

Letters to the editor

MOFD \$1,300 fee for installing a solar system

I can see why MOFD needs the additional revenue which will discourage people from doing something environmentally constructive. Their long range finan-

cial forecast shows the General Fund reserve account growing from \$18 million this year to \$62 million in ten years, assuming a 3.5% increase in property taxes. Note, the property tax revenue has increased an average of 6% per

year over the past ten years so the \$62 million is a conservative number; could be \$100 million.

They are barely scraping by.

Steve Cohn
Orinda

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Orinda Theater

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When word started circulating about the theater's plight earlier this month, the community responded in kind and voiced support by saying "okay, we will just come a different day," said an appreciative Zemrak.

"The community loves the theater and that is why we are still open," he said of the public's backing during other rough times, such as during the pandemic.

The plan now is to re-examine the books in May, and see if it pencils out financially to reopen for one of the two nights that is currently closed.

The immediate decision earlier this month was made to close on Mondays and Tuesday evenings, because they were the slowest nights of the week for the theater. By doing that, a savings on at least utility costs of \$240 per night could be realized.

Shock is understatement to describe Zemrak's reaction when he

checked his bank account online April 1. After an initial peak in the morning, he was floored later in the day to see the \$6,250 payment to the utility giant.

"PG&E had announced the commercial rate increase," he said, "But I didn't expect it to go up \$2000."

PG&E offered to assign a dedicated representative to him in the wake of the initial attention his story had received among local media outlets, but as he saw it, "They are not there to help us."

No discounts were offered. Rather, PG&E's big idea for keeping his costs down was closing in the evenings, notably during the period from 4 to 8 p.m. when utility rates peak. The only problem with that strategy is that people come to the theater to watch movies during the evening.

The movie business is a difficult one for small theaters like the Orinda, as they lose 35% in revenue to studios for

the movies shown. And when there aren't blockbuster movies to bring in patrons to fill the 750 seat theater, such as what the extended writer's strike further compounded, that makes keeping on the lights even more challenging.

"If you are not getting attendance, that makes it tough to cover a utility bill," he said.

So what he is to do now? Zemrak considered an increase ticket prices, but determined the tradeoff isn't worth it.

"I don't want to turn away people just for 33 cents that is the return on a \$1 increase," Zemrak said. "The math doesn't work out."

"The whole industry is a math game," he added.

Ten employees, three full-time and seven part time, continue on the payroll despite the recent setback. Zemrak noted just one shift was lost along the way.

So the show goes on and that includes the monthly Tuesday after-

Bus Bridge Alert: free buses replace trains between Rockridge and Lafayette April 27-28

BART crews will work around the clock to advance several trackway improvements near Orinda Station on the weekend of April 27-28. To create a safe work space for the team, there will be no train service between Rockridge and Lafayette stations that weekend. Instead, free buses provided by AC Transit and County Connection will move riders between Rockridge, Orinda, and Lafayette stations. Orinda Station will be closed, but buses will still serve the station. Riders can expect delays of 20-30 minutes in the work area on the shutdown weekend of April 27-28.

noon classic movie matinee program. After James Dean's "Rebel without a Cause" attracted another 100 patrons in March, the 1936 "San Francisco" starring Clark Gable and Jeanette MacDonald is on the bill on April 30, which Zemrak projects to also draw well.

The \$10 admission for the classic movie program helps cover the rent of the film and employees, including the expertise of a union projectionist that ensures a flawless viewing and listening experience for patrons.

As opposed to some theaters that might just show the occasional classic movie, the entire Orinda experience is even more transportive for the audience.

The Orinda Theater's monthly classic movie program is a wholly vintage experience that begins at 1 p.m. with a

newsreel from the era. For April 30, a restored 1936 Fox Movietone is planned, followed by some color cartoons.

These will be followed by original coming attraction shorts, which will spotlight flicks that are on deck in the classic series, including "North by Northwest" and "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

Matias Bombal, the series host and a syndicated radio movie critic and film historian, keeps the authentic fun and entertaining experience going with remarks to further generate excitement, as opposed to some stodgy lecture about the film. Then, without further ado, it's showtime for the day's main attraction.

"There is no aspect of the program that is modern," said Bombal, who grew up enjoying such an experience and went on to learn the

craft as an usher.

Bombal lauded Zemrak's efforts to keep this unique matinee program going as well the diverse array of presentations, including showing foreign films with English subtitles like "Bonjour Switzerland" coming in May, and live concerts like Vladimir Korneev on May 19, alongside the mainstream movies — in light of difficult times.

Furthermore, Bombal sees it as one of the few theaters where the public has a true sense of ownership that keeps the theater going such that every purchase, even at the candy counter, really makes a difference.

"The Orinda is a unique experience where the public embraces it. That is very special that few cities have," he added.

Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or 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

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report March 31 - April 13

Alarms	52
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	11
Traffic	54
Suspicious Circumstances	9
Suspicious Subject	19
Suspicious Vehicle	5
Service to Citizen	28
Patrol Req./Security Check	16
Public/School Assembly Check	3
Supplemental Report	18
Vacation House Check	31
Welfare Check	13
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations

Hit And Run Misdemeanor	1
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.	1
Dewing Ave./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	1
3900 Block Woodside Ct.	1
Reckless Driving	1
Acalanes Rd./Eb Sr 24	1
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.	1
Pleasant Hill Rd./Greenvalley Dr.	1
Taylor Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	1
500 Block Merriewood	1
3400 Block Hamlin Rd.	1
Tc - Property Damage	1
Old Tunnel Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	1
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	1
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	1

Other criminal activity

Attempted Bank Robbery	1
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	1
Fraud False Pretenses	1
900 Block Mountain View Dr.	1
3400 Block St Marys Rd.	1
1100 Block Estates Dr.	1
Grand Theft	1
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	1
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	1

Identity Theft

3900 Block Rancho Rd.	1
Police Department	1
Panhandling	1
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	1
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	1
Petty Theft	1
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	1
Petty Theft Bicycle	1
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.	1
Shoplift	1
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (13)	1
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	1
Warrant Service	1
10 Block Baltusrol, Mor	1

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report April 2 - April 15

Alarms	15
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	2
Traffic	56
Suspicious Circumstances	1
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	10
Patrol Req./Security Check	19
Public/School Assembly Check	3
Supplemental Report	5
Vacation House Check	1
Welfare Check	5
Ordinance Violation	1

Vehicle violations

Accident Property	1
30 Block Arroyo Dr.	1
Rheem Blvd. at Moraga Rd.	1
Safeway Laf.	1
Excessive Speed	1
Campolindo Dr./Moraga Rd.	1
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.	1
Moraga Way/Canyon Rd.	1
Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.	1
200 Block Rheem Blvd.	1
500 Block Moraga Way, Ori	1
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	1
Safeway	1
Reckless Driving	1
Bollinger Canyon Rd./St Marys Rd.	1
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.	1
Rheem Blvd./Fernwood Dr.	1
Camino Pablo/Rimer Dr.	1
Thorndale Pl./Arroyo Dr.	1
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.	1
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.	1
Canyon Rd./Moraga Rd.	1
Rheem Blvd./Center St.	1
Campolindo High School	1

Other criminal activity

Grand Theft	1
300 Block Cleveland Ave.	1
1500 Block Canyon Rd.	1
Petty Theft	1
Not Available	1
600 Block Moraga Rd.	1
Shoplift	1
Shoplift	1

Other criminal activity

Grand Theft	1
300 Block Cleveland Ave.	1
1500 Block Canyon Rd.	1
Petty Theft	1
Not Available	1
600 Block Moraga Rd.	1
Shoplift	1
Shoplift	1

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic	1
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.	1
100 Block Donald Dr.	1
Loud Noise	1
Safeway	1
Public Nuisance	1
10 Block Wandel Dr.	1
Via Granada/Calle La Mesa	1
Camino Pablo Rd. School	1
St Marys College	1
Other	1
Elder Abuse	1
900 Block Country Club Dr.	1
Extortion	1
1100 Block Larch Ave.	1
Harassment	1
Not Available	1
Mentally Ill Commit	1
Not Available/Violation	1
Restraining Ord	1
1200 Block Rimer Dr.	1



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report March 31 - April 13

Alarms	43
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	89
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	6
Suspicious Vehicle	2
Service to Citizen	52
Patrol Req./Security Check	52
Public/School Assembly Check	3
Supplemental Report	13
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	7
Ordinance Violation	1

Vehicle violations

Accident Property	1
Moraga Way/Brookwood Rd.	1
Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24	1
Moraga Way/Bryant Way	1
Auto Burglary	1
50 Block Bates Blvd.	1
80 Block Muth Dr.	1
70 Block Muth Dr.	1
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	1
Orinda Way	1
Moraga Way	1
Reckless Driving	1
Moraga Way/Overhill Rd.	1
Moraga Way/Meadowlands Ct.	1

Other criminal activity

Grand Theft	1
Moraga Way	1
Irwin Way	1
Identity Theft	1
90 Block Tiger Tail Ct.	1
400 Block Ridge Gate Rd.	1
Petty Theft	1
Moraga Way	1
Petty Theft From Veh	1
80 Block Via Floreado	1
Residential Burglary	1
20 Block Miner Rd.	1
Shoplift	1
60 Block Moraga Way	1
Moraga Way	1
Warrant Arrest	1
Moraga Way	1
Camino Sobrante	1
Orinda Way	1

CERT Monthly Meeting: Wildfire

Lamorinda CERT is excited to welcome guest speaker Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief David Winnacker who will be sharing important information about wildfire during our monthly meeting on May 13th at 7:00 pm. Living in a beautiful, but wildfire susceptible area, residents will get the latest information on wildfire mitigation efforts by the District and what they as residents can do to be best prepared. This will prove to be a lively, information-packed meeting and residents are encouraged to attend. Anyone interested can join our monthly Zoom meeting on May 13th by contacting the CERT registrar at registrar@lamorindacert.org to receive the meeting link.

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