

Dear Petaluma City Council,

Thank you for your time in reading this letter. My name is Cassie Pitkin and I am a proud resident of Petaluma. I'm writing to enlist your consideration of the timeline for the pending Luchessi turf field renovation, as well as to advocate for turf to be a part of the new field, not grass.

We are hoping to hold the Fourth Annual Petaluma Wiffle Ball Tournament on May 10, 2025, about a month later than we typically hold it because we are trying to maximize the opportunity for better weather. The tournament is hosted by the three Petaluma Rotary Clubs and Miracle League North Bay and raises around \$20,000 each year. In 2024's tournament, we had 29 teams comprised of local businesses and organizations, non-profits, community groups, local sports teams and more. For 2025, we're hoping, and have a plan, to fill all 32 team spots, will increase HenHouse beer and local wine sales, enhance "Sonoma County's Finest" silent auction and boost our "Wiffle Stop Cafe" food sales. All proceeds go to Miracle League North Bay and youth programs sponsored by Rotary locally and around the world. This year, we are adding "Save Sight Now" as a beneficiary; their main focus is supporting research to fight childhood blindness, a cause that is near and dear to some of the committee members' hearts as their granddaughter lives with this disease. My hope is that you can sense that this is a true community event that brings folks from all of Petaluma together to raise money for amazing causes. I'm reaching out to you because we need the turf field in order to make our event successful.

The Miracle League field and connected Rotarian pavilion make up our home base (pun intended) and then we have three wiffle ball fields on the turf field. Petaluma Parks and Recreation (shoutout to Rachel Beer!) has been pivotal in helping make sure we reserve the field and let us know the renovation timeline is still up in the air. If there is a world where the turf field is available for our use on May 10, and to be able to rely on this well in advance, we'd be extremely grateful. If this is not possible, of course, we'd understand and appreciate your efforts to keep Petaluma's facilities safe and up to date, but it would drastically impede progress toward a successful 2025 4th Annual Petaluma Wiffle Ball Tournament.

As for the grass vs. turf discussion for the renovated field, I am the varsity head coach for Petaluma High School girls softball and spent about half of last season rescheduling games due to rain. As much as I think grass is prettier, I urge you to consider the amount of work grass is to maintain and keep playable. After any amount of rain, the grass can be easily damaged with cleats, but extremely difficult to "fix." It takes one group of friends playing a mud football game out there or someone spinning donuts...and the whole field will be out of commission for weeks/months. Grass requires mowing. Every time it's mowed, the field lines will need to be redone and soccer goals would need to be moved and put back. To keep it green and playable during the summer, it will take an obscene amount of water.

Turf fields require none of this. They have also made incredible strides to where the turf fields do not have any harmful agents. I coach flag football at Petaluma High and we did not play on a single grass field; everything is trending toward turf.

I understand and appreciate all you do. I'm extremely grateful that you are open to reading a letter with these thoughts at a City Council meeting.

With gratitude for your time and attention,

Cassie Pitkin


From: [John Donnelly](#)
To: [-- City Council](#)
Subject: D Street
Date: Sunday, December 8, 2024 2:03:30 PM

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I am a resident of D street. Parking has been eliminated from the front of my house. I have a one car driveway which is on 5th Street. I have to park on fifth now to access my front door. Is it true that some service providers have incurred additional cost if they have to park in the new bike lanes? If this is the case, why were we not informed?

This is clearly discriminatory and unfair. I am not against cyclist. The reality is that the bike lanes on D have not increased bike traffic. What they have done is potentially reduced the value of my home. Please advise if the fees for service providers is a real thing. I look forward to your reply.

John Donnelly
[REDACTED]

From: [Malia Connors](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: Petaluma Riverfront Trestle
Date: Friday, December 6, 2024 12:41:12 PM

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I support the City of Petaluma committing staff and funds now to rehabilitate the Trestle and complete the construction of a beautiful riverfront promenade. Please share this email with the City Manager and the City Council.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Matt Stone](#)
To: [-- City Council](#)
Subject: Let's reconsider artificial turf
Date: Monday, December 9, 2024 6:24:46 PM

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Dear Members of Petaluma City Council:

I thought AT was a no brainer way to reduce water use and lower costs. However, I have come to understand that the adverse health drawbacks of AT outweigh these benefits. Please do not re-install AT in City Parks. Petaluma children's health and wellbeing should outweigh other considerations.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful vote.

Matt Stone

[REDACTED]

Petaluma

[REDACTED]

From: [Mary Bon](#)
To: [-- City Council](#)
Subject: Toxic materials
Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 7:11:18 AM

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I am a voter & Petaluma home owner of 30+ years.

December 16: VOTE NO toxic material anywhere/everywhere in Petaluma (Lucchesi Park!); PLEASE!

Our children ARE OUR BEST natural resource! WE all, every age must be protected! WE own Our town; vote for ALL to be protected!

Thank you,

Mary O'Malley
Owner/Voter
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Naomi Crawford](#)
To: [-- City Council](#)
Subject: artificial turf
Date: Monday, December 9, 2024 4:34:04 PM

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Hi,

As a mother who raised her kids here in Petaluma, playing on the artificial turf, we experienced firsthand the toxic smell coming off of it on the hot summer days. I hear you're considering replacing it with more of the same? I cannot support you in that. I want to register my disapproval, and vociferously ask that you do not go through with that. We need to be smarter about how we build and implement here in our community, and artificial turf is not smart. I know it feels like the lesser of two evils (grass or turf) but there is just too much evidence that AT is toxic from start to finish.

Thank you,

Naomi Crawford

"Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit..." Henry David Thoreau

[lunchette](#)
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From: [Tracy Greenwald](#)
To: -- [City Council](#)
Subject: No to artificial turf at Luchesi park
Date: Monday, December 9, 2024 4:59:09 PM

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I am urging you to vote no to replacing the artificial turf on the playing fields at Luchesi Park.

AT is so problematic that:

- The California Department of Toxic Substances Control is studying AT chemicals for human health and environmental hazards.
- Sonoma Water Agencies are joined in a \$10.3 Billion lawsuit with 3M over related PFAS contamination of our drinking water.
- Santa Clara County Medical Association condemns its use.
- NFL Players Association is calling for all stadiums to convert to natural grass.
- Numerous peer-reviewed AT studies are detailed in a letter to the City Council from 34 trusted local organizations, including Friends of the Petaluma River.
- Children, closer to the ground, are exposed to the heat and toxic chemicals even more than adults and can sustain long term damage.

I fully understand natural turf budget concerns, but the cost of the health externalities of artificial turf is too high for our children, athletes, environment and drinking water to pay.

More info. can be found here:

All About Artificial Turf: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18C-ISRHcwVROWroVMmW75E-FGERUaYmn/view?usp=sharing>

From: [Vanessa Miller Nelson](#)
To: -- City Council
Subject: Comment Re. New Artificial Turf at Lucchesi
Date: Monday, December 9, 2024 7:39:51 PM

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I heard you are voting on the 16th about installing new artificial turf at Lucchesi. I hope the City will do the right thing and put people first, and support our kids health by not continuing to use artificial turf.

Thanks,
Vanessa Nelson

Ban Request from Petaluma

orgs: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ngCdG14DB39U9T7fS2hYtGkdjq19J4Sg/view?usp=sharing>

Local Petition to Ban Artificial

Turf: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uvTCZTCmdu0kzV5oHYU38s2NbbIDKKvu/view?usp=sharing>

How Sonoma County Parks Installs Grass

Fields: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1un5E1p-8vBaDntG8QFn5XsK8Qa7zCrgC/view?usp=sharing>

Thank you

Tracy Greenwald



Petaluma

Sent from my iPhone

Good Evening City Council and City staff,

We are here for comments on your closed-door session to reiterate the following.

Once the cases of appeal both from the Youngstown Mobile residents and the Youngstown Park owners were merged the afternoon before our Stay hearing as of today the Stay hearing has not been given a date to be heard.

Youngstown residents believe that it was a calculated approach to merge the case the day before hearing to allow the judge to be removed from our case as per the Park Owners wishes in a failed preemptory challenge. The owners had failed to pay the filing fee the first attempt at challenge and when it would have been resubmitted it would not have been allowed because it was untimely since the hearing was the following day.

Youngstown residents who fully funded this appeal are frustrated, angry and understandably leery that their rights are not being considered in a timely fashion.

This Stay hearing was done in an order of shortening time and granted to be heard expeditiously.

Whereas we do not know the outcome of this Stay hearing every month since October, residents have had to pay \$248 per month more including attorneys' fees that are not reasonable.

In addition, Youngstown owners and management continue to tell buyers that Youngstown is an all-age park. They have sold 4 different mobile homes as all age.

Residents have video tape of young children on bikes with training wheels unattended by parents riding in the streets while senior citizens are backing out. In addition, the voicemail to Youngstown states all ages and of course new buyers are given all age rules and regulations.

We of course are aware that Youngstown owners are suing the city against the senior park overlay but they have not won and must abide by the ordinances and zoning that is legally in effect since Oct 16, 2023.

We ask you to continue to be courageous as you have been to stand up for simply what is right and just.

Youngstown residents are not asking for more than enforcement of the ordinance, the zoning and the law.

We thank you for always listening, carefully assessing the truth and making thoughtful decisions for our vulnerable residents.

Good evening again,

Just since your last city council meeting the residents of Youngstown, Little woods and Capri are experiencing more hardships, more service reductions, more retaliation and the severe intent not to render aid in any weather or emergency.

Little woods look like a prison in back with fully fenced in parking that has been theirs to use for years and years,

There is no opening to enter, what used to be striped parking spots with numbered lanes that were the addresses of residents.

This reduction of service as parking is an amenity and cannot be denied without proper compensation to each resident, many who do not have 2 parking spaces to park their cars or trucks.

Little woods residents had a small amount of relief with the second arbitration decision rendering a zero award of increase but at what cost.

Bleeding residents dry in legal fees knowing there is an imbalance of income, stressing the residents to a point of depression, hopelessness and more are the plans throughout 3 mobile park owners in Petaluma.

There must be remedy, public outrage and mobile park owners must be held accountable to the law, to an ordinance and to the zoning.

Youngstown residents are being denied basic emergency services, calls and emails not returned from management, emails having to be sent to attorneys of record for the park owners.

Just Saturday once again senior citizens having to fend for themselves. When calling our city and police we are grateful for the quick response to simply make sure we are ok.

You are our lifeline at this point and there is not one resident who does not acknowledge that when you made a choice of service to Petaluma that you earnestly represent and support all of us regardless of circumstances.

Our resident has supplied video tape showing young children riding bikes with training wheels unattended behind carports in the street. Youngstown senior park is nonexistent anymore simply because park owners are ignoring the very rules of the senior park overlay.

The flooding now in both the atmospheric river and the rain this past Saturday with high winds has wreaked havoc with our mobile homes and our residents. Weather disasters occur but who would manage an emergency with no action or disregard for the vulnerability of senior citizens.

Its unconscionable

Capri Mobile Park was made a complete fire lane.

Its absurd that the areas for parking residents have had for years are gone overnight, that they have hanging over their head towing if even an inch of their car sticks out from their carport and the same bad actor park owners as Little woods removing, severing services without MRL or state or city notice.

Capri residents are still waiting for the credit back of overcharging. Months have gone by now that Capri owners have money, they were not owed but held over the heads of residents that they would be evicted if not paid.

Every month-in fact every week mobile park residents in all 3 parks are being denied services, are living in a mobile park under intimidation, retaliation and disregard for their rights.

We feel that the lawsuit where WMA and Bill Feeney were seeking an injunction to delay the dissolution of the part of AB2782 that would allow them to continue predatory long term leases denying residents to be protected under rent stabilization will be denied.

We are residents who are not asking for a handout.

We bought our homes, we are humble and live within our means and we obey the ordinances, the laws and the rules.

You, the city of Petaluma, are courageous and stand up for those less fortunate.

We see your efforts, your intent to understand and make choices for your residents and we are proud that we live in the city with you.