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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:

In 1995, Lafayette residents passed a bond measure to fix a number of the City's more heavily traveled roads. The proceeds from this \$13 million bond measure, which generated \$2 million in matching funds, has now been spent. This bond measure was highly successful in fixing a number of our roads, but the City does not have enough funds to fix all the remaining failed roads, which total 25% of the City's public roads. Now, we need to finish the job started in 1995. The City Council has stated they will place a ten-year flat annual parcel tax of \$89 per equivalent residential unit on the November ballot, if the residents of the City can obtain signatures from 10% of the registered voters. A group of residents has undertaken this task to obtain 1,600 signatures by early July. This parcel tax would raise about \$10 million over ten years, and be spent on a pay-as-you-go basis to fix the failed roads.

If the measure passes, the Council will contribute \$3 million up front from their reserve funds to fix the failed roads. They will contribute another \$1.7 million annually for repair and maintenance, of which \$600,000 is subject to annual review by the Council and availability of funds. This past year the Council reduced their annual budget expenses by over \$500,000 to allow them to maintain a balanced budget and contribute to fixing and maintaining the City's roads in good condition on an ongoing basis. In order to finish the job, we need your help to obtain these signatures in the next few weeks. A website at www.fixourroads.net has been set up to inform residents about the parcel tax, to provide the necessary petition forms and instructions, and whom to contact. Our neighbors need our help. Let's finish the job we started in 1995. Please go to the website, download the petition and begin getting your friends and neighbors to sign, whether you live on a failed road, or not. Instructions for submitting the signed petition are available on the website.

Thank you,
Guy Atwood
Lafayette

Correction, issue date 6/22: We inadvertently published letter writer Robert Blits' place of residence as Moraga; we are informed Mr. Blits is a resident of Lafayette.

Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda, or one of its communities, that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to letters@lamorindaweekly.com and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum. We will not accept Public Forum submissions regarding a current ballot measure or candidate for public office. Opinions expressed in Public Forum are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

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