

# Letters to the Editor

## Many reasons for voting for Measure P

Editor:

As a parent with children at both Havens and Piedmont Middle School, I've been consistently impressed by the dedication of our teachers across both schools. Every year I am amazed at what these teachers do daily and accomplish with our children annually.

Mrs. Adams, two of my children's kindergarten teacher, has been exceptional. She creates a nurturing yet structured environment where children feel safe to take their first steps into formal education. Witnessing the "magic in their eyes" as they learn to write their names or solve math problems is truly heartwarming. It's this kind of dedicated instruction that makes our schools special and worthy of our continued support through this parcel tax.

-Courtney Gault Azad

## In support of McCarthy for City Council

Editor:

Conna McCarthy embodies the best of public service: she is smart, tenacious, and generous with her time and intelligence. That's why I am offering my strong endorsement for her re-election to the Piedmont City Council.

As the former mayor of our city, I know first hand that while Piedmont is a small town, we are confronted with big-city challenges. As Oakland contends with a spike in crime, Piedmont must proactively work with residents and our first responders to keep Piedmont a safe place to live and thrive. As the council liaison to the Public Safety Committee, Conna is working hard to listen to our neighborhood concerns and make sure our police, fire, and EMTs are equipped to do their jobs.

Conna knows that our parks and playfields are civic treasures, cherished by young and old alike. That's why she is working to improve park accessibility, repave the walkways and improve lighting. She advocated for the ADA improvements at Dracena Park and is working to improve Coaches Field so that more kids have a chance to play sports right here in town.

And while the state of California mandates increasing housing, Conna knows that any housing proposed must be the right fit for

our community. That's why she has conducted scores of small and large group conversations with concerned Piedmonters regarding the planning process. She knows that we can act responsibly to meet the state's housing guidelines while addressing the concerns of our residents.

Conna has my vote for City Council and I hope she earns your vote as well.

-Teddy Gray King  
Former Mayor, Piedmont

## Conna McCarthy – leading by example

Editor:

Moving to Piedmont more than 20 years ago was hands-down the best decision we ever made for our family. In addition to the beautiful homes, parks, and playgrounds, Piedmont has a renewable resource that makes it punch far above its weight: a small army of committed, competent, empathetic and smart volunteers who step up to help guide decision making for our town. Conna McCarthy is a poster child for that army.

As a member of the City Council for the past four years, Conna has shown a deep commitment to listen to every member of the Piedmont community, and to transparency and accountability for the decisions made by the City Council that greatly impact the quality of life and safety of the town we all love.

As owners of one of Piedmont's most visible businesses, it's important to us that the City Council is made up of dedicated volunteers who will put public service ahead of politics and ensure everyone in our community has a voice in important decisions. Over the years, we have both spent countless hours volunteering, parcel-tax wrangling, and event chairing in Piedmont. Or at least to us it felt like countless hours, until we noticed that every single time we were involved in a city-wide effort, Conna was there with us in the trenches, working to ensure our city and our schools thrived.

She's been a part of each and every initiative that makes Piedmont so special, from Tri-School fundraisers to the Piedmont Educational Foundation to securing pickleball in our town.

We believe in Conna's intelligence, empathy, humility and work ethic, and we urge you to elect her to the City Council on November 5th.

-Laura Pochop & Chad Olcott

## EB Regional Parks need leaders like Lynda Deschambault

Editor:

The East Bay Regional Park District suffers from a multitude of global warming problems – drought, toxic water bodies, dead trees and threat from wildfires. Directors with expertise and experience are needed on the board, and Lynda Deschambault will bring it to Ward 2. She comes with 37 years of experience as an environmental scientist, 19 years with the EPA. Lynda already serves on the Parks Advisory Committee, so she knows first-hand the issues facing our 75 parks, with 120,000 acres of land. She will come on board ready to work, without a learning curve.

Lynda has had a constant, passionate involvement with her community and the environment, both in her career as a scientist and in her everyday life. Her life's work is to preserve the environment and educate the youth.

There is no one else who can match the qualifications needed for this job other than Lynda Deschambault. We need people like her.

-Kay James, Moraga

## Why I Support Conna McCarthy's Re-Election

I have known Conna McCarthy since our children were in Piedmont Middle School and we were both on the Parent Board. Since then we have worked together on many, many projects and many, many campaigns. Conna is a real people person and she cares deeply about our Piedmont community.

She is an enthusiastic and tireless worker and has an impressive resume. But what sets Conna apart is her willingness to roll up her sleeves and dive right in. Thanks to Conna's leadership on the Seismic Safety Campaign, our schools are much safer. Thanks to Conna's extensive experience with the Piedmont Education Foundation, she understands how important the City/School relationship is. Thanks to Conna's role on the Piedmont Recreation Commission, our city has improved pickleball courts. And thanks to Conna's four years on our City Council, Piedmont is better positioned for the future. She asks the tough questions and makes the tough decisions, always guided by her smarts, true moral compass, and love of Piedmont.

-Andrea Swenson

## Religion Corner

Continued from page 2

apple pie – accusing immigrant and minority communities of engaging in bizarre or disgusting behaviors when it comes to what and how they eat and drink, a kind of shorthand for saying they don't belong."

The article quotes Amy Bentley, professor of nutrition and food studies at New York University, "There's a slur for almost every ethnicity based on some kind of food they eat, so that's a very good way of disparaging people."

Thus, as we approach World Communion Sunday, we can anticipate sharing the bread and cup of communion, we can com-

mit and look forward to sharing meals with people of other cultures, and we can make a firm promise to respect rather than disparage the cuisine of those we do not yet know. In so doing we can honor the walk to Emmaus in which the followers of Jesus gained spiritual insight by participating in the profoundly human acts of walking the road, studying the scripture and sharing a meal with others.

Pastor Jim Hopkins is Senior Pastor at Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, Lakeshore Avenue and Mandana Boulevard in Oakland. jim@labcoakland.org

October 5th, 3 P.M.

# Kenneth Kellogg

will perform a concert of religious and civil rights music to benefit Fern Lodge (Christian Science nursing facility)

with Pianist: Katy Stephan Host: Noah Griffin

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Oakland  
1880 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA 94611

Support the event and RSVP at [fern lodge.org/benefit-concert](http://fern lodge.org/benefit-concert)

On Oct. 5, Fern Lodge is hosting a concert at First Church of Christ, Scientist, Oakland. The concert will support the ongoing renewal of Fern Lodge and is Fern Lodge's gift to the Oakland community. More information on this important outreach effort can be found [here](http://fern lodge.org/benefit-concert) or by scanning the Q.R. code.

Our Contact Information  
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<http://www.fern lodge.org>






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