

Letters to the Editor

An appeal for air quality

Now that everyone's attention is focused on air quality let's address what we can do about air pollution. All drivers can start by not idling their engines for more than a minute while waiting for someone or something. It is appalling how many of us sit with our engines running while we text, talk on the phone, sleep or just plain wait oblivious to the fact that we are polluting the very air we breathe for no apparent reason. It is understandable to leave the engine running when we are stuck in traffic (although there should be a time limit even in this scenario) however it makes no sense to park and leave your engine running for 15-30 minutes at a time on a daily basis. The worst culprits are parents waiting for their kids after school. I have watched the same drivers park and idle for 30 minutes waiting for their child's dismissal 5 days a week. Unfor-

tunately the kids are the ones who spend the most time breathing in the bad air created by dozens of cars idling in the same location. Please be thoughtful and turn off your engines. Everyone's lungs are at risk but children are the most vulnerable.

Below is an excerpt from the Bay Area Quality Management District Resource Page

Turn Your Key, Be Idle Free

You can save money, reduce air pollution, and help everyone breathe easier just by turning a key! Turn off your car engine if you'll be sitting for more than 30 seconds at a car wash, drive-thru or pick up spot. You'll save gas, money and help Spare the Air! The Spare the Air Resource Teams have launched "Idle Free Bay Area" to help create cleaner air around your community. For more information or to get involved, please visit Idlefreebayarea.org.

Grandma Ginny in Lafayette

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

Saranap General Plan proposals nearing completion

By John T. Miller

After three contentious projects roiled the Saranap community in the past decade, the County Department of Conservation and Development is nearly ready to finalize policies to be added for the Saranap Avenue-Boulevard Way Planning Process Study Area.

Sean Tully, Senior Planner with the DCD, announced there will be one additional meeting taking place in the new year. "After that county staff would initiate the process for having the vision statement and policies adopted." This would conclude with a vote by the Board of Supervisors to add language to the existing General Plan for the study area.

Some of these proposed policies would discourage changing single-family residential land use designations to other urban designations; improve pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure where feasible, especially along the full length of Boulevard Way; and designate a location for a neighborhood park or other community space that could include such elements as a playground, lawn areas, dog run/park, picnic area, exercise equipment, and community garden.

Policies for the Boulevard Way Mixed-Use corridor include encouraging mixed-use projects over single use, and should consist of neighborhood-serving commercial use and multiple family dwellings; limiting roof heights to 50-55 feet; discouraging projects with a density exceeding 40 units per net acre; and making sure each building's scale, massing, and architectural style will be harmonious with its surroundings and contribute to a visually pleasing streetscape.

The Boulevard Way right-of-way, from Saranap Ave east to the Walnut Creek border, which was originally designed as a four-lane thoroughfare, would be reduced to two lanes with diagonal parking and bicycle facilities on both sides. In addition, proposals include traffic calming devices, a traffic circle, metered angled parking, crosswalks, parklets, widened sidewalks, street trees, landscaping, decorative streetlights, street furniture, water features, public artwork, and other amenities, as appropriate.

These proposals were the result of three public outreach meetings over the course of last year, an online community survey, and a property owner's meeting.

However, both Tim Lynch and David Dacus, presidents of the Saranap Homeowners Organization and the Saranap Community As-

sociation, respectively, expressed concern that the process needed more input, at least through the summer of 2019.

In a joint letter to John Kopchik, director of the DCD, and to Supervisor Candace Andersen, Lynch and Dacus spoke for their cooperative working groups requesting "at least three more meetings to achieve increased input." The letter noted that only about 3.5 percent of the Saranap population had weighed in on the planning process, representing "an inadequate level of community input."

The letter pointed out that the three public meetings were not advertised beyond the memberships of the two neighborhood groups representing 250 of the well-over 5,000 residents (based on the 2010 census), and asked the county advertise to all residents of the Saranap area.

The fact that both the SHO and SCA groups are working together represents great progress since the neighborhood's intense fights over the King Estates project, the Sufism Reoriented Sanctuary and Hall Equity Group's Saranap Village development proposal.

In response to Lynch and Dacus's requests, Kopchik replied, "If the community wishes to have another meeting (after the public outreach meeting on Oct. 16), I have no objection. However, I think it is important to recommend amendments to the General Plan to the board soon." Kopchik added that they are working on a comprehensive overhaul of the General Plan for the entire county, to be completed by the end of 2020.

According to Lynch, the Saranap neighborhood groups will meet again in early December to discuss what feedback they want to give to the county.

There may still be some push-back on the height limits, both higher and lower than the 50-foot proposal, and Dacus expressed concerns on the impact of other parts of Saranap, especially the Olympic Boulevard corridor.

Citizens wishing to view the agendas, PowerPoint presentations, and draft vision statement and policy documents, can access the webpage at <http://www.contracosta.ca.gov/6914/Saranap/Saranap-AveBoulevard-Way-Planning-Process>. NOTE: Process is spelled with one 's' in this case.

An email address is available on the webpage to propose an edit or comment on the policies, which can be done through this Sunday, Dec. 2.



Vernon G McCalla
Coldwell Banker - Orinda
925-639-0068
Vern.mccalla@camoves.com
CalBRE 01970006

INTERNATIONAL DIAMOND SOCIETY
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

BOY SCOUT TROOP 224

CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

Opens Black Friday
November 23rd, 9am then
Weekends 9am-9pm,
and M-F 9:30am-9pm
until we are sold out

On Mt. Diablo Blvd
Between Oakwood and
the Lafayette Reservoir
(by Community Gardens)

We have the freshest trees in Lafayette

We appreciate your patronage!
Money raised supports scout training, activities and service projects.

Like us at Facebook.com/Troop224Lafayette

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MY HOUSE TO YOURS!

Tania DeGroot
510.367.1422

I love to count my blessings this time of year, and they include friends who have worked with me and/or given me referrals—thanks so much! One common question sellers ask revolves around preparing a home for sale, especially now that the market is shifting. I'm happy to share my strategies and suggestions to help you make the best decisions, whether you are renovating to stay for a while or to move next year. Feel free to reach out any time!

CalBRE # 01094898
tania.degroot@gmail.com
www.bhghome.com

Better Homes and Gardens REAL ESTATE
RELiance PARTNERS

Compare Our CD Rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

1-year 2.70 % APY* Minimum deposit \$1000	2-year 3.10 % APY* Minimum deposit \$1000	3-year 3.25 % APY* Minimum deposit \$1000
---	---	---

* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 11/20/2018. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.

Fred Steingraf
Financial Advisor
1854 Tice Valley Blvd
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
925-938-3411

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

The specialist will see you **NOW**

Urgent Walk-in Care for Bone, Joint and Sports Injuries

833-WE-ORTHO

Webster ORTHO NOW
URGENT CARE FOR BREAKS, ACHEs AND SPRAINS

WALK IN URGENT CARE: MON-FRI 11:30-7:30 & Sat 9-2 • 3315 BROADWAY, OAKLAND
833-WE-ORTHO (833-936-7846) • www.WebsterOrthoNow.com