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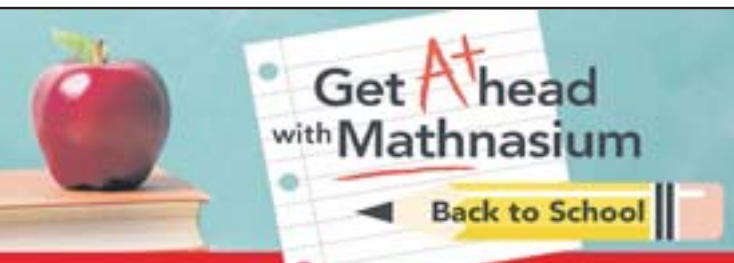


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# Letters to the Editor



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:

I commend Ryan Andresen for not hiding the fact that he was gay when applying for the rank of Eagle Scout. Although the Boy Scouts' twisted anti-gay policy is largely ignored and looked down upon by most involved, I look forward to the day when job applicants, athletes, and those deserving other honors will not feel they need to hide their sexual orientation before applying for what they deserve.

David Finger  
Orinda

Editor:

Sunday we had the second traffic death in recent memory on Pleasant Hill Road. The stretch of road between Springhill Elementary School and Acalanes High School is often congested and now has become deadly. When not congested it is used as a high speed alternative to 680. A regional agency (like ABAG) declared Pleasant Hill Road a "Route of Regional Significance." There are street signs directing drivers to use Pleasant Hill Rd. as an alternative to the freeway.

Now the City Council wants to put over 300 units of affordable housing on this stretch of road. Town houses are already being built on the South side of Highway 24. An impact report is not necessary to realize the added traffic will make Pleasant Hill Road much worse and more dangerous for the children who use it daily getting to and from Springhill Elementary and Acalanes High School.

Think also about the people in the units. Low income renters would benefit greatly from access to public transportation and shopping. The site is isolated, at least two miles from BART and shops. A far more attractive location for affordable housing would be close to BART and walking distance to shopping along Mt Diablo in the downtown area. There are usable lots across from BART on Deer Hill Rd. With better planning we can reduce traffic, traffic fatalities and live lives with less environmental impact.

Sincerely,  
Hercules Christofides  
Lafayette

### LAFAYETTE ELECTIONS

Editor:

The retirements of Carol Federighi and Carl Anduri from the Lafayette City Council will leave big holes to fill. Each has served for more than 12 years and left lasting and positive marks on Lafayette. I value them highly as colleagues. Please thank them for their service.

Five qualified candidates are pursuing three council seats available in November. I ask you to join me in supporting Traci Reilly and Mark Mitchell as new council members, and Vice Mayor Mike Anderson for election to his third term.

Traci has served on the Crime Prevention Commission for eight years, most of those as chair. I got to know Traci when she and I co-chaired the Measure P campaign several years ago and I attest that she never rests while pursuing a goal. She played a key role in creating Lafayette's solicitor ordinance, which requires solicitors trying to sell things by going door-to-door to register with the police. Her three children keep her very involved in the school community. In a city that relies on council members to work in addition to make decisions, Traci is more than up to the challenge.

Mark has been on the Planning Commission for 10 years including a year as chair. Having lived in Lafayette for 50 years, he has watched our community evolve, mostly for the best but sometimes not. He recognizes that changes, once implemented, are hard to reverse, and takes a cautious approach to many development proposals. That outlook, coupled with his financial background, helps ensure that Lafayette will remain the community that we all like.

Mike has served with distinction, helping to formulate the recently adopted Downtown Specific Plan, create the successful Hillside and Ridgeline Ordinance, and create annual budgets that are sustainable with current resources. Mike has an excellent understanding of, in his words, "What makes Lafayette, Lafayette." I feel privileged to have served with him during the past eight years.

Remember to vote on November 6 and please join me in supporting Mike Anderson, Mark Mitchell, and Traci Reilly for City Council.

Don Tatzin  
Lafayette

Editor:

One of Lafayette's not so "hidden" treasures is the strong public-private partnership bolstering our local schools, as evidenced by the long-time involvement of Lafayette's leaders, businesses and

residents alike.

Our family believes this tradition will be continued with the addition of Jean Follmer and Quinlan Tom to the Lafayette School Board and Traci Reilly to the Lafayette City Council.

Jean has been a steadfast advocate for Lafayette public schools since she moved here in 2007. A staunch supporter and product of public schools herself, Jean has attended more school board meetings than most have or will in their lifetime. She has served tirelessly at the Springhill School, LPIE (formerly LASF) and District levels with a remarkable gift of leading by example. She asks tough questions and is a keen, analytical thinker. Jean works to help affect change at the state-wide level, in order to get to the root of the funding problems of public education in California.

Quinlan believes passionately in Lafayette's public schools. He, like many of us, moved to Lafayette for the outstanding education they provide and is committed to giving back on behalf of his two children. Quinlan has shown through his leadership at Lafayette Elementary, Stanley and LPIE that he is deeply committed to working on behalf of Lafayette's children.

Traci's commitment to thoughtful, smart growth and her understanding of the potential impacts of development on the community and schools will enable her to make prudent decisions on behalf of the entire community. Her term as legislative representative on the Lafayette PTA board highlighted her aptitude of the effects of state legislation at the school and community level. She, along with Quinlan and Jean, will only enhance the strong existing relationship between our town and schools, through continued dialogue and collaboration.

We have had the distinct pleasure of working alongside Jean, Quinlan and Traci through various school, district and city-related efforts over the years and wholeheartedly endorse all three of them. We hope you will join us by voting for Jean Follmer and Quinlan Tom for Lafayette School Board and Traci Reilly for Lafayette City Council in November.

Suzy Pak & Mark Gundacker  
Lafayette

Editor:

I would like to convey my recommendation for Nancy Wallace for the Lafayette School Board. I met Nancy and her family 7 years ago. We have worked together doing grant writing for the education foundation she created for Lafayette children (SEED).

Nancy's passion for children and education is so apparent in the leadership and direction she has demonstrated in the roles she's played in the Lafayette community: At Diablo Valley Montessori where she was re-elected President of the School Board for five years when her children were young, at Springhill Elementary on the PFC Executive Committee for three years and most importantly, at the district level for the past seven years, where she served on the Parent Advisory Board to the Director of Students Services, co-created the District Grant Writing Committee and founded SEED. She is a regular attendee at School Board meetings and is familiar with issues facing our district from preschool through 8th grade. Nancy's vision is a world class education for all our children. Nancy believes we need to remain technologically current, provide meaningful differentiation in the classroom, create consistency in curriculum across grade and develop a cohesive and fully coordinated curriculum from kindergarten through 8th grade.

California's education system used to be the envy of America. Now, California is ranked 47 out of the 50 states in educational funding. Our District has experienced severe budget cuts over the past few years. In order to keep our schools top rated and preserve our homes' property values, parents have been asked to increase the amount of money they contribute to our children's education through auctions, LPIE and PTA/PFC donations. We've also instituted parcel taxes to make up for the shortfalls. However, we need to look for alternative ways to raise money as well, and Nancy has proven experience finding creative funding resources. Her foundation has raised almost \$60K over two years, mainly through grants and has tapped into local resources such as Whole Foods' nickels for non-profits to help fund education in our District. Nancy's professional background as an attorney and actuary make her a perfect fit for managing our district's budget in these uncertain economic times.

Sincerely,  
Carol Yee  
Lafayette

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