county so great! So beware! I now have cameras out and I will know who you are....and the police will be "on it"!

Sincerely,

Janet Bellotti-Kelley

Moraga

Dear Editor,

I am appalled by the Bruzzones' nauseating smear campaign against Measure K. We Moragans know where we live and know that this is not Berkeley. We are not stupid and do not like the lies and false information the Bruzzone campaign is putting out about Measure K. The Bruzzones OWN the land that they threaten will be developed with low income housing. THEY and not Measure K will determine what is done with that land. They are behaving like a small child threatening the residents of Moraga with low-income housing if they do not get their way. It's time to grow up, because the people of Moraga can see thru these veiled threats. The majority of the residents of Moraga support open space protection and can

accomplish it once and for all by passing Measure K. Any other alternative would guarantee long and costly lawsuits.

Peter Bennett

Moraga resident 40 years and I know where I live

Editor:

More evidence that Moraga needs Measure K

If Moraga residents are not convinced of the need for the passage of Measure K, then the October 20 Moraga Planning Commission meeting should convince them otherwise. At this meeting, the Planning Commission directed Planning staff to prepare the necessary resolutions for the approval of the Rancho Laguna project with 21 ridgetop homes.

Moraga residents have consistently shown that they support ridgeline protection. This is reflected in the passage of MOSO 1986 and the 2002 General Plan revisions. Throughout the hearings on the Rancho Laguna Project, the majority of speakers have voiced their opposition to the ridgeline homes. But MOSO 1986 protects only certain ridgelines and only part of the Rancho Laguna ridge. Where MOSO 1986 applies to this site no homes are proposed on the ridgeline. Immediately on the other side of this line the ridgeline homes would begin. The contrast could not be starker.

In conversations with Moraga residents many have told me they thought MOSO 1986 covered the entire town. They also thought that adequate protections for ridgelines have been built into the General Plan. The recent Planning Commission action clearly demonstrates this is not the case. Ridgeline protection language in the General Plan has been interpreted by the Commission to be advisory and open to judgment. Ridgelines not protected by MOSO 1986 will only be protected when their preservation is not subject to interpretation. Measure K will do this. It will permanently protect these ridgeline areas.

Please vote yes on Measure K to protect the qualities that make our Town such an attractive place to live.

Sincerely,

Malcolm. Sproul

Moraga

Dear Editor,

One of the main arguments against Measure K is that it is hasty and extreme, and that we should allow the Town's long-successful deliberative process to manage future developments. The argument states that in this way, we can avoid costly lawsuits by unhappy developers. Unfortunately, those who put forth this argument have forgotten recent Moraga history. When the Town's "deliberative process" permitted excessive development at Palos Colorados, we voted in 3 new Town Council members who promised to stop it, and stop it they did. The developer then sued because the Town had reneged on its previous agreements. The Town lost, and re-approved the plan. Unfortunately for Moraga, that agreement impinged on the City of Lafayette's ridge views and Lafayette also sued the Town. So much for avoiding lawsuits!

The deliberative process on its own is subject to the viewpoints of the members of the Planning Commission and Town Council. With Palos Colorados we swung from strongly pro-development government to a backlash-induced, strongly anti-development government. Both were wrong in their approach. Such transient situations should not be the guiding force when working with developments that will be with us forever.

As the saying goes, "good fences make good neighbors." The ONLY way to prevent lawsuits in the long term is to have clear guidelines on what development may occur on our hills. Measure K does this- by CONTROLLING, NOT ELIMINATING, development in designated areas so that we, our children, and future residents will enjoy nearly the same beautiful views that we have now.

If Measure K loses on November 4, nothing changes in current law and we are almost guaranteed future lawsuits, or threats of lawsuits, over every project which we try to stop or significantly alter. If it takes one fight now to avoid many in the future, so be it. As property owners in Moraga, we have the right to protect what drew us here in the first place. Don't give up your future rights because someone wants to threaten our Town's finances with a frivolous lawsuit. Please vote YES on Measure K.

Mike Bernhardt

## Moraga

Editor:

There is a Third Choice – A Better Choice Vote NO on J and K

If you like Moraga the way it is, Vote NO on J and K.

People on both sides of the J and K battle say they like Moraga as it is, a great place to live. I agree.

What is lost in the dispute is that J and K – both sponsored by special interests -- mean irreversible change into uncharted territory. Consequences won't be known for years.

Things we like about Moraga result from a planning process that works, has limited growth, has retained the special character of our community. Why would we want to throw it all out?

Smart people with good intentions on both sides disagree sharply about the impact of J and K. The result of their pre-election disputes will certainly be very expensive post-election lawsuits we don't want and cannot afford.

As you vote, remember that there is a better and a safer choice for Moraga. Vote NO on J and K.

Bob Reynolds

Moraga

Editor:

I believe most Moraga residents want to preserve open space and keep traffic from getting worse, so I hope they aren't fooled by the Bruzzones' onslaught of deceptions about Measure K.

I hope they keep in mind that the Bruzzones own hundreds of acres both in Moraga's open hills and in the downtown. I hope they keep in mind that until Measure K came along, it was the Bruzzones who were pressing the Town Council to allow over 700 units next to the Moraga Shopping Center.

It's truly incredible that now the Bruzzones would turn around and pin their own outlandish downtown development plans on Measure K in an effort to scare and confuse voters.

The fact is that if Moragans don't want more traffic they should adopt Measure K. Major subdivisions are being planned for Rheem Ridge, Bollinger Canyon, and Indian Valley totaling 350 houses and bringing several thousand additional car trips per day. These are beautiful open space areas and rangelands that are not appropriate for over-sized subdivisions in the first place. Follow the money--More homes benefit the developers.

The Town of Moraga's study says Measure K will cut the 350 additional houses down to about 50 and prevent 3,000 car trips per day. Measure K benefits Moraga residents by curbing the desires of developers to do whatever they want.

Please join us in voting YES on K to prevent more traffic and save open space.

Dave and Kandy Petersen

Editor:

The voters of Moraga will be asked to decide between two competing ballot initiatives, the ramifications of which are still poorly understood by all too many voters.

Measure K originated, and was funded by, a group of overwhelmingly non-Moraga residents who wanted to increase "open space" beyond the extensive amount already existing. K will rewrite our current laws and restrict our options. K would exchange single-family housing, in areas that can't be seen, for high-density housing contained within our downtown. It would also impose burdensome new land-use restrictions on many unsuspecting Moraga homeowners, which will limit what they can do with their property.

The current General Plan (GP) and other open space Measure J, would like to preserve the character of the Town. There are 20,000 acres of open space; agricultural and public lands in and around Moraga and there is little difference in the amount of open space offered by either measure. Current laws PROHIBIT homes on major ridgelines and severely restrict development on slopes. Taking the small remaining land we've reserved for single family housing will have permanent and profound consequences for Moraga's character, short and long-term financial situation, ultimate quality of life, and even municipal survival.

Measure K will force all current and future affordable housing into our downtown. Our current mandate of high-density affordable housing is very-low (84), low (64),

and moderate-income (97) units. These unsubsidized 245-units are today's requirement AND Moraga has told the state that they will rezone 20 acres in our center to 24 units per acre, for affordable housing.

Moraga is projected to go into a deficit next year and worse yet we are exceeding \$80 million in deferred infrastructure costs. Exchanging expensive single-family homes for these affordable units, which do not pay impact fees, and are taxed at the subsidized market rate, will strain the town's ability to provide necessary services. Additionally, it has been estimated that the town of Moraga will lose more than \$400,000 in future revenues each year if Measure K passes. The other losses to our schools, police, and fire departments are likely to total in the millions. We can't afford this.

Vote NO on K and YES on J. [www.moragasfuture.com](http://www.moragasfuture.com).

Mark Solomon  
Moraga

Dear Moragans,

Please join me and the Moraga Citizens Network Steering Committee in offering a heartfelt thank you to the Lamorinda Weekly for co-sponsoring our recent and very successful candidates' night and land initiative forum. Together we have worked to promote an informed Moraga citizenry. Approximately three hundred Moragans attended each event. In addition to providing advertising of the events, the Weekly videotaped in segments each event in its entirety so that people who were not able to attend can view the meetings by accessing [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) or [moragacitizensnetwork.org](http://moragacitizensnetwork.org).

Again, thank you Andy and Wendy Scheck, and the Lamorinda Weekly for your generosity and dedication to our community.

Yours gratefully,  
Janet Forman

## Lafayette

To the Editor:

I have had the privilege to serve alongside three Lafayette Councilmembers running for reelection in 2008 –Mike Anderson, Carl Anduri, and Carol Federighi. I do not always agree with each of them on every issue, but I always know these things:

- They each bring years of professional experience and volunteer service to the City.
- They each express their positions and arguments articulately and, when necessary, passionately.
- They each consider the views of others. They listen carefully to our citizens, our staff, and each other.
- They each seek positive consensus or compromise that will enable Lafayette to move forward.
- None of them allow ideological intransigence to stand in the way of decisions that serve the interests of Lafayette.
- They each put in the hard word it sometimes takes to work out an effective solution to a difficult issue.

The result is a record of efficient management of City resources and accomplishment of City goals: conservative fiscal management, protection of hillsides and ridgelines, careful development of the downtown, and continuing efforts to repair and maintain our roads. Lafayette has been well served by these talented and experienced public servants, and I encourage you to return them to office.

Sincerely,  
Brandt Andersson

Dear Editor,

The Lafayette City Council uses taxpayer funds to publish Lafayette Vistas, a newsletter used to influence public opinion. This month's Vistas is aimed at influencing the results of the upcoming election. It is a one-sided propaganda piece that uses facts selectively and specifically rebuts many of the criticisms that Gabriel Froymovich, their only challenger, has raised.

Public funds should not be spent for political propaganda, but the article printed on the back page upset me even more. The article, entitled "Ten Ways to Destroy Your Town," is a condescending screed chastising Lafayette's residents for being too troublesome. The number one way to destroy Lafayette, according to the article? "Complain about local government officials."

I cannot believe someone felt that a good use for our tax dollars would be to print an article telling us to pipe down. This is wildly offensive, un-democratic and a poor way to spend our money when there are roads that need to be fixed.

I urge any of Lafayette's residents who would rather not pay to be told to quiet down to vote for only one candidate for Lafayette City Council: the only challenger, Gabriel Froymovich.

Sincerely,  
Gordon Mattonen  
Lafayette

Dear Editor,

My late husband and I moved to Lafayette sixty years ago and he practiced medicine here for over 35 years. There were no stop lights, plenty of pear and walnut orchards, wonderful neighbors that have remained life long friends and excellent local schools attended by all of our five children.

I have never written a letter to the editor in support of a local candidate, but am doing so today in support of Carl Anduri's re-election to the Lafayette City Council. Carl is well educated with the right kind of experience that allows him to properly oversee City finances with fiscal integrity. He also supports maintaining Lafayette's semi-rural atmosphere as do I. There have been letters to the editor calling on Lafayette residents to vote for only one candidate for the Lafayette City Council. That seems to be rather 'undemocratic'. I am voting for Carl along with the other two incumbents so Lafayette will continue to be 'inclusive' rather than 'exclusive'.

Sincerely,  
Shirley P. Callister

Dear Editor

This month's Lafayette Vistas, the informational, monthly mailing from our city government saddened me. Most of it seemed to be aimed at making pro-council arguments during election season, which strikes me as an unethical use of taxpayer money. But what do I know? According to an article in this month's Vistas, complaining about local government officials is the number one way to destroy our town.

Well, if I can't complain I guess I'll vote. I have decided this year to vote for Gabriel Froymovich because I believe, given the chance, he will make a difference in our spending policies.

David Weidberg  
Lafayette

Dear Editor:

I have worked with Carl Anduri for three years on the Lafayette Roads Task Force, a group of volunteers endeavoring to raise funds to repair our failing neighborhood roads and drains. This group, which is co-chaired by Carl, was set up to study all the possible alternative ways to fund our road and drain repair shortfall. In addition to initiating the last Road Campaign ballot measure, which received 65% voter approval, this group under Carl's tutelage has worked with other City Council members and staff to allocate every available dollar of the City's General Fund toward road and drain repair. Over \$15 million dollars has been allocated by the City Council since 2004 to resolve this once \$30 million problem. I am confident with Carl's leadership the City will continue to allocate every possible General Fund dollar to repair our remaining failing roads and drains. Please join me in re-electing Carl Anduri to the Lafayette City Council.

Guy Atwood  
Lafayette

Dear Editor:

The City of Lafayette is constrained in its revenues due to its having, in 1968, incorporated as a "no tax" city. In spite of this limitation the City has attained an AA Bond rating for its General Fund revenues and an A Bond rating for its Redevelopment Agency Fund (RDA) revenues. The A Bond rating on RDA Funds

makes Lafayette the smallest city in California with such a high rating. Bravo!! Such success is primarily due to strong fiscal management of its finances and operations by its staff and careful oversight by its City Council members. Carl Anduri, Carol Federighi, and our mayor, Mike Anderson, have shown strong leadership in managing the City's finances and supporting the many grant programs that have upgraded the city's infrastructure and improved safety for all of our residents. For example, the City Council has allocated over \$15 million to repair the city's failing roads and drains during the past four years. I am confident that under their proven leadership the City will continue its history of strong fiscal management.

Please join me in re-electing Carl Anduri, Carol Federighi and Mike Anderson, who is also our current mayor, to the Lafayette City Council on November 4th.

Lynn Hiden  
Lafayette

Editor:

I am a Lafayette resident, and write to urge fellow residents to support the three incumbent City Council members who are running for re-election - Mr. Anduri, Ms. Federighi and Mr. Anderson.

There is one challenger - Mr. Froymovich. In the voting booth, I urge you to silently thank him for his involvement and good intentions, then vote for the incumbents.

I am a practicing land use attorney with nearly ten years of experience. Land use, and related impacts to a city's finances, is the predominant and most complicated issue that cities like Lafayette must confront. California has some of the most, if not the most, complex land use laws in the country. The existing Council members have extensive experience grappling with these laws.

Mr. Froymovich has demonstrated in his campaign literature a tenuous - and incorrect at that - grasp of these laws. More troubling, he exhibits a highly ideological predisposition that would prevent him from objectively learning and applying these laws. I submit that we have had enough of ideology trumping considered judgment in this country in recent years. Please keep it out of Lafayette.

James Andrew  
Lafayette

Fireboard, Measure E, Measure WW

Dear Editor,

Schools, like all government entities, are masters at marketing their insatiable desire for more money. Money for them is 'fungible', in that ANY money raised simply frees up other money for other purposes. They do not have to be honest about why they want to raise the money. As a result, they simply market to you what you want most, even if the increased supply of money simply enables them to increase payrolls. What could be easier for them than to market to your love of your children. Too bad you can't judge the competent use of all the funds. Top heavy administrative staffs are typical.

Look at your property tax bill. Look at both sides of it (i.e. Special Taxes, and Ad Valorem taxes). Acalanes district schools have been generously funded.

Government entities receive better hedges against rising costs than you do with your wage increases. Parental love leads you to leap well over protection given you by Proposition 13. Great education is not a function of more spending. Measure E is nothing more than a transfer of your discretionary wealth to the School's discretionary wealth; which then becomes your BONDED ENDEBTEDNESS for 10 years.

Sincerely,  
Gordon Mattonen  
Lafayette

Dear Editor,

For one raised in a 2-generation park ranger family, by a former school teacher mother, it's always been relatively easy to support tax measures for schools and parks. No longer though - Acalanes School District measure "E" - and, East Bay Park District Measure "WW", both reflect imprudent application of scarce taxpayer levies.

"E" is both deceitful and reflective of ill-apportioned earlier Measure "B" tax revenues (over half of proceeds to athletic facilities - with, mostly single digit percentages going for vital infrastructure needs).

"E" also claims "no increased tax"- yet, it will now tax "seniors" "opted out" from the \$43 mil. earlier bond. And, the proposed \$93 mil tax will be extended beyond existing bonds maturation, thus for kids and grandkids to pay (hugely increased tax and bond interest totals).

"WW" plays an equally unwarranted game on region taxpayers!

It aims to buy even more land - this, when unable to maintain that already owned.

Further, existing over-generous public employee wages, salaries and benefits, consume revenues which otherwise could go to maintenance - especially, if major portions of upkeep and maintenance were put up for outsourced contact bids.

Vote NO on "E" and "W"

Donald Lively

Lafayette

Dear Editor:

This letter is directed to my friends and neighbors in the Moraga Orinda Fire District Zone 2 who will have the opportunity on November 4 to reelect Fred Weil to the MOFD Board of Directors.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Fred. He is a man dedicated to the Fire District and wants only the very best for its residents. This has been clearly shown by his continued support for service improvements, such as the upgrading of a second ambulance to full-time staffing, a strong Public Education program and continuing education for all personnel. His past experience as a Board member of our two local school districts is an invaluable asset to our Fire District. He has a keen eye for financial matters and understands the issues facing the District. He is a consensus builder and tries to seek solutions to difficult problems, but is not afraid to make the tough decisions.

The only choice for Fire District Board Director of Zone 2 is Fred Weil.

Gordon Nathan

Past Director of the

## **Moraga/Orinda Fire District**

To the Editor:

When our daughters attended Campolindo High School, California's public schools stood as benchmarks for excellence. Sadly, California's leadership among school systems has declined due to the failure to adequately invest in public education.

Our local schools, however, have retained their place among the best public schools in the nation for one reason - local support.

Now, as we watch our grandchildren head off to our local high schools, we see, firsthand, the need to continue local investment in our quality schools.

Campolindo, which was built 47 years ago, is in desperate need of repair and upgrades. Similarly, each of the schools in the Acalanes district is in need of infrastructure upgrades to support the technology our students are expected to use today. Measure E will provide the funds to make sure that our local high schools continue to provide access to the same excellent education that once made California's schools the envy of the nation.

Please join us in voting Yes on Measure E. It's a vote for our future, our children's future, and the future of our children's children.

Bill and Connie Mueser

Moraga

To the Editor:

When it came to chose a place to raise our family, the Lamorinda area rose to the top of the list for one simple reason: the quality of the schools. Good public schools and good communities are nearly inseparable and Measure E is an investment in both.

Measure E dollars will stay right here in Lamorinda to update our local high schools and upgrade the infrastructure to support the computers and technology that is essential for today's students. Additionally, Measure E will establish a \$6 million technology replacement fund to ensure that our students gain the skills expected in today's businesses.

Some may argue that this is not the time to ask voters to approve a school

facilities bond. I'd argue that just the opposite is true. With historically low interest rates and declining construction costs, this is the best time to approve an investment in our schools.

Please join me in voting Yes on Measure E. It's one vote guaranteed to bring a return on our investment.

Stacy Ashby  
Moraga

To the Editor:

I urge Lamorinda voters to join me in voting Yes on Measure E for the four high schools in the Acalanes High School District. Each of the Acalanes District schools is approximately 50 years and each is in need of repairs, electrical upgrades, and numerous infrastructure improvements.

Measure E asks Lamorinda voters to protect their investment in the schools by approving a bond measure that will raise the funds to renovate our high schools and establish a ten-year technology replacement fund to ensure that computers and classroom equipment are up-to-date and accessible to students. And, Measure E does this without taking scarce funding from classroom programs and without raising homeowners' current tax rates.

I'm sure I speak for many of the Lamorinda families who, like me, attended the Acalanes schools and have returned to this community to raise our own children and send them to the same excellent schools. Our schools are community assets that serve us well and are worthy of our investment.

Mary McCosker  
Lafayette

Editor:

Fred Weil has had a profound, positive impact on Moraga during the 35 years he and his family have lived here. He has 26 years total service on three local governing Boards: our Moraga-Orinda Fire District (where he is currently Board President); the Acalanes High School Board (4 times President) and the Moraga Elementary School board (President twice). Undoubtedly, he has the Board service, leadership experience and the managerial, financial and legal skills that are the essential prerequisites one should look for when voting for a Fire Board candidate. Fred has also "given back" to our community in a multitude of additional ways, from serving as President of the Campolindo Homeowners Association, to chairing the LMYA Girls Softball League, through serving as Director of the Soda Aquatic Center ... the list goes on and on.

Our Moraga-Orinda Fire District is currently facing some difficult financial challenges. Fred has successfully faced similar budgetary challenges during his prior service on our two local school boards. He's been there before and has come through for us taxpayers.

When you consider whom to vote for, please select Fred because of his outstanding record of prior Board service, his superior knowledge of our Fire District's finances and operations, his laudable past service to our community, and his commitment to serving only the interests of our Fire District's residents, voters and taxpayers.

Stan Holcenberg  
Moraga

Editor:

Voters in Orinda and Moraga have a clear choice in the upcoming election for two Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board seats. Current Fire Board members, Dr. Gene Gottfried and Fred Weil, have outstanding records of public service, not just on the Fire Board, but across a wide spectrum of activities in their respective communities. The Orinda Association recently selected Dr. Gottfried as "Orinda's Volunteer of the Year" for his broad public service. Mr. Weil has 26 years of local Board Service. In addition to our Fire Board (where he is currently President), Weil has also served on the Boards of the Acalanes High School District and the Moraga Elementary School District. Both gentlemen have the Board experience, the knowledge and the financial skills that we need now during these difficult economic times that will certainly bring new financial challenges to our fire district.

They are being opposed by two former members of the Firefighters Union's Local 1230, which Local represents the Fire District's employees. Thanks to a recent investigative story in a local newspaper, we now know that the Firefighters Union has bestowed large sums of money on both Union candidates. The Local has paid

for their signs and slate mailers and has also given \$1,000 cash to each. The same news story also reported that Mr. Weil's opponent had totally failed to report those Union donations in his campaign finance statement filing. The Union's two candidates loudly proclaim that their firefighting experience somehow qualifies them to be Board members. Not so! Where firefighting experience really matters is in the Fire Chief's and Battalion Chiefs' positions. Fire Chief Pete Nowicki and each of his Battalion Chiefs have all attained higher educational levels, have more professional certifications and collectively they have far more firefighting experience than either of the Union's candidates. The Union's candidates would therefore add absolutely nothing to our Fire District's firefighting knowledge base and skill set.

The choice is absolutely clear. Vote for Gottfried and Weil. Only then can you be totally confident that your Fire Board's members will represent only the interests of Moraga's and Orinda's citizens.

Richard J. ("Dick") Olsen, Former Moraga Fire Commissioner  
Moraga

Reach the reporter at: [info@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com)

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