



# 2-step verification?

## Try 48-step verification.

See how we secure our elections at [secure-election.org](http://secure-election.org)

ELECTIONS — MORE SECURE THAN EVER


CONTRA COSTA COUNTY



In Memory

## David Martin Ernsberger

July 27, 1945-July 2, 2024



David Martin Ernsberger, July 27, 1945-July 2, 2024, passed away on Tuesday, July 2 at the age of 78 in Austin, Texas. He lost his beloved wife, Nancy, on April 26 after her own battle with cancer. They were married for 57 years and apart for two months. They had many adventures together and loved to meet new friends and travel. He was born in South Bend, IN, making him a lifelong Notre Dame fan, and was predeceased by his parents, Martin and Ledoshia Ernsberger and his brother, Don Ernsberger, and is survived by his children, Eric, Stacey and Marci, his brother, Jack Ernsberger, and his grandchildren Avery, Harper, Penny and Nolan.

He was a hard-working man with a successful 30-year career at IBM, where he was a great mentor and colleague to many. He lived in the town of Moraga for 12 years and loved the group of friends that he met there. He was a big supporter of the Campolindo women's basketball team, which his daughter Marci was a part of and was thrilled when they won the state championship in 1994 and 1995. He was also very proud of his wife's teaching career at Orinda Intermediate School. After retiring, they spent their years split between Texas and New Hampshire. Anyone who was lucky enough to know him knows how he could light up a room with his charm and fun-loving nature. There will be a celebration of life for Dave and Nancy on Friday, July 26 at 5pm at Camp Ogontz, 14 Ogontz Rd. Lyman, NH 03585 and a service in Austin for Dave on Saturday, August 24 at 11am at Weed-Corley-Fish Lake Travis.

Please RSVP for New Hampshire 7/26 at <http://evite.me/xNyQNunVrj>  
Please RSVP for Austin 8/24 at <http://evite.me/daveernsberger>

If you wish, in lieu of flowers, please feel free to donate to one of the projects Dave & Nancy supported. Partridge Lake Property Owners association/Water Quality Fund, PO Box 4, Littleton, NH 03561 an organization keeping Partridge Lake safe for all who enjoy it. The Littleton Cultural Arts Commission, c/o Town of Littleton, 125 Main Street Littleton, NH 03561, which supports the growth and expansion of culture and arts in the community. Littleton Rotary Club Charitable Fund, PO Box 302, Franconia, NH 03580, whose primary effort is raising funds for secondary education.

## Letters to the editor

### Sales Tax measure

I would strongly urge Lafayette not to put a sales tax increase on the ballot. Our current sales tax is 8.75%, or 8.75% on every dollar. The proposal is for a 1 penny increase. In truth this is an 11% plus increase in the sales tax, far above the 2% inflation rate the fed is aiming for.

Many cities and counties in California have sales tax rates below 8.75%.

Currently on any property tax bill there are already numerous additional fees and taxes added onto each bill, for homeowners and renters this is a burden.

Lafayette residents recently are getting pummeled by numerous other increases to homeowners insurance, car insurance, utility rates, inflation from every corner, not to mention increases in fees just about everywhere from tolls to entrance fees.

And the state has added a new bond measure for the November election that if passed will be additional fees to homeowners and in turn renters.

The middle class is being overburdened, it's endless.

Lafayette doesn't want to tighten it's belt yet wants us to cut back and

### MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker

I commend Chief Winnacker on all he has done for the community, especially his attention to wildfire prevention, a necessary service that was essentially ignored prior to his arrival. He created the North Orinda and the Tunnel East Bay Hills fuel breaks and the Community Wildfire Prevention Plan (CWPP).

Unfortunately, we have a long way to go. State Farm, Orinda's main fire insurer, recently cancelled 55% of Orinda's policies because of our unacceptable wildfire risk. Other insurers, apparently all other insurers (because it appears that replacing State Farm is virtually impossible), have agreed with State Farm's assessment. If any organization understands risk, it would be the insurance industry.

Bottom line is, we do not have an effective wildfire prevention policy. We have not modeled where the risk is highest and should be addressed (the 2022 proposal by the Center for Catastrophic Risk Management was rejected by Orinda because it had "other priorities). And we are not spending our tax

dollars on mitigating the risk, namely removing excess vegetation.

Rather, MOFD sets code and expects the district's 13,000 private property owners to do the heavy lifting.

This is what other communities do. But Orinda and Moraga are not "other" communities.

MOFD is awash with cash. The District will take in \$34.7 million in property taxes plus \$3.5 million in other revenue this year. It projects a \$1.1 million surplus ending up with \$27.6 million in its General and Capital Funds. It's long range financial plan shows a combined balance of \$69 million in ten years. The District could generate an additional \$2 million in parcel taxes annually, but every year the board chooses not to, most recently at their June 19 board meeting.

If Orinda burns, and someday it will, it will be the responsibility of "our" fire department not spending "our" taxes on critical needs. It has been estimated by a wildfire prevention expert that it would cost about \$12 million to mitigate Orinda's excess vegetation. The money is there, it is just not being spent on what it should be.

Steve Cohn  
Orinda

In Memory

## Laura Marie (Hardoin) Olson

September 20, 1957 - June 19, 2024



Laura Marie Olson, 66, of Moraga CA, passed away peacefully in her sleep on June 19, 2024 after a brief battle with cancer. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, wife, and sister, and a dedicated member of her local community and church.

Born in Mt. Clemens, MI in 1957, to Raymond and Cora Hardoin, Laura moved with her family to Santa Barbara, CA in 1968. She grew up surrounded by siblings Michael (Rosalie), Susan (Paul Jordan), Evelyn (Jim Reizer), and Donna (Chris Terpening). Laura met Chuck Olson at San Marcos High School and they married in 1978, embarking on their journey filled with love, family, and faith.

Their first child, Charlie Jr. (Jill), was born in 1981, followed by Jonathan (Danielle) in 1984 and Vanessa (Bobby Wilson) in 1986. Laura devoted herself to raising their children, setting roots in Moraga, CA in 1995. Laura loved being a grandmother and cherished her time with her grandchildren, including Charlie's sons Van and Reid, and Vanessa's daughters Amelia and Isla.

Once her children started school, Laura returned to work as a Teachers' Aid, completing a remarkable 33-year career in 2024. She made a lasting impact on the lives of countless students and colleagues at Camino Pablo Elementary School, working alongside educators like Michael Adler and Barbara Elliott.

Laura's faith was central to her life, evident in her active involvement at Willow Spring Church. Laura's kindness, devotion, and unwavering love were testaments to her character as a true angel on Earth.

A memorial service was held at Willow Spring Church on July 13th. Laura leaves behind a legacy of love, faithfulness, and selflessness, survived by her husband, children, siblings, as well as her cherished grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers and to continue her legacy, items for the children at Camino Pablo can be purchased in her honor through the QR code below linked to an Amazon Wish List:



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).

### 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](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  
9454971ip@gmail.com  
Police Department Traffic Issues  
9454971traffic@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**  
**June 23 - July 6**

Alarms	60
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	18
Traffic	49
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	14
Suspicious Vehicle	13
Service to Citizen	19
Patrol Req./Security Check	17
Public/School Assembly Check	1
Supplemental Report	20
Vacation House Check	57
Welfare Check	24
Ordinance Violation	4

**Vehicle violations**

Accident Injury  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Auto Burglary  
911 O Block Hidden Valley Rd.  
3500 Block Terraden Way  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
1st St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.  
3830 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Police Department  
Brook St./Dewing Ave.  
Stanley Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.

Reckless Driving  
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Upper Happy Valley Rd./Happy Valley Rd.  
900 Block Acalanes Rd./Glenside Dr.  
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.

Te - Fire And Amb Enroute  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./2Nd St

Te - Property Damage  
900 Block Acalanes Rd.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Moraga Rd./Moraga Blvd.

Vehicle Theft  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cir.  
10 Block Crest Rd.

**Other criminal activity**  
Computer Fraud  
1000 Block Manzanilla Pl.

Forgery  
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.

Fraud False Pretenses  
3400 Block St Marys Rd.  
600 Block N Silverado Dr.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Grand Theft  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Panhandling  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft  
700 Block Solana Dr.  
3200 Block Kohrer Dr.

Petty Theft From Veh  
900 Block Hough Ave.

Shoplift  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (12)  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
1200 Block Panorama Dr.  
10 Block Lois Ln.

Loud Music  
10 Block Tanglewood Ln.  
Edwards Ct./Mcgraw Ln.

Loud Noise  
3200 Block Acalanes Ave.  
900 Block Moraga Rd. (2)  
800 Block Solana Dr.

Loud Party  
No House Number  
Valory Ln./Happy Valley Rd.

Public Nuisance  
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Vandalism  
10 Block Greenvalley Ct.  
1400 Block Sunset Lp.  
El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24  
3200 Block Stanley Blvd.  
900 Block Dewing Ave.

**Other**  
Animal Cruelty  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Fireworks  
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.  
1200 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.

Huntleigh Dr./Lucas Dr.  
Mosswood Dr./Village Center  
Mosswood Dr./Sundale Rd.  
100 Block Bacon Ct.  
Acalanes High School  
Sundale Rd./Village Center  
Kohrer Dr./St. Marys Rd.  
500 Block St. Marys Rd.

Loitering  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Trespass  
3800 Block Las Huertas Rd.  
20 Block Woodbury  
Highlands Ct.

**Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report**  
**June 25 - July 8**

Alarms	13
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	2
Traffic	42
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	35
Patrol Req./Security Check	8
Public/School Assembly Check	8
Supplemental Report	18
Vacation House Check	1
Welfare Check	5
Ordinance Violation	0

**Vehicle violations**  
Auto Burglary  
1100 Block Cedarwood  
1100 Block Larch Ave. (2)  
1300 Block Larch Ave.

Excessive Speed  
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.  
Chalda Way/Rheem Blvd.  
St Andrews Dr./Country Club Dr.

No House Number  
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. (3)  
Dollar Tree  
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.  
700 Block Moraga Rd., Laf Campolindo Dr./Moraga Rd.  
Camino Pablo/Canyon Rd  
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.  
St Andrews Dr./Country Club Dr.

Rheem Theater  
Moraga Orinda Fire Station 41  
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr. (4)  
Ascol Dr./Moraga Rd.  
Ifo 711

Reckless Driving  
School St./Country Club Dr.  
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.

**Other criminal activity**  
Fraud Credit Card  
20 Block Juniper Way  
Police Department  
Fraud False Pretenses  
1200 Block Rimmer Dr.  
3900 Block Paseo Grande

Grand Theft  
1100 Block Moraga Rd.  
Panhandling  
Taco Bell  
Petty Theft  
1100 Block Larch Ave.  
1200 Block Larch Ave.  
1100 Block Rimer Dr.

Residential Burglary  
60 Block Gaywood Pl.  
1100 Block Cedarwood Dr.  
1100 Block Larch Ave.  
Not Available

Shoplift  
500 Block Moraga Rd. (2)  
Warrant Service  
Police Department, Ori

**Nuisance to the Community**  
Loud Noise  
1000 Block Del Rio Way

Loud Party  
100 Block Paseo Del Rio  
Hacienda  
Glora Ct./Carr Dr.

Public Nuisance  
Starbucks  
Kendall Cir./Moraga Rd.

Vandalism  
10 Block Shannon Ct.

**Other**  
Animal Cruelty  
Safetyway (2)  
Extortion  
Not Available  
Fireworks  
Canyon Rd./Larch Ave.  
Moraga Country Club  
Trespass  
St Marys College  
10 Block Miramonte Dr.

**ORINDA POLICE**

**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back**

### Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 200 words) to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations or Remembrances" in the subject line.