

## November Election

### Candidate Slates Take Shape

As Aug. 8 came and went, so did the cut-off to file papers to be a candidate in the November election. The election code reads in part: "If nomination papers for an incumbent elective officer are not filed by the filing deadline, the filing period for that office is extended 5 calendar days for non-incumbents only." Several of Lamorinda's incumbents did not file; the extended deadline for non-incumbents is 5 p.m. on Aug. 13.

*Note: The information below is current as of Aug. 8 – it's possible that additional contenders threw their hats in the ring after press deadline. For updated information, visit <http://www.cocovote.us/campaigns/candidate-filing>.*

#### Lafayette and AUHSD: Familiar and new names on November ballot

Lafayette will see some familiar names on the ballot for local offices, along with a few new ones. All of the races below are non-partisan and unpaid. Don't forget to vote on Election Day – Tuesday, Nov. 4.

The **Lafayette City Council** has two open seats and the two incumbents, Don Tatzin and Brandt Andersson, are the only ones running for those seats.

The **Acalanes Union High School District governing board** has three openings for the traditional four-year term and one opening for a short term, two-year position. There are four candidates vying for the four year term: incumbent school board members Susan Epstein and Nancy Kendzierski, along with two newcomers, parent/volunteer Kristen Correll and retired teacher Robert Hockett. Incumbent Richard Whitmore is the only one running for the short term seat.

The **Lafayette School District**, which represents Stanley Middle School and the city's four elementary schools, has three seats open and three folks interested. Two are incumbents, Teresa Gerringer and David Gerson, along with newcomer Suzy Pak. Incumbent Art Kapoor isn't running, which means the deadline for filing was extended.

C. Tyson

#### Moraga: Council race set; only one school board incumbent files

Look for sizeable turnover on the **Moraga School District governing board** – with four seats open, three of the four incumbents are not running for re-election. Incumbent Parker Colvin will be joined on the ballot by newcomers Heather O'Donnell (parent and marketing consultant) and Jonathan Nickens

(community volunteer). The deadline for filing was extended.

There are three candidates for the two open seats on the **Moraga Town Council**.

Incumbents Ken Chew and David Trotter are seeking re-election. Challenger Teresa Onoda currently serves on the Moraga Planning Commission.

"I want to become a council member to protect Moraga's unique character," said Onoda. "Many new housing developments are being proposed and these have implications not only for our unblemished ridgelines but also for potential classroom overcrowding, increased traffic loads on our streets, and safety. The town council needs to address these issues in a comprehensive manner, not separately without seeing how each affects the other," she explained.

Chew stated, "I have been privileged to serve as your mayor and council member. With your vote, I will continue strong leadership to preserve and enhance our unique quality of life in Moraga, protect our semi-rural environment through thoughtful and sensible growth, and ensure enforcement of the General Plan policies and Moraga Open Space Ordinance."

"Serving as mayor and council member since 2006, I've worked hard to make sensible decisions in the public interest," said Trotter. "There are still things that I'd like to get accomplished. I ask for your continued support and vote in November."

S. Braccini

#### Orinda: Three incumbents elect not to run in November

In 2014, there were two members of the Severson family heading two of Orinda's major civic governing bodies. After the ball drops in Times Square on New Year's Eve, neither will be in office. Although Orinda mayor Sue Severson and Dr. Chris Severson, current president of the Orinda Union School District's board of trustees, both "pulled papers" – the process by which candidates obtain the requisite paperwork to have their names placed on the ballot – neither filed that paperwork by the deadline.

"When I was elected eight years ago, that was my intention from the beginning," said Sue Severson of her decision not to seek another four years. "I'm not saying it's true for everyone, but I just feel like two terms are enough to bring your strengths and perspectives to whatever board you're serving on." Severson also cited her desire to spend more time with her 18 grandchildren and cherished volunteer activities that she has had to put to the side due to the demands of life as an elected

Orinda official.

OUSD incumbent Tyson Krumholz will also not be on the November ballot.

The filing periods for both the city council and OUSD board contests remain open through today.

There are six candidates for the three open seats on the Orinda City Council. Incumbents Dean Orr and Amy Worth are being challenged by Carlos Baltodano (building safety consultant), Linda Delehunt (education administrator), Eve Phillips (technology entrepreneur), and Bob Thompson (investment adviser).

Four candidates will vie for the three seats on the Orinda Union School District board of trustees – incumbent Julianne Rossiter, Carol A. Brown (children's advocate/manager), Jason Kaune (government ethics attorney), and Hillary Shayne Weiner (education advocate/parent).

Moving forward, Orindans will have at least two chances to hear directly from the candidates regarding their views on key issues. Orinda Association president Bill Waterman has confirmed that the OA plans to conduct two election forum nights in October – one for those vying for city council seats and one for OUSD governing board candidates.

L. Snyder

#### MOFD: Wyro won't run

John Wyro, president of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board of directors, will not seek re-election to his Division 4 seat in November.

Wyro was a director of the Orinda Fire District and he was instrumental in the 1997 formation of MOFD. He served as the district's first president.

"I have so much invested in this district that I did not want to take the chance that (my seat) would go to just anybody," said Wyro. "I didn't want to just walk away." When he found out that Brad Barber – who worked on the passage of Measure J, which raised money to fix Orinda roads – filed papers to run for the Division 4 seat, Wyro said he jumped in his car, drove to Barber's house and talked to him about the issues in the district. "I checked with others who knew him," said Wyro. "I was satisfied that he was the right guy."

In Division 1, Moraga venture capitalist Nathan Bell will challenge incumbent Kathleen Famulener. Bell applied to fill the MOFD seat vacated by Frank Sperling in 2013 but the board chose Famulener at a special district meeting.

Steve Anderson will run unopposed for the Division 3 seat.

N. Marnell

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## Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community!

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. **email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)**; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570



Editor:

Thank you for your thorough reporting on the process for the Housing Element and associated EIR in Orinda. Yes, there are many thoughtful Orinda citizens with balanced and nuanced views who respect the public process and speak in a civil manner.

Many of these speakers asked the Council to "broaden Orinda's housing options." I therefore note the great irony of the advertisement directly above the housing element article, called "Orindans Envision Their Future." The ad is for two townhouses for sale in Beacon Ridge, a lovely townhouse community in Walnut Creek near Acalanes High School. It is very unfortunate that many Orinda seniors, lacking 94563 options, must "envision" their future outside their home town.

Carol Penskar  
Orinda

Editor:

If any Lamorinda resident has actually read the Moraga 2002 General Plan and had it create an image in their mind of a future Moraga with its openness and rurality in tact and then held up the image created by the proposed Moraga Town Center Homes Project's story pole/rope silhouettes against it for comparison, you might come away confused.....and perhaps a bit angry.

I came into this late, but having nearly ran off Moraga Way upon seeing those story poles for the first time. I first came to Moraga in 1966 to attend St Mary's College and it was definitely an "out in the country", "off the beaten path" kind of place. No space here fore elaborate descriptions, but it was RURAL. Moved here in 2005, and now, nearly 50 years later, things have grown, but tastefully with a few exceptions.

Now rumors are flying about collusion between the landowner, the developer and members of the Moraga Town Council, in order to shove this albatross down our collective throats. From what I have heard, I do not think our Country Club members/residents are pleased at all. I am not at all certain how this project got so far along in the 'process' as it sits right in the middle of one of our precious 'Scenic Corridors'. I am not anti-development, but I cannot imagine what the Building Department is thinking to even consider such an eyesore where the view is critical to preserve.

"The most beautifully designed structures become aesthetic atrocities if placed illogically." (George Schell, Civil Engineer and my Grandfather)  
This may be a great design, but it is in the wrong place!

Fritz Stoop  
Moraga

Editor:

We need changes Moraga can be proud of... and the City Venture townhomes development is not it

Moraga has had the advantage of seeing the destruction left behind from the high density housing in Lafayette, Orinda and Walnut Creek. Building housing next to public transit or a fire station is just not smart development. Nothing good comes of it.

Most of us would like to see the town revitalized and changes we can be proud of - but the City Ventures Townhomes next to the fire station training facility on Moraga Way is not it and it's not smart development.

This proposed three story development will impact most of the town residents in one way or the other. Not to mention property values that translates to bank accounts. The Planners tell us we do not have to approve development, but it is merely "setting the table" to comply with the state. For the past two years we have asked our town employees and elected officials 1) how lost hillside views, 2) massive buildings backed on to our scenic corridor as you enter Moraga, 3) compromised fire dept. employee training, 4) crowded roads for us and neighboring cities, 5) increased school classroom sizes and other jeopardized town infrastructure will benefit Moraga and even the MCSP. If you put the 16,000+ Moraga residents together - who would really think this is a quality project that we can all be proud of in years to come?

Moraga, California is known as a picturesque hillside community with a renowned university, a top ranking high school in the one half percentiles and recently found to be one of the safest communities in California. Moraga is not the perfect community, but why are we even considering this out of character development in such an inappropriate location? Moraga can do better. Seeing all the changes going on in Lamorinda and how quickly they happen – Moraga residents should be concerned. Tell your planning commission and the town council this development will not make the people of Moraga proud.

Denise Coane, John Pearson  
Moraga

Editor:

I am writing in response to the letter written by Caroline Wood in the July 30th Lamorinda weekly.

The story poles on Moraga Way/Country Club Drive are unsightly and in my opinion unnecessary! We have lived in Moraga for 40 years, and have seen the development on these beautiful hills and valleys during that time. Moraga doesn't need two story buildings blocking the view of what is left of the beautiful rolling hills!

"Enough is enough!"

Please stop filling ALL empty spaces with buildings and instead use that space to build parks and gardens with walkways for people to enjoy.

Thank you,  
Jeanne S. Corse  
Moraga



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