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Meet **Jesse Walters**. Jesse is the Client Care Manager for our Danville/ Walnut Creek office. He has been working on older adults issues for more than ten years and specializes in home care. Please call Jesse to answer any questions you may have about home care.

Call Jesse for a free consultation at:
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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:

Thank you so much for Laurie Snyder's article highlighting the Orinda Library.

In my enthusiasm I overstated the library's hours of operation - we are actually open 60 hours/week, not 65. I also meant to say the library is an ideal third place (from the concept of community building in social spaces separate from home and workplace). Much gratitude to the City of Orinda for funding the library's evening and weekend hours. Due to these dedicated funds the Orinda Library is open every single day of the week, including Sundays and until 8 pm Monday-Thursday. We are a great destination thanks to the generosity of the residents of Orinda and City government support.

Thank you,
Beth Girshman, Orinda Library

Editor:

I was just reading the article by Laurie Snyder regarding the Orinda Library; a very nice article. However, I feel she was remiss by the omission of the art gallery as an important part of the Library.

A great deal of time, effort and work goes into the choices made by The Orinda Art Council and presentation of the many artists providing us with

a new show each month.

I make it a point to go there on a monthly basis to see the art and without doubt, purchase several -many books from the Friends of the Library book store as well as just hanging out for awhile in our lovely library. I also noticed in the section on "What's happening at the Orinda Library" there is no mention of the Orinda Library Art Gallery. I'm proud to have the gallery on my guest tour, which recently included guest from Norway, France, Los Angeles as well as many from the bay area.

Jimmie Beardsley
Orinda

Editor:

You have probably received many letters regarding Mr. Colman's assumptions regarding tax deductions. Using his hypothetical example, the \$41,000 would not be owed as taxes, but taxed at the individual's tax rate. If the individual's tax rate were 15%, then the taxes owed would be \$6150, not \$41,000.

Also, only the Ad Valorem portion of a property tax bill is deductible. The other items for special taxes and assessments are not tax deductible.

Elaine Samson
Lafayette

Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities 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.

Civic News Lafayette

Lafayette Sinkhole on the Mend

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With potentially more rain on the way, it was clear that expediting this repair project is the best option for residents and to curb potential added expense.

Contractor C.C. Myers, known for its experience in completing infrastructure jobs quickly, is slated to finish the work before Christmas Day. How much is all this going to cost? There's a time and materials contract with a cap of \$600,000, barring unforeseen circumstances. Any surprise work will be renegotiated to the mutual satisfaction of both parties.

While the City of Lafayette has a sizable fund for emergencies, according to City Manager Steven Falk, "It's not clear, yet, where the funding will come from." He explained, "The City, last Friday, submitted a request to the State for relief from the California Disaster Assistance program; we've not heard any response from

the Cal EMA office yet. We're also looking closely at our insurance policies to see if there is any opportunity for coverage. Finally, of course, as a last resort, we can use funds from the City's General Fund reserve, which has about \$6 million."

Just last week, crews were re-routing power lines and working to get utilities out of the way to accommodate the massive equipment necessary to bring in the 10-foot diameter pipe sections, that weigh 42,000 pounds each, and installing a temporary upstream diversion dam to re-route the creek.

A big part of the problem was the amount of debris, according to Luttrupp, that caused "unintended consequences." Branches, leaves and more get washed down the creek and get hung up causing these blockages. He suggests homeowner's creek frontage property is not a recycling bin.

Got creek debris? Clean it up.

The City sends periodic reminders to creek-front property owners reminding them of creek maintenance. The most recent letter, dated June 5, 2012, states, "Residents are responsible for inspecting and maintaining their portion of the drainage channel/creek, to ensure it remains free of all debris such as grass clippings, tree limbs, leaves and waste vegetation, trash, and other objects that could obstruct the full flow of water." The letter goes on to caution homeowners about storing firewood or having a compost pile on the creek bank. Unfortunately, while the property owner gets the reminder, Luttrupp speculates that the information doesn't necessarily trickle down to tenants who may be renting.

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