

Letters to the editor

A Vote for Incumbent Cam Burks for Lafayette City Council

I encourage all Lafayette residents to cast one of our three City Council ballots for Cameron Burks this election.

Lafayette is fortunate to have a strong field of candidates willing to voluntarily perform civic service. Given that Cam is the only incumbent running, at least two elected candidates will necessarily lack continuity with the role, and all will join members who only commenced their first terms last year. Cam's record of leadership, integrity and effectiveness, and exclusive ability to provide continuity, makes his success especially important.

I came to know Cam during his 2016 Council campaign. Nobody worked harder to know the issues and engage with voters than Cam; that uber-preparedness was especially notable and noble given the reality that Cam ran unopposed. And yet, Cam rolled sleeves to not only understand our issues, but also develop deep substantive expertise, a commitment that endured throughout his first term, including as Vice-Mayor and Mayor.

It's been said that: "The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The leader adjusts the sails." Cam is a true doer who understands our Community's pains and opportunities, and gets things accomplished. He's unquestionably earned a second term and my enthusiastic support.
Rob Sturm
Lafayette

Vote for Gina Dawson for Lafayette City Council

Gina's tenacious and herculean efforts to educate herself on gas safety issues long ignored in Lafayette, as well as to understand the clandestine reasoning behind PG&E's plan to cut down 272 trees has improved safety throughout Lafayette. She co-founded the environmental non-profit Save Lafayette Trees and established the Lafayette Gas Safety Alliance. She single-handedly stopped the unnecessary destruction of hundreds of heritage trees which bring natural beauty to our community. Her calm demeanor coupled with her ability to dig deep to research and analyze data, to listen, to communicate, and to advocate has proven successful in her dealing with PG&E and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Besides saving hundreds of our trees, her efforts through the Lafayette Gas Safety Alliance resulted in PG&E replacing approximately 1,000 feet of partially-exposed gas pipeline along the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail and millions of dollars of unplanned investment to protect our community from the potential threat of an explosion, similar to what happened in San Bruno. Additionally, her efforts will result in an integrity management program audit of gas safety in Lafayette, an effort that rarely occurs. Safety is one of Gina's primary platform issues - she is our community safety watchdog and the premier expert in pipeline safety in Lafayette.

Gina brings a new voice, novel ideas, and a willingness to listen to all and collaborate for the betterment of our city. She has a proven track record of successes. All five existing City Council members endorse Gina in her bid for Lafayette City Council. I urge all Lafayette residents to vote for GINA DAWSON for Lafayette City Council!
Lynn Cass
Lafayette resident for 32 years

Sos, Onoda, and Stromberg for Moraga TC

Sos is brilliant and unmatched in graciousness. Onoda and Stromberg are also

very sharp, and all have proven their ability to work effectively with others, are compassionate, fair-minded, knowledgeable, firmly focused on fiscal restraint, politically savvy, and committed to finding the necessary balance of interests to protect our semi-rural environment without placing undue burdens on property owners.

However, Kendall Langan appears to me a wolf in sheep's clothing busily trying to charm the voters while hoping they fail to recognize what I see, which is that he appears to be a political agitator that: (i) will derail the current course of the TC, (ii) doesn't play well with others, (iii) is an admitted long-time drug user, and doesn't appear to have the skills, focus or analytical capacity to be an effective councilmember, and (iv) can't speak coherently about much (except his opinion that we should unincorporate Moraga, leaving ourselves to the mercy of a County that would provide fewer services and less protection for more money). As to Ursula Schilling: She has no apparent history of service in Moraga, and we know nothing about her values or opinions. About anything.
Kymberleigh Korpus, Mayor of Moraga

Yes on R

The fire danger is real. Already millions of acres in California have burned, lives ruined and lost, property destroyed. And it's only the beginning of the fire season.

Proposition R is a one-half cent sales tax increase (25cents on a \$50 purchase) to continue the much needed fire risk reduction, street maintenance and preparation for emergencies and disasters. Food and medicine are exempt.

Fire risk increases home insurances premiums and could even make fire insurance unavailable.

We all recall the terrible fire that destroyed homes and property just over the hill in Oakland. Don't let that happen here.

Vote yes on R
Jack D. Wickware
Orinda

Jex for MOFD Board

The current five-member board of MOFD is made up of three individuals with fire department pensions/jobs and two independent citizens with no such conflict. The board is currently negotiating the new labor contract with the union. One of the board members, an active firefighter, will be negotiating on behalf of MOFD with his own union president. Yes, the same person. Conflict much?

John Jex, the independent incumbent, is running for re-election. John's opponent is an active firefighter and a fireman's union member. His campaign is 100% funded by the Fire Fighter's Union. What possible reason could they have to spend thousands on his election? Is there any doubt which side of the negotiation he would favor?

John, as a retired Deloitte audit partner, has no tie to fire department unions or pensions, and is a 47-year resident of Moraga. John's campaign is 100% funded by local individuals. Who do you think will look out for Moraga's interests? John Jex is the independent voice for fiscal responsibility and long-term viability of our robust emergency services in Moraga. I urge a vote for John Jex for MOFD Board, Division #2.
Nathan W. Bell
Moraga

Anduri for Lafayette City Council

Carl Anduri has my vote for Lafayette City Council because he possesses the qualities and experience to be an effective, forward-looking, and collaborative leader. Carl has a passion for Lafayette, and a

deep desire to build upon what makes it a great place to live and work.

He has a vision for the future of Lafayette and the humility and understanding to know that he works for all Lafayette residents. He will represent and listen to the input of the entire community, his colleagues, and staff.

Carl is a lifelong learner, an active listener, and open to having his ideas, biases, and prejudices challenged. He will listen respectfully and weigh differing opinions when making decisions. Carl will always make decisions based on what's best for the community.

Ultimately, his vote will be based on the best interests of the city and its residents, while respecting the law, city ordinances, policies, and council protocols.

Carl has the humility, confidence, drive, and determination to be of service and continue to make a difference in our community. Please join me in voting for Carl Anduri, Lafayette City Council.
Teresa Geringer
Lafayette

Vote No on negative campaigning

The scurrilous and anonymous (what is PTT?!) "oh no" signs that have sprouted up recently in Moraga have convinced me to vote yes on Teresa Onoda for Moraga Town Council. Negative campaigning should have no place in politics. It certainly has no place in a local election for an uncompensated, volunteer position.

If this negative campaign succeeds, we can be sure we will see ever more of it in Moraga, to the great detriment of the town we all love. Good candidates will often choose not to run rather than subject themselves and their families to such tactics. Please vote against these tactics.

Moraga should remain an island of civility in an uncivil world.
Blair Hoffman
Moraga

Re-Elect John Jex for MOFD Board

I appreciate what Director Jex has contributed to the progress of our Fire District. He is a proven leader and experienced manager who understands what is needed to strengthen the MOFD organization to achieve its mission of excellent emergency services and a fire safe town. Jex has strongly supported the adoption of a new fire code and enforcing its requirements. He also supported the Chipper Program to keep our community wildfire safe.

We need Director Jex for four more years to secure our District's financial future and the protection of our town.
Greg Andrews
Moraga

A letter to the Orinda City Council

The article in the October 28, issue of Lamorinda Weekly, says you asked Jason Moody (consultant and Principal of the firm, Economic & Planning Systems), "what his thoughts are for when we go back to normal times..." His response, "retail is the eye of the storm, transforming significantly in a very short time," seems questionable, and one of multiple outcomes, but suggests the consultant does not recognize, nor admit, the downward decent of retail almost everywhere.

More importantly, to your question, dire economic times for the lower and middle class, unrelated to the manipulated stock market, are certainly possible, and seem more probable day by day. One would think it prudent for the city council, city manager, police dept., to at least develop some contingency measures, should unemployment and the real economy, temporarily propped up by massive "stimulus," continue to worsen.

Chris Kniel
Orinda

Renata Sos for Moraga Town Council

This is an especially important election, both nationally and locally. There's so much uncertainty these days, and I know Moraga has challenges ahead of it. I'm voting for Renata Sos for Moraga Town Council because I'm confident that she has what it takes to do what's best for our town. I've known Renata for over 15 years. Our kids grew up together. For years she coached my daughter in volleyball and basketball, and we worked together in the Moraga schools. My experience of Renata is that she's a smart and practical problem-solver who is also generous, compassionate and deeply committed to our community. She works really well with others but is not afraid to lead and to make her own decisions. She has a big heart and an open mind, and treats everyone with kindness and respect. She's a wonderful person and an outstanding public servant. I'm proud to call her a friend and to have her on the Moraga Town Council. Please join me in voting for Renata on Nov. 3 so that she can continue to serve the community we all love.

Kris Schaffel
Moraga

Vote Yes on Measure R to help keep Orinda safe from Wildfires

As I write this early in the second week of September the midday sky is a scary orange and I cannot see our neighbors' houses, just a couple of hundred yards away. This is all due, of course, to the fires raging throughout Northern California. This scene is likely to repeat.

Orinda's Measure R is designed in part to do something for wildfire prevention. It is imperative that we come together as a community NOW to take action to alleviate the serious threat wildfires pose to all of us.

I'm sure the residents of Paradise would tell us that a small sales tax increase for wildfire prevention is something they wish they could have had an opportunity to pay a couple of years ago.

Let's not dither over the details. Please VOTE YES on MEASURE R to help keep Orinda safe.
Bill Judge
Orinda Mayor 2006

Please vote yes on Measure R!

Beginning in 2003, Orinda began a comprehensive process to rebuild our residential roads, many of which had never been rebuilt since WWII. Savvy voters supported, and numerous citizens worked to develop, a detailed plan to fix Orinda's public roads and to maintain them into the future. Measure R is part of that plan and it will provide the funding to continue to maintain Orinda's investment in roads, and to repair storm drains. Having spent the money to bring our roads up to current conditions, we would be foolish not to keep them in decent shape; kind of like buying a new car and then not having it serviced or repaired! Measure R will also provide funding for fuel mitigation. Fire Chief Winnacker did a great job obtaining a grant to create the North Orinda Fire Break this year, and PG&E has also removed a lot of vegetation under their lines. But more needs to be done to trim, remove and replace vegetation in our lovely community. Please vote yes on Measure R for a Safer Orinda!
Victoria Smith (Former Mayor)
Orinda

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Vote to Re-Elect Inga Miller

www.IngaForOrinda.com



JOIN LEADERS IN ENDORSING INGA MILLER

STATE SENATORS
State Sen. Steve Glazer
Retired State Sen. Don Perata

COUNTY SUPERVISOR
Candace Andersen

ORINDA CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
Mayor Darlene Gee
Vice Mayor Amy Worth
Councilmember Dennis Fay
Councilmember Nick Kosla

ORINDA UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS
President Cara Hoxie
Vice President Liz Daoust
Board Member Carol Brown
Board Member Jason Kaune
Board Member Hillary Weiner

ACALANES UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Member for Orinda, Chris Severson

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Board Member Sarah Butler

COMMUNITY LEADERS
Toris Jaeger, Naturalist
Carlos Baltodano, President of the Orinda Association
Dick Burkhalter, Orinda Rotary
Chris Laszcz-Davis, Lamorinda Presents
Gene Gottfried, CERT, retired MOFD Board Member

FORMER MAYORS
Laura Abrams
State Sen. Steve Glazer
Joyce Hawkins
Bill Judge
Bobbie Landers
Tom McCormick
Dean Orr
Victoria Smith
Sue Severson

DEDICATED • THOUGHTFUL • BALANCED

Paid for by Inga Miller for Orinda City Council 2020 FPPC # 1388379