



From the Publisher  
**Arnold G. York**

## The Malibu Times endorses Laura Rosenthal and Lou La Monte

We've been told by the city that the absentee ballots have been sent out and since half of you will be voting absentee, we're going to make endorsements now, rather than waiting until the end of the campaign. The candidates running in this City Council election are almost identical to the last time, except for the addition of a new candidate, June Louks. It basically looks to be a race between Laura Rosenthal and Lou La Monte, the incumbents both running for their second term, and Andy Lyons and Hamish Patterson, running as a team for the second time. To my mind, it's not even close.

We enthusiastically endorse Laura Rosenthal and Lou La Monte for a second, four-year term on the city council.

Both Laura and Lou have exhibited sound, measured judgment, the willingness to work long hours frequently required of council members, and the patience to hear out people and their views. That is not easy in this town where there is a coterie of people who are almost pathologically angry about just about everything. They seem to believe that government is easy if only we had the right people (meaning, of course, people they agree with) in office.

Let me give you an example: In my mind the swap of Charmlee Park for Bluffs Park is absolutely a no-brainer. The city is going to get a major park in the center of town, plus space for an additional playing field and more parking. They're giving Charmlee Park to a state agency that will keep it as an open space. What is there to argue about?

Currently, Laura is leading the charge to try and help us get our own school district, which would be good for our children, our schools, our city and our real estate values.

To do that takes skill and smarts and experience, and Laura has all three.

Lou La Monte has taken a strong leadership role in connection with trying to get some control over all the drug and alcohol rehab facilities that have popped up in Malibu. This, again, is a very complex issue against a well-funded opposition that makes a vast amount of money in the rehab business. It requires building a coalition with other cities and creating credibility with numerous state agencies. It's tough, time consuming and requires a lot of skills.

Running a city like Malibu is not easy. Our budget is more than \$20 million per year. We employ more than 60 employees and numerous outside contractors, and the council has to do a lot of listening, a lot of reading, and then set policy that's executed through the city manager and city staff. I believe it's perfectly reasonable to expect that people running for council should have some education, some experience in running organizations and some basic acquaintance with budgeting. Then, if they really want to get involved, they should develop a track record. Get on a city commission, join an advisory group, do your homework and then run. I have little patience with people who wake up one morning and suddenly hear a voice in the wilderness saying, "The people need you. Run for city council."

One last thing: In 2016 there will be three seats open on the council and only one incumbent. House and Sibert will be termed out. I think it's important that we keep some experience on the council now to take us past the next election, which is another reason we strongly endorse Laura Rosenthal and Lou La Monte.

## In case you missed it

The top stories on MalibuTimes.com this week



Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu motorcade to cause PCH delays



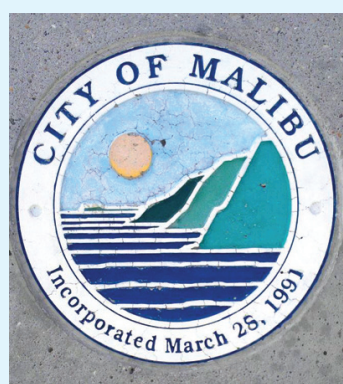
Photos: Car plows through 76 gas station sign



Rob Reiner group proposes initiative to curb chain stores in Malibu



Deer killings worry Big Rock neighbors



City issues violation notice to Passages Drug Rehab

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## Guest Column | Fire Chief Sam DiGiovanna

March came in like a lion, bringing more rain than we've seen in years, but will it leave like a lamb?

Though ordinarily not a big concern, March winds may pose a very serious fire danger. Normally we would have had more rain by now and brush fires are not quite a concern. With drought conditions and little rain, fuel moisture content is extremely low.

Historically, we've had some very strong wind storms in March. As the sun angle climbs and the heating of the earth's surface increases during the month, convection (warm air pockets that rise vigorously from the

Earth's surface) also increases. Air from higher altitudes sinks to replace this rising air. While this mixing can occur year-round, the winds aloft tend to be stronger in March.

With little rain and low fuel moisture, homeowners need to remain vigilant of March and winds. The threat of fire remains high unless we get more precipitation. Create defensible space by clearing hazardous vegetation away from your property. Clean leaves, needles and twigs from rooftops and gutters.

Follow your communities' brush clearance ordinance by contacting your local fire department.

## Letters to the Editor

The Malibu Times requests that letters to the editor be sent by U.S. mail or hand-delivered to The Malibu Times, 3864 Las Flores Canyon Rd., Malibu, CA 90265; e-mailed to malibunews@malibutimes.com or by fax to 310.456.8986. Name, address and phone number must be included with all letters for verification purposes.

Typed letters must use sentence case (please avoid submitting correspondence typed entirely in capital letters or in cursive). Letters should be brief, 350 words maximum, and may be edited for clarity or length. Deadlines are Tuesdays at noon.

Letters to the Editor regarding the 2014 Malibu municipal election may be sent commenting on issues within the election, but please refrain from writing in support of or endorsing specific candidates.

### Reviewing local issues

I have great respect for all the City Council members as public servants. Although I don't agree with many of their decisions, I do agree we all win by elevating our local politics. Notice of toxic cleanup would have been appreciated by the teachers, parents and students who were on the campus that summer while workmen were removing the toxic soil. I have felt a deep sense of betrayal that the parents weren't clearly informed. The district's lack of transparency is an example of why our city will benefit from separating and becoming our own local school district. Then, we, as parents, won't need to demand transparency, we take the reins and we can be it! Let's seize this historic opportunity to become our own school district.

Another historic opportunity is Rob Riener's "Your Malibu, Your Decision Act." It is a gift to our city. Had our current City Council arrived at the compromise solution of 30%, it would have not been necessary. The act holds the possibility for a change of tide in our local politics, to stand up for local independent businesses and our quality of life, and uphold Malibu's Vision and Mission Statement (MVMS), to "avoid" the "commercialization" of Malibu, and preserve its "rural characteristics" along our entire 26 miles.

This referendum for a stronger chain store ordinance is continuing a meaningful conversation encouraged by a group that has

been working tirelessly for years to this end, Preserve Malibu. I hope we storm city hall as soon as we are given the blessing from those who are reviewing it to sign this referendum.

June Louks

### Praise for new market

Well, OK, OK, OK ... it's about time for a great new market in Malibu! My husband, Tim, and I went to our new local market in Trancas to check it out, and wow, what a great find! Looks great, feels great and it has polite, friendly helpers. We couldn't resist the fresh deli and yummy bakery. Congratulations, Vintage Grocers: you did good!

Cindy and Tim O'Shea

### Traffic headache

Shame on you City Council! Last week's fundraising visit by the prime minister of Israel was one of your biggest screw ups ever. A five-mile back up of commuters and Malibu residents was fueled by a private party, on Ash Wednesday no less, one of the most important days to Christians.

Most likely taxpayer dollars paid for CalTrans trucks acting as guard dogs and the police and hazmat presence. Not a peep out of our city leaders to let anyone know that traffic would be at a standstill.

It put all of us, residents and visitors alike, at tremendous risk. No ambulances, fire trucks or other emergency vehicles could take people to safety whether you had a heart attack or a fire. This must never happen again, though remember, the city council promised this would never happen again in 2007. Tell them to take their parties elsewhere.

Susan M. Tellem

### Offering a drought solution

As a native of Los Angeles, I am a great lover of Malibu. I support the farmer's market most Sundays, and my husband and I frequent the trails and beaches with or without our child in order to regain balance in a busy life.

Most recently, as I was coming down from Malibu Canyon/Las Virgenes, I looked at the expansive lawn of Pepperdine University. Being attuned to nature, I am accustomed to the months when our mountains are brown and when they are more green. For the past several years, and particularly this past year, the mountains have been painfully dry. Now is a time to rethink our ideas of what is standard and beautiful and work with the climate and challenges that are in front of us.

I would love for Pepperdine University to let go of its expansive lawn. It would be a bold statement in favor of the environment, and they would have the opportunity to lead the change. I wish for this large step.

Heather Trappler

### Support for council candidates

I attended the City Council candidates forum on Monday night at the Trancas Community House. It was an animated evening—sometimes contentious, and, once or twice, even out of control.

The emotions that bubbled up were representative of the feelings not only of the candidates, but of the citizenry as a whole. With the future of the rural character of our city at stake, the battle lines among the candidates are being clearly defined. And even though at face value all five candidates claim to want the same thing (namely to protect the rural character of Malibu), there is real debate among them regarding the most effective ways to achieve that tricky goal.

On the one hand, we have two seasoned veterans of the council running for re-election. Laura Rosenthal and Lou LaMonte bring with them four years of experience dealing with the various developers and state agencies that have a say in Malibu's future.

That is no small advantage when it comes to navigating the murky waters of local politics.

On the other hand, three outsiders are running on platforms fueled by their passion to stop the over-development of Malibu. Andy Lyon and Hamish Patterson's passion might remind one of the lone protestor in Tiananmen Square who stood in front of the encroaching tanks and refused to move. Their commitment to preserving Malibu is infectious, and that, too, is no small advantage in a town where most of us want a moratorium on growth.

And finally, June Louks' dream of Malibu as the national trend-setter for a healthy, sustainable small town is pure and beautifully intentioned.

I give great credit to these five locals who are walking the walk and standing up to represent the town we all love so much. I'm looking forward to hearing them all a few more times before I cast my vote, and I encourage everyone in town to do the same before voting in this most important next election.

Eamon Harrington

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