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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](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:  
The Lafayette Redevelopment Agency is in serious financial trouble. They are not making payments on six different loans. Interest is accruing on these loans, \$1,633,889 has accrued this year. Every year in the future, interest will accrue on the interest. The Redevelopment Agency "borrowed" from the general fund, the parking fund and The Library Foundation. The General fund money could have been used for roads if it wasn't depleted for Redevelopment's extravagances..

Now the City Council, who created this financial disaster, has another road tax on the ballot. It's sneaky and tricky. It lowers the amount from the general fund that goes into road repair for three years. After three years the general fund stops contributing to road repair altogether.

Lafayette's roads are in fabulous condition compared to the financial condition of The Redevelopment Agency. In all appearances the City Council wants the taxpayers to bail them out.

To make an intelligent decision on Measure G, ask the friendly City Clerk for the full text of Measure G (it is only available by request, it does not come with your ballot) and the arguments for and against the Measure. Compare the legally binding language of the full text with words in the arguments. Don't be fooled by propaganda. Please write a letter to the editor of this nice newspaper, after you have read all of the information.

Bruce R. Peterson  
Lafayette

**Celebrate Orinda Night Out on 9/15**

Submitted by Rebecca Kunzman

It is time to start planning your potluck, ice cream social, happy hour, block party or barbeque. On Thursday, September 15th, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., Orinda is celebrating the 4th Orinda Night Out. Last year 34 neighborhoods sponsored 15 events. Don't miss this opportunity to get together with your neighborhood group and have fun building your community.

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month and a good time to get together and get to know your neighbors. This annual event will help you prevent crime and make your neighborhood safer in an emergency. Orindans are encouraged to collectively support each other, neighbor to neighbor, in planning and preparing for a disaster. Learn how to prepare an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and become informed about emergencies and their appropriate response. Concrete, simple steps do make a difference.

By getting involved with local community efforts, anyone can ensure that everyone be-

comes better prepared. Contact your neighbors— plan an event for your neighborhood. Keep it simple and fun, whatever works for you. Need help? Don't have a Neighborhood Watch/Emergency Preparedness group? Want to have a representative from the Orinda Police Department, Orinda City Council, Moraga Orinda Fire District, or the Orinda Citizen Corps Council visit your neighborhood event? Please call or email Rebecca Kunzman: (925) 254-1849 or [rkunzman@comcast.net](mailto:rkunzman@comcast.net).

**Zoning Concerns Complicate Potential Development**

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On March 21, 2011 it submitted a development application for a 315 unit multi-family development. The City accepted the application and associated fees, requested additional documentation, which was provided, and on July 5 sent a letter noting the application has been "deemed complete."

"Our law offices in thirty years of practice have never encountered a more punitive and illogical action taken by a City against a family and a proposed application," said Moore. He calls the City's actions "utterly inconsistent," specifically accepting the application and just weeks later initiating down-zoning which would preempt processing the Dettmer application.

According to Senior Planner Christine Sinnette, it's possible to change the rules after accepting a development application and deeming it complete.

"The ordinances, regulations and laws in effect at the time a decision is made on a development application are applicable," said Sinnette. "The exception is for a subdivision. The ordinances, regulations and laws in effect at the time a subdivision application is deemed complete are applicable unless notice has been published that the City is proposing changes, then the regulations at the time a decision is made are applicable."

The matter is a long way from finalized. The task for Planning Commissioners at a recent meeting was deciding whether to recommend to the City Council changes to the General Plan Map reclassifying five properties on Deer Hill Road, along with associated re-zoning.

"I'm very troubled by this," said Commissioner Karen Maggio. "I recall specifically that we asked for a study. I can't support the re-zoning as it is now." Maggio and Patricia Curtain-Tinley were in the minority. Although only five of the seven Planning Commissioners were in attendance, on a three in favor, two against vote, the matter will move forward to the City Council.

Moore describes the project as less than half of the maximum density allowed and conforming to all the zoning standards of the site. He says it's an issue of "fundamental fairness," the family has owned the parcel for over fifty years, and after waiting for the past ten years for the City to do something, the family submitted a project application.

Call it a chicken and egg situation; is the property owner pursuing development because the zoning may change? Or is the City attempting a zoning change because of possibility of development? Only time will tell.

**Making Magic at the Library**

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Only ticket holders will find out if a Librarian can pull a rabbit out of a hat. Since the doors opened, the Library has been embraced by the community and used by young and old alike to enjoy educational programs via the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium partners and a great place for kids to hang out after school and, hopefully, get their homework done.

"While not everyone can afford to attend, we want to assure the community that the dollars raised are critical to our role in extending open hours, delivering an extraordinary menu of programs, and funding building operations. A fabulous party and support of the LLC wrapped in to a single magical evening!" said Merchant. Tickets, \$175 each, can be purchased at the LLC Foundation Office on the Mezzanine Level of the library – adjacent to upper level of parking, or by calling 283-6513. For more information, visit their website at [www.lllcf.org](http://www.lllcf.org).

**Lafayette Library and Learning Center Announces New Hours**

The Contra Costa County Library and the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation (LLLCF) recently announced that the hours of the Library are being changed to meet the extraordinary demand by the community.

Effective September 12, 2011, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center will change its service hours and will be open from 10am to 8pm Monday through Thursday and from 10am through 5pm Friday and Saturday. Sunday hours will remain the same, from 1pm to 5pm. The new schedule means that the Library will open at the same time Monday to Saturday, which will be a major convenience for the community. In addition, the Friday and Saturday opening time reflects the strong community demand from working parents and families with small children who have expressed a desire to see the Library open in the mornings on Friday and Saturday.