

Letters to the Editor



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Dear Editor:

I would like to thank the voters of Orinda for their support of my re-election to the Orinda City Council. There are many residents who worked on my behalf and I am grateful to them as well for their confidence in me.

The election results are a strong affirmation of the path that the City Council is now on to promote open and inclusive city government, prioritizing infrastructure improvements and public safety while keeping a tight stewardship over our city budget. It is humbling to serve in this capacity. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve our wonderful Orinda community.

Steve Glazer
Orinda

Dear Editor,

I want to thank everyone who helped re-elect me to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board. In particular, I thank those who hosted my signs, who made calls or sent emails of support to their friends and neighbors, and who voted for me. I appreciate your support and confidence, and pledge to continue to give my best efforts on behalf of all of the residents of the District. I give special thanks to Stan Holcenberg, Dick Olsen, Sam Sperry, Larry Hood, my son-in-law, David Brown, and, of course, my wife, Joan, for her ideas, hard work and patience.

Fred Weil

Editor:

On Moraga Land Development, Everyone Wins. Thanks to all who endorsed continuing Moraga's open and fair planning processes by voting no on J and K. Common sense prevailed.

For those unhappy with the results, win by participating in the planning processes. For example, Rancho Laguna still needs town approval, significant issues remain, and public hearings will continue. There's absolutely no development approved for the Bollinger Canyon Study Area. The only activity underway is focused on setting potential maximum housing densities for inclusion in the Moraga General Plan (like all undeveloped land). Ultimately the Moraga Town Council will set the potential maximum densities, and there will be public hearings.

Moraga's planning processes are open and fair. Win by participating. Yes, compromise will be necessary, but that's a fact of life for everyone.

Bob Reynolds
Steve Woehleke

Dear Editor,

The United States has made great strides in disaster preparedness since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Happily, pets and service animals are being included in the planning process at both state and local levels. Unfortunately, as Hurricane Ike illustrated, not all pet owners are as prepared as they should. In

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Texas, about half of the pet owners left their pets behind. In many cases there was no happy reunion waiting for them when they returned, sometimes weeks later. Pet owners must take their pets with them when they evacuate. If they don't, the animal may not survive. There are more than 30,000 pets in Lamorinda. Because many pet owners work outside our area there is no telling how many pets and other animals will involuntarily be left behind when a disaster strikes. Who will rescue your pet when you are not around? Who will help you evacuate with your pet? Lamorinda is blessed with having a very active Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The (free) CERT program has trained more than 400 of our residents to survive disasters and to help their neighbors do the same. Pet owners in Lamorinda are doubly blessed now that Lamorinda CERT has started an animal rescue and sheltering group that can assist pet owners. I hope that pet owners in Lamorinda will support the Lamorinda DART (Disaster Animal Response Team) and join us. Please visit our web site at <http://LamorindaDART.org> or contact me at DART@LamorindaCERT.org.

Frans Hoffman,
Instructor, Lamorinda CERT, Moraga

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Incumbents Win in Orinda

... continued from page 4

When asked how he felt about the election results, Glazer stated, "The results are a strong confirmation for the path that we are now on to maintain open and inclusive city government, clear focus on infrastructure improvements and public safety and tight stewardship of our budget." When asked about the campaign specifically, Glazer commented, "I was sorry to see the false statements made. I could only hope the voters would get the facts and make their best judgment. I want to focus on the positives from the election."

Smith kept her victory celebration low key and watched the results with a few close friends. "I am very pleased that the voters

have shown confidence in me by re-electing me to the Council," said Smith. "I think that the election results show that voters feel that the city is headed in the right direction, and are more interested in positive results than in negative distractions," she added.

Both of the newly re-elected incumbents moved quickly to the tasks at hand for Orinda. "I think it will be very important to spend the time to thoroughly look again at the City's budget, which we will do next in the mid-year budget review, and at additional funding sources," stated Smith. She noted that the Revenue Enhancement Task Force will soon be holding a public workshop (11/12/08 7 pm.

in the Del Rey Gym) and will then bring ideas to the Council on how to generate extra revenue.

Glazer also focused on the need to examine new revenue and budget options that are being explored by a number of the Orinda citizen commissions. "Their findings will be presented at various public hearings in the next few months. I hope the community will stay informed and actively participate in finding a consensus solution to this important problem."

And with their brief celebrations over, the Council Members were back to work as usual at the City Council meeting the next evening.

Lamorinda's Religious Services

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Orinda, 254-3422

8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
9:40 a.m. Education for all ages
10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship Service
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1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
283-3722 • www.oslc.net
Sunday mornings at OSLC:
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Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am

Lamorinda Interfaith Service and Pie Social!
11/26 7:30

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
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Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM
Active Youth Program, Childcare
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

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A one inch listing will cost \$20.

"No on Both" Triumphs

... continued from page 3

"We are very pleased for Moraga that J and K both failed," said Bob Reynolds, one of the initiators of the 'No on Both' movement. "However, in retrospect, we are distressed at the enormous amount of money and valuable time that was spent by the initiative proponents, the Town, and by our effort to get us back to where we were before this divisive episode started," adds a saddened Reynolds, "I blanche when I think about all of the constructive ways we could have expended these funds and incredible energies for the betterment of Moraga."

"We are thankful to the dozens of volunteers who worked tirelessly for over a year, first to get

Measure K on the ballot and then to campaign for it over the past several months," said Sos, "in the end, we just couldn't offset the huge spending by the opposition: when the final campaign finance reports are in, we fully expect to find out that we were outspent by over 10 to 1."

"Moraga's election results reinforce two important points," commented Mary Jo Rossi, spokesperson for the "Yes on J" campaign, "Moraga residents are moderate and mainstream - not extreme in their viewpoints; and that Moraga citizens expect their town leaders to put aside polarizing agendas to work toward a balance between open space and future growth."

Moraga's New Council

... continued from page 3

The campaign to defeat her was aggressive, but Mendonca says, "What makes me the happiest is to put everything behind and represent the people who chose civility in the Town of Moraga."

Mike Metcalf, running a very close second, is also glad that the campaign is over. "The new elected citizens are very good people and will be terrific additions to the Council," believes Metcalf, "they are up to it and there will be less tolerance for nonsense on the Council."

The present Council seemed to have difficulty reaching a state of cooperation and compromise-building. The new Council Members believe that situation will change. "I'm hoping that this group will get together, establish rapport, agree upon behavioral norms and begin the longer process of building trust," says Mendonca, who would recommend and support some type of re-

treat or team building opportunity for the newly formed Council.

"What some people regard as 'team building' is not always what it is cracked up to be," says Metcalf, "Real team building happens when a group actually works on solving real problems. That's when personalities become clear, and where working relationships begin."

"Trust is something that must be built over time," agrees Mendonca, "in an environment where people are supportive of one another and still communicate their own ideas and thoughts with respect. We owe the people of Moraga a Town Council of which they can be proud."

With the certification happening no later than December 2nd, the new Council should be sworn in at the following Council meeting, on December 10th.

Eden Comes to Lafayette



"City staff is very supportive of the changes made," said Glenda Warmoth, Assistant Planner of the richer, darker color scheme, the two variations of the front facade, widening the sidewalk, and moving the driveway slightly to align with the easement to the Post Office Annex.

"The Task Force has been looking for a site for at least two years, looking at over twenty sites and examining proximity to amenities. This met our basic criteria," said Council Member Carol Federighi of the Senior Housing Task Force. They recently voted unanimously to rec-

ommend the sloped roof versus the flat roof option for the front elevation, noting that it made the building seem more residential than urban.

"Eden has done a marvelous job on something that's badly needed in Lafayette, said Ruth McCahan of the Senior

Services Commission. "I encourage you to approve this plan."

Mary Miller, also of the Senior Housing Task Force commented that the architects, "did a fine job of turning a sows ear into a silk purse," referring to the design and very constrained lot.

Send Letters and Opinions to letters@lamorindaweekly.com