

# Letters to the editor ... continued from Page A9

## Vote Jex to Fire Board for a Safer Moraga

I have followed with interest this year's contest for the MOFD Fire Board. It has become apparent as a resident of Moraga there is a real contrast between John Jex, running for re-election, and his opponent. One key difference is that John Jex's campaign is entirely community supported and funded by local Lamorinda residents who know John and respect the outstanding job he has done representing the best interests of Moraga. Jex has fought to maximize our taxpayer dollars, maintain our excellent fire and medical services, and protect our community against wildfires. I know my family will be safe with John Jex serving on the Fire Board. Rachel Erickson Moraga

## Anduri for Council

Carl Anduri will be an excellent addition to the Lafayette City Council. As a former Mayor and City Councilmember, he has already shown his invaluable skills in the recent past. Unable to run again for another term in 2012 due to work demands, he is now retired and anxious to return to service for Lafayette.

He feels strongly about safeguarding the character of our neighborhoods and the semi-rural nature of our community; protecting our hillsides and open space. His past experience on the Planning Commission and legal experience will be important in dealing with the new state mandates. He has a clear vision of development for making our downtown vibrant and pedestrian friendly, as well as pursuing development of appropriate housing in our central corridor.

He is fair minded, and a good listener with strong leadership abilities. As a former Mayor I urge you to vote for Carl. More than ever we need Carl Anduri on the Lafayette City Council.

Anne Grodin  
Former Mayor

## Support for Gina Dawson

I join the chorus of voices in support of Gina Dawson for Lafayette City Council. One lesser known fact is that Gina comes from a mixed-race upbringing. Her dad immigrated from the Philippines, while she was born and grew up in the Bay Area. At a time when our City has taken on the bold and courageous task to address racial equity and justice in the months and years ahead, we would be strengthened to have her voice guide us. I also appreciate her passion for envisioning Lafayette as a city rich with trees, bike & pedestrian paths, and green buildings powered by 100% renewable energy. Wei-Tai Kwok Lafayette

## Support for Carl Anduri

I am writing to urge a vote for Carl Anduri for the Lafayette City Council. Carl has served Lafayette and its citizens as a member of the Planning Commission, a member of several City task forces, and as a member of the Lafayette City Council

for ten years, serving twice as our Mayor. His previous experience will serve Lafayette well in the next four years as issues such as development, sustainability, traffic and parking, and financial management continue to be addressed. The Lafayette General Plan is due to be updated in the next five years so Carl's experience, expertise and vision will be invaluable. Mary McCosker Lafayette

## Gina Dawson for council

My wife and I are supporting Gina Dawson for Lafayette City Council and I invite you to do the same! I have known Gina, and her husband Michael, for many years beginning with our involvement with Sustainable Lafayette. Among her many contributions while active with Sustainable Lafayette was co-founding the Lafayette Farmers Market, supporting annual Earth Day events, community outreach and much more. However, her greatest contributions to environmental sustainability and public safety have been co-founding "Save Lafayette Trees" saving hundreds of trees from removal by PG&E and her extensive efforts to improve natural gas pipeline maintenance and safety. Her efforts for gas line safety include co-founding the Gas Safety Task Force which resulted in important gas pipeline safety improvements and forming the Lafayette Gas Safety Alliance with residents, PG&E, the CPUC, and the City. The GSTF has provided important leadership while working with PG&E and the CPUC to understand how gas safety projects are evaluated and implemented within the City. As others have noted, Gina is practical, level-headed, and hands-on in her approach. Most important to me, she strives to build consensus when addressing complex issues. Please join me in voting to elect Gina Dawson to Lafayette City Council.

Bart Carr  
Lafayette Resident  
Co-founder, Sustainable Lafayette  
Member, Lafayette Environmental Task Force

## Vote for Dawson

Without hesitation, I encourage you to vote for Gina Dawson in the upcoming City Council election.

I've known Gina for 10 years. We met volunteering for Sustainable Lafayette. She's a wonderful mom, who cares deeply about people, public education, and protecting the environment.

Gina is a workhorse, who rolls up her sleeves and digs into the details— we can count on her to put in the work needed to make well-informed decisions on behalf of the community.

Gina's super power is connecting with people and building consensus—and she's a great listener — something that every city council needs!

So, when you cast your ballot, please vote for Gina.

To learn more about Gina Dawson, go to [www.ginadawson2020.com/](http://www.ginadawson2020.com/). Alicia Culver Lafayette

## Re-open our Lamorinda schools

In last week's articles about school re-openings, you reported most parents and kids in the area want to be back in school, and that the teachers, not necessarily the school boards and districts, are delaying re-openings.

As a Campo HS parent, I support efforts to reopen schools as soon as possible. I was flabbergasted by one teacher's comment regarding her concern about the many people who want to return to school as soon as possible, stating that "it will be a lot of work for teachers, like starting the school year all over again."

"A lot of work" goes into keeping any business open during this pandemic - hospitals, grocery stores, delivery companies, restaurants, first responders, gyms, retail stores, etc. - every single business and employee is doing more work in order to stay open or re-open safely and still provide quality service.

If "a lot of work" is the reason our schools might not open until January or even March 2021, this is a disservice to all kids suffering academically, socially, and emotionally from unnecessarily prolonged distance learning. Area private schools are opening this month, surrounding public schools are offering hybrid classes already, and schools in other states have had hybrid classes since August! So why is it so difficult for Lamorinda schools to follow suit? If concrete plans to re-open were being developed over the past 6 months in anticipation of re-opening in the fall, then schools should be ready to open a few weeks (not months) after being cleared by the county health office.

There is no urgency on the part of Bay Area teachers to get back into the classrooms due to coronavirus safety concerns. Citing safety concerns would be more believable to me if it weren't known that some teachers are flying to other countries and states and "teaching" remotely from second homes and vacation spots.

Offering students safe in-person hybrid school, once cleared by the Contra Costa County Health Department, needs to be everyone's top priority, no matter how much "work" it will take to make it happen. Charlie Gruebele Moraga

## Support for Carl Anduri

As a long time Commissioner on Lafayette's Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission, I am supporting Carl Anduri for the Lafayette City Council. Carl stands out among the candidates as by far the most knowledgeable and experienced candidate when it comes to our community's parks, trails, recreation and open space needs. When he was previously on the Council, Carl served as one of the liaisons to the PTR Commission and served on the Open Space Task Force.

I am supporting Carl not only for his knowledge and experience, but because he has the vision, temperament, collaborative spirit and character to put that knowledge and experience to work to get things done for the benefit of all of us.

Please join me in voting for Carl

Anduri.  
Carol Singer, Commissioner  
Lafayette Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission

## Vote Yes on Measure R

I am voting "YES" on Measure R and urge my Orinda friends to do the same. The small sales tax increase will provide funds for continued public road maintenance, critical repair and replacement of public road storm drains and wildfire prevention by reducing flammable vegetation. No one in Orinda needs to be told how serious the wildfire threat is, the recent haze and smell from North Bay fires were daily reminders that the threat is at our doorsteps. Let's continue to be prepared and proactive, Measure R will help us do so.

Bruce Burrows  
Orinda

## Measure R – Need is Great, and Timing is Critical

As a longtime Orinda resident, I urge fellow Orindans to vote Yes on Measure R. Why? Because we all agree that the need is great – to address ever-increasing risks of devastating fire losses, not to mention old and deteriorating drainage systems and road maintenance. The only real issue is whether another parcel tax or additional bond measure is a better alternative. We need only look to our five City Council members for that answer – ALL SUPPORT MEASURE R. We live in a representative democracy and place our trust in our Council to make wise decisions. That they unanimously support this measure is a clear sign this is the best way to go.

They are indeed correct – this measure's half-cent increase in our city sales tax amounts to 50 cents on a \$100 purchase – and food and medicines are exempt. The Town of Moraga has the same sales tax. This will not damage our local businesses – our Orinda Chamber of Commerce President supports this measure. Most of the sales tax funds come from car purchases, and Orindans are not exactly averse to buying newer cars. Orindans of all ages can afford this – and we must act now, given the climate forecasts for more drought and the resultant increased risks of fire. This is precisely the time to act – not wait indefinitely and hope for the best.

Once the fire fuel load has been reduced, the sales tax will pay for continuing maintenance (plants grow), replacing failing storm drains, and keeping roads in good condition. Since we have now successfully fixed our City's road system, the last thing we want to do is let our roads deteriorate. These funds will be critical to long term road maintenance.

In short, this measure is fair to all, and is critical to our mutual safety going forward. Please join me in voting YES on Measure R. And the above are my personal opinions and in no way reflect or state any position of The Orinda Association. Thank you very much. Bill Waterman Orinda

... continued on Page A12

# ELECT GINA DAWSON

## Innovative, Collaborative, Proven Results

Gina works efficiently and effectively for so many of our shared community interests. I know that she will bring this same energy and focus to the other many issues facing Lafayette.

*Susan Candell, Vice Mayor, City of Lafayette*

Gina is a highly effective leader with a deep commitment to preserving open space, creating a sustainable, inclusive community, and advancing public safety. She will have a major positive impact on Lafayette as a member of City Council.

*Steven Bliss, Lafayette City Council*



Endorsed by the entire City Council and many elected leaders and prominent residents.

[www.GinaDawson2020.com](http://www.GinaDawson2020.com)



**VOTE GINA DAWSON**  
for Lafayette City Council

Paid for by the Gina Dawson for Lafayette Council 2020 Committee.  
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