

Letters to the editor ... continued

Dell'Aquila for MOFD board

This is in support of Vince Dell'Aquila's candidacy for the MOFD Board of Directors. I have known, and worked in volunteer roles with Vince for over 27 years. He is as capable, dedicated and altruistic as anyone could wish to have serve on the Board. In Vince's broad experience as an Educator (Including Miramonte High School Athletic Director), General Contractor, Non-Profit Board member and Firewise Neighborhood Leader, he has successfully collaborated with a variety of stakeholders, for years. Vince is uniquely qualified to prioritize and implement MOFD goals. I can't overstate how valuable he will be for the MOFD Board, and Community.
Bill Cosden
Orinda

Elect Vince Dell'Aquila to the MOFD Board - District 3

I am writing in support of the candidacy of Vince Dell'Aquila for the MOFD Board of Directors, District 3. While we have excellent firefighters and substantial resources dedicated to our fire district, we need to do more to become a true fire adapted community. This will involve proactive engagement by MOFD board members to help our community get ready for a major fire event. The district needs to spend more resources on education, improved fire detection technology and community communications. Vince is a long time Orinda resident and has been an educator and coach at Miramonte High School for many years. He will bring the energy and focus needed to help our

neighborhoods prepare for the existential threat of a wild fire.
Jim Keefe
Orinda

Elect Vince for MOFD

I am writing in support of the candidacy of Vince Dell'Aquila for the MOFD Board of Directors, Division 3. I have known Vince for 25 years and have worked closely with him in his roles as Athletic Director of Miramonte High School and coach of Miramonte and Solano College teams. Vince is hard working, conscientious, works well with others, and is a man of integrity. I am confident he would make a positive contribution as a member of the MOFD Board of Directors.
Steve Harwood
Orinda

Chris Young for MOFD Division 1

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Chris Young for the MOFD Board of Directors. Chris is an independent and balanced candidate who is running solely because he wants to give back to

Moraga, and to the fire district whose outstanding work he so greatly values. As 10-year Moraga residents with two young children, Chris and his wife are invested in our community, and his top priority is serving the safety and well-being of our residents.

Chris is 100% committed to keeping MOFD locally controlled, and to ensuring that it is managed in a fiscally responsible manner. He also wants to facilitate collaboration between labor, management and administration to reach consensus whenever possible. This is why he has support from Moraga residents, past MOFD Board members, and our firefighters as well.

Effective communication between MOFD and the community regarding fire prevention and safety is increasingly vital as the risk of wildfire grows, and Chris's expertise as a marketing and communications executive will add a welcome new skill set to the Board. He is exactly what MOFD needs to keep it running smoothly and successfully and I urge Division 1 residents to elect Chris Young to the MOFD Board.
Ann Walgenbach
Residential Leader of the Bollinger Canyon Road Firewise group
Moraga

Election Season SPECIAL POLICY: Letters to the Editor Letters related to a candidate running for office should be a maximum of 200 words so that we will have room to publish as many letters as possible. Letters regarding ballot measures will remain up to 350 words maximum. Deadline is now NOON on Thursday prior to the issue date.

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. Lamorinda Weekly reserves the right to refuse publishing a letter submission. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556

BART celebrates 50 years with two of its stations in Lamorinda



Photo Vera Kochan

BART's Lafayette and Orinda stations celebrate 50 years of service.

By Vera Kochan

Although the official year when Bay Area Rapid Transit first began revenue service was 1972, the concept began nearly six decades earlier.

As far back as 1911, business and civic leaders in the Bay Area had met to discuss various options about how best to "connect" the East Bay to San Francisco. Ideas that in those days would have been considered science fiction, soon grew into viable possibilities with the onset of improved technology.

It wasn't until 1946 that BART as we know it began to take shape. After World War II, a migration boom made its way to California with much of it settling in the Bay Area. The population explosion added commuters which triggered increasing traffic on roadways and bridges.

According to "BART History" author Justin Roberts, "In 1947, a joint Army-Navy review Board concluded that another connecting link between San Francisco and Oakland would be needed in the years ahead to

prevent intolerable congestion on the Bay Bridge. The link? An underwater tube devoted exclusively to high-speed electric trains."

The State Legislature created a San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit Commission in 1951, consisting of 26 representatives from each of the nine counties bordering the Bay. They decided that the least costly option was to form a five-county district (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo) responsible for building and operating the new high-speed rail network.

Someone had to pay for a new BART system, and that someone was the taxpayers. The five-county district was granted a taxing power of five cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. It was also given the authority to levy property taxes to support a general obligation bond issue, if approved by the district's voters. Additional funds would come from operat-

ing revenues. The total cost of the system, as of 1962, was projected at \$996 million and was considered to be the largest single public works project ever undertaken in the United States by local citizens.
Official construction began

on June 19, 1964, with President Lyndon Johnson attending the ground-breaking ceremonies where the Concord - Walnut Creek link would be developed.

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New eatery in Rheem dishes up Cal-Mex cuisine



Photo Vera Kochan

Casa Turing staff, from left: Owner John Reyna, Prep Fermin Andres, Head Prep Bernabe Garcia, and Owner Joseph Reyna

By Vera Kochan

From the owner of Town Bakery & Café comes a new dining spot called Casa Turing (Rheem Shopping Center next to TJ Maxx). Co-owners John Reyna and brother, Joseph, have named their new establishment after their maternal grandmother whose nickname was Turing.

The brothers were born in the Philippines and come from a long line of relatives in the food industry. Their grandparents owned a bakery there in the 1950s, before moving the family to the United States in 1989.

John's first foray into his own dining business began with a food truck called Sliders in 2014. He had plans to open a brick and mortar establishment, and when the Moraga resident realized that a space

in Rheem became available in 2018, he opened Town Bakery & Café. Never one to rest on his laurels, the ever-ambitious restaurateur was on the lookout for another location where he could open an ethnic eatery.

Initially a pizza place came to mind, but the brothers were still open to ideas. They were informed of a town-wide survey taken more than five years ago, whereby residents overwhelmingly wanted to see a Mexican restaurant in Moraga; and realizing that he dined on Mexican food "at least twice a week," John began to make the necessary plans.

"We did a lot of research for what they really do in terms of the Mexican technique of cooking," explained John. "We even went to L.A. Our main cook, Miguel Jimenes, is from Tijuana."

Before Casa Turing opened, the recipes were "tested" at

Town Bakery. The ones that were a hit made it to their new Cal-Mex menu. Items such as: Crispy Shrimp Tacos; Burrito Bowl; Taco Salad; Tostadas; Homemade Tortilla Chips with fixings; Enchiladas; Angus Steak Fajita Plate; and more are served along with bottled drinks. Coming soon are beer, wine and agave-based cocktails. Casa Turing is also available for catering events.

"Our food is prepped to order," Joseph stated proudly.

"We use local ingredients. Whatever seasonal foods are available go on our rotating menu. We shop for groceries everyday, and the only thing the freezer is for will be to keep the ice cream [coming soon]."

"The main focus for us is not to cut corners as far as food goes," added John. "We don't even use a microwave except to melt cheese."

Sister, Grace, runs the front of the house and the Reynas' parents come to help out when they can. "We have a very strong team behind the scenes," said John. "The prep guys are the ones that make us successful." Hoping to add to the success are Taco Tuesdays; live music on weekends; and lunchtime hours. Casa Turing is currently open Tuesday through Thursday from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Friday to Sunday from 4 to 9 p.m. Closed on Monday.

Casa Turing quietly opened for business on Sept. 2. "We're in the honeymoon stage," said Joseph. "The flow of customers is nice, and we've gotten great feedback from diners." Added John, "We really enjoy doing this."

For more information visit: casaturing.com or phone (925) 592-0964.



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