Letters to the Editor

The Measure J committee is delighted that Orinda voters once again supported our wonderful library by passing Measure J with a 72 percent "yes" vote! This will ensure that the library is open seven days a week, and will continue to offer numerous popular programs, well into the future.

Thanks go to all the yes voters, as well as to our great campaign volunteers who put out signs, wrote thank-you notes, and helped with all the other campaign work. Michelle Bea designed our beautiful logo. Special thanks to Linda Landau, volunteer extraordinaire, who served as our campaign treasurer, but was crucial to every aspect of this effort. Kudos also to local newspapers who helped spread the word and educate voters. More thanks go to all those who donated and helped pay for the campaign flyers, signs, and website.

Special thanks go to major donors Jane and Mark Zuercher, Finola Fellner, Betty Lou Cutter, Lynn and Ira Dubinsky, Senator Steve Glazer, Sue Severson, Sharon Simpson, Republic Services, PG&E Corporation, and Village Associates.

We love our Orinda Library!

Susie Epstein and Liz Daoust, Co-chairs Measure J Committee

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

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POUR SMILE IS EVERYTHI

Lamorinda municipalities report healthy reserve balances

By Nick Marnell

ith the improved economy ties have focused on beefing up circumstances like a sinkhole or a 2019.

savings account, or a "rainy day needed services." Tanner said his fund," that government agencies staff will do an analysis on what can use to help stabilize tax rates, level of fund balance is appropriaddress revenue shortfalls or to ate and report the findings to the fund emergencies. Each Lamor- town council. inda agency follows a different general fund reserve policy.

goal is 60 percent of annual exof projected expenditures.

increase its reserve target goal revenue. from 60 percent to 100 percent, erty tax revenue could result in \$5.7 million for 2019. deficits."

imbursement for the Rheem sinkhole from the Federal Highway Administration, will bring town reserves to 44.4 percent in 2019. The reimbursement payment is expected in September of 2019, and including that money, the ever amount you have in your retown general fund reserve balance will jump to \$3.8 million.

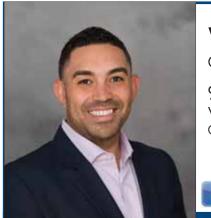
"Keeping a general fund resince the Great Recession, serve at a certain level is absothe three Lamorinda municipali- lutely vital, because of unforeseen their general fund reserve balanc- bridge washout. Cash is king for a es, with the agencies projecting to reason," said Joe Tanner, Moraga stash away nearly \$20 million in administrative services director. "But there is a fine line between A general fund reserve is a keeping a reserve and providing

Figuring the Orinda general fund reserve balance requires a The Lafayette reserve balance more complex calculation. While the other Lamorinda municipalipenditures. The anticipated gen- ties base their reserve policy on eral fund reserve balance on June expenditures, Orinda bases its 30, 2019 is \$10.1 million, which on revenue, calling for \$5 milis 64 percent of the \$15.6 million lion plus 20 percent of budgeted annual revenue in excess of \$10 "I suggest that the council million, not including Measure L

"As an agency heavily reliwith the intent to reach that tar- ant on property tax, we can go get in five years," Lafayette City through a rough period. If you Manager Steve Falk told his city have a robust retail sector, you finance committee. "The likeli- can get by," Finance Director hood of a recession in the next Paul Rankin said. But Orinda several years is increased because hardly sports a robust retail secthis very long period of economic tor, putting added pressure on expansion cannot persist. A reces- maintaining an adequate reserve sion that reduces sales and prop- balance, which is projected at

What is the right dollar Moraga's policy for its re- amount to carry in a general fund serve balance is 50 percent of reserve? Each Lamorinda municgeneral fund expenditures. The ipality has dealt with a sinkhole expected general fund surplus, over the years, but how much cash combined with a \$1.4 million redoes an agency need to prepare for a catastrophic emergency, like the devastation of the North Bay wildfires, which fire officials say could happen in Lamorinda?

According to Santa Rosa City Manager Sean McGlynn, "Whatserve, it is not enough."



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Back to the drawing board on Deer Hill Road, as voters reject Measure L

... continued from page A2

Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin have this. said he thought that the result was like the project, thought they could get a better project, or weren't worried about negative consequences.

Vice Mayor Cam Burks, making it clear that he was speaking as a resident and not in his roll as council member, commented, "We know that Lafayette residents were dropping off ballots on election day all the way until the polls closed at 8 p.m. I think it is respectful for those voters and fellow community members to allow all of the ballots to be counted," adding, "We are proud of the campaign we ran and community support."

In his roll as vice mayor, Burks commented that he respects and values that the community has spoken and made a decision on this action." important matter. "This represents a civically engaged community cussion of Deer Hill. and we are profoundly fortunate to

"Most importantly, though," he a combination of voters who didn't added "I would like to stress the critical importance that I personally place on moving forward as one community and that we focus on being positive, civil and respectful to one another. Civility and a sense of community is what makes Lafayette so great. The intense community division that evolved during the campaign was significant and frankly discouraging to me – and to some degree just not healthy for our city. It is my goal to work on bringing our community back together."

Sommer noted as a positive that we were honored to have so much the measure engaged the public in a robust discussion, particularly on social media forums.

"The voters got their decision," said Tatzin. "This is democracy in

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