



5A HAS LARGE UNITS FOR GREAT PRICES!
 RARELY ARE THESE LARGE, DRIVE-UP UNITS PRICED SO LOW...
 EXAMPLE: 8 X 18 REG. \$388, **NOW \$299.00**
 ALL OTHER LARGE UNITS AT 20% OFF!
 FULL LINE OF PROFESSIONAL MOVING SUPPLIES AND BOXES AVAILABLE

THESE LARGE, DRIVE-UP UNITS ARE PERFECT FOR BUSINESS, ORGANIZATIONS REMODELING OR ORGANIZING YOUR HOME

5A RENT-A-SPACE
 455 Moraga Rd. Suite F
 (925) 631-7000
 www.5Aspace.com

AAAAA RENT-A-SPACE
 Store It Yourself & Save



High Quality, Affordable Live-In Care

Having trouble finding compassionate around-the-clock home care that fits your family's needs and budget? Call Home Care Assistance! We are the East Bay's live-in specialists! That's because we offer:

Consistent Dependable Care. We typically assign a primary caregiver 4 days a week and a secondary caregiver who covers the remaining days. (Some agencies alternate up to 4 different caregivers in one day!)

Total Peace of Mind. Rest easy knowing your loved one's needs are attended to at all times. Live-in care ensures optimal safety and is personalized to each client's individual needs.

Professional Oversight. Live-in caregivers are managed by a team of client care managers to make sure our clients' experiences are always positive. You don't just hire a caregiver, you hire our full team of seasoned care professionals.

Reasonable Rates. Home Care Assistance hires and trains only the most qualified caregivers, but our live-in rates are the most competitive in the industry. Call to learn more!



Meet Jill. Jill Cabeceiras is the client care manager for the East Bay. She has been working with older adults for more than ten years and is an expert on managing care within the home. Let Jill help you and your family!

Call Jill today to schedule your free assessment!



925-820-8390 • HomeCareAssistance.com
 190-G Alamo Plaza, Alamo, CA 94507
 We've moved to Alamo!

Bollinger Nail Salon

Elegant and Relaxing Environment
 Personalized Professional Nail Care



960 Moraga Road, Lafayette
(925) 284-7700

www.bollingernailsalon.com

Voted #1 Nail Salon
 in East Bay by **Diablo Magazine.**

\$5.00 OFF

any services \$25.00 or more
 expires 3/15/14

\$10.00 OFF

Shellac Manicure
 expires 3/15/14

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:

I read with sadness that the venerable old valley oak tree next to the historic Casa Verana in Orinda fell down in the recent storms. However, I was not surprised that this happened. The property owners caused this to happen by burying the roots around the tree with soil and planing an irrigated lawn around the tree. This is a death sentence for native oaks. Native oaks have evolved in an ecosystem of summer drought and need to have their roots in dry soil during California's dry season. If they are subjected to year around moisture, the roots will develop dry rot and will not be able to support the weight of the tree and the tree will eventually fall to a premature death.

Any Lamorinda readers that have a majestic native oak in their yard should reconsider watering any surrounding landscaping if they want their oaks to survive. I know it looks beautiful to have a green lawn or lush shrubs surrounding beautiful old oaks but know that, at some point in the future, the trees will not survive.

Fred Smith
 Orinda

Editor:

In a survey of Orinda voters commissioned by the Orinda City Council, "Seven in 10 voters would initially support a \$20 million bond measure" to fix Orinda's roads (Lamorinda Weekly, Feb. 12).

The results of the survey were presented to the city council on Feb. 4. The survey was conducted by the FM3 company, located in Oakland.

A key question is this: Does Orinda need to pass any kind of bond measure to fix the city's deteriorating roads?

According to an Orinda environmental group, Orinda Watch, sufficient money is already being collected from gasoline taxes to fund Orinda's bad roads. Orinda Watch argues that Orinda does not need a bond measure for road repair.

Orinda Watch, in a statement released on Feb. 12, says that Plan Bay Area, a project calling for the construction of high-density, high-rise housing in Orinda and elsewhere, "takes massive amounts of public funds from gas tax revenues that should go to road maintenance and diverts them to mass transit subsidies..." The statement adds: "These diversions of gas tax revenue have been practiced by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for many years..."

MTC is a regional governmental transportation agency whose directors and officers have not been elected directly by voters. MTC's chairperson is Amy Worth, who also sits on the Orinda City Council.

MTC has not been shy about disclosing its intentions. In a report issued on May 10, 2010, MTC said that automobile pollutants (often called greenhouse-gas or GHG emissions) can be lowered. In the report, MTC stated: "Most of the GHG reductions that can be realized will result from how successful the region can be in moving toward more dense/mixed use transit oriented development and implementing creative ways to price the transportation system to adequately reflect the true costs of a limited resource."

It appears that MTC, rather than voters, is deciding how gasoline-tax money is to be spent.

Until MTC's policies on spending gasoline-tax money are clarified, Orindans should not support any bond measure to fix the city's roads.

Richard S. Colman
 Orinda

Editor

Regarding Gordon Nathan's letter of February 12.

For those unfamiliar with Mr. Nathan's history with MOFD, he was a Director of the District from its inception in 1997 through 2008. During that time period, the Board saw property tax revenue increase from \$9 million to \$16 million, growing at twice the rate of inflation, and yet managed to spend it all and put in place the current labor agreements that have caused the District to now be \$90 million in debt. Any criticism from him of the current board, attempting to clean up the financial mess caused by their predecessors, must be taken with a grain of salt.

As for his complaint that a claim by Orindan Keith Jacobsen that Orinda taxpayers are paying an inordinate portion of MOFD's expenses is "nonsense", is a baseless criticism. Mr. Nathan states Orinda taxpayers should pay more for service than Moraga taxpayers because they receive more service; and they do. This year Orinda taxpayers will pay about \$11.8 million in property taxes to MOFD while Moraga taxpayers pay about \$6.7. Mr. Nathan suggests that the total should be divided by the number of stations in Orinda (3) and Moraga (2). However, as a former director, he well knows that 90% of all expenses go to pay for the personnel who perform the services and not to maintain real estate. And with nine firefighters stationed in and serving Orinda (at a cost to taxpayers of \$1.3 million per firefighter), and eight firefighters stationed in and serving Moraga (at a cost to taxpayers of \$850,000 per firefighter), the inequity in funding is obvious.

There is a solution to this problem which Orinda residents were promised would never happen when they voted to form MOFD. That is for Moraga taxpayers to pay their fair share, an average of \$1.1 million per firefighter or about \$2 million more than they are currently paying. That could happen, as Mr. Jacobsen suggested, by increasing the rate on the Parcel Tax Moragans agreed to before MOFD was formed but which has never been fully assessed. This extra money would not go back into the Orinda taxpayers' pockets but would provide services they are paying for. These services could include a paramedic station in Sleepy Hollow to alleviate the fact that 40% of all Orinda emergencies are not responded to within MOFD's response time guidelines; or vegetation control in large areas of Orinda that are considered very severe fire hazard zones due to excess vegetation as is now being done in Tilden Park; or repair some of the more than two dozen sub-standard fire hydrants which the fire flow parcel tax was supposed to address when it was voted for in 1997 but so far not a cent has been used for hydrants.

Orinda residents and their City Council should demand that their MOFD representatives act on their behalf and Moraga's MOFD representative should keep their half of the bargain.

Steve Cohn
 Orinda

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.