

# Letters to the editor

## Thank you to Lamorinda Community

Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley is very grateful to the Lamorinda Community for its support of our See's Candy Shop this year.

As in previous years, all profits from the See's Candy sales will be reinvested in local community charities.

Gloria Eive  
President,  
Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley

## Orinda School Parcel Tax

At the same time as it is asking Orinda taxpayers for a parcel tax, the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees continues to show its disdain for those same taxpayers and other members of the public. The OUSD has rejected my requests that members of the public be allowed to comment via zoom at board meetings rather than have to appear in person, because of the difficulty that attendance in person poses for many due to family obligations and because of the three widespread viruses plaguing our community. Also, the OUSD continues to refuse to allow members of the public to see, prior to each meeting, the written comments on agenda items submitted by other members of the public, even though both the Orinda City Council and Orinda Planning Commission allow such access online.

The Board President, Hillary Weiner, VP Cara Hoxie, and Superintendent Aida Glimme, while claiming that a parcel tax is needed to retain and attract teachers, refuse to even put on an agenda for discussion my request that the Board adopt a simple resolution asking the Orinda City Council to adopt an Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance. Such an ordinance would require that any new housing project in Orinda include a percentage, set by the Council, of units to be set aside for affordable housing. As defined by state law, a four person household would qualify for such housing with a household income of up to \$171,000. Not only would this help retain and attract teachers, but it would also increase Orinda's diversity. One would think that the OUSD, while asking taxpayers to reach into their pockets, might at least hold a public discussion over an additional way to help retain and attract teachers - one without cost to taxpayers. Lafayette has had such an ordinance since 2016. Moraga is adopting one, and most Contra Costa jurisdictions already have one.

Given the benefit to teachers and the district, the OUSD should adopt a resolution encouraging the Orinda City Council to adopt an Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance.

Nick Waranoff  
Orinda

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

# Campaign to save Harvey Ranch a success

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A \$550,000 grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation acknowledged JMLT's efforts of continuous preservation to the area; and during the Moraga Town Council's Sept. 14 meeting, members unanimously approved a \$250,000 contribution for the purchase of Harvey Ranch open space (the payment comes from Fund 100 - One-Time Developer Fees, Palos Colorados). Other large individual contributions helped to close the funding gap as the deadline neared.

"At stake was the potential loss of untouched land that will now become a gate-

way to pristine wilderness, a new staging area with trailheads and trail connections, quick access to amazing views and pathways, an enhanced buffer for wildlife, a protected view shed, and a keystone element of the natural environs of Saint Mary's College," said Eukel. "What a wonderful way to start the new year! We are so grateful to the JMLT community for making this possible."

A property dedication and grand opening to the public is being planned for late spring 2023.

For more information about the John Muir Land Trust visit: [jmlt.org](http://jmlt.org).

# Orinda's only concern with new fire code is limitation on traffic calming

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MOFD does not object to withdrawing this amendment."

There was no public comment on the item, which was heard very late in the meeting after 11:30 p.m. In council discussion, Vice Mayor Darlene Gee said that she really didn't see anything too problematic with the new code, except the issue of the city having flexibility on traffic calming measures. Gee, who is professionally a transportation engineer, added that she could not un-

derstand why physical traffic calming measures would be an issue for fire equipment.

Mayor Inga Miller agreed that traffic calming measures are really important to create safe driving conditions within the city. She said that she hoped the fire chief will come around on that, and hoped that the fire district will see the wisdom of having traffic calming measures on the city's streets.

Biggs promised to convey the council's thought to the fire district.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)

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