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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:

My family and I would like to thank the neighbors at and near 44 Rheem Boulevard for their assistance to my daughter and her three friends whose vehicle was severely damaged by a hit and run driver. The driver straddling the double-yellow line caused my daughter to take evasive action to avoid a head-on but the other driver still smashed into the rear of her vehicle destroying the tires, axle and puncturing the gas tank. Three or four households responded immediately including one gentleman who attempted to catch the other driver on foot as the car sped away. They offered greatly appreciated assistance until the police and fire arrived. Thanks again and if anyone knows of a white car with recent front end damage and a missing wing mirror I am sure the Orinda Police Department would be interested.

Colin Busby  
San Leandro

Editor:

Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa is quoted in a Lamorinda Weekly news article (July 2) about Orinda's Housing Element, a plan to bring low-income housing to Orinda. In the Weekly's article, Tutu mentions "forgiveness and reconciliation ..."

The Weekly's article covered a turbulent meeting in Orinda on June 26. At the meeting, audience members screamed and shouted at a consultant hired to assist Orinda with the planning of a Housing Element scheduled for the years 2015-2023.

The Weekly's article might have included a quotation by another famous person, an American, who said that a governmental entity "has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance."

That writer who talked about "swarms of officers" could have been speaking about Orinda's 2013-2023 Housing Element, which is being imposed on Orinda by a Sacramento bureaucracy called The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). If Orinda does not comply with HCD's requirements to build low-income housing, HCD has the power to cut off money for Orinda's road-repair program.

Some, perhaps many, Orindans are upset about the planned Housing Element because it is being imposed without a vote of Orindans. The Housing Element is not the first case of something being imposed on Orinda without voter approval. On July 18-19, 2013, two Bay Area regional governmental agencies, MTC (the Metropolitan Transportation Commission) and ABAG (the Association of Bay Area Governments), voted, at a joint meeting in Oakland, to adopt Plan Bay Area, a scheme to reduce the use of motor vehicles and attract people to high-rise, high-density (often called stack-and-pack) housing. The directors of MTC and ABAG are not elected directly by voters. While rude behavior at a public meeting is unacceptable, plans by unelected bureaucrats to impose housing and transportation rules on Orinda or anywhere else are also unacceptable.

And who was that famous American who complained about "a multitude of new offices ... to harass our people?" He was Thomas Jefferson. His words can be found in the Declaration of Independence.

Richard Colman  
Orinda

## Civic News Lafayette

### Narrowing Options for Old Library

... continued from page A2

Robinson will draft a report with specific recommendations for the city council to weigh and ultimately make a decision about what the future holds for these two properties. One interesting wrinkle is the 949 Moraga Road parcel was purchased for \$2.5 million with city parking revenue -- which means that if the chosen use of the parcel is anything other than parking, an alternative location for parking would need to be found.

## From Front Page

### Hosts Wanted for National Night Out

... continued from page A1

In Orinda, the Citizen Corps Council wants to help. It offers the assistance of experienced residents to help begin the conversation about how to get organized for emergencies. In Lafayette, the Emergency Preparedness Commission and Crime Prevention Commission can help and even have flyers available to be used for invitations via email. Those on the social network Nextdoor should look for notices of an event. In Moraga, Diana Graham, whose previous home burned in the Oakland hills fire, called the event "really important" and suggested that even hosting immediate neighbors is possible so that the commitment isn't overwhelming.

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein has been working on a wildfire evacuation plan called "Ready, Set, Go," customized for Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, which teaches people who live in high risk wildfire areas -- that's all of us -- how to best prepare themselves and their property. It will be a centerpiece of National Night Out events throughout Lamorinda.

Patti Young of the Orinda Citizens Corps Council suggests keeping it simple and fun, whatever works for you. She's the contact person for Orinda at pattiyoung1@comcast.net; in Lafayette Carol Yates is the contact person, lepccarol@gmail.com; and for Moraga, contact Graham at dgrahamenv@yahoo.com.