Page: A6

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

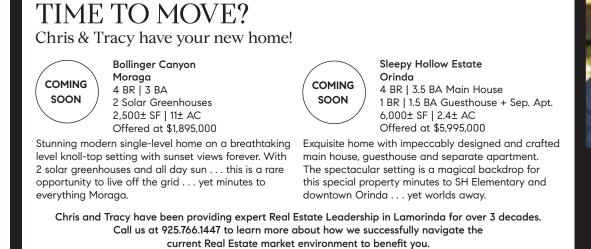
925-377-0977

www.lamorindaweekly.com

Wednesday, July 5, 2023



See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements **City of Orinda:** www.cityoforinda.org Phone (925) 253-4200 **Chamber of Commerce:** www.orindachamber.org The Orinda Association: www.orindaassociation.org



d abides by Equal Hous

nly and is comp wal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurer

• Hardwoods

- Carpets
- Rugs
- Vinyl
- Laminate

FAMILY OWNED **30+ YEARS!**

925-284-4440

3344 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette lamorindafloors.com



Council urged to get independent opinion on legality of Plan Orinda EIR

By Sora O'Doherty

Frequent commenter on the activities of the Orinda City Council, retired attorney Nick Waranoff on June 20 urged the council to obtain an independent opinion on the legality of its Plan Orinda Environmental Impact Report (EIR), including the evacuation analysis. Waranoff maintains that the EIR is defective. Orinda is being sued by Orindans for Safe Emergency Evacuation (OSEE), and Waranoff says that he supports their position.

OSEE is seeking a Writ of Mandate from the Contra Costa Superior Court, asking the Court to order the city to vacate and set aside certification for the EIR and comply with the California Environmental Quality Act and the CEQA guidelines. The petition, filed by attorney Jason R. Flanders of Aqua Terra Aeris Law Group, also seeks costs and attorney's fees.

At the end of May the parties entered into a stipulation, which vacated the case management conference and agreed that the hearing on the Parties' briefing be set for Dec. 7. In addition, the parties agreed that the administrative record shall have an additional section solely dedicated to emails produced to Petitioner by the City.

The city is represented by Orinda City Attorney Osa Wolff of Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, LLP. While it is unusual for litigation to be discussed in the public portion of a city council meeting. the case is available to the public on the Court's website. Discussions of litigation by the city council and its attorney are generally conducted during closed sessions.

OSEE's position is that the city has failed to adequately analyze and/or mitigate potentially significant impacts to wildfire evacuation and emergency response resulting from Plan Orinda, adopted by the council on Jan. 31. While stating that they are not opposed to increased residential development or population in Orinda, OSEE argues that the Plan Orinda EIR fails to analyze or mitigate the impacts on wildfire evacuation of exacerbated traffic congestion resulting from the expected increase in population.

Family of Pete Wilson donates medical equipment to Rescue 1

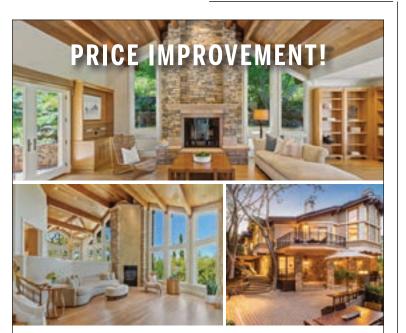
By Sora O'Doherty

The wife and family of the late Pete Wilson, a founding member of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, have made a donation to the Rescue 1 in honor of the former MOFD Director who passed away last November. Mimi Wilson and her family donated funds to the Rescue 1 Foundation toward the purchase of a Stryker Lifepack Cardiac monitor/defibrillator, and Rescue 1 matched their donation to purchase another.

Battalion Chief Lucas Lambert told the Lamorinda Weekly that the equipment represents the latest technology, is lightweight and can easily be taken into inaccessible areas. Mimi Wilson says that she knew that her husband would have wanted something that would benefit the men and women of the MOFD.

According to Lambert, crews had been looking for a compact cardiac monitor, different from frontline emergency equipment, a unit that can be carried in gear bags when MOFD firefighters are called to work on large wildland fires elsewhere in the state or nation. MOFD crews are often called upon to support the health and safety of firefighters, acting as fireline paramedics. The choice of the "latest and greatest" equipment was researched by firefighter paramedic Tom Schwedhelm. Lambert says that Schwedhelm did an amazing job in researching the best equipment for staff and shared some of Schwedhelm's background. On one occasion, Schwedhelm was a fireline paramedic during fires up in Redding. "Tom was resting at a local hotel during his time off for rest and rehabilitation between shifts when he was awakened by a family at the pool whose child was drowning. Schweldhelm and others jumped into action and saved the young child, intervened with lifesaving measures, including a cardiac monitor and medications." Lambert noted, "This is why these types of tools are very important to Tom and to us. We use the equipment for any emergency that comes up at any time." Mimi Wilson says that the fire district was very important to Pete. He was on the Orinda Fire Commission before there was a fire district, when the county was making





Chris Swim Tracy Keaton DRE. 00943989 | 01051349 925.766.1447 chris@chrisswim.com chrisswim.com

COMPASS

6 Tofflemire Drive, Lafayette 5 Bedrooms | 4 Full and 2 Half Bathrooms | 8080 ± sq. ft. \$4,200,000 | 6TofflemireDrive.com



Ann Newton Cane

415.999.0253 a.newtoncane@ggsir.com



Golden

annnewtoncane.com



Kelly Sopak Insurance Agcy Inc Kelly Sopak, Agent Insurance Lic#: 6006124 1 Northwood Drive Suite 1 Orinda, CA 94563 Mon-Thurs 9:00am to 5:00pm Fridays 9:00am to 4:30pm Evenings & Weekends by Appt

State Farm Mutual Automobile State Farm Indemnity Company State Farm Fire and Casualty Company State Farm General Insurance Company Bloomington, IL

State Farm Florida Insurance Company Winter Haven, FL

State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas State Farm Lloyds Richardson, TX

2101550

I can help you bundle your home and auto insurance, at a rate that may surprise you. Call me for a quote today.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there."

Surprisingly

great rates that

fit any budget.

Individual premiums and budgets will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm' underwriting requirements. Availability and amount of discounts and savings vary by state.





City Council Regular Meeting: Tuesday, July 11, 7:00 p.m. **Planning Commission.:** Wednesday, July 12, 7:00 p.m.

Photo courtesy MOFD

Chief Dave Winnacker, Mimi Wilson and Firefighter/ **Paramedic Tom Schwedhelm**

all the decisions, which is why he joined the effort to form a fire district that stands alone and the county can't make decisions for the district. Wilson believed it was important that the district serve the needs of Moraga and Orinda, which are unique in the county. He had to resign from the board because of his health, but his wife thinks that we would have been really pleased by the donation of something that will be useful to the firefighters themselves. One of the new monitor/defibrillators bears a plaque in Wilson's honor.

Sally Whittaker of The Rescue 1 Foundation reported that the cost of the two life pack machines totaled about \$7,000, half of which was donated by the Wilson family. She recalled that Wilson had been an MOFD director for 12 years and instrumental in

combining the fire districts back in 1997. "Our fire district is very cutting edge and is sought after," Whittaker said. They will take the two monitors into the field with them for the health and welfare of the men and women of MOFD and other firefighters when they are out fighting fires. Mimi thought it was apropos to purchase this particular equipment to help the firefighters of MOFD. "The MOFD family is grateful for both the equipment provided through the generous donation in memory of MOFD Founding Director Pete Wilson and his lifetime of service to the community,"

MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said, "We are proud to be able to carry this reminder of his commitment to public safety on our apparatus as they deploy throughout the region and state."

Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission Wednesday, July 12, 6:30 p.m.