

Letters to the Editor ... continued

Lafayette School Board

Mark Kindhouse for LUSD

Dear Editor,
I don't write letters to the editor often, but I wanted to express publicly my confidence in Mark Kindhouse for Lafayette School Board. It's rare to have an opportunity to elect someone with a technical background to local office. This is especially important this term as the Lafayette School District begins spending the \$70 million from its recent bond measure.

Mark is a civil engineer who has managed multi-million dollar projects, and has a deep understanding of infrastructure. He also has years of experience with governance and oversight having worked closely with executives and corporate boards. These particular skills – combined with his knowledge of the challenges our school district faces – are a rare find.

I saw Mark speak at the Lafayette Homeowners Council "Candidates and Issues" night on Sept. 22. There I heard Mark's story, and I believe he understands what makes Lafayette so special. He strikes me as having both the mind and the heart for the job.

As a resident of our community for 25 years, I ask my fellow citizens to vote for Mark Kindhouse for Lafayette School Board on Nov. 8. Take the time to visit his website, or reach out to him by email. Get to know him. I think you'll see the exceptional School Board member that I see.

Mike Anderson,
Vice Mayor, City of Lafayette
Lafayette

dents serving on the Lafayette Elementary School District Board. This election year is unusual as neither of the incumbents whose term is ending seeks re-election. Jean Follmer and Nancy Wallace have served us well and I thank them. Fortunately, three candidates are vying to take their place. I know that I will vote for Rob Sturm and encourage you to do the same.

I endorse Rob because I believe he fully embraces a commitment to continued academic excellence. Rob knows that maintaining educational preeminence requires careful fiscal management. Fortunately, residents approved school taxes to offset the declines of \$1,100 per year in state support per student since 2008, despite increases in operating costs. However, the district's current 2016-2017 budget includes structural deficit spending that is not sustainable and will require prompt, focused and thoughtful attention by the school board and school district to avoid future reductions that affect students.

Rob is an experienced attorney who successfully manages a large budget. We can count on him to ensure that unnecessary expense that does not benefit our children, the school district, teachers and our community is identified, analyzed, and, when possible, eliminated before the option of asking residents to approve new taxes is proposed.

Please join me in voting for Rob Sturm for the Lafayette School District Governing Board.

Don Tatzin
Lafayette

Orinda City Council

London for Orinda City Council

Dear Editor:
Dr. Bruce London, a candidate for the Orinda City Council, merits enthusiastic voter support because of his concern for Orinda's future.

"What keeps me up at night is

the threat of loss of local control," Dr. London told the Lamorinda Weekly (Sept. 21, 2016). He added, "Municipalities are under constant assault from Sacramento and the increasing power of regional agencies."

From 2004 to the present time, Orinda has experienced a lost decade. Unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats have been telling Orinda, a city that is fully developed, that hundreds of new homes have to be built within the city's borders. Two regional governmental agencies, the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, voted, in July 2013 to impose high-density, high-rise construction on Orinda and nearby communities. The directors of ABAG and MTC are not directly elected by voters.

Orinda faces the loss of its semi-rural, village-like charm if real estate interests and their cronies continue to push for more development in Orinda. If these special interests have their way, Orinda's excellent schools will face overcrowding. Parking and traffic, already intolerable in Orinda, will become worse.

Dr. London, a 32-year resident of Orinda, deserves praise for his courage to oppose the special interests that wish to turn Orinda into a version of Tokyo or New York City. He also supports a refreshed look for the city's downtown.

Time is running out for Orinda's ability to remain a pleasant place to live. By electing Dr. London to the city council, Orinda's voters will be selecting a candidate who will do what is necessary to preserve Orinda's cherished environment.

Richard S. Colman
Orinda

Smith for MOFD; Gee and Miller for Orinda

Dear Editor,
Orinda is very fortunate to have three highly qualified candidates

for the MOFD board and for Orinda City Council on the ballot this fall.

Victoria Smith (MOFD board), Darlene Gee and Inga Miller (Orinda City Council) are all very experienced, with years in leadership roles in Orinda government and civic activities. All are open-minded, dedicated to the ongoing enhancement of Orinda, and emphasize fiscal soundness.

Victoria Smith has been on city council for 12 years, and served as mayor three times. These 12 years were highly productive. Every city budget in that time was balanced while strong reserve balances were built up to protect Orinda from the kind of disaster that recently befall Moraga. Several hundred more housing units, from low to high end, were completed. Finally, after 35 years, Orinda has a roads repair program well on its way to completion.

Darlene Gee, also a current city council member, is a rare combination: both a civil engineer and a Berkeley MBA. Gee has served for decades on such vital boards as the Orinda infrastructure committee and on the Acalanes bond oversight committee. She chaired the successful 2012 campaign for roads funding, and held many other

positions in local schools and charitable organizations. Gee was and remains a driving force behind the design, financing and implementation of Orinda's sorely needed roads repair program. She is dedicated to finishing this program and to a positive action plan for revitalizing our downtown.

Inga Miller is a third generation Orindan, and an attorney specializing in real estate with a practice here in Orinda. She attended Orinda schools from nursery school through 12th grade. Miller was a local newspaper reporter for nine years, covering Orinda. She was an Orinda Parks Commissioner and is on the board of Las Trampas School. Her deep understanding of Orinda is without parallel.

Please join me in voting for these dedicated, experienced and talented women: Victoria Smith (MOFD board), Darlene Gee and Inga Miller (Orinda City Council). Orinda needs them for continued progress with our roads, our drab downtown and fiscal soundness!

Carol Penskar
Orinda



Taverna Pellegrini

Happy Hour, 3 to 6 everyday:
\$5 Appetizers, \$5 Well Drinks & House Wines

Early Bird Special, 7 days a week 4 to 6:
\$24.95

Choice of Soup or Salad
Choice of 5 Entrées
Glass of House Wine

Taverna Pellegrini
925-258-4200
65 Moraga Way, Orinda



Re-Elect Assemblywoman Catharine Baker

Endorsed by the local elected Democratic, Independent, and Republican leaders we trust.



Mark Mitchell
Mayor of Lafayette (D)



Mike Anderson
Vice Mayor of Lafayette (D)



Brandt Andersson
Lafayette City Council (D)



Traci Reilly
Lafayette City Council (R)



Don Tatzin
Lafayette City Council (R)



Michael Metcalf
Mayor of Moraga (R)



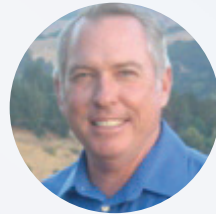
Dave Trotter
Vice Mayor of Moraga (R)



Phil Arth
Moraga Town Council (DS)



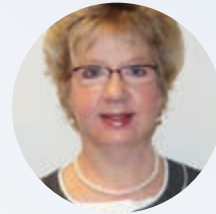
Teresa Onoda
Moraga Town Council (D)



Roger Wykle
Moraga Town Council (R)



Eve Phillips
Vice Mayor of Orinda (R)



Darlene Gee
Orinda City Council (D)



Dean Orr
Orinda City Council (D)



Jean Follmer
Lafayette School Board District President (I)



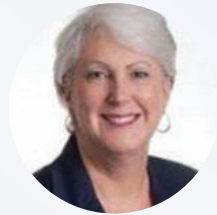
Suzy Pak
Lafayette School Board (D)



Bruce Burns
Moraga School District Superintendent (R)



Candace Andersen
Chair of Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors (R)



Karen Mitchoff
Contra Costa County Supervisor (D)



David Livingston
Sheriff, Contra Costa County (I)

"fixed on results instead of party labels"

San Francisco Chronicle
May 2, 2016

"Independent and effective"

San Francisco Chronicle
May 2, 2016

"She's smart, articulate and refreshingly independent and thoughtful."

EAST BAY TIMES
April 22, 2016

Real results, not partisanship

Paid for by Catharine Baker for Assembly 2016 • ID # 1373797