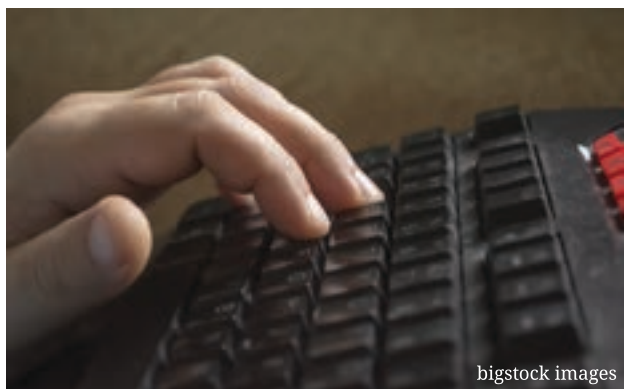


# The rise of technology scams: be aware



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By Jennifer Raftis, CPO

Technology has revolutionized the way we live and work, providing us with unprecedented access to information and resources. However, this increased connectivity has also led to an uptick in technology scams, where fraudsters use technology to deceive and defraud unsuspecting victims.

An increasing number of my clients are falling victim to scam attempts. In this day and age, it is es-

sential to be aware of the risks associated with technology and to take proactive measures to protect yourself from falling victim to scams.

I was working for a client the other day when their telephone rang. The caller said they were from her bank and had noticed fraudulent activity and asked if she had knowledge of the charges. She said she didn't make the purchases and was frightened that someone had stolen her information. They asked her to allow them access to her computer and they would help her sign into her bank account so they could credit back the fraudulent charges. I heard her start to give her personal information to the caller, and I immediately ran to her and told her to hang up and to call her bank directly. She hung up and called her bank. Guess what? No fraudulent activity and the bank had not initiated the call.

If the call was legitimate, the bank would never ask her for personal information. Although she was shaken, she was grateful she hung up in time, otherwise, she could have been scammed out of thousands of dollars, not to mention the hassle factor of trying to unravel the ensuing mess.

These scammers target everyone! It is essential to stay vigilant and safeguard yourself from scams, re-

gardless of your age, as scammers are constantly improving their tactics to obtain your money.

Another client was planning to send money to his grandson who sent him an email saying he was traveling and lost all his credit cards and couldn't get home. I told him to call his grandson directly and of course, the grandson didn't know anything about the request and had not emailed my client.

A third client sent me an email saying that she had been sick and wanted to know if I could purchase an Amazon gift card for her niece's birthday. Instead of responding back to the email, I called her on the phone. She was devastated and told me she had been on the phone all day with all of her friends and family calling to make sure she was OK. This scammer was able to take control of her email contacts and send them all requests for a gift card purchase. It took her weeks to unravel this scammer's work. Can you imagine having your email hacked?

**Here are just a few suggestions for protecting yourself against scams:**

- Scammers are often pushy and use scare tactics to get you to provide them with access to your credit card, social security number, or other personal information.

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## Letters to the editor

### Meeting the need for affordable housing

Like many communities across the Bay Area, Lafayette is struggling to get its housing plan approved by the state. After its second submission was rejected on March 29th, the City now risks losing state funding and local control unless it submits a compliant plan on an expedited timeline.

Every 7 years, California cities are required to submit "housing element" plans to the state for approval. Until now, this has been a paper exercise. Since 2017 however, California legislators have passed a raft of housing bills requiring municipalities to actually demonstrate how they will build enough housing to meet their share of each region's need. Lafayette needs to show capacity for 2,114 units. Our community and city council have created plans for approximately 2,900 homes—on paper. In reality, Lafayette's earlier drafts have concentrated new housing along Mt. Diablo Blvd, with few substantial policy changes to facilitate actual housing development.

The state rejected these drafts for many reasons—first and foremost because the city lacks adequate incentives for new homes and because of concerns that putting all new housing downtown would exacerbate segregation. To their credit, Lafayette city staff and council members are considering major improvements in the next Housing Element draft. For example, the city is considering allowing missing middle housing (think fourplexes and cottage courts) in single-family zoned neighborhoods near downtown. These smaller units are more "affordable by design" and more appropriate for young people and seniors who lack affordable housing options.

Inclusive Lafayette also supports efforts to expedite the city's timeline for developing af-

fordable housing on city owned land, and to limit the types of projects which require discretionary review. Meeting our housing obligations need not be a burden, but instead an opportunity to create the kind of community that most people in Lafayette want to live in: a community where families with kids can afford to live, supporting our school enrollment; one where seniors can find options to downsize while remaining in the community and retail workers can find an affordable home instead of the two-hour plus commute or severe rent burden that many endure now.

We must seize this moment and embrace the pro-housing future our community desperately needs.

The Board of Inclusive Lafayette Jeremy Levine, Max Heninger, Chris Mickas and Allison Hill

### Orinda needs an Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance

Thanks to Lamorinda Weekly and its reporter Sora O'Doherty, for the May 24, 2023 story about the Orinda City Council's overdue consideration of an Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance ("IO"). An IO would require that any new housing project include a specified percentage of affordable housing. A four person household qualifies for lower income affordable housing with an annual income up to \$100,000; for moderate income the limit is \$171,000. I am pleased that the council is considering such an ordinance.

But I am troubled by the quoted comments of many of the council members, who appear to believe that bringing affordable housing to Orinda is optional. It is not.

Only a few months ago, as required by state law (RHNA), Orinda adopted, and the state approved, a Housing Element that contains a plan to rezone Orinda. The state mandated

that, of the total of 1,359 new units, 43% be designated for lower income and 16% for moderate income. But the City's designations are not binding on developers. For example, the city has upzoned the Country Club Plaza area from 10 (current zoning) to 55 units per acre and designated 43% of units on the site for lower income and 16% for moderate income. Housing Element Table 5-5A.

<https://cityoforinda.app.box.com/v/6thCycleHEAdoptedCertified> Yet a developer can take advantage of the 55 units per acre new density and build exclusively market rate or luxury housing without any affordable units.

Thus, the only way to actually get affordable housing is by enacting an IO.

Not mentioned in the story is that if by January 2027 actual building permits have not been issued at each income level equal to half of Orinda's RHNA at each income level, the mid-cycle consequences of SB 35 would come into play, which would dramatically limit the city's approval powers over new projects. At that point, zoning is insufficient.

Another reason for compelling developers to include affordable housing in new projects is that it is one of the only ways to increase diversity in Orinda, a goal presumably shared by the Council.

Nick Waranoff  
Orinda

### Anti-trans demonstrations

We have anti-trans bigots in Lafayette. They are demonstrating outside the elementary school on Fridays to indoctrinate kids to hate on LGBTQ communities. Bigots hate blacks and said interracial marriage would lead to the breakdown of society, but we legalized inter-racial marriage in 1967 and they were wrong. Bigots hate gays and tried to stop them from marry-

ing saying it would destroy the "sanctity of marriage," we legalized it in 2008 and they were wrong. Now they are hating on trans people saying they are pedophiles.

Look bigots, you are wrong again. If you want to find proven pedophiles in dresses, please demonstrate in front of the Catholic Church as this is where the abusers are. Indeed, the diocese of Oakland just declared bankruptcy to defend itself from 330 cases of child abuse. But you won't do that, as you are not really about child abuse but about bigotry.

Matthew Fogarty  
Orinda

### The dismissal of head coach Bill Fraser

On May 31 Lafayette citizen Bill Fraser was dismissed from his position as Head Coach of the Acalanes Girls' Lacrosse team. The reason given by Associate Superintendent Amy McNamara and Principal Eric Shawn was essentially "sometimes a change is needed". No specifics.

Bill is an exemplary, up-standing and engaged member of the Lamorinda community. He's made lasting impacts on families through his coaching contributions at Acalanes, MOL, Lafayette Little League and his work with Boy Scout Troop 204.

In 2022, just last year, Bill was named the Lafayette Citizen of the Year and US Lacrosse Nor-Cal Coach of the Year. On April 1, 2022, the Acalanes Boosters published an article titled "Acalanes Salutes Coach Bill Fraser, Lafayette's Citizen of the Year!" "The Acalanes athletic

community is fortunate to have Bill Fraser coaching and mentoring so many of our student-athletes." "Bill's players consistently mention their appreciation for both his coaching on the field as well as his mentoring for life off the field." The City of Lafayette proclaimed, "Bill Fraser, through his coaching, creates community on and off the field and builds self-esteem and confidence of the young men and women in our community by encouraging them to be the best they can be."

What has changed since last spring? Was it because Bill publicly supported school board candidates who ran against current incumbents last November? Was it First Amendment protected opinions that Bill may have rightly and publicly shared? Was his dismissal retaliatory in nature?

Lamorinda, it's well past time to speak up against cancel culture in our communities. We have parents, students, community members, teachers and business owners who all fear sharing their thoughts and questions out of fear of being canceled. It's time to get off our collective knees and stand up. Speak up. Don't be a bystander. All voices deserve to be heard—whether or not you agree with them. There is no pride in being a passive coward and hoping that someone else will combat this insidious cancel culture. The person you're waiting for is yourself. People like Bill Fraser deserve our respect and support.

Jean Follmer  
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. 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

## Public Safety

**Emergency response:**  
Emergency: 24 Hours 911  
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours  
925-284-5010  
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)  
**Lafayette Police Department:**  
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680  
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt  
925-299-3221  
Police Department Tip Line  
94549Tip@gmail.com  
Police Department Traffic Issues  
94549Traffic@gmail.com  
**Moraga Police Department:**  
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055  
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049  
**Orinda Police Department:**  
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820  
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan  
925-254-6820  
[Orindatip@cityoforinda.org](mailto:Orindatip@cityoforinda.org)

### Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report

May 14 - May 27

Alarms	44
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	27
Traffic	46
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subject	10
Suspicious Vehicle	11
Service to Citizen	38
Patrol Req./Security Check	17
Public/School Assembly Check	3
Supplemental Report	26
Vacation House Check	29
Welfare Check	22
Ordinance Violation	0
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Auto Burglary	
3000 Block Camino Diablo	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	

Carjacking	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. (2)	
Reckless Driving	Acalanes Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
200 Block Lafayette Cir.	
Road Rage	Glenside Dr./Burton Dr.
Tc - Property Damage	3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
30 Block Deer Trail	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1St St.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Computer Fraud	700 Block Las Trampas Rd.
Fraud False Pretenses	1000 Block Sierra Vista Way
Identity Theft	Police Department
Misc Burglary	3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Panhandling	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft	4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
600 Block Augustine Ln.	
Petty Theft From Veh	4000 Block Tilden Ln. (2)
Residential Burglary	1100 Block Estates Dr.
Robbery Armed	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Robbery Strongarm	10 Block Caselton Pl.
Shoplift	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (7)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbance-domestic	3700 Block Mosswood Dr.
3700 Block Sundale Rd.	
Disturbing The Peace	1200 Block Panorama Dr.
Loud Music	900 Block Janet Ln.
900 Block Dewing Ave.	
Loud Noise	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Loud Party	

1000 Block Howard Hills Rd.	
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.	
3100 Block Ford Ln.	
Public Nuisance	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
Oak Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24	
Willow Dr./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (5)	
900 Block Dewing Ave.	
3400 Block Golden Gate Way	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Creek	
3500 Block Brook St.	
Florence Dr./Helen Ln.	
1000 Block Almanor Ln.	
Vandalism	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
<b>Other</b>	
Fire/Ems Response Info	
3500 Block Wilkinson Ln.	
Indecent Exposure	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
K9 Outside Assist Request	
100 Block Alamos Dr., Dan	
Sb I 680 At Marina Vista Ave., Mar	
Loitering	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
Stray-traf Haz	
Upper Happy Valley Rd./Hilldale Rd.	
Unwanted Guest	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
1300 Block Masterson Ln.	

### Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report

May 16 - May 22

Alarms	11
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	26
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	10
Patrol Req./Security Check	4
Public/School Assembly Check	4
Supplemental Report	5
Vacation House Check	2

Welfare Check	1
Ordinance Violation	1
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Accident Property	
St Marys College	
Auto Burglary	
Not Available	
Excessive Speed	
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr. (2)	
Moraga Way/Coral Dr., Ori	
Moraga Rd./Sky High	
Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo	
Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr. (2)	
Fernwood Dr./Rheem Blvd.	
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd., Laf	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (2)	
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way (2)	
St Andrews Dr./Moraga Way	
Moraga Way/School St	
Reckless Driving	
Safeway	
Sanders Dr./Carr Dr.	
Vehicle Theft	
McCaulous	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Grand Theft Veh Parts	
Not Available	
Petty Theft Veh Parts	
Larch Ave./Tia Pl.	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbing The Peace	
700 Block Augusta Dr. (2)	
Drunk In Public	
10 Block Hardie Dr.	
Loud Party	
2100 Block Donald Dr.	
Public Nuisance	
Moraga Rd./Devin Dr.	
<b>Other</b>	
Corporal Injury Spouse	
100 Block Wallace Cir.	

Traffic	35
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	2
Suspicious Vehicle	1
Service to Citizen	24
Patrol Req./Security Check	13
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	11
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	2
Ordinance Violation	1
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Accident Property	
Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo	
Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd.	
Orinda Way	
Police Department	
Moraga Way/Orchard Rd.	
Auto Burglary	
200 Block El Toyonal (2)	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
20 Block Orinda Way	
Camino Pablo/Wildcat Canyon Rd.	
Vehicle Theft	
Wildler Rd./Eb Sr 24	
90 Block Loma Vista Dr.	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Commercial Burglary	
70 Block Moraga Ct.	
Identity Theft	
80 Block Van Ripper Ln.	
70 Block Van Ripper Ln.	
Warrant Arrest	
Orinda Way (2)	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbance-domestic	
500 Block Tahos Rd.	
Loud Music	
10 Block Hilldale Ct.	
Loud Noise	
Washington Ln. (2)	
Public Nuisance	
10 Block Orinda Way	
<b>Other</b>	
Possession Of Stolen Prop	
Camino Sobrante	
Trespass W/ Vehicle	
Wildler Rd./Eb Sr 24	
Unauthorized Possession	
Oak Rd./Barbara Rd.	
Violation Of Parole	
Orinda Way	



**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report**  
May 21 - May 27

Alarms	8
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9