



Letters to the Editor

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. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. **email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com**; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570



Editor:

Orinda citizens are concerned about pressure for more extensive development in downtown as stack and pack does not fit the semi-rural character of Orinda. What about concern for the increased zoning in semi-rural residential Orinda? The General Plan is the embodiment of community values. Doesn't the General Plan also preserve the quality of life from extreme pressure to more extensive development in residential Orinda?

The General Plan, 2.1 states residential zoning should be low density, single family, 1 to 2 units per acre. The Guiding Policy is to maintain the semi-rural character of Orinda. The Orinda City Council has violated that policy by increasing Orinda residential zoning to high density to allow for a rental unit on each lot. Now homeowners can end up surrounded by rental units. This new higher density residential zoning will increase traffic as each rental unit will have 1 or more cars. Increased traffic will deteriorate roads and increase green house gas in our neighborhoods. Increased population will denigrate our schools.

Orinda voters should be allowed to vote to determine if they want to destroy their quality of life. Unfortunately, the City Council with the exception of Eve Phillips will not allow Orinda citizens to vote on maintaining the semi-rural character of Orinda.

Janet Maiorana
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.

Orinda

Orinda City Council Mulls Nuts and Bolts Matters

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Most of these were selected to focus on larger diameter (greater than 30-inch diameter) corrugated metal pipes (CMPs) since many are 30 to 40 years old and "more susceptible to corrosion and eventually buckling/collapse." It would have been cost prohibitive to inspect Orinda's entire system, added staff, so 48 locations were chosen "to represent a good sampling" with several sites "prioritized based on known past issues." Field data was then plugged into modeling software "to determine where flooding is likely to occur" with potential water surface elevations and flowrates calculated via a "10-year storm" scenario.

The SDMP currently projects that \$13.5 million in capacity and

condition improvements will be needed -- \$9.2 million of which relates to public storm drains (with \$4.3 million related to privately maintained systems). No formal action was taken by council other than to direct staff to bring back an improved version of the report at a future council meeting.

Council members then approved staff's request to purchase signage for placement at road construction entrances to increase residents' awareness of how Measure L and Measure J funding is being utilized to repair Orinda's aging infrastructure. Six to 10 signs will be mounted on moveable barricades at a cost of roughly \$400 each for fabrication and placement, and will be recycled from project to project.

Orinda

Mark Roberts Named Orinda's Citizen of the Year

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Although he and his wife, Claire (a current member of the Orinda Planning Commission), have been active volunteers in Orinda for more than two decades, he still expressed genuine surprise about his nomination. "It's a recognition I truly appreciate because this puts me among a number of people I have known and admired for their volunteer work in the past. I feel very grateful and honored."

In characteristically modest fashion, he quickly deflected attention away from himself and back toward a topic he adores -- the many ways in which a single person can better his or her home town. He hopes more Orindans will volunteer locally -- particularly residents who are new to the area. "A perfect opportunity would be Orinda Action Day on Saturday, April 18 from 9 a.m. to

noon. It's an opportunity for people to really pitch in -- to beautify parts of our city which need a little help and keep our creeks looking good and free from garbage. The activities are things which people of any age -- kids, adults, parents, teens -- can do. If you're new to town, it's a great way to meet others, and you'll feel like you're part of a group that's really accomplishing something really meaningful."

Roberts also announced that the Orinda Association will hold its first volunteer fair that same day. "After Orindans participate in Orinda Action Day, they'll be able to learn more about other ongoing activities available. The fair will be held right there in the library plaza." To volunteer, visit: www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4baba629a02-orinda3.

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Giving Dreams an Address



The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to fill the following volunteer vacancies:

There are currently openings on the following Commissions and Committees:

- Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Community Center Foundation
- Capital Projects Assessments Committee (CPAC)
- Circulation Commission
- Creeks Committee
- Crime Prevention Commission
- Design Review Commission
- Downtown Street Improvement Implementation Committee - DSIMPIC
- Emergency Preparedness Commission
- Environmental Task Force
- Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Public Art Committee
- Senior Services Commission
- Youth Services Commission
- Lafayette Representative to the Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging

For additional information visit the city's website: www.lovelafayette.org

Or call Joanne Robbins, City Clerk 925-284-1968.

Application deadline March 31, 2015. Positions open until filled.

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