

Letters to the editor

Orinda Wasted \$1 Million on Legal Fees

A group, Orindans for Safe Emergency Evacuation ("OSEE"), won a lawsuit against The City of Orinda, successfully challenging the legally required Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") for Orinda's plan for downtown development called Plan Orinda (which includes the Housing Element ("HE") and the Downtown Precise Plan ("DPP")). The HE includes the state-mandated housing; the DPP would add many more housing units than the state requires and isn't due until 2026. Plan Orinda could add as many as 1,618 new housing units downtown, which the EIR found would have a "significant" adverse impact on emergency evacuation in the event of a wildfire.

The Court decided on February 22, 2024 that the EIR "does not comply with CEQA's informational and disclosure requirements in its analysis of Wildfire Impact..." (CEQA is the California Environmental Quality Act.) "Because the

EIR... does not provide the public and decision-makers with sufficient information to understand the magnitude of the impacts of the [Plan Orinda] on evacuation in the face of wildfire hazards, the City did not have sufficient information to balance the benefits of the [Plan Orinda] against its adverse impacts, after mitigation, and the City's Statement of Overriding Considerations is therefore not supported." (Contra Costa Case No. N23-0579, 2/24/2024.)

Orinda should withdraw the DPP, and consider a redistribution, away from downtown, of the state-mandated zoning for new housing. Instead, it continues to oppose withdrawal of the DPP, even though the DPP is not due for two years.

Orinda has incurred legal fees of approximately \$1 million. Its defense was handled by the law firm in which the city attorney is a partner. It rejected my repeated suggestion that it take advantage of the court's free, non-binding

mediation program, and have a retired justice from the court of appeal provide an independent evaluation of the case before trial and possibly save the city legal fees.

The legal fees could better have been spent on mitigating the significant adverse impact on wildfire evacuation that the EIR found downtown development will cause. A first step would be repealing the DPP.

Nick Waranoff
Orinda

Orinda home values

As the Orinda homeowner's insurance crisis deepens and some of the most valuable real estate in the world becomes essentially worthless, my thoughts turn to PG&E.

Looking back on many of the historic "wildfires" that decimated communities all over Northern California over the past decade a clear theme emerges: PG&E's poorly maintained and outdated power-lines were the cause. They've

admitted it in court. So how is this crisis not (at least in part) of their making? Why doesn't their liability extend to those of us who are now being so

deeply impacted as a result of their negligence? I think PG&E should be forced to pay CA home insurers to offset the absurd situation they've put us in. I know

it's just a fantasy because it seems only the bad guys win these days, but a boy can dream...
Jack Kelly
Orinda

Public Safety

Emergency response:
912-284-5010
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours
912-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or www.nixle.com
Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Aldritt
925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line
94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues
94549Traffic@gmail.com
Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

3300 Block Moraga Blvd.
900 Block Acalanes Rd.
3400 Block Solana Ct.
Disturbance-Fight
1000 Block Miller Dr.
Disturbing The Peace
900 Block Moraga Rd.
Loud Music
900 Block Paulson Ct.
10 Block Roxanne Ln.
10 Block Lucas Ranch Ct.
Loud Noise
700 Block Solana Dr.
Solana Ct./Solana Dr.
3800 Block Quail Ridge Rd.
3500 Block Hamlin Rd.
900 Block Dewing Ave.
Camino Vallecito/N Peardale Dr.
Loud Party
500 Block Arrowhead Dr.
500 Block Mcbride Dr.
3700 Block Quail Ridge Rd.
3200 Block Gold Ct.
Public Nuisance
900 Block 4th St.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.
Oak Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
1100 Block Vacation Dr.
Vandalism
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
60 Block Lafayette Cir.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1500 Block Rancho View Dr. (2)

Other
Harassment
Police Department
Phone Harass
Police Department
Trespass
1100 Block Larch Ave.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report July 30 - July 31

Alarms	64
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	11
Traffic	60
Suspicious Circumstances	9
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	7
Service to Citizen	53
Patrol Req./Security Check	27
Public/School Assembly Check	1
Supplemental Report	14
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	13
Ordinance Violation	6
Vehicle violations	
Accident Injury Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way	
Accident Property Camino Don Miguel/Miner Rd.	
Dui Misd	
20 Block Bryant Way	
Reckless Driving Orchard Rd./Brookside Rd.	
Moraga Way/Stein Way	
Moraga Via/Glorietta Blvd.	
Moraga Way/Whitehall Dr.	
Camino Pablo/El Toyonal	
Moraga Way/Altamont Dr.	
Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante	
Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo	
Tc - Property Damage Camino Sobrante (2)	
Other criminal activity	
Residential Burglary 30 Block Via Floreado	
60 Block Brookwood Rd.	
Robbery Camino Sobrante	
Shoplift Moraga Way	
Camino Sobrante (2)	
Vehicle Theft 100 Block Via Floreado	
100 Block Carisbrook Dr.	
Disturbance to the Community	
Nuisance-Camino Sobrante	
Loud Music 30 Block Charles Hill Cir.	
Public Nuisance Orinda Way	
Moraga Way/Camino Pablo	
10 Block Theatre Sq 106	
Vandalism 10 Block Rich Acres Rd.	
Other	
Animal Cruelty Moraga Way	
Barking Dog 100 Block Alta Vista Way, Dan	
Checks Non Suff Funds 10 Block Big Leaf Rd.	
Fireworks Dolores Way/Donna Maria Way	
Ivy Dr./Miramonte Dr. Whitehall Dr./Ardith Dr. Moraga Way (3)	
Ivy Dr. 90 Block Coral Dr.	
Mentally Ill Commit 100 Block Ardith Dr.	
Possession Of Stolen Prop Camino Sobrante	
Resist Delay Or Obstruct 10 Block El Dorado Ln.	
Transient Contact Orinda Way (2)	
Camino Pablo/Orinda Way	
Trespass 500 Block Orindawoods Dr. (3)	
Camino Sobrante/La Cuesta Rd.	
Trespass W/Vehicle Martha Rd.	

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report July 7 - July 20

Alarms 52
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 12
Traffic 130
Suspicious Circumstances 4
Suspicious Subject 17
Suspicious Vehicle 7
Service to Citizen 21
Patrol Req./Security Check 15
Public/School Assembly Check 0
Supplemental Report 21
Vacation House Check 25
Welfare Check 20
Ordinance Violation 8
Vehicle violations
Auto Burglary 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Dui Misd 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Hit And Run Felony Martino Rd./Greenbank Dr.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
Boyer Cir./Dewing Ave.
Reckless Driving Deer Hill Rd./Elizabeth St.
Taylor Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Laurel Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Olympic Blvd.
Acalanes Rd./Eb Sr 24
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.
Tanger With Vehicle 3900 Block S Peardale Dr.
Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute Pleasant Hill Rd./Taylor Blvd.
Tc - Property Damage Mt. Diablo Blvd./Acalanes Rd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block Dewing Ave.
1100 Block Bacon Way
Other criminal activity
Fraud Credit Card 900 Block Oak St.
Fraud False Pretences 3200 Block Stanley Blvd.
Police Department Grand Theft 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
3200 Block Stanley Blvd.
Identity Theft Police Department 3200 Block Driftwood Dr.
Panhandling 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft 800 Block Rosedale Ave.
10 Block Hidden Valley Rd.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
10 Block Lucas 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
Petty Theft From Veh 3000 Block Rohrer Dr.
Residential Burglary 1300 Block Sunset Lp.
Shoplift 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (11)
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report July 9 - July 14

Alarms 4
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 6
Traffic 24
Suspicious Circumstances 3
Suspicious Subject 0
Suspicious Vehicle 4
Service to Citizen 18
Patrol Req./Security Check 2
Public/School Assembly Check 2
Supplemental Report 8
Vacation House Check 1
Welfare Check 1
Ordinance Violation 0
Vehicle violations
Auto Burglary Harold Dr./Scofield Dr.
Excessive Speed Rheim Blvd./Center St.
Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr.
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Donald Dr./Moraga Rd. (2)
700 Block Pion (2)
Moraga Rd./Devlin Dr.
Moraga Road Corliss Ifo 1600 Andrews Dr.
Reckless Driving Moraga Rd./Rheim Blvd.
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.
Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo Camino Pablo/Eileen Ct.
Tc - Property Damage Taco Bell Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.
Moraga Rd./Rheim Blvd.
Glorieta Elementary School, Ori
Other criminal activity
Panhandling Moraga Rd./Rheim Blvd.
Petty Theft 700 Block Augusta Dr.
Hacienda
Nuisance to the Community
Drunk In Public Canyon Rd./Larch Ave.

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 must be factually accurate. Lamorinda Weekly reserves the right to refuse publishing a letter submission. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com.

November General Election

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In the Moraga Orinda Fire District, two current directors are not seeking reelection — John Jex in Division 2 and Craig Jorgen in Division 5 have announced that they won't run again. Both positions are for four-year terms.

Election day will be Tuesday, Nov. 5. Vote by mail ballots will go out on Oct. 7, and the last

day to request a vote by mail ballot is Oct. 29.

Although the deadline for voter registration is Oct. 21, eligible citizens who need to register or re-register to vote within 14 days of an election can complete this process to register and vote at their county elections office, polling place, or vote center. Their ballots will be processed and counted once the county elec-

tions office has completed the voter registration verification process.

Same Day Voter Registration, known as Conditional Voter Registration in state law, is a safety net for Californians who miss the deadline to register to vote or update their voter registration information for an election.

In Memory

Trudy Lynne Ausfahl

September 30, 1940 - July 4, 2024



Trudy Lynne Ausfahl was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend. God called her home to heaven on July 4 at the age of 83 after a lengthy battle with dementia.

Trudy was born to Kent and Eloise Wierman in Barberton, Ohio on September 30, 1940 and was raised in Akron, Ohio. Growing up she enjoyed spending time with her many cousins and close group of friends, as well as waterskiing on Portage Lakes.

While attending Kent State University, she and her college roommate decided to spend a summer working at a resort in Swampscott, Massachusetts. It was there that she met her future husband, Bill Ausfahl, who had traveled east for a Cal fraternity convention. Although Bill had to return to California, their long-distance relationship blossomed. They were married on June 23, 1962, in Akron, Ohio and moved to California to start their life together. They eventually

settled in Moraga, where they lived for nearly 60 years and raised their three sons, Tom, Andy and Matt.

Trudy was a kind and caring person, with a down-to-earth and unassuming personality. Her warmth, ready smile and good nature drew many to her. She also had a sly sense of humor and loved to laugh. She had a wonderful group of friends, including those she made in her bridge and walking groups as well as those she made from being active in the Lamorinda community for so many years. She was a longtime member of the Junior League and the Moraga Garden Club. She also had many interests including music (she loved playing the piano), tennis, and travel, particularly to Hawaii, as well as land preservation (both in the Bay Area and Lake Tahoe). She developed a love for Cal, pretty much a given knowing the Ausfahl family, and enjoyed attending Cal football and basketball games. She was a staunch supporter of women's athletics at Cal, and she was thrilled to see the increased athletic opportunities now available for girls and young women. She was also very fond of Kent State, her alma mater, where she majored in Education. She supported many students over the years who were pursuing careers in teaching.

Most of all, she cherished family. Despite her many decades in California, she never forgot her Ohio roots and maintained strong connections with her cousins and friends.

She was a devoted and loving wife and mother and was graced with five granddaughters whom she adored (and deserved, after raising three boys!). With sons and grandchildren spread across the country, she treasured the annual summer family reunions at Lake Tahoe, which typically occurred over the 4th of July holiday. This made her passing on the 4th of July all the more touching.

Trudy was a Christian, who loved the Lord. In her latter years, she drew particular comfort and strength from her beloved daily devotional books. She is survived by Bill, her loving husband of 62 years, sons Tom (his wife Corinna and their daughters Catharina, Charlotte and Alexandra), Andy (his wife Ali and their daughters Emma and Daisy) and Matt and brother-in-law Robert (King) Ausfahl.

A Celebration of Life will be planned for a future date. In lieu of flowers, donations in Trudy's memory can be made to either: 1) John Muir Land Trust, P.O. Box 31, Martinez, CA 94553 or 2) Kent State University Foundation, P.O. Box 5190, Kent, OH 44242-0001 (Trudy Ausfahl Medallion Scholarship).

Sallielou Carter

November 1, 1928 - June 25, 2024
Resident of Walnut Creek



Our mom Sallielou Carter passed away peacefully on June 25, 2024. She was born in Oakland to James and Sallielou Ward, the youngest to sisters Jean and Anne.

She previously lived in Oakland, Orinda, Lake Wildwood and most recently Walnut Creek. She attended Oakland High School and UC Berkeley where she was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. She was married to her husband Gordon for 62 years whom she met at age 14 at a Methodist youth group. He was the love of her life and she always said he had given her a fairytale life. They loved to travel visiting many different countries with friends. She fiercely loved her family and was a loyal friend. Throughout her life, she brought joy, warmth, and laughter to everyone she met.

Sallie was involved in many different organizations, including the PTA, Cub Scouts, Montclair Junior Women's Club, Welcome Wagon, Diablo Assistance League, Clipper Club (Oakland Presbyterian Church), Orinda Women's Club and PEO, as well as being a small business owner and real estate broker. Her earlier passions included backpacking, boating, tennis, golf. But most of all she loved entertaining her family and friends.

At Lake Wildwood she volunteered with Music in the Mountains, Hospice of the Foothills and was an elder at Sierra Presbyterian Church. Upon returning to Walnut Creek she was a member of Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church.

Our mom lived her life embracing joy and beauty, always with kindness and unconditional love. She is survived by her 3 children, Steven Carter (wife Carla), Nancy Wilkerson (husband Nelson), Patti Grijalva (husband Hiram); 6 grandchildren, Jesse Perez (Jenna), Scott Wilkerson (Lia), Kristen Clark (Brandon), Andrew Grijalva, Michael Grijalva (Vendy), Jeremy Carter; as well as 4 great grandchildren, Myla & Carter Perez and Aria & Eleanor Wilkerson. Also survived by many beloved nieces, nephews and lifelong friends. She is predeceased by her parents, her sisters Anne and Jean, niece Margaret and her husband Gordon.

In lieu of flowers please say a prayer and remember our sweet mother. A Celebration of Life will take place at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church in Lafayette on Thursday, August 15th at 1pm. As our mother would say, all are welcome.

In Memory