

Letters to the editor

What is building electrification?

“Electrifying everything” and powering our lives with clean electricity is an essential way communities can respond to climate chaos (fires, droughts, poor air quality). In our homes and places of work, substituting natural gas appliances with new, highly-efficient electric alternatives effectively reduces greenhouse gas emissions, improves health and safety, and lowers energy costs for residents. Therefore, the city of Lafayette is considering adopting policies to require newly constructed buildings to be built all-electric and to encourage existing building owners to convert their fossil fuel appliances to electric as well. Some of the action items

under consideration include the following: 1) Require all new building construction to be all-electric, with no gas hook ups; 2) Require certain electric appliances and electrical system upgrades during major remodeling of existing buildings; 3) Ensure that our citizens and local business owners are supported as we transition our city to meet its future energy needs, and goals toward resiliency; 4) Require an annual review and feedback process to ensure that our citizens’ needs are addressed, and that our city’s goals are being met; and 5) Require that natural gas lines be capped/decommissioned in existing buildings by 2045.

Please go to <http://love-lafayette.org/ebuildings> to learn more, watch the Environmental Task Force’s recorded Building

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

Electrification webinar (22 minutes). For questions, email planning technician Josh Muller JMuller@lovelafayette.org.

Nancy Hu DDS
Chair of Lafayette’s Environmental Task Force

Vision Zero in Lafayette

The Lafayette City Council has just approved improvements in the neighborhood of three of the local schools regarding traffic safety. This is said to be part of the Vision Zero program. Vision Zero is a series of activities said to improve safety as far as pedestrian and vehicular accidents go. It is not a prescribed program but rather a an amor-

phous series of steps to reduce auto-pedestrian collisions.

One thing is evident, Improvement does not come until the speed is reduced for vehicular traffic. When Lafayette started it had to make a decision about how it was going to manage vehicular traffic. They decided that the best thing was to get the automobiles through town. It has now been 60 years and I think it’s time for the city to say “STOP”. Something must be done to moderate vehicular speed.

In many of the cities where the Vision Zero program has been tried there was not improving safety until the speed limit was reduced. A car going at 30 miles an hour covers 1 mile in 2 minutes. A car going

25 miles an hour takes an extra 24 seconds. Surely the people of our community can afford 24 seconds per mile in order to make it safer for children, for adults, for seniors, and for bicycle riders, etc. It’s time for the city to reduce the killer speed limits within the city of Lafayette. They now have that in their purview. The law has been changed and all it takes is city council action. I truly believe that most of the drivers in Lafayette would be willing to contribute a minute or two a day for the safety of their relatives and other people’s relatives.

Sanford Sherman, M.D.
Lafayette

Sowing the seeds for hope, cooperation at Lafayette Community Garden

... continued from Page A1

While giving a tour, Thomas shows off not just vegetable plants, but also elements inspired by cultures and countries around the world, a children’s picnic area, a chicken coop and a nature trail behind the garden that leads to a handmade teepee. While walking, Thomas explains that neighbors in the area have provided artifacts leftover from the Miwok tribe, while acknowledging that we’re walking on Miwok grounds. “We’ve learned that Lafayette was one of the densest populated Miwok areas in the whole country because of the climate and the richness of the ecosystem,” Thomas explains while pointing out the Lafayette Creek. “Native Americans were (believed to be) here until the late 1700s when they were sent to the missions and by the early 1800s most of them were gone. We believe thousands were here.”

While a formal land acknowledgment hasn’t formally

been executed, Thomas says that’s something that’ll be explored in the future with the input of a Tribe and a potential collaboration with schools. “We hope to work with public schools in the future to develop a curriculum. We want to be sure to include Miwok voices in that process.”

Thomas also proudly shows off the more than 120 name tags that belong to 85 active families in the community who are members of the garden. “We like people to get to know each other while they’re here,” Thomas says. Memberships cost \$100 per individual per year and \$150 per family, however no one is turned away for inability to pay. “Anyone who is a working member of the garden can come and take produce at the end of a working day or they can come in anytime if they’d like peace and tranquility,” Thomas says. “Or they can take home harvest that’s in our harvest bin at any time.”

Part of what prompted Thomas to help bring this gar-

den to life in Lafayette was the magic she experienced while teaching environmental science at Acalanes High School. “It really brought me back to the earth. I established an outdoor classroom right alongside Lafayette Creek. Lafayette is full of rich ecosystems,” Thomas explains. “What I get is not just an amazing sense of community and groundedness but also the knowledge that I’m on a creek that’s very much like it has been for hundreds of years here in Lafayette,” Thomas says.

“Now more than ever, in our culture, at this moment in history, we need grounding to get us back to values that are important to nourish our souls, to nourish our planet, to remind ourselves of the natural rhythms that are so healing and so important,” Thomas says. “One has a better enthusiasm about helping the environment if one has had exposure. One of our missions is to give that exposure to the community. We want this to be a place where people in the com-

munity can be reminded how important it is to live simply, to be attached to those (natural) things that are important.”

For those who question how big of an impact a com-

munity garden has on creating a healthy planet or if it’s worth the effort, Thomas says it absolutely is. “I think it’s important for everyone to do what they can and maintain hope.”

What are Lamorinda Schools Teaching About DEI? Is CRT part of it? What is SEL?

Find out on Saturday May 14, 2022: 2-5 PM VIP \$100; 3-5 PM Regular \$15; 3-5 PM Livestream \$5.

Hear Black political scientist and attorney Wilfred Reilly, author of “Taboo: 10 Facts You Can’t Talk About” discuss the gap between the anti-racist narrative and reality. Also US immigrant Neil Mammen, co-founder of Every Black Life Matters (EBLM) and Lisa Logan on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in our schools.

For tickets, QR Code below or search the event title at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)



Location in Lafayette will be emailed prior to event.

ORINDA’S FIRE AND AMBULANCE RESPONSE IS AT RISK

A Message from your Moraga-Orinda Firefighters

Since 2013, Moraga-Orinda Fire District’s understaffing means there are only enough firefighter/paramedics at your station to put one unit on the street at a time.

- **When the ambulance is in service, there’s nobody on the fire engine**
- **When there’s a fire, nobody’s on the ambulance**

Nobody can be in two places at once. We need to restore full staffing for both fire and ambulance response in Orinda.

WHAT DOES UNDERSTAFFING MEAN FOR YOU?

- **Delayed fire response:** Recently, an Orinda home fire burned for nearly 10 minutes because there was nobody to staff the engine. This is unacceptable.
- **Delayed ambulance response:** Orinda has a large senior population. You depend on fast, professional ambulance response. If the engine is fighting a fire, you are left at risk.
- **Unequal service:** The MOFD station in Moraga is fully staffed, both the engine and the ambulance. Why doesn’t Orinda have the same service?

Orinda deserves the same service as Moraga’s residents. We need to restore full fire and ambulance staffing NOW!



STAND WITH YOUR FIREFIGHTERS

Join your firefighters **May 18th at 7PM** at the **MOFD Board Meeting via Zoom** ([link will be available at MOFD.org](https://www.mofd.org)) or write your MOFD board member to send them a message:

YES ... to restoring full fire and ambulance staffing for Orinda now!

YES ...to fast, effective, professional fire and EMS service for all of our residents

YES ...to putting public safety first

GET THE FACTS AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD ... at facebook.com/MOFDFirefighters

