

Life in LAMORINDA

511 offers valuable incentives – including gas cards – for commuters

by Emily Shultheis

One look at the traffic heading into the Caldecott Tunnel on any given morning, and it becomes obvious: The people of the Bay Area need a way to make their daily trips easier. Luckily, though few commuters know about it as yet, a free web and phone service, is available to help.

511 is a free phone- and web-based service sponsored by organizations such as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the California Department of Transportation, and the California Highway Patrol. 511 offers incentives to the citizens of Contra Costa County to promote the use of public transit and carpools. For anyone who commutes to or from a destination within Contra Costa, carpools are available and new carpools can be formed as well. Anyone

who either joins or forms a carpool receives a \$60 gas card. Similarly, college students joining or forming a carpool to campus receive a \$40 gas card.

The website also offers frequently updated traffic information, public transit schedules, information about biking in the Bay Area, and a 'TakeTransit Trip Planner,' which provides information about which forms of public transit can be used to reach specified destinations. The phone service offers updated traffic information, public transit schedules, and estimated travel times. These services cover the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma.

In addition to these Bay Area services, all commuters involved in a carpool

can register for the free Guaranteed Ride Home program, which provides vouchers for alternate transportation in the event of illness, emergency, or overtime hours.

Finally, any commuter over the age of 18 who uses public transit (including BART, buses and trains) receives a week's worth of free passes.

For more information about 511 or any of the Contra Costa County Transportation programs, visit the website at www.511.org, or call '511' on any phone.

Emily Shultheis is a feature writer for the Lamorinda Weekly and a senior at Campolindo High School, where she also works on the school paper, The Puma.

To the Editor,
Hats off to you for providing our communities with a much-needed weekly, local newspaper. Your inaugural issue was a terrific surprise to find in our driveway. It was loaded with all the things we REALLY want to know about the people, events and businesses that are part of our daily lives. Our family wishes you great success.
The Coupin Family
Orinda

Dear Julie, I just picked up my mail and was thrilled to receive our very own hometown paper! I have always looked forward to the Contra Costa Sun on Fridays (my favorite newspaper day), but your concept for the Lamorinda area surpasses even that! Thank you for your effort and thank you for pointing out how important it is to shop locally. We MUST continue to support our local businessmen/women by patronizing their stores. They have given so much to our community and to our schools. Do you need donations to print your paper? Let me know. Again, thank you! Toni Russell (a long-time Lamorinda parent, resident, and a local elementary school instructional assistant).

Editor:
We've lived in Orinda for a long time, and the roads have been a problem for a long time. A lot of our roads were built in the 1930s and 1940s, and they were built for the small, light cars of

Letters to the Editor

We're a community newspaper, and we welcome your input. Please share your thoughts, news, ideas, suggestions, and photos here in the pages of the Lamorinda Weekly.

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Regular mail: Letters to the Editor
Lamorinda Weekly
P.O.Box 6133
Moraga, CA 94556

that day, not the bigger cars and trucks we have now. Also they were built on our unstable clay soil with poor beds under the roads. And finally, for the many years we were under the county's care, repairs were neglected. So now it's time to take matters into our own hands and get the job done. Vote yes on Measure E, Orinda's roads bond!
Helen Oliver

Julie,
Thank you so much for providing us with the new Lamorinda Weekly. We were thrilled to find it on our driveway. We have missed having news about our local community and your first edition shows that you and your staff will be doing a great job.

We used to take the Moraga Sun, back in the days you could do that. We take the Chronicle and, several times, have subscribed to the Contra Costa Times for a short time to get local news. But there was just too much paper plus we had to look hard to find the local stuff.

We wish you and your staff much success and we will be sure to patronize our local advertisers and tell

them that we read about them in the Weekly.
Chuck and Mary Smith
Moraga

Thank you. This newspaper gives us pertinent, well written news about our local area. I will look forward to forthcoming issues.
Nancy Kornfield

Congratulations!!!! Great first issue. I am so thrilled that all of you are working so hard on this newspaper. Your article on the front page "The Little Paper that Could" was great. What a nice touch. The back page with Shop Moraga First was such a gift to the town. WE so appreciate all your hard work.

Best Regards,
Edy

Dear, Lamorinda Weekly
We are not at all part of the Lamorinda area. The papers that you delivered to canyon on March 16 were not appreciated and we are going to consider this littering, if you want to put these papers somewhere please ask the post master if you can put them inside of the post office. We are not Lamorinda Housholds.
Sincerely, Canyon Residence

to this area. When I heard about 'Lend Me A Tenor,' I was really excited to take on the challenge of Saunders," says Curt Williams, who plays the general manager of the opera company. "Everything Saunders does to save the show turns out wrong, and it is all hysterically funny. This is going to be a really entertaining show."

Sophisticated themes. For mature audiences (adult themes and comic sexuality). Not recommended for children under 10. Length: 2 hours.

Contact the Town Hall Theatre Company box office for dates, times, and ticket prices: 925-283-1557, or visit www.townhalltheatre.com. The Town Hall Theatre Company, located at 3535 School Street at Moraga Road in Lafayette, is the oldest, continuously active theater in Contra Costa County.

◆ Not to be missed ◆

Miramonte High School Presents "Aida"

The timeless tale of love and power is set in Ancient Egypt and made current by the contemporary score and staging.

Performances are March 22, 23, 24 at 7:30 in the Miramonte Theater. Advance tickets on-line are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students with ID. Subject to availability, tickets may also be purchased at the door, \$20 for adults and \$15 for students.

Lafayette Concerts Presents Jamie Laval & Ashley Broder

• Fri: 3/23 • Doors open: 7:00 pm • All shows begin: 7:30pm • Tickets: \$15 at the door (Reservations suggested) • Lafayette Community Center, Sequoia Room
Reservations: 925-283-1959
• Email: charlotte@lafayetteconcerts.com
Information: www.lafayetteconcerts.com

Join Director Joel Roster for *Harvey*

Auditions for Teen Actors Guild at Town Hall Theatre. TAG is an advanced acting program being offered this summer at Town Hall Theatre. You must audition to participate in this class. Auditions for this program are being held on Saturday March 24 2PM to 4PM
For more information visit www.townhallkids.com, email classes@townhallkids.com or call (925) 262-1159.

POETRY NIGHT at the Storyteller!

March 27th 7:00pm
\$5 fee
Get ready for April—National Poetry Month! Come join us for a walk through the best books in children's poetry. Full of great humor and interest, this poetry makes science, social studies, and language arts both fun and accessible!

PATRICIA POLACCO The beloved and prolific author of Something About the Hensleys, Chicken

Sunday, Thank You Mr. Falker, Betty Doll, and Rechenka's Eggs comes to the Storyteller Saturday, March 31st at 10:00a.m. We're honored to have one of the great artists in children's books! Polacco will give a presentation and sign books. All books bought for the event will be signed; attendees may have one book from home signed as well.

The Lafayette Community Center Foundation Presents:

A Day of Bunny Fun!
Sat: April 7 • 11am-12:30pm
Hop on down to the Lafayette Community Center for an Egg Hunt, Pancake Brunch, Live Show and a Bunny visit!
\$7/person Adv. Sale
\$9/person: Day of Event
Buy tickets at the Lafayette Community Center before April 7 to receive the discount. A limited number of tickets will be available on

the day of the event.
For more information: 284-2232
A fundraiser for the Lafayette Community Center

Classical Guitarist, Peter Fletcher.

This concert follows his New York Debut at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall.
Tuesday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m.
Reservations are necessary and are accepted at the information desk
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga (925)376-6852

The Moraga Art Gallery's new exhibit "Vibrant" will be running from March 22-June 3. Opening Reception, Saturday, March 24, 2007
Moraga Art Gallery, 570 Center Street, Moraga at the Rheem Valley Shopping Center

Tea Dancing

Enjoy afternoon Tea Dancing and light refreshments every Wednesday in the spacious Live Oak room. Music compiled by D.J. Dan Foley. Come for the swell music and good company even if you prefer not to dance.
Every Wed from 12:30-3:00 pm • \$2 fee covers refreshments
Lafayette Community Center • Live Oak Room

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

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