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Accepted Offers

Jan-Mar	2010	2011	Diff
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Lafayette	55	57	+4%
Moraga	40	50	+25%
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Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis.

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

My only problem with the GIANT, STARK WHITE lettering on our new friendly DOLLAR STORE is that they don't flash 24/7. I do hate to complain, but...

Jari Hazard
Moraga

Editor:

All taxpayers are not treated equal. Take Ivy Dr. residents as an example. They pay property taxes like we all do, but they get preferential treatment. Even though, they live in the Ivy Dr. loop going to Miramonte High School and also, what the city of Orinda considers a collector street and feeder to two schools, they decide who goes through "their" street and who does not. They decided, sometime ago that they do not want Miramonte High school traffic going through their street in the mornings.

So, they went to the City Council and the City granted them a No Left Turn restriction on "their street." They did not want students parking in "their" street and the City granted them restrictive parking on Ivy Drive. They got privileges they did not deserve at the expense of the City taxpayers, that not only pay property taxes, but pay school parcel taxes and end up restricted from using a public street and get tickets if they dare to do so. Is that fair?

No left turn restriction went up on Southwaite Ct, to insure that Ivy Drive was fully blocked from traffic going back to "their" street. Is worth mentioning that left turns are still legal on Leslee Lane.

Maria Campos
Orinda

cancer. However, these studies examine health effects only in the short-term. The early introduction and ubiquity of cell phones in Scandinavia translates into a 240% increased risk of glioma for individuals using their cell phone in excess of ten years.

Comparatively, Israel, Germany, Finland, Russia, Switzerland, France, and Canada have all expressed serious concerns. Switzerland already requires SAR warning labels on cell phones, and France already has cell phone marketing restrictions to children. Additionally, the U.S. President's Commission on Cancer reports that extended cell phone usage causes brain tumors. It is inexcusable to allow technological advances invented to enrich our lives rob us of our lives instead. Reducing direct radiation exposure to the brain can be achieved by promoting simple precautionary measures like wearing a headset, using the speakerphone, or texting. Enacting simple precautions to reduce exposure will save us from a potential global epidemic of brain tumors.

Consumers must continue to demand the successful Right to Know ordinance be implemented in San Francisco. Consumers must demand cell phones require warning labels similar to cigarettes. Consumers must demand their city follow in the footsteps of San Francisco. Even if we agree to disagree on the validity of current studies, we should make the compromise that information and simple precautions help protect public health.

Sincerely,
Zack Marks
Lafayette

Lafayette Measure B

Editor:

As a thirty year resident of Lafayette and a full time Real Estate Broker for 27+ years in Lamorinda, I urge you to vote for Measure B which will provide temporary emergency funding for our top rated Lafayette Schools. The passage of Measure B will positively impact our property values. Threatened by the ongoing state budget crisis, our elementary and middle schools need this support now. It goes directly to classroom instruction and will help keep our schools among the top in the State.

I believe one of the most important factors in families with school aged children coming to Lafayette is the excellence of our public schools. Some come from out of state, but many come from other Bay Area communities. Our top rated Lafayette school district is of monumental importance in their decision to relocate here. As long as our public schools are among the best in the State, the demand for homes in this area will continue, and this will continue to directly impact our property values.

Whether you have school aged children in the Lafayette or not, I urge you to support this important Measure B. Sincerely,
Patricia Battersby
Lafayette

... continued on page A8

Editor:

Democracy requires participation amongst the governed, but the people must be provided the information necessary to render informed decisions. All people maintain a fundamental right to safety and health information about technologies that will directly impact one's health. San Francisco's trend-setting disclosure of radiation specific absorption rates (SAR) signifies a pivotal shift in the raging debate over the hidden long-term health risks of cell phones. Lt. Gov. Newsom describes his legislation as "a modest and commonsense measure to provide greater transparency and information." The FCC, a federal agency handling communication matters, for over a decade, stipulated the exact methods used approximating cell phone's SAR. Shockingly, the FCC established SAR limits without any pre-market safety testing and guidelines are outdated by over 15 years. Currently, the FCC is arguing (without offering any reasoning) that SAR is meaningless and proposing to eliminate all wired landlines. The FCC withdrawal of information from their website paralleled arguments from the Cellular Telecommunications Industry (CTIA) opposing San Francisco Right to Know ordinance about disclosing cell phone radiation levels.

In order to separate truth from fiction, we need more independent research instead of self-serving studies funded by the cell phone industry. UC Berkeley Professor Joel Moskowitz argues that independent studies demonstrate "consistent evidence that heavy cell phone use for a decade or longer increases brain tumor risk at least 30%." Mr. Snowden of the CTIA wants to be "very clear. The CTIA has not said once... that cell phones are safe." The CTIA argues that most studies do not demonstrate a direct link between cell phone usage and



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