

# Letters to the editor

## Looking good, Moraga

Moraga looks better than it used to, and this is important. If you don't think so, go back to the Midwest and drive around towns that look worse than they did. It's depressing.

Moraga was thrown together hurriedly, with ordinary builder homes and landscaping consisting of grass, ivy, juniper, and Monterey Pines. Since then, many residents have made Moraga more attractive by upgrading both their houses and their landscaping.

Of course, the two shopping centers are nothing to write home about, and the Moraga Ranch is a dump, but the new landscaping at Campolindo High School has made a big difference. The same can be said for the Moraga Library, which was re-landscaped several years ago. Members of the Moraga Garden Club have improved a section of the Hacienda gardens and planted flowers in the big urns on Country Club Drive.

Thanks to all. Let's keep it up.

Dale Walwark  
Moraga

## A response to letter on Climate Change

Loved Chris Kneil's letter in last [May 15] issue. He obviously believes passionately about Climate Change. And it is aggravated by development. But as soon as he talked about Methane, I recognized that he has been watching "60 Minutes." I'm not sure what the term Climate Change means. But I do know that the subject of "Global Warming" has morphed into it. What he doesn't know is that he's being misled. As are all of us.

The atmosphere is warming, but only in the Northern Hemisphere, and

especially within the Arctic Circle. The Southern hemisphere isn't warming at all, Antarctica isn't melting, and will never melt. Yes, even though there is the same amount of CO2 everywhere. Only the Arctic is warming. Only ice in the Arctic is melting. Bet you didn't know that. And the climate scientists have no idea why. When you're told that the average temperature of the atmosphere has increased 1.8 degrees since 1900. The scientists are adding, the 3.6 in the Arctic to the Zero in Antarctica and dividing the total by 2. Isn't that more than a trifle misleading??? And no I'm not a crackpot.

Plenty of folks in this town know me and can assure you I'm not a crackpot. What I am is a Chemical Engineer, and fully versed in the subjects of heat balance and heat transfer. And if you look at the subject of atmospheric warming from the perspective of a Chemical Engineer. You would say that if something is warming, we are either heating it more and/or cooling it less. And the answer is yes and yes. When we transform the planet's surface from green (vegetation) to grey (concrete). We replace "stuff" that cools the atmosphere with "stuff" that warms the atmosphere. And when you transform 1.5 million square miles of the surface with it. Don't know about you. But I would expect things to change. Especially if you do 90% of it in the N. hemisphere.

If you've read this far you are better informed than you were before. And that's good. You need to have doubts. Especially when the scientists are telling you we know everything, "trust me". Especially when you find out they don't know everything, and are misleading you too!!! Ask questions. We are about to spend trillions of your

money trying to solve a problem. Make sure that we have the right solution. As currently we don't. And if you want to know more. Ask the paper.

Dave Cummins  
Moraga

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# Rebuilt MOFD Fire Station 43 opens its doors

... continued from Page A8

Not only is the station the newest in the district, it is also a two-story facility, and with that it honors a unique fire service tradition - the fire pole, which firefighters use to slide from the living area on the second floor to the station exit on the first floor. In addition to sleeping quarters, the station features a pass-through apparatus bay, a kitchen, dining room, workout area and day room.

North Orinda resident Ellen Dale has long been an advocate for the rebuilt fire station. "The new station is beautiful! So much nicer

than the 70-year-old structure that was there! I am truly thankful we were able to save our Honey Hill Station, not only for north Orinda, but also Lafayette. It could make a critical difference in the event of a fire north of the freeway," Dale said.

"Once Station 16 in Lafayette reopens, I will sleep better at night," Dale added. The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District expects to reopen Fire Station 16 in early July.

A grand opening celebration for Fire Station 43 is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday, June 15.

# Firefighters and MOFD board clash over staffing

... continued from Page A8

The district does not see it that way. Fire Chief Dave Winnacker explained that if daily minimum staffing were increased from 17 to 19, the district would incur a minimum of \$1 million in additional overtime expense, or the staffing change would require an increase in the number of rostered firefighters from 57 to 63, boosting payroll by \$1.4 million.

At the May 15 district meeting, the MOFD board did not issue the directive that McCullah sought, voting to

use the operational surplus to fund its pension stabilization and retiree health care trusts to help offset the \$49 million of district net pension liability and \$15 million of net retiree health care liability. The board directed Winnacker to maintain the daily minimum staffing of 17 firefighters.

"I would not want to see those positions funded if it's to the detriment of the district," said MOFD President Steven Danziger, regarding the full-time staffing of Medic 145. "But if it's going to make our community safer and our firefighters safer, we need to take a further look at it."

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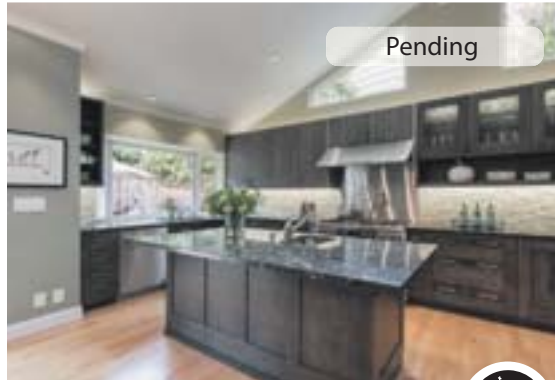
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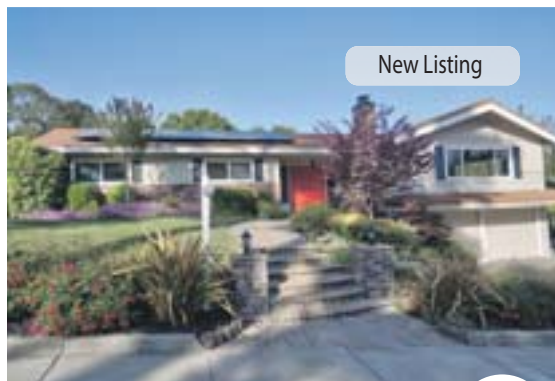
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## Lafayette School District

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[www.lafsd.org](http://www.lafsd.org)

Dear Lafayette Community,

As another school year wraps up, we want to thank you for supporting the **Lafayette School District**. Working together, our Faculty, Staff, Administration, and School Board strive to bring superior education to our community's children.

Our District consistently ranks in the top tier for academic achievement. Our arts and music programs are award-winning. Our campuses are well maintained and modernizing to accommodate long-standing pressing needs. Much of this is enabled by amazing support from local families, businesses, and community members - and we are truly grateful.

As California's economy grows stronger, so too do businesses and many family financial situations. However, California's per pupil spending consistently ranks near the bottom nationally. A Stanford University study, Getting Down to Facts II, concluded that a merely adequate education costs approximately \$17,000 per student. New York, which highly prioritizes education, provides more than \$22,000.

Yet California provides our District with just \$8,000 per student. Consistently doing more with less, our District spends \$11,000 to educate a student, and without our community's strong support to bridge the mounting shortfall, we could not maintain the quality education programs we have built and continue to provide. California's inadequate funding threatens the ability to offer teacher and staff salary increases and forces the District to look repeatedly to detrimental budget cuts.

Once again, we thank you! Enjoy the summer and we look forward to reconnecting with our students, families and community as we return in August.

Sincerely,

Dana M. Fry, Ed.D.  
LEA President

Kathy Lundberg-Moussaoui  
CSEA President

Suzy Pak  
Governing Board President

Richard Whitmore  
District Superintendent