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Tom Gieryng, owner and operator

## Letters to the editor

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### Let's Make This Happen

As a resident of Lamorinda since 1972 living in Orinda for the past 21 years, I was an early proponent for refreshing a very tired-looking downtown with a Downtown Plan to guide efforts to renew Orinda. It is now thrilling to know that a plan is finally in place and is being further refined with input from Orinda residents. Yahoo! We are on our way!

The many letters to the editors of the Orinda News and Lamorinda Weekly in favor of the still-in-process Orinda Downtown Precise Plan give me great hope that someday Orinda will be more welcoming, beautiful, walkable, functional, with more restaurants, shops, residential choices, and a more cohesive appearance and feel. The DPP will provide the changes needed to accomplish these goals. When I lived in Lafayette and Moraga, I used to come to Orinda to shop at Blacks and Phairs or enjoy a meal at The Vintage House, now that I live in Orinda we drive to Lafayette and Moraga to shop and dine out; it's not a happy situation.

Bravo to the Orinda City Council and everyone who has participated in bringing the DPP this far. It is not too late to let the Orinda City Council know what elements you would like to see in this new plan or give your support to the effort. Attending Council zoom meetings is an easy way to stay abreast of the exciting things that are happening in Orinda as well as providing a way to make your ideas and support known. To learn the date and time of the next meeting go to the city's website, click on Meeting Calendar and drop down to Council Downtown Subcommittee Meetings. Together we have the ability to make Orinda a very special and especially charming city that will attract new businesses, shoppers, and diners from near and far. Let's make this happen!

Laurie Renny Reich  
Orinda

### Onoda endorsement

Please elect Teresa Onoda to Moraga's Town Council. She has proven herself to be an advocate for the safety of children in Moraga. She served on the town council from 2014-2018. During that time, she was instrumental in passing a town ordinance intended to protect children from accidental firearm shootings.

When Teresa heard the concerns of citizens regarding the possibility of accidental shootings in homes where firearms are not secure, she truly listened with an open mind. She did not make her decision immediately, but she did take the time and energy to educate our group on how to engage with the town council on this topic. After listening to all of her constituents, she voted in support of the safe storage of firearms, so that small children are protected from accidental shootings, teens and adults are protected from impulsive suicides, and firearms are not easily accessible to burglars.

Her commitment to the safety of children stretches back to her first introduction to local politics, when she worked towards getting a sidewalk for elementary children to use so that they could safely walk to and from school.

During my discussions with Teresa, it became clear to me that she cares deeply about the citizens and the town of Moraga and she consistently engages with people in a constructive and respectful manner. She is running for the right reasons: to give back and to make our community even more vibrant. She knows how to get things done. Her ability to listen to a variety of stakeholders and apply her creativity and knowledge of how town government works makes her the ideal candidate for Moraga Town Council. Please cast your vote for Teresa Onoda.

Stephanie Dickerson  
Moraga

### Safer Orinda - Vote Yes on Measure R

Measure R will address urgent fire safety issues, repair critical storm drains and protect our hard fought investment in our roads.

When I was campaigning for City Council in 2018, I talked with a couple that has lived in Orinda for a very long time. At one point they asked me to come into their house and showed me a picture of Orinda from the 1940 or 50s. The picture showed hills with a few oaks and not much else. If you look at that same location now, it is covered with trees and other vegetation. We need to make up for years of growth that was not abated, and we need to do it quickly because climate change is increasing the risk of wildfires.

Last year, Fire Chief Winnacker received a grant (around \$4 million) for the North Orinda Fuel Break. This was very helpful, but he believes we need to do more. We rely on the Fire Chief's frank assessment of fire related issues, and when he says we need to do more to protect our residents, the City Council listens.

Measure R will allow Orinda to start immediately on urgently needed fire fuels reduction, followed by repair of failing storm drains. After the critical storm drains have been repaired and wildfire fuels have been mitigated, which is about the time roads will need additional resources, sales tax revenue will then be available for road maintenance and to maintain the progress made in fire fuels reduction.

After spending the last decade implementing a plan to improve our roads, we need to protect our investment and provide funds to keep the roads in good condition.

Please join me in voting Yes on Measure R for a safer, better Orinda.

Dennis Fay  
Orinda

The Orinda Firewise Council is a consortium of non-partisan leaders representing over 1400 homes in Orinda Firewise neighborhoods that have come together to support each other by sharing resources and best fire prevention practices and to engage the City of Orinda & the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) in wildfire prevention.  
[WWW.ORINDAFIREWISECOUNCIL.ORG](http://WWW.ORINDAFIREWISECOUNCIL.ORG)

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