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Happy Thanksgiving!

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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:

**MOFD's Audited Financials Lacking**

On October 15th MOFD presented to its Board of Directors the audited financials for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. This 90 page document has reams of numbers, pages of text, and even some pictures. But the one item missing was the answer to the big question: "is MOFD going bankrupt?" The answer to this is usually found in the balance sheet but this year's balance sheet remains the same piece of fiction as it has been since the District went deeply "under water" in 2008.

The District wants us to believe that their assets exceed their liabilities by \$10 million. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth. While the District does have \$10 million in capital assets, which it needs to provide us service, and \$4 million in cash, its liabilities overwhelm these meager savings. (1) It has \$17 million in unfunded retiree medical benefits. (2) It has \$166 million in pension liabilities with only \$126 million in pension assets as an offset. (3) It still owes \$22 million on a bond it borrowed in 2005 when its pen-

sion was previously underwater. In total, it has \$206 million of employee benefit liabilities offset by \$126 million in pension assets. But to add insult to injury, where the District has historically published the condition of its pension (assets and liabilities), albeit buried in a footnote to the audited financials, this year it has failed to do even that. In the last issue of the Weekly, MOFD Director Steve Anderson was quoted "Those charges affect our liability. Even though they are not required to be in our financials until next year, they should be publicized." So why aren't they? The Orinda Emergency Services Task Force has prepared what it believes is a comprehensive and informative financial position report (balance sheet) which shows MOFD's true financial condition and compares it to the prior four years (see www.OrindaTaskForce.org). The Task Force believes that MOFD should adopt such a report to accurately inform the community and itself of the realities of its finances.

Steve Cohn  
Orinda

**Public Forum**

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda, or one of its communities, 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. We will not accept Public Forum submissions regarding a current ballot measure or candidate for public office. Opinions expressed in Public Forum are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

**Civic News Lafayette**

**Transportation Planner Moving On**

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Leah Greenblat at her last Circulation Commission meeting on Nov. 3.

Photo C. Tyson

At the Circulation Commission, which deals with traffic safety issues, parking, pedestrian sidewalks and bike ways, residents and commissioners couldn't help but spell out what her work has meant to them. Chair Dino Riggio thanked her for all of her "patience, tact and generosity," presenting her with a lovely lemon tree from the group as a gesture of appreciation. Other commissioners, along with Council Member Traci Reilly, chimed in with positive accolades.

Commissioner Lynn Hiden said Greenblat understands the community unusually well and has the rare talent to look at issues and "sift out a solution," adding, "She handles complex, interwoven subjects with aplomb, works patiently, and has carried an enormous load for the City of Lafayette. There is very little in Lafayette that is transportation related that hasn't seen the fine hand of Leah Greenblat."

Cindy Sevilla, vice chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, recognized Greenblat for helping Lafayette to become a more

sustainable community. Resident and property owner Joan Bruzzone offered a sweet card and lovely orchid along with her sincere thanks.

"After 15 years with Lafayette, I get great pleasure at looking around town and seeing what I consider to be positive, transformative improvements to its transportation network," said Greenblat. "I'm proud of the changes we made to Pleasant Hill Road south of the freeway; the downtown caliber sidewalks on Mt. Diablo Boulevard; the walkways on Springhill Road and Stanley Boulevard; the directional bikeway signage throughout the city, and my list goes on and on."

After wrapping things up in Lafayette, she'll be working for the Western Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee, one of four Regional Transportation Planning Committees in the county that defines and implements policies, programs and projects to improve local and regional transportation and air quality -- keeping people, bicycles and cars moving on an even larger scale.

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