

Life in LAMORINDA

Not to be missed

Last chance to see "Lend Me a Tenor" at Town Hall Theatre Company in Lafayette through April 21st. "This is the second funniest play ever written," says director Daren A. Carollo. Sophisticated themes – for mature audiences. 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.

Dreamscapes will continue at the Lafayette Gallery through May 12. Whether it's a painting, a sculpture or a piece of jewelry, each piece of work represents an individual vision – a dreamscape of colors, textures and light.

When visiting the Gallery, please be sure to wander through the Lafayette Sculpture Garden located behind the Gallery. Lafayette Gallery, 50 Lafayette Circle, is open Tuesday to Saturday from 11am to 5pm. (925) 284-2788, www.lafayettegallery.net

Moraga Bocce Ball
Bocce Ball for the 2007 season at the Moraga Commons is here. There is room for a few new teams and fill-ins. The nightly league season will be from May to September. There are 4 teams that play each other each evening. It's a great social and way to spend an evening and meet new friends. There is also a 10 A.M. Thursday drop-in. For more information please call Dom Sidari 376-1511

Lafayette Concerts Presents Christopher Smith
Friday, April 20, 7:30 PM
Fusing elements of humor and sadness, his songs feature characters that are quirky, vulnerable and unforgettable. His music is primarily based in the folk tradition, accompanying himself on fingerstyle guitar, octave mandolin, and banjo. Sequoia Room, the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, Tickets (\$15) available at the door. Reservations suggested. (925) 283-1959 or email charlotte@lafayetteconcerts.com

The Miramonte Latin Club is holding a fundraising car wash on Sat, April 21st, 9am-2pm, at Orinda Motors.

Animal Fair-Open House and Yard Sale Fundraiser
Saturday, April 21, 2007.
Animal Fair - 10 am to 2 pm
Yard Sale - 9 am to 2 pm
Moraga Bright Beginnings Preschool, 1689 School Street, Moraga
Phone: (925) 376-2600

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Orinda, Celebrates Earth Day on April 22, 2007

To build awareness and educate members of the community about ways in which individuals can help to ensure a more sustainable environment, the exhibit will explain how individuals can "Reduce, Reuse

and Recycle" in their daily lives. 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., St. Stephen's Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda.
Barbara Bisel, Chair, Caring for Creation Group – (925) 377-5953

The Art of Creating New Camellia Plants in Lamorinda.

Monday 4/23 10:30 – Noon
Retired dairy-product scientist and 30 year Orinda resident John Wang will disclose secrets of his back yard passion, the evergreen camellia plant (Tea Flower). With spectacular slides, John will talk about the species, origin and history of camellias, his recent trips to China and his special method of camellia breeding. Lafayette Community Center, 500 Saint Mary's Rd. Call 284-5050 to reserve a spot.

Tuesday, April 24 at 7 P.M.
The Orinda Library hosts a Fireside Chat with local author David Smethurst about his new book, "Tripoli." In an intimate setting by the library fireplace, Smethurst will describe how he came to research this little-known period in American history called the Barbary War and write most of it the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, The Fireside Chat is free and open to the public. Call 254-2184

Borrego Solar will be hosting an Open House to provide information about the Solar Neighborhood Program on April 24, 2007 from 6-9pm at the Veteran's Memorial Hall, 780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. Designed to let customers in the area take advantage of volume discounts for installing a photovoltaic system to provide electricity to their home or business, the program offers increasing discounts as more residents sign up. Contact Tyler Ruffolo at Borrego Solar, 1.800.403.0259 or sales@borregosolar.com

Planning for the "What If's" of a Longer Life

Thursday 4/25 11 AM – Noon
This lecture will review the issues one needs to be aware of to stay in control of life even when medical challenges complicate and color the quality of your life. Lafayette Community Center, 500 Saint Mary's Rd. Call (925)284-5050 to reserve a spot

Moraga TreeLine Triathlon
Soda Aquatic Center, Campolindo High School
April 28, 2007; 6 AM -- Body marking and swim start prep
7 AM -- Group start time

2nd Annual Child Safety I.D. Event Sunday, April 29th - 12:00pm to 4:00pm
Oakwood Athletic Club in Lafayette

TOSSED TREASURES SALE
Saturday, April 28th 9 to 3 at the Lafayette Community Center. Sponsored by the LAFAYETTE SERVICE LEAGUE.

This year's proceeds will be donated to the Lafayette Community Center and Hospice of Contra Costa. We're looking for donations! Call Jackie at 284-4131 or Diane at 283-8790. Plenty of free parking is available

Lamorinda Arts Alliance Spring Open Studios April 28 - April 29.
Open Studios features over 30 artists in a variety of media including watercolor, jewelry, garden sculpture, photography, acrylic and oil paintings, collage, and gourds. At the 13 locations, visitors can meet the artists, watch demonstrations and buy art directly from the participants. Saturday 4/28, 11am to 5pm and Sunday 4/29, 10am to 4pm. A reception will be held on Friday, April 27 from 6 to 8pm at the Lamorinda Arts Alliance Gallery, 570 Center Street, Moraga 925-376-5407. Maps will be available on-line at www.laa4art.org.

The Bulldog Theater Company presents "Snow White" May 3-6 at OIS.

Clive Worsley is directing this classic Brothers Grimm version of Snow White, performed by 60 OIS students in two casts and run by 27 students on tech crew. Tickets are \$5 General Admission and \$8 Reserved seating. General Admission tickets will be available on the OIS website starting Friday, April 20, and Reserved tickets will be sold at our box office starting Monday, April 23. Join us for what promises to be a great family event!

The Friends of the Moraga Library will hold an "Overstock Sale" of donated books on Saturday, May 5th from 9 to 12. The sale will be held on the Moraga library poach at 1500 Saint Mary's Rd. Bring your friends and take advantage of greatly reduced prices.

The Moraga Junior Women's Club will host its fourth annual Lamorinda garden tour, "Through the Garden Gate," Saturday, May 5 from 10AM to 3PM. Tickets will be for sale at Ace Hardware and "Across the Way" in Moraga, McDonnell Nursery in Orinda and Orchard Nursery in Lafayette as well as by mail through the Moraga Juniors. The entire \$30 ticket price will go to support Comfort for Kids. The garden tour will showcase six Lamorinda gardens—three in Lafayette, two in Orinda and one in Moraga.

Senior Sock Hop Fund Raiser Featuring the Tice Valley Swing Band Sunday May 6th from 2:00 to 6:00 pm. Admission: \$10.00, Raffle Tickets \$1, light refreshments no charge Lafayette Community Center, 500 Saint Mary's Rd in Lafayette Call 284-5050 to Reserve a Spot (We need a headcount!)

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

George Ehrenhaft
a watercolor artist from Moraga, is a member of the Lamorinda Arts Alliance, a cooperative association of more than 200 local artists.

Over 30 Lamorinda Arts Alliance members artists will be opening their homes and studios to the public for two days for Spring Open Studios April 28 - April 29.

Editor's Note: We received more letters than we have space to reprint in support of Orinda's Measure E. The letters below are a representative sample.

Dear Editor;
I am a volunteer for the Fix Orinda's Road Committee, because I care about the terrible condition of our roads and want to do something about it. I'm surprised that some community members are actually recommending a no vote on Measure E. I can only assume that some questionable information is out there.
First of all, for those who want a parcel tax in lieu of a bond-a parcel tax would actually cost the average Orindan more than a bond and at the same time it won't raise as much money and as quickly. Bonds like house mortgages are used for long term asset needs. No one would expect to buy a house from current income alone. Maintenance covers superficial fixes, not the kind of repairs we need and it makes sense to fix pipes and drains at the same time. I have read letters that state all roads won't be fixed. This is not true. Only private roads will be ineligible. Major arteries will be fixed first and side roads later. As main roads are repaired maintenance funds can be released for smaller areas.
Some of the other issues from those against Measure E seem beside the point. Whether you like the City Council or the Fire Authority has nothing to do with our current roads. Let's pull together and improve our city. Vote YES on Measure E.
Yours truly, Jean Lyford Orinda

"E" for ... Embezzlement?
Measure E purports to be for road repairs, but it's really stealth financing for City Hall. It's telling that City Hall debt service is not in the budget, and that the Orrick firm, which sold us the fake lease (COP) financing plan, is also our legal counsel on Measure E. The City Hall "debt" (\$9.8 million principal, payable over 30 years) is an unfunded liability looming over the city budget. It should have been financed by a municipal obligation bond because without a 2/3 citizen vote, the debt is

unconstitutional. But our dishonest City Council (over Steve Glazer's objection) chose to sneak this debt on us, without our 2/3 vote or even our consent, by pretending no bond vote is necessary because it's only a "lease" which we can cover with existing revenues.

That's false on both counts: (1) The City owns the land, but leases it out to a dummy corporation (OFFC) composed of city officials, which subleases it back to the City. Does that sound like a bona fide lease, or an Enron-style flim flam to mask economic reality? and (2) Orinda in the past three fiscal years has only once had an excess of revenues over expenditures exceeding half the required annual "lease" payments (for 30 years) of \$620,000. We can't afford it, and the only place to get the City Hall debt service will be the road bond. Given Orinda's record of failing to respect dedicated funds (Gateway Fund and road money, for example), we can't trust them with \$58.6 million. They can't even be trusted with the \$1.2 they already get annually for roads – our pavement maintenance budget this year is only \$37,000, of which \$12,000 is for "consultant services." No matter how distinguished and honest the members of the Oversight Committee might be, they are only an advisory committee, appointed by the City Council. Like the Iraq Study Group, their advice can and probably will be ignored. That is not an unreasonable fear, considering the following quote from Mayor Glazer: "They [fellow councilmembers Victoria Smith and Amy Worth] also ignore expert independent advice about stretching our scarce road dollars." (Contra Costa Sun, March 17, 2006, p.6).
Wilmot McCutchen Orinda

Letter to the Editor
As an Orinda teacher and resident, I am fortunate enough to be able to ride my bike to work. Riding a bike is my contribution to reducing pollution and traffic congestion. It has been an example to the school community and others now are joining me to enjoy the benefits of exercise,

Community Emergency Response Team –

Lamorinda Weighs In

By Becky Kim, with Sophie Braccini

Of the roughly 58,000 Lamorindans, 235 are certified CERT volunteers. After reading the CERT story in our last issue, supportive Lamorinda residents gave enthusiastic feedback. To train and educate your family is one thing, but it is another to unite with your neighbors and your community. CERT provides training in both personal safety and group survival. Some neighborhoods in our area are already organized, with certified CERT residents and updated information about their own resources, both human and material.

Edy and Jeff Schwartz of Moraga started training in spring of 2006 and have formed alliances within their neighborhood, giving an upper hand to an organized and practical route to safety. "CERT gave us a structure to do the things we had planned to do but never did," said the Schwartz's.

When a disaster hits the Lamorinda area, the limited resources will leave people helpless, and it is the combination of safety knowledge and unity that is going to save hundreds of lives. Ellen Beans, an advocate of CERT added, "I remind people that the professionals will not be on hand for everyone. We need to take care of ourselves."

There is concern among some that CERT participants tend to be older residents, those without young children, even though parents want to do their best to safeguard their families. This may be due to the demanding amount of time required to complete the training (20 hours over 6 weeks). It can be hard to carve out that time, especially when it competes with family obligations.

An anonymous working mother said, "I am aware of CERT and think it is important, but it is not high on my priority

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. Max. 200 word for a letters. email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com
Regular mail:
Letters to the Editor
Lamorinda Weekly
P.O.Box 6133
Moraga, CA 94556

fresh air and doing a good deed. However, the roads in Orinda are in such bad shape that I worry about drivers watching and swerving for potholes and not seeing me on my bike. Parents have said to me the pavement is so uneven they can't allow their children to ride even though they want to. I'm glad that now we have a solid proposal on the ballot, Measure E, to fix Orinda's roads. This will make the roads safer not just for drivers, but also for pedestrians and cyclists. There's also some funding in Measure E for safe routes to school.

I'm going to vote yes on Measure E for both these reasons. Please join me!
Cheryl Collins, Orinda

Letter to the Editor
I am writing to urge support for Measure C, the Lafayette Road and Drain parcel tax on the June ballot. The passage of this measure will provide funding to repair, reconstruct and maintain Lafayette's roads and drains. The tax is an equitable one, shared by everyone, residential owners as well as commercial property owners. Many of our roads are in desperate need of reconstruction. Other roads only need maintenance but without that will deteriorate soon. The passage of Measure C will allow the city to rebuild and repair all 118 of the city's poorest roads and still have adequate funding to maintain all our roads for the foreseeable future. Without the passage of Measure C, current roads will deteriorate quickly and the cost to repair them will increase over time. Please join me in supporting Measure C... a good investment for our citizens and our city.
Mary McCosker, Lafayette

list. As a mother of two young children, I feel I have no time for this training. Maybe if CERT was offered through the school system, parents would feel the urge to be ready."

Frans Hoffman of Miramonte Gardens, one of the organized neighborhoods, explained, "Without training you are going to be a victim of emergency. Instead of being a victim, you can be the rescuer." On a stronger note, Laura Gilson added, "Almost everyone says they do not have time, but it's so important that they may want to consider making time."

Gilson wishes the training would also reach out to her teenagers, both students at Campolindo High. The minimum age to participate in CERT is 18, making the majority of students ineligible.

To sign up for the training that begins on April 19th, go to www.lamorindacert.org.



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