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Sardines Insalata: calamata olives, green beans, potato, feta cheese, balsamic olive oil9
Niman Flat Iron Steak: potato gratin, green beans, chimichurri sauce18
Fresh Seafood Cioppino: in a rich tomato-basil sauce, parmesan, garlic toast...19
Roasted Scallops: spinach, salciccia sugo19
Roasted Wild Salmon: white wine, capers, braised greens, and potato gratin..17
Veal Scallopini: mushrooms, garlic, marsala wine17

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Measure V in Moraga

That allocation is not sufficient to subsidize capital improvement.

“We have enough to pay for our teachers and programs and to allocate 3 percent of our budget for current maintenance,” says Burns. But the Moraga district, like many others, does not have the means to save for long-term capital projects. Burns adds that he and his team went to Sacramento to find other funding sources and found out that the MSD was not eligible for capital grants. If the bond passes, though, this will change and the district will apply for grants that require matching funding and that could extend the impact of Measure V, he said.

In 1995 Moraga voters approved a \$12 million bond that residents will pay off until 2021. Burns says that this measure had allowed the reopening of Los Perales, the renovation of the two other elementary schools, the addition of the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate pavilion, and the addition of new technology. “This bond

is still benefiting students today,” says Burns, “like Measure V bond will benefit students tomorrow.” Richard Severy, board member and co-chair of the bond committee, adds that bond money is for facilities and equipment only, not salary or programs.

Measure V will probably fund a series of very much needed improvements. A little over a year ago, MSD, which manages three elementary schools and one middle school, entrusted a consulting group to study its facilities. The report shows 50-year-old schools that have ongoing issues like leaking roofs, outdated plumbing, heating and air-conditioning issues, or faulty sewer systems. The report details and itemizes everything, including the seismic upgrades needed in some buildings. Severy says that these are not gold-plated additions, but items on a massive laundry list that need to be done. “The district has been able to do some maintenance over the years,

... continued from page A5

but the needs far exceed its resources,” he says.

Severy also indicates that the bond measure can be used to configure a more flexible study environment, improve the network infrastructure, and acquire additional tablets, for example. “The state cannot take that money away, and it will be used only for Moraga, only for the schools, only for the students.

Seniors will not be exempt of the bond, if passed. A citizens’ oversight committee will control the way the funds will be used, and the committee will be audited independently. The committee will also determine the priority of the projects’ completion. Measure V needs a 55 percent rate to pass.

A survey done by the school district shows that it should be approved, but Burns says he will not be comfortable until after the election.

There is currently no organized opposition to the bond measure.

Letters to the Editor

Because of the high amount of election-related letters received this issue, they will appear on pages A12, A13, A14 and A15, organized by category.

Please note that because of the volume of election-related letters we receive, deadline for the Oct. 19 issue will be Wednesday, Oct. 12.

Lafayette Measure C

No on Measure C

Dear Editor,
Lafayette has a \$130 million city council chamber/library complex. The astronomical price is because of incredibly bad judgement and borrowing money. Now they want to borrow up to \$58 million more on the anticipated earnings from Measure C, the 1 percent sales tax that will affect vehicle purchases, wherever they are purchased. We can’t escape this tax, like we can with other taxable products.

The number one goal of the city of Lafayette’s government is to borrow money to purchase the Golden Gate Plaza, a.k.a. The Lincoln Buildings, evict the poor tenants who will never find comparable rent in this area, demolish the buildings, then build an overpriced office building for their best friends, a.k.a. the city of Lafayette’s administrators and police. They already have given this project the fictitious name of “The Library Park.” They

even mentioned turning the deep concrete flood control channel into a “natural” creek. In all appearances, this is impossible. Not merely a bad idea.

Purchasing the “Bridge” parking lot was the first step in this plan.

The politicians deny this is their plan. This reminds me of the old story about the snake that convinced someone to put him in their pocket. Then the snake bit the sweet, gullible person, then said; “You knew I was a snake.”

Be sure to vote No on Measure C.

Bruce R. Peterson
Lafayette

Invest in Lafayette – It’s Good for Business

Dear Editor,
The Board of Directors of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce has endorsed Lafayette’s Measure C on the November ballot. We support the city council’s effort to fund the Citizens’ Vision for Lafayette for the coming decades. The Chamber has opposed sales tax increases in prior years when we did not feel that the economy or circumstances were right. There are several reasons this year’s proposal makes sense.

First, the city council has made clear that they are committed to investing the incremental sales taxes on improvements to make Lafayette a better place to live, dine and shop. Investing in efforts to reduce traffic congestion and improve parking downtown are both critical to the happiness of our customers and the continued success of our businesses. Finding land for new downtown parks and helping to revitalize the Park Theater will bring more pedestrians and bicycles to the downtown and increase the clientele at Lafayette businesses. Providing additional resources for police services will improve public safety for businesses and residents.

Second, the state has set a 10 percent cap on the sales tax for each community. We believe that if Lafayette does not act now, regional agencies will fill that cap space. Lafayette is best served if the additional sales tax money raised in Lafayette stays in Lafayette and is invested in projects that fulfill our Citizens’ Vision.

Finally, other cities are working on their own sales tax increments. More than half of the cities in Contra Costa County, including Orinda and Moraga, have already passed sales tax increments. We don’t believe that Measure C would create a competitive disadvantage for the

businesses in Lafayette.

Measure C will make the Citizens’ Vision for Lafayette possible. We believe that it is good for the residents and it is good for businesses.

Invest in Lafayette – Vote Yes on Measure C.

Dennis Garrison
President-Board of Directors
Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
Lafayette

Love Lafayette – A City that Listens

Dear Editor,
A positive measure -- Measure C -- is on the ballot in Lafayette to enable the Citizens’ Vision of Lafayette’s future. For the last year and a half, the city council reached out in open meetings and two rounds of polling to listen to the vision residents have for Lafayette over the coming decades.

While citizens expressed interest in many things, several priorities received very broad citizen support in each survey and community conversation. Those key elements of the Citizens’ Vision for the future of Lafayette include:

- Protecting open space from development
- Reducing downtown congestion
- Enhancing police protection
- Improving downtown parking
- Acquiring land for downtown parks
- Revitalizing the historic Park Theater

The revenue from Measure C will enable the city to invest in these priorities, and do so in smart ways that will help the city’s money go farther. As Chair of the Circulation Commission, a past member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Chair of the Sales Tax Revenue Study Committee, and a member of the Lafayette Downtown Congestion Study Steering Committee, I have seen the city listen to what citizens want and then get the most for its citizens by leveraging its funds to obtain additional grants, and taking advantage of opportunities for public/private partnerships.

A positive measure -- Measure C -- is inspired by the Citizens’ Vision for Lafayette. If citizens approve the measure, the city will have the revenue to help fulfill the Citizens’ Vision for the city we all love.

Love Lafayette – Vote “Yes” on Measure C.

Kristina Sturm
Lafayette

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