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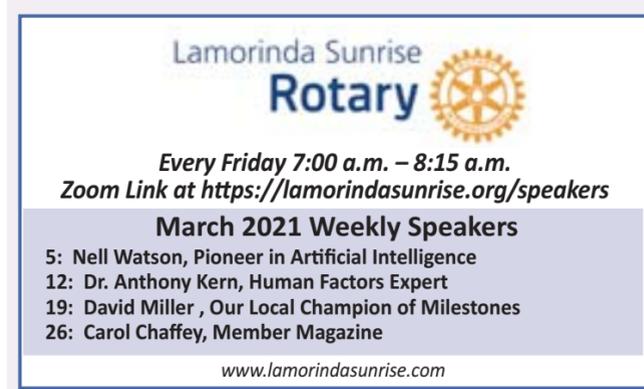
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Zoom Link at <https://lamorindasunrise.org/speakers>

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5: Nell Watson, Pioneer in Artificial Intelligence  
12: Dr. Anthony Kern, Human Factors Expert  
19: David Miller, Our Local Champion of Milestones  
26: Carol Chaffey, Member Magazine

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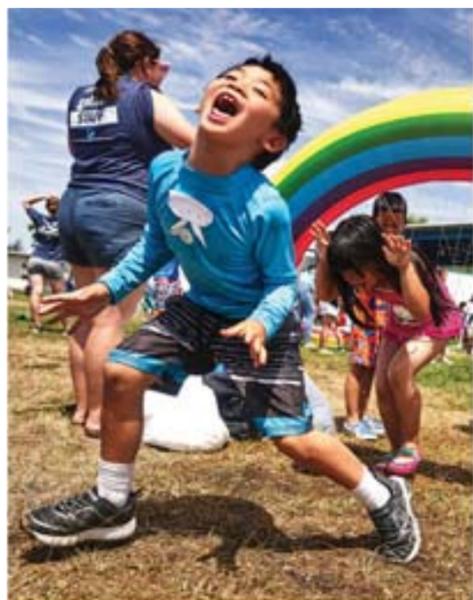
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**Golden Gate Way apartment project**

... continued from Page A3

For increased privacy, Han explained that they have reduced the size of the fourth floor windows on the south side of the building, will provide top down/bottom up shades to all bedroom windows on the third and fourth floors, and are adding horizontal exterior cladding to balconies on the southeastern building façade.

Although previous direction from the council suggested exploring the addition of trees and fencing on the neighbor's side of the creek for screening, Han explained that in a meeting with the Flood Control District they learned that such planting within the easement would not be permitted.

Residents to the south whose homes will be overlooked asked for the removal of balconies on the third and fourth floors and suggested that from such a tall building new residents will be staring directly into their yards and bedrooms. They urged the developer to plant trees, with one resident saying it was an "unbelievable invasion of privacy."

Longtime Lafayette resident Libby Henry said that the tall four-story building would set a precedent in the city and

echoed others in pointing out the lack of balance in the project, particularly with the loss of current small businesses.

Council Member Gina Dawson suggested thinking outside the box and wondered if perhaps the developer would consider offering a payment for those neighbors directly affected so they could plant their own trees.

The developer's attorney David Blackwell pointed out there was no legal requirement for them to do such planting on adjacent properties prompting Council Member Carl Anduri to respond, "You have to realize you are coming into the neighborhood and completely changing the neighborhood, so I understand the legal argument ... but you've got to understand the way the neighbors feel about this," noting that residents south of the property never imagined such a tall building would be built overlooking their properties.

Following suggestions from city staff that the developer might consider an in lieu payment for planting new trees to the seven homes impacted for a total cost of \$7,500, the developer agreed.

The council also heard from Creeks Committee Member Jeff Gilman who reiterated

the committee's goal to construct a creekside trail and strongly suggested the construction of the project's retaining wall along the southern property line should be coordinated with the city to allow for this, something the developer had so far expressed reluctance to do since detailed creek trail plans are as yet unknown.

Again, with some suggestion on wording from city staff, it was eventually agreed that the developer would work collaboratively with the city's engineering department on the construction of the project's retaining wall to a design standard sufficient to accommodate the creekside trail. Should costs exceed \$100,000, the city would reimburse the rest of the cost to the developer if they chose to go ahead.

And so the project was approved unanimously (minus Council Member Cam Burks who was absent), subject to modified conditions of approval.

Anduri summed up the long night's work. "There's been a lot of give and take and we appreciate that, and now we're at the stage where we've approved the project. We all have the same interests - that is the best possible project for the city of Lafayette."

**Housing 101**

... continued from Page A2

And while concerns were expressed at the meeting, and have been expressed previously too by members of the city council questioning the methodology, some residents are embracing the chance for Lafayette to affirm inclusive housing, encouraging development near transit, and pushing for the up-zoning of certain areas outside the downtown.

In a letter to the city council, planning commission

and the GPAC, local grass roots organization Inclusive Lafayette says that historic practices of housing discrimination and resistance to multi-family development have helped make Lafayette one of least diverse communities in the Bay Area:

"While current residents of Lafayette may not have had a direct role in the policies and practices that have resulted in our community's segregation, we have an opportunity to rectify the legacies of these exclusionary practices. Our community must allow more

affordable housing development, and denser multi-family development typically hosts more affordable units."

Remaining webinars will be held virtually at 6 p.m. on March 3 (special session for community organizations), March 4 (special session for youth), March 11 (Acalanes Valley and Happy Valley district) and March 18 (Reliez Valley district). Registration is required.

More information can be found at [www.planlafayette.org/](http://www.planlafayette.org/)

**Marking time**

Moraga mom Cathy Harris chronicled a return to the classroom for her sons - fifth-grader Bodhi Harris, who attends Los Perales Elementary, and Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School sixth-grader Riley Harris - with plaques marking the number of days since the beginning of the pandemic and the date they returned to campus.

- J. Wake



Riley Harris

Bodhi Harris

**As Seen in Lamorinda**



Photo Pippa Fisher

The warm weather is bringing up the daffodils near Happy Valley Road and Deer Hill Road - a sure sign that spring is on its way in Lafayette.