

Letters to the Editor

Teresa Gerringer and Karen Maggio for Lafayette City Council

I write in support of Teresa Gerringer and Karen Maggio for the Lafayette City Council.

We have an opportunity this year to add two exceptional new members to the Lafayette City Council. Teresa and Karen have been working for years to make our city a better place to live. We are fortunate that they are willing to bring their experience, talent, intelligence, enthusiasm, vision and integrity to the Council.

Because of all that they have already done for us, they are the candidates that know best our city and each of its neighborhoods. They will be effective from day one.

Teresa Gerringer has served with excellence on the Lafayette School Board for 19 years (four times as President) and on the Lafayette Community Foundation Board for 17 years, and she co-chaired the Lafayette Library Community Campaign. It is exciting to consider what she can do on the Council to advance the city-schools partnership.

Karen Maggio has served with distinction on the Lafayette Planning Commission for 10 years (twice as Chair) and in numerous volunteer roles. Karen has been a strong leader in Lafayette's efforts to protect our hillsides and our environment. She helped create the Hillside Ordinance, and she has been a driving force in Sustainable Lafayette and the Lafayette Environmental Task Force. Among my top priorities as a councilmember and mayor were hillside protection and the environment. With Karen on the Council, I would feel confident about our future.

Teresa and Karen are the candidates who have a vision for our city. They know what must be protected and preserved, and they know when we must be progressive.

Teresa and Karen have supported transparency in each of their past positions and have served with complete integrity. If they say something, you can count on it, and you know they have the facts right.

Teresa and Karen know what it takes to make Lafayette a better place because they have been doing it for years. Please join me in voting for Teresa and Karen.

Carl Anduri
Lafayette

Former Mayor of Lafayette (2002-2003; 2010-2011; Council Member 2002-2012)

(Both also endorsed by Don Tatzin)

The differences in Lafayette City Council Candidates

As a retired psychologist and 33-year resident of Lafayette, I am grateful to the people who have volunteered their time and energy serving on our city councils and com-

missions over the years. I attended the Lafayette Homeowners Association town meeting on Thursday, Sept. 20, eager to hear from the five candidates running for two open positions for Lafayette City Council. I expected that differences of opinion would be shared with respect and a belief that all candidates want what is best for Lafayette, no matter how they disagree on specific issues. Unfortunately, that is not how the evening unfolded.

After Thursday's forum, I recognize that Lafayette needs to choose between two distinct approaches to problem solving. On one hand, we have three candidates (Maggio, Gerringer and Smith) who advocate for collaboration and increased participation by community members. They challenge our community to embrace the hurdles we face over the next decade with cooperation and inclusivity, making our concerns known by attending city council, town commission and school board meetings. I felt assured that they will listen and work with us. On the other hand, we have two candidates (Sampson and Candell) who do not appear to put much value in collaboration and respect. Over and above the content that they proposed, I was disturbed by their disdainful tone. They were confrontational and dismissive of other points of view.

We need City Councilors who listen to experts and citizens alike as opposed to Councilors who consider themselves as the only experts whose opinions matter. As psychologist John Gottman's research demonstrates, disdain is the biggest block to a healthy relationship. Let's elect leaders who will lead by collaboration not litigation, and let's all put in the time and energy it takes to help them do their jobs.

Beth Ferree, Ph.D.
Lafayette

Red Smith, MOFD board, Division 3

My wife Teri and I recently moved to the Wilder neighborhood in Orinda after decades in Moraga. We have noticed quite a bit of activity regarding the MOFD Board election in November, and we were pleasantly surprised to learn that our friend of almost 25 years, Red Smith, was running for MOFD Division 3, which includes our Wilder neighborhood.

Red is an accomplished technology executive and he has run several companies as a Silicon Valley entrepreneur. Red has lived in Moraga and Orinda for 30 years, and he has a passion for this community as evidenced by the dozens of activities he and his wife Gina have been involved with supporting their four children through local schools, pools, dance, and sports.

Of course while those years of service to this community have been important, Teri and I are strongly endorsing Red for MOFD Division 3 now because he is running on a platform to demonstrably increase the District's focus on fire prevention which should be top of mind for every resident in our community as we are surrounded by open space, brush, and dry fuel. Red is not only endorsed by the East Bay Times, but he is also endorsed by Dr. John Radke, PhD who is an esteemed Berkeley professor and global thought leader on fire prevention.

Additionally, most Moraga and Orinda residents know by now there is a massive unfunded pension liability at MOFD, and that future obligation must be managed by competent business and finance professionals. Red has an MBA from Berkeley and a finance degree from USC, and I know he will expertly represent local citizens and taxpayers, and not special interests, if he has to privilege to serve.

Please join us and vote for Red Smith by mail or at the polls.

Ron and Teri Fadelli
Orinda

(Other endorsement received by Hartwell Jordan of Orinda)

Dave Trotter for Moraga Town Council

I'm writing in strong support of Dave Trotter's re-election to the Moraga Town Council. Many younger families in town - mine included - want to see Moraga offer more diverse, high-quality retail and restaurant options that better reflect our community. Professionally, I specialize in retail leasing and shopping center development and I'm working with other community members to advance this goal. In the process, I've been impressed by the focused effort and skill that Dave has dedicated to this objective as a Councilmember.

Working with the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and others last year, Dave took the lead in crafting an amendment to Moraga's zoning ordinance that enables businesses and shopping-center owners to simplify and accelerate the zoning approval process. With Dave's leadership, the Town Council approved this new "Planned Development - Commercial" (PD-C) zoning district in just three months - lightning speed for a public entity and a critical step to attracting new business to Moraga.

In 2009, after the Town spent three years gathering public and stakeholder input, Dave helped draft the Moraga Center Specific Plan (MCSP), our community's best hope of creating a flourishing downtown retail district. This plan would create a new "main street" connecting School Street and St. Mary's Road, with retail space adjacent to

creek-oriented pedestrian trails and walkable housing. It would also revive the historic Moraga Ranch buildings, putting their legacy and charm to work for the vibrancy of our town. Dave supports updates to the existing MCSP, ensuring development that accurately meets the needs and wants of the community. I'm confident his dedication to the MCSP's vision of a thriving downtown where people can shop, dine, and gather with friends, is as strong as ever.

To make this vision a reality, we need Dave's wealth of experience and long-term knowledge of the Town. It's good to add new voices to the Council, but we also need institutional continuity and a proven leader, which only Dave offers in this election. Please cast a vote for Dave Trotter on November 6.

Meghan Basso
Moraga

Mike McCluer for Moraga Town Council

I'm writing to ask Moragans to vote for Mike McCluer for Moraga Town Council. After two sinkholes in recent years, Moraga is facing the consequences of many decades of deferred maintenance. Our storm drains need repairs estimated to cost over \$25 million. Like other municipalities, we also have growing unfunded pension liabilities for Town employees. Meanwhile, we're among the worst off of Contra Costa cities in terms of how little of each property tax dollar actually reaches our Town coffers. These are challenging financial problems requiring leaders with financial training and experience.

Lawyers and engineers are already well represented on the Town Council, but there is no councilmember who can provide the benefit of a career in fiscal management and budgeting. Mike McCluer is the only Town Council candidate with that kind of professional experience. After 30 years as a chief financial officer and similar roles in the finance sector, he would bring urgently needed financial knowledge to the Council.

Along with his fiscal expertise, McCluer has shown a great connection to and caring for Moraga. Volunteering with Moraga Rotary, he helped create the successful "All Access" playground recently built at the Moraga Commons. At a recent public candidate forum, he spoke unequivocally of the need to keep Moraga's open spaces and ridgelines safe from too much building. He volunteers on the Planning Commission as well, and has shown an eager interest in helping our existing businesses and adding new ones.

Moraga has difficult financial issues which must be addressed soon. A vote for McCluer is a vote to add financial expertise to our Council that is sorely needed and—hopefully—comes in time to prevent the next sinkhole.

Peter Bennett
Moraga

Chris Severson for AUHSD Board

As a current school board member on the Orinda Union School District Board, I know that school board trustees must have the ability to listen to all viewpoints, to work together collaboratively, and to always keep in mind the best interests of the students. Chris Severson embodies these qualities and deserves your vote in November for Governing Board Member of the Acalanes Union High School District.

Chris has been a strong advocate for public education for many years. He has the benefit of experience — Chris served for four years with me on the board of the Orinda Union School District from 2010-2014. As a fellow trustee, Chris always acted with the utmost integrity, and always kept the focus on what's best for students. Chris was instrumental in helping lead the district during the financial crisis and, as a result, the district was able to weather that

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storm with minimal impact on students in the classroom. Moreover, as an emergency room physician, Chris knows how important health and wellness is to student success, and intends to bring that focus with him to his role as trustee.

Chris is committed to maintaining and improving upon the excellent education our high schools provide. I urge you to vote for Chris Severson for Governing Board Member for the Acalanes Union High School District.

Sincerely,
Julie Rossiter
Orinda

Board Member, Orinda Union School District

Steve Woehleke for Moraga Town Council

We are writing this letter to express our enthusiastic support for Steve Woehleke for the Moraga Town Council. We are longtime residents of Moraga and have known our neighbors, Steve and Peggy, for over 25 years. Steve Woehleke has strong family and community values, a tireless work ethic and a deep passion for Moraga. That passion is reflected in his over 20 years of volunteer service in various activities in support of Moraga including 5 years on the Design Review Board and 10 years on the Moraga Planning Commission, among others.

My wife and I strongly agree with Steve's concerns that a very critical priority for Moraga is insuring Moraga's fiscal health. The catastrophic events of the Rheem Sinkhole and the demise of Canyon Bridge have made a significant impact on the Town's reserve to invest in infrastructure to minimize the chances of another catastrophic event. We believe we need some more discipline in the Town's fiscal performance.

Steve advocates fiscal responsibility, having more transparency, and improving the Town Council decision making to more methodically assess alternative benefit and risk scenarios to insure better outcomes. We firmly believe that this is the right approach to insure Moraga's financial health.

We are also fully supportive of Steve's commitment to protecting Moraga Open Space and Ridgelines. He promises to insure any new development approvals also include sufficient ingress for fire and police emergencies as well as insuring multiple egress for residents in case of emergency.

We are in total support with Steve's principles and priorities which are fully aligned with the Moraga General Plan. (www.steve4moraga.com)

My wife and I strongly believe that Steve Woehleke's passion for Moraga reflected over 20 years of public service in support of Moraga, his degree in Mechanical Engineering and his MBA in Finance, his extensive business experience and his commitment to insure Moraga's sound financial future and maintain Moraga's natural beauty, make him an outstanding candidate for the Town Council. We urge you to join us in supporting and voting for Steve Woehleke.

Brian and Nancy Gillespie
Moraga

Rebecca Bauer-Kahan for Assembly

As I sat in my kitchen yesterday watching Dr. Christine Ford bravely testify, I was absolutely dismayed to see the male Republican Senators on our nation's Judiciary Committee working so hard to destroy a woman who is trying to speak up for herself and for all women. My takeaway? We have no choice but to elect strong Democratic women in November at every level who we can consistently depend on to champion the rights of women. That's why Rebecca Bauer-Kahan gets my vote for Assembly, today more than ever. Stephanie Sandberg
Lafayette

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CalBRE#01221153

93 Moraga Way, #103, Orinda

April Matthews

www.villageassociates.com

www.dreamhomelamorinda.com

LUXURY

Village ASSOCIATES



Maria Eberle, REALTOR®

(925) 478-7190

Maria@MariaEberle.com

www.MariaEberle.com

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