

Letters to the editor

Maintaining Lafayette's character

Your article concerning the Oct. 14 Lafayette Homeowners Council meeting quoted resident Lauren Herpich as saying, "When the General Plan Advisory Committee [GPAC] was first talking about a mission statement, there was a resounding outcry that we are not semi-rural anymore." Lafayette City Manager Niroop Srivatsa is quoted as saying that she has never seen such a significant shift in community expectations concerning growth as there is today.

While no one can deny Lafayette's downtown has changed, Ms. Herpich is dead wrong concerning the values of most Lafayette residents. And while "expectations" about what growth will occur have perhaps changed due to the constant harangue of housing advocates, the bias of Lafayette government toward development, and dictatorial legislation from Sacramento depriving communities of local planning control, Ms. Srivatsa's comment is dead wrong if she means to suggest that Lafayette residents desire growth.

In fact, in a recent GPAC "Community Values" survey, the responses concerning the de-

sired physical character of Lafayette, registered far more than any other, were that Lafayette residents fervently wish to maintain the small town and semi-rural aspirations of Lafayette. "Semi-rural" was the fifth highest rated value desired by Lafayette residents (342 of 688 responses), exceeded only by "safe"(450), "great parks and trails" (417), "family-friendly" (375) and "encouraging open space" (347). "Limit growth" immediately followed "semi-rural" (322). That survey inexplicably did not offer "small town" as a response option, but scores of respondents wrote it in anyway. "Semi-rural" received ten times the favorable responses as "encourage growth" (34 responses) and "encourage a more urban experience" (30). Hundreds of written comments were consistent with those numeric responses, particularly concerning the fervent desire to maintain Lafayette's unique character, and not become another Walnut Creek. Comments concerning a later draft Mission Statement were materially similar.

So, despite the constant screaming of advocates and legislators that Lafayette residents are despicable elitists and racists

(which is not true), and that Lafayette owes it to the world to destroy itself, Lafayette residents continue to love the character of their town, however it is described, and deeply wish to maintain it.

Eliot R. Hudson
Lafayette

The cost to cross

Can it be true that a short bike lane in the MEDIAN of Pleasant Hill Road is being considered? Which would be a few hundred yards long, from Mt. Diablo Boulevard to Deer Hill Road? Which would cost \$3.1 MILLION? So the first cyclist's little ride would represent \$3.1 million. The second ride would represent \$1.5+ million. If 10 people a day used it, 365 days a year, it would take 840 YEARS to pay for itself, if we assume each ride is worth \$1 of our tax money. (Hard to believe? Check my math).

Of course, that figure is true only if there are no accidents, deaths, or other untoward costly events, caused by cyclists and pedestrians crossing CAR TRAFFIC to REACH this obscene little boondoggle, or to get to the other curb, and then suing the city.

Oh wait, maybe 20 people a

day would use it and it would only take four CENTURIES to earn its keep.

Please tell me I'm going to

wake up and find this is just a terrible dream.

Linda Riebel
Lafayette

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

Lamorinda volleyball teams make playoffs

... continued from Page A1

The tone for the offense was set by seniors Casey Roy, Natalie Kurtz and Lauren Cunningham and juniors Amber Chu and Ruby Martin this season. "Amber has been our No. 1 hitter since her freshman year, and it has been an honor seeing her grow and being a part of the process. Lauren really stepped up in the middle for us. We needed someone that was actively moving and getting to the ball, and she earned that spot during practice. Ruby became a starter in midseason when we needed a big blocker on the right side."

Julia Berg and Catherine Devlin led the offense as the team's setters. "Julia was my go-to setter when we ran a 5-1 offense and Catherine was my second setter when we ran the 6-2 offense," Ray said. "Kaylen Ishizu did an excellent job as a setter coming off the bench and playing some defense on the right side."

Miramonte's liberos were sophomore Nicole Tuszynski and junior Annika Blas-Cedeno. "Nicole did a tremendous job for us," Ray said. "Annika was phenomenal for us coming off the bench, playing for Casey Roy in the back row and it helped our offense tremendously."

The Matadors were scheduled to play their first-round Division III playoff game Nov. 9, after press time.

Campolindo

After moving up to Division I, coach John Vuong has always made it a point to compete against the top competition prior to league play. The Cougars began this season with a 2-4 record and went 14-6 the rest of the season. "We started to build confidence as the year went on," Vuong said. "It was hard at first because as a team, we had not really played together so we had to build that connection. It took over half the season to figure out the players and who was doing what. At that point, our confidence grew and we began winning more and realizing that we had the ability and potential to be a good team."

After defeating Vintage High School in the first round, Campolindo came up short to the third ranked San Ramon Valley (17-25, 25-27, 25-27). "We lost to a great team and battled to the end," Vuong said. "We did not give up. That's the name of the game. Sometimes it goes our way and sometimes it goes the other team's way."

The Cougars will only be graduating six seniors, returning 10 underclassmen. "We'll miss them all as I have been with them for a long time, and they always competed hard." Vuong singled out outside hitter Audrey Baumer among the seniors: "Audrey stayed focused and poised. She was the

anchor of our team."

Baumer took a short- and long-term perspective to the loss. "This was the second year that we were in Division I so we had a lot to live up to," Baumer said. "We prepared really well but it just wasn't our night. I'm going to miss the competition and being on a team with such an amazing group of girls that loved to play together."

Vuong made it clear to the team what they should take away from the SRV game: "This was a game for the younger players to learn from. The next time you play in a game like this, your mental state will be different - I guarantee it. The last two years with the coronavirus, it hurt everybody across the volleyball community in trying to figure things out. We're restarting and our seniors have planted the seeds for the underclassmen. From here on, I'm sure it's going to become easier for us."

Acalanes

When Acalanes started the season losing four of their first five games, head coach Haley Walsh was not worried, and her confidence was borne out when Acalanes was 11-7 the rest of the season. "It was just working out the kinks, coming off of a COVID season and adapting to some sort of normal which was stressful for the girls at first," Walsh said. "By the end of the season, they were more balanced on things which then translated onto the court."

The depth for Acalanes on offense and defense proved to be very valuable as various starters went down with injuries. The offense was led by senior Aly Kirke and juniors Kate Olin, Ryann Jones, and Hannah Hageboeck. Emma Johnson returned from an early season injury and became a starter on the outside, becoming a key factor in the team's offense. "Kate, Ryann and Hannah should only get better next year," Walsh said. "Freshman MaeLin Mason did a great job filling in when Emma was out, and senior Bela Yanakieva was a force in a lot of games in the middle."

Senior setters Rachel Zhang, Mara Korzeniowska and sophomore Monica Dikova all competed for playing time. Korzeniowska was hurt early in the season but came back and contributed as well.

When Lyanne Wang was lost early in the season as the team's libero, Jade Profilio became the starting libero. Georgia Winkler also lined up as a libero along with playing as a middle and as an attacker. Profilio stood out in the playoff game with 37 digs, an outlandishly high number.

"Next year our strength will come out of the back row," Walsh said. "I'm looking forward to see the competition

next year between Lyanne and Jade. I'm also excited to see all of our returners in the middle and on the front line."



Kelly Sopak, Agent Insurance
Lic#: 0D03981 1 Northwood
Drive Suite 1 Orinda, CA 94563
Bus: 925-253-7700
Email: kelly@kellysopak.com
Website: www.kellysopak.com

Surprisingly great rates right around the corner.

I'm your one-stop shop for the service you deserve at a price you want. Call me for surprisingly great rates and Good Neighbor service right in your neighborhood.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm® underwriting requirements.

State Farm
Bloomington, IL
2001878



Tamplen Plastic Surgery now in Orinda

Cosmetic Surgery

- Facelift
- Facial Implants
- Neck Lift

- Nose Surgery
- Brow Lift
- Eyelid Surgery
- Ear Surgery

Laser & Non-Surgical Services

- BOTOX® Cosmetic and Dysport®
- Cosmetic Removal of Moles & Skin Tags
- Fillers (JUVÉDERM®, JUVÉDERM VOLUMA®, Restylane®)
- Fraxel Re:Store Laser Treatment

Skin Care Services

- Chemical Peels
- Obagi® Consultation



Dr. Matthew Tamplen, who grew up in Lafayette and is a well-known Facial Plastic Surgeon with Kaiser Permanente, just opened a private practice in Downtown Orinda to better serve Lamorinda patients.

Matthew Tamplen, MD

Orinda Office:
77 Moraga way Suite G, Orinda
925-254 -6710
TamplenPlasticSurgery.com

Double Board-Certified Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon.



Orinda MEDICAL GROUP

WELCOME DR. JESSICA TSUEI

Orinda Medical Group is proud to introduce Jessica Tsuei, MD, an internal medicine physician, specializing in preventive health and chronic disease management. Dr. Tsuei joins Drs. Brian Candell, Yenjean Hwang and Shawn D. Rosen in continuing our 50-year history of providing exceptional care to generations of families throughout Lamorinda.



**Accepting new patients.
Call today to schedule an appointment.**

925.254.3805

Orinda Medical Group
1 Country Club Plaza, Orinda, CA 94563