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In Memory

John E. Carey, Jr.

June 15, 1945 - April 23, 2021



Friends and family remember John Carey as larger than life. He was hard to miss in a room—thanks to both his towering stature and his reverberating presence. True to his Irish heritage, John possessed the “gift of gab,” known for his wild stories, incisive wit, and passionate debates. He loved to hold court at the family dinner table and engage strangers in conversation at Moraga Safeway.

Born in Newport, Rhode Island to Dr. and Mrs. John E. Carey, John cultivated a love of the ocean from

an early age. Throughout his life, he was most at peace navigating a sailboat. He left Rhode Island to attend Georgetown University in 1964, but remained a proud Newporter until his final days.

After serving as an intelligence officer in the Army, John moved to San Francisco in 1972 and attended UC Hastings College of the Law, where he played on the school’s rugby team and built friendships that would last a lifetime. He went on to practice as a civil litigator for over 45 years, fueled by a gift for oration and a belief that everyone deserves an advocate. Outside of his legal practice, he was known for his generosity—regularly providing legal guidance to friends and family.

John was fiercely loyal to his large family, and will be greatly missed by them, including his wife of 36 years, Sherri (née Gasparini); children Morgan (Derek Schaufli), Shauna, and Brendan; two young grandsons, Grady and Tate; his five siblings; and more than 20 nieces and nephews.

John was guided by a belief that all people deserve equal justice under law. In this spirit, his family asks that those who wish to honor his legacy donate to the ACLU in his name.

Council approves study of downtown growth scenarios

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According to a staff report presented by Planning and Building Director Greg Wolff and Housing Consultant Diana Elrod, state law requires not only to identify general areas that could accommodate growth, but also to identify individual “opportunity sites” where housing development could occur within the 8-year cycle. Since HCD may reject one or more opportunity sites identified by the city, staff recommended an initial target buffer of at least 50%, or about 1,000 units.

The General Plan Advisory Committee has completed two of three community workshops regarding the general plan and housing element and will conduct a review of sites and may potentially add more or make modifications. The next virtual GPAC community workshop is scheduled for May 13 (planlafayette.org).

Two scenarios for consideration were put forward to the council: the “Distributed Scenario,” which distributes density throughout the Downtown at 50 units per acre, the BART sites at 75 units per acre, the Deer Hill Road corridor, the neighborhoods adjacent to and immediately south of the Downtown plus the Oakwood/DeSilva sites at the west end of Mt. Diablo Boulevard at 20 units per acre; and the “Downtown Only Scenario,” which seeks to accommodate almost all growth within the existing limits of the Downtown commercial districts. According to the report, the density in this scenario would need to increase to about 115 units per acre to accommodate a maximum 62% buffer. Current zoning in this area allows for up to 35 units per acre. Typically, developments at 115 units per acre are four to five story buildings over a garage podium or below grade garage.

“We’re looking on a macro scale of what could potentially be upzoned in the city,” said Luke Evans, the EIR consultant for ESA. Wolff pointed out early in the meeting that “no decision tonight will be about upzoning of any parcels.” The purpose was only to move forward with ESA, he said.

More than a dozen local residents attended the virtual meeting, however, with many voicing their concerns about upzoning in their neighborhoods. Colin Elliott, a professional housing consultant who, according to Mayor Susan Candell, knows Lafayette well, said, “You can get 2,345 (units) without any upzoning at

all.” CEQA analysis without any upzoning is much easier to do, he added. Yet Evans said the method would be problematic: “We need a general sense of where this development could occur.”

Council Member Cam Burks said he was completely against upzoning any part of the city and felt the council shouldn’t vote in favor of launching the EIR. “I will never be in favor of upzoning in our neighborhoods ... ever. The planning commission has made great decisions on downtown in the core. We have a vibrant downtown. I believe if growth is to continue it has to be downtown. I think it’s absurd to consider moving into neighborhoods of this city. It will change the character of this city forever.”

Council Member Carl Anduri noted that the council was not being asked to vote on rezoning at the meeting, but Burks said by voting on the performance of an EIR, that could lead to rezoning. “My position is we should challenge the state law,” Burks said. “We should fight it. We’re going down the slippery slope of enabling a broken legislature and terrible public policy.”

Anduri said if they identify additional opportunity sites, then the council could lower the high level of zoning. Council moved to accept analysis of the “Distributed Scenario,” with the proposed density in the downtown area at 50 dwelling units per acre, while removing the Village Center, West Road, Bickerstaff/Crescent, Almanor Lane and The Orchards areas from the proposed list, described as inconsequential by Candell.

Candell said, “My concern is that we’re not trying very hard to look at as many opportunity sites as we can. I feel that if we leave these artificial numbers, we’re not going to try very hard. We need a certified housing element based on reality today.”

Anduri agreed: “The message from the city council is to have GPAC find as many opportunity sights as possible. I can’t even imagine a density of 115 along the Mt. Diablo corridor, but our goal is to bring that down.” A motion was made for the council go forward with the study of the “Downtown Only” scenario as presented.

Council Member Gina Dawson wanted to confirm that the 115 density is just a ceiling and a guide. “Staff will commit to finding as many opportunity sites as possible, in working with GPAC,” Wolff said.

Both motions passed 3-2, with Candell and Burks opposed.

In Memory

Mary Elizabeth Tierney

August 30, 1940 – March 21, 2021

Resident of Moraga



Mary Elizabeth Tierney, 80, passed away peacefully on March 21, only 39 days after the passing of her beloved husband, Dennis. Born in Poughkeepsie, New York to John and Violet Mahoney she was the second youngest of six. Mary and Dennis met at the local college bar when Dennis was a student at Marist College. Dennis’ buddies bet him he couldn’t get a date with Mary. It took a week for her to agree to a date and they went on to share over 56 years together. His career took them from New York, to Hawaii and they eventually settled in Moraga, California in 1976.

Mary had a zest for life, could make conversation with anyone and made friends easily. She had the energy of three people and always jumped in with two feet. While raising

three kids, managing multiple rental properties and volunteering at her children’s activities she was also active in the Newcomers Group, Moraga Tennis & Swim Club, the Moraga Garden Club, multiple bridge groups, the Niners at Moraga Country Club and their wine tasting group among other things. For years, if it was a Thursday everyone knew that Mary would be found with Mary Jane, Diane and Sue at MTSC playing tennis and bridge and shoeing children out of the clubhouse. We kids new better than to interrupt “Holy Thursdays”!

Mary and Dennis traveled the world together including multiple trips to Mary’s favorite city, Paris, France. Puerto Vallarta, Mexico held a special place in their hearts and they visited annually for over 25 years. They also loved Tahoe and had many happy and cherished times with their children, grandchildren and friends at their cabin in Northstar, on the mountain skiing and at Sand Harbor Beach.

Above all, Mary treasured her family and friends. She loved being a mom and especially a grandma building special relationships with each of her grandchildren. At family gatherings she was often found sitting at the kids’ table chatting with her grandkids and keeping up with each of their interests and activities.

Mary will be terribly missed by her three children, Darren, Deborah (and her husband, Paul) and Renee (and her husband, Lee). Her eight grandchildren Logan, Katie, Matt, Jack, Emily, Michael, Anna and Luke and great-granddaughter Peyton-Marie will miss all her hugs and infectious enthusiasm. She is also survived by her brother Donald (Carol), her sisters-in-law Elizabeth, Patricia and Eileen, many nieces and nephews, and extended family Nancy Lawrie Stuckey (her husband Chris and their children Brittany and Bobby) and Scott Lawrie (his wife Dana and his daughter Peyton Juliana) and many dear friends. She is predeceased by her parents John and Violet Mahoney, her sister Dorothy, and brothers Jack, Harold and Robert.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in Mary’s memory to the Bruns House (www.hospiceeastbay.org) who took wonderful care of Dennis or to the Moraga Garden Club.

In Memory

Bonnie Lafaye Hoydal



Bonnie Lafaye Hoydal of Snoqualmie, Washington, loving mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away Saturday, April 17, 2021 in Issaquah. She was 90.

Bonnie was born on June 8, 1930, in Logan, Utah. She married Sid in 1956. In 1969 Bonnie and Sid settled in Moraga, California. Bonnie and Sid shared 44 beautiful years before Sid passed away in 2000. In 2017, as dementia slowly became more prominent in Bonnie’s life, she moved in with her son, Jeff, in Snoqualmie, Washington.

Her grandchildren will remember her as a Mimi that empowered them to follow their dreams. She was the rock-solid foundation of love in their lives. Her family will miss hearing

her laugh and seeing her eyes light up as she listened to music.

Bonnie was as elegant as they came. Those that knew her understood just how much she loved to be in the kitchen, baking or cooking. They too knew how much she loved her family, socializing with friends, and especially adored her granddaughters.

Bonnie is survived by her children Kim Geraghty, Jeffrey Hoydal, and David Hoydal; her brothers, Bruce Schaffer and Boyd Schaffer; her grandchildren, Kathryn Geraghty, Clare Geraghty, Anne Geraghty, Alexis Hoydal, and Katelyn Hoydal; and her great-granddaughter, Charlotte Kate Wright. She is preceded in death by her husband, Sidney Earl Hoydal, and her brothers, Darwin Steffenhagen and Eldon Steffenhagen.

A celebration of life is scheduled for May 2, 2021, 1 to 5 p.m. with words of remembrances at 2 p.m., at The Club at Snoqualmie Ridge.

Friends are invited to view photos and share memories on the family’s tribute wall at www.flintofts.com. Flintoft’s Funeral Home and Crematory, (425) 392-6444.