



Letters to the Editor

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 should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines.

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570



Editor:

I would suggest that the Town Council, and particularly the Planning Committee drive over to Camino Ricardo and take a long look at the behemoth houses now currently under construction there. I can only assume that the Planning Committee made obvious errors in determining height limitations in allowing the construction of these monstrosities.

Truckloads and truckloads of soil were scraped from the top of that beautiful orchard hillside. Day after day they lined up for their fill and trucked it away to somewhere. This was done, I assume, to bring things into agreement with ridgeline rules. In its place hotel-like houses are being built.

These structures have no esthetic value and do not fit into the rest of Camino Ricardo's homes.

We used to consider Moraga as semi-rural. Recently I was told we are no longer a town, but a city. If that is so, I guess it doesn't matter that, as you drive down Camino Ricardo to the light, the distant hills are no longer visible. Does the Planning Committee care about our once lovely town and sees only dollar signs? Shame.

In their recent letter to this newspaper, the Committee to Stop Town Center Homes has it right. Another blight coming!

Dolores Humm
Moraga

Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda, or one of its communities, that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to letters@lamorindaweekly.com and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum. We will not accept Public Forum submissions regarding a current ballot measure or candidate for public office. Opinions expressed in Public Forum are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

Lafayette

Lennar Project Jumps DRC Hurdle

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Proposed Lennar project

The new three-story development will also feature a restaurant anchoring the Dolores Drive corner, some commercial space, underground parking, a lap pool and pool house, two lobbies, a fitness room, bike storage and public art. Conditions of approval imposed by the city also necessitate improving the East Bay Municipal Utility District right-of-way with bicycle and pedestrian path upgrades and enhanced landscaping; the utility has an easement for an underground pipeline that diagonally bisects the property, which cannot be built upon, leaving a small triangle near the freeway that will house the pool and pool house.

The handful of volunteers who make up the DRC complimented the overall changes, noting that the project has "come a long way" from the original version presented in 2014, but still offered constructive criticism. Gordon Chong shared how pleased he was that the architect successfully "captured the relationship of interior and exterior

spaces," while J. Alan Sayles called it "a beautiful project -- but I'd rather see it in downtown Walnut Creek. It's just too much."

In a detailed staff report, Planning and Building Director Niroop Srivatsa itemized how Lennar Homes has responded to the "overwhelming majority of comments raised at previous meetings" and recommended approval.

The DRC Commissioners unanimously agreed to recommend approval to the next review body, the Planning Commission, knowing that the project would be back at the DRC for more detailed design suggestions in the future. That Planning Commission public hearing is scheduled at 7 p.m. on Feb. 1 in the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

In a lengthy letter to the members of the DRC, Tang wrote that the goal of the project is to create a "village layout that ties in with Lafayette's small-town character, and fosters community-building by encouraging interaction among new

residents, and providing public and private-common spaces for gathering and socializing." Some of that community building has begun already with on-going talks with across-the-street merchant Diamond K to find a solution that works for both parties.

Image provided



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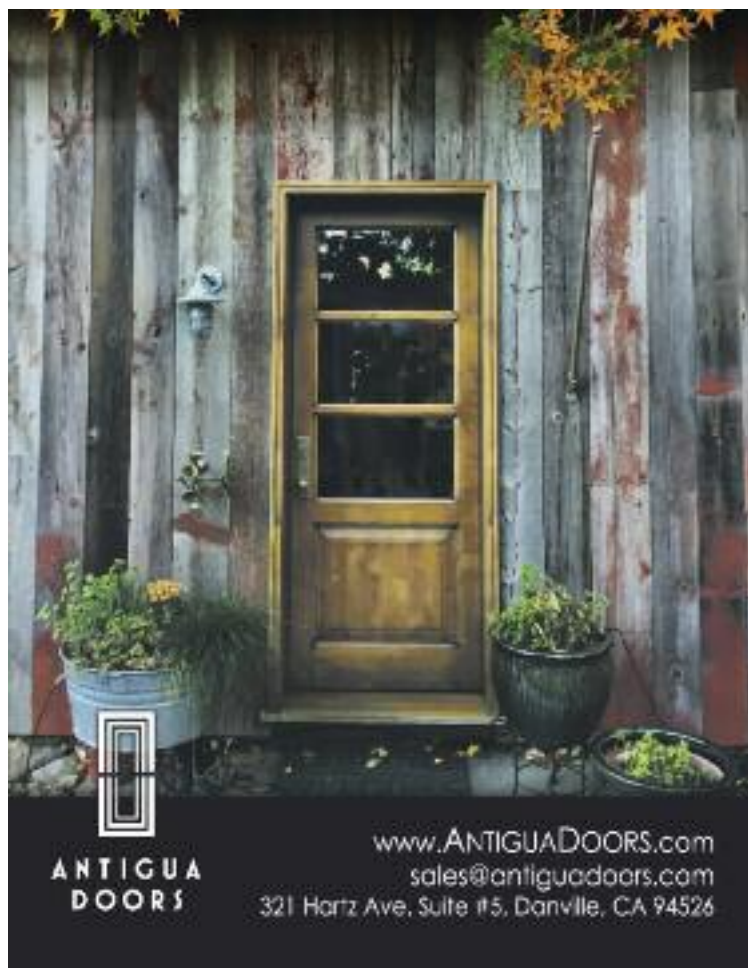
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Lafayette Volunteer Vacancies:

- Banner Advisory Committee** develops the downtown street pole banner program.
- Bicycle Pedestrian Committee (BPAC)** advises the Circulation Commission on issues related to non-motorized vehicles and pedestrians.
- Capital Projects Assessment Committee** reviews the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and develops the long-range capital improvement plans for the City.
- Community Center Foundation** is dedicated to renovating and expanding the Lafayette Community Center.
- Creeks Committee** encourages beautification of Lafayette's creeks and improves residents' awareness of creek maintenance and pollution prevention policies.
- Crime Prevention Commission** studies safety issues in the City and works to educate the public.
- Emergency Preparedness Commission** coordinates preparation and planning efforts to mitigate the effects of natural and man-made disasters.
- Environmental Task Force** is committed to developing and implementing environmental policies and programs that will enable the City and its residents to meet their present needs without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
- Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission** supports effective management and operations of existing park facilities to maximize public enjoyment and continue to pursue easements for trails as shown on the Trails Master Plan.
- Public Art Committee** oversees the city's public art program and its administration.
- Senior Services Commission** identifies senior concerns and needs; provides information about resources; and promotes community programs and services that enable seniors to live meaningful lives.
- Lafayette Representative** to the Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging.

For applications and additional information visit the city's website www.ci.lafayette.ca.us or call Joanne Robbins, City Clerk 925-284-1968.

Application deadline March 31, 2016.

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