

# Letters to the editor

## PG&E tree removal and wildfire safety

Recently PG&E announced plans to remove 141 mature trees in Lafayette this summer along the electrical lines of St. Mary's Road and Moraga Road. With PG&E's new discretionary "Enhanced Vegetation Management" program, entire 100-year-old heritage trees, many 30 feet or more away from power lines, will be lost despite the fact only four-foot tree trimming clearances are required by law.

PG&E has better options for wildfire safety. In February, PG&E filed a 500-page "2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plan" with the CPUC describing plans to harden their system. This plan in part outlines PG&E's program to bury electrical lines underground in specific areas: high-wildfire zones intersected by roads serving as emergency routes for first responders and the evacuation of residents in tree-rich communities. If St. Marys Rd and Moraga Rd do not match these requirements, I don't know which areas will; but I do know PG&E

has no plans to bring the safest electrical hardening to our area. We deserve better. Recall Lafayette's two wildfires last year caused by a new PG&E power pole. Portions of town were evacuated, and for many of us, ashes rained down on our yards while a nearby transformer exploded, leaving us without power for days. This was not caused by 100-year-old trees, but by PG&E's failure to manage their above-ground electrical grid. Lamorinda deserves what PG&E has described as a solution and has promised their own regulator: better equipment buried underground, in our populated high wildfire zones, and along major exit routes.

Without a better solution, Lamorinda can look forward to more dangerous wildfire seasons and to many bare stumps that will serve as monuments of failure to enact the safest remedies possible.

Michael Dawson  
Lafayette

## MCC open to walkers

"The road to hell is paved with good intentions." This statement precisely describes the Moraga Country Club (MCC) Board of Director's decision to leave the golf course open for walkers, members and non-members alike.

While other similar clubs as well as many parks are adhering to the intent of Contra Costa County's (and the state's) Shelter In Place mandate, the MCC is taking pride in being inclusive rather than exclusive and tacitly inviting people from all around the county to walk on our beautiful golf course. The irony is that by trying to be a good neighbor, the MCC is, in essence, being a bad neighbor by jeopardizing the health and well-being of club residents, club members, and the entire population in the surrounding neighborhood.

In its most recent message to the membership, the MCC board stated: "The Board has taken all of the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of our Members and Staff with closures of the Clubhouse and recreation areas where possible, deciding to err on the side of caution." The irony of that statement is mind-boggling as clearly erring on the side of caution would be to close the golf course to everyone just as Orinda and Roundhill have done.

I have urged the board to be proactive rather than reactive...and close the golf course to all immediately. Surely the board will have to reverse its decision if a club member is

diagnosed with COVID-19. Why increase the odds of that unfortunate occurrence? Why put the entire community at increased risk?

Sadly, my position is not a popular one. Many in the club support the board's decision. They simply do not understand the risks of increased exposure to a wider population.

Ethan Bortman  
MCC Resident

## Dredging SF Bay?

The San Francisco Bay is a recreational treasure to be enjoyed by all residents of Contra Costa County. When the inland valley heats up, my family enjoys walking along the Bay trail at Marina Bay in Richmond, picnicking along the shore, viewing the beauty and breathing the fresh cool air.

It is unthinkable that a plan is in place to dredge the San Francisco Bay in order to allow larger and more numerous oil tankers bringing dirty tar sands to local refineries. This will add high levels of smog and dangerous particulates in the air with estimated additional CO2 emissions equivalent to 1.4 million cars per year in the county.

It is time to transition away from fossil fuels, not increase GHG emissions, nor increase the risk of a gigantic oil spill. Let's protect our natural and recreational resources for current and future generations. Let's work together for a just transition from fossil fuels and preserve the economic prosperity, beauty and health of our Bay Area counties.

Amanda Casey  
Saranap

## Neighbors Appeal Lot 66 Decision to City Council

Please help us fight Dick Holt's scandalous plan to develop Lot 66. In 2008, the City Council and Planning Commission denied the project because Lot 66 has never been buildable. In 11/26/08 Lamorinda Weekly: "A legal lot is not necessarily a buildable lot,"

said Les Hausrath, attorney for the neighbors. "The entire lot is encumbered by easement.

Recorded documents show the easement runs the width of the map. The documentation is quite clear of the existence of the easement. This lot was developed as a gateway for upper lots; it was never designed to be a developable lot." EBMUD removed Lot 66's water meter on July 1, 1970. Why? Because the lot was no longer buildable; it was designated an easement/access lot only to develop subdivisions up the hill. Lot 66 is bisected by Sessions Road. Yet current planner Jonathan Fox instructed the Planning Commission to go straight to siting and massing based on City Attorney Mala Subramanian's advice to ignore the easement issue. In 1/21/09 Lamorinda Weekly, former mayor/attorney Ned Robinson wrote, "The city attorney is just dead wrong if she says (as reported) that the city can grant a right to build on the easement (except the trail easement that the city owns). It should be noted that the county has said the lot is "unbuildable." To my knowledge, no planning agency -- city or county -- has ever tried to grant the right to develop over someone else's property...and an easement is an interest in property." On April 6, the PC voted 4-2 to grant Holt's permit. Kristina Sturm and Greg Mason, the only two PC members who saw the site's story poles, voted no. Holt served 23 years on the Planning Commission. He has a right to apply for a permit; however, the PC's decision now makes it possible for ANY developer to build on an unbuildable lot. It also sets precedent for Lafayette to IGNORE its own variances requirements and to grant special privilege to Holt and all future developers. This decision must be overturned. Support a dozen neighbors and submit public comment to the City Council.

Find me on NextDoor.  
Thank you.

Pam Swarts  
Lafayette

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## Lafayette Glass Co. Inc.

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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 must be factually accurate and 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

## Public Safety

**Emergency response:**  
Emergency: 24 Hours 911  
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010  
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com  
**Lafayette Police Department:**  
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
925-283-3680  
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221  
Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com  
Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com  
**Moraga Police Department:**  
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055  
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049  
**Orinda Police Department:**  
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820  
Chief of Police, David M. Cook 925-254-6820  
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

**Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report March 29 - April 18**

Alarms	58
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	15
Traffic	24
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subject	36
Suspicious Vehicle	16
Service to Citizen	74
Patrol Req./Security Check	168
Public/School Assembly Check	20
Supplemental Report	30
Vacation House Check	3
Welfare Check	23
Ordinance Violation	54

**Vehicle violations**

Auto Burglary  
Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd.  
10 Block Westminster Pl.  
1000 Block Brown Ave.  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
1600 Block Springbrook Rd.  
Reckless Driving  
Lucas Dr./Michael Ln.

1000 Block Via Roble  
Upper Happy Valley Rd./Hilldale Rd.  
Moraga Blvd./Moraga Rd.  
Stolen Vehicle Recovery  
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.  
Tc - Property Damage  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
900 Block Reliez Station Rd.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Olympic Blvd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.  
**Other criminal activity**  
Commercial Burglary  
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
Fraud False Pretenses  
1100 Block Loveland Dr.  
10 Block Silver Leaf Ct.  
1000 Block Woodbury Rd.  
900 Block Reliez Station Rd.  
Grand Theft  
S Lucille Ln/St. Marys Rd.  
Identity Theft  
3400 Block School St.  
1100 Block Hillcrest Dr. (2)  
Petty Theft  
1000 Block Brown Ave.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3300 Block S Lucille Ln.  
800 Block Solana Dr.  
800 Block Avalon Ave.  
3700 Block Mosswood Dr.  
3300 Block Silver Springs Ct.  
1000 Block Windsor Dr.  
Residential Burglary  
10 Block White Oak Dr.  
Shoplift  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (5)  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.  
3600 Block Robertson Rd. (2)  
3200 Block Ameno Dr.  
3300 Block Mildred Ln.  
Disturbing The Peace  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
900 Block S Thompson Rd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.  
Drunk In Public  
10 Block Eleven  
Loud Music  
1000 Block Brown Ave. (2)  
Loud Noise  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1000 Block Carol Ln. (2)  
400 Block Florence Dr.  
4100 Block Coralee Ln.  
1000 Block Brown Ave.  
800 Block Broadmoor Ct.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Loud Party  
10 Block Greenvalley Dr.  
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.  
Quandt Rd./Summit Rd.

Public Nuisance  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3500 Block Brook St. (2)  
Acalanes Rd./Hidden Valley Rd. (2)  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
500 Block Merriewood  
Vandalism  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
600 Block Jennie Ct.  
**Other**  
Harassment  
900 Block Hough Ave.  
K9 Outside Assist Request  
600 Block Contra Costa Blvd., Phi Heather Farms Park, Wcr  
300 Block Garretson Ave., Rod  
600 Block San Ramon Valley Blvd., Dan  
**Threats**  
1000 Block Dewing Ave.  
900 Block Leland Dr.  
900 Block Dewing Ave.  
3500 Block Springhill Rd.  
**Trespass**  
1000 Block Dewing Ave.  
800 Block Broadmoor Ct.  
40 Block Knox Dr.  
900 Block Dewing Ave.  
**Trespass W/ Vehicle**  
Stanley Blvd./Camino Diablo  
**Unwanted Guest**  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Violation Custody Order**  
Police Department  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)  
**Violation Restraining Order**  
3300 Block Sweet Dr.

**Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report March 31 - April 19**

Alarms	26
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	11
Traffic	11
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	6
Suspicious Vehicle	1
Service to Citizen	72
Patrol Req./Security Check	83
Supplemental Report	6
Vacation House Check	1
Welfare Check	7
Ordinance Violation	13

**Vehicle violations**  
Accident Property  
100 Block Moraga Rd.

Auto Burglary  
Not Available (3)  
Excessive Speed  
Moraga Way at Station 41  
Moraga Rd./Commons (3)  
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr (2)  
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa  
Petty Theft From Veh  
Police Department  
Reckless Driving  
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way  
Moraga Rd./Canyon Rd.  
Sanders Dr./Hetfield Pl.  
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.  
Tc - Property Damage  
Campolindo High School  
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way  
Vehicle Theft  
Not Available  
**Other criminal activity**  
Battery Sexual  
400 Block Tharp Dr.  
Burglary  
200 Block Paseo Bernal  
Not Available  
Extortion  
700 Block Crossbrook Dr.  
Fraud False Pretenses  
100 Block Walford Dr.  
Identity Theft  
100 Block Miramonte Dr.  
10 Block Tamarisk  
Petty Theft  
1000 Block Alta Mesa Dr. (2)  
Not Available  
Warrant Arrest  
10 Block Kendall Cir.  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbing The Peace  
2100 Block Ascot Dr.  
Loud Music  
300 Block Rheem Blvd.  
10 Block Natividad Ln.  
Not Available  
Loud Noise  
Not Available  
300 Block Rheem Blvd.  
Loud Party  
10 Block Hastings Ct.  
Not Available  
60 Block Miramonte Dr.  
Sanders Dr./Canyon Rd.  
Brookline/St. Andrews Dr.  
Public Nuisance  
Ace Hardware  
Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.  
**Other**  
Animal Cruelty  
300 Block Claudia Ct.  
Mentally Ill Commit  
100 Block Brookline

Other Infraction  
Skatepark  
Possession Of Stolen Pro  
Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln.  
Unwanted Guest  
60 Block Miramonte Dr.



**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report March 22 - March 28 April 5 - April 11**

Alarms	10
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	3
Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subject	7
Suspicious Vehicle	1
Service to Citizen	92
Patrol Req./Security Check	109
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	9
Welfare Check	12
Ordinance Violation	12

**Vehicle violations**

Auto Burglary  
10 Block Ridge Ln.  
Reckless Driving  
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.  
**Other criminal activity**  
Burglary  
10 Block Lost Valley Dr.  
Commercial Burglary  
Glorietta Ct.  
Fraud False Pretenses  
Sleepy Hollow Ln./Ichabod Ln.  
Residential Burglary  
200 Block Canon Dr.  
Shoplift  
10 Block Theatre Sq.  
Warrant Arrest  
Bear Creek Rd./Camino Pablo  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Loud Noise  
60 Block Knickerbocker Ln.  
Public Nuisance  
CVS  
**Other**  
Corporal Injury Spouse  
90 Block Davis Rd.  
Failure To Obey  
100 Block Canon Dr.  
Violation Custody Order  
Orinda Theater