

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Wednesday, June 27, 2007



## Surviving Swim Team

By Jennifer Wake

Photo by Andy Scheck

**K**now a parent with kids in swim team? Then you probably either know a fantastic “multitasker,” or someone on the edge of insanity.

When you ask about swim team, the discussion often shifts to the child: it builds character, teaches discipline, and offers a way to improve on a swimmer’s personal best. For parents, however, swim team can mean long hours at the pool, including juggling volunteer duties and multiple practice times, dealing with younger siblings, ensuring you have the proper supplies on hand, and getting your child to each race. There is also the fight against the elements: the blazing sun once the fog burns off at all-day meets on weekends; or the bitter cold once the fog rolls back in at night during the week. It is easy to feel overwhelmed—especially if you are new to swimming.

The trick, says Orinda/Moraga Pool Association (OMPA) board member and mom of three, Erica Zeidenberg, is sticking it out and finding a way to keep it in perspective.

Zeidenberg signed up her eldest son, Jonathan Glidden, for swim team ten years ago when he was going into second grade. Having never been part of swim team before, she thought it was a great way to get her kids water safe. “When we started, I had no idea what I was getting into,” she said. “I was really out of it. It’s another world. Meets are very organized; it just seems like chaos.”

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Each summer, thousands of parents and family members converge at dozens of pools throughout Lamorinda, spending countless hours volunteering for jobs such as these timers shown above – sometimes standing in the blazing heat, other times in the freezing cold – all for the love of this community within a community: **swim team**.



### A New Face for Lafayette’s West End?

By Andy Scheck

Lafayette’s Planning Commission tackled yet another Planned Unit Development at its meeting last Thursday evening. This time it’s an eighty unit residential condominium development at the city’s west end, at 3758 Mt. Diablo Blvd., behind the new Veterans Memorial Building.

Acting on behalf of The Woodbury LLC, KO Architects proposed five buildings incorporating 80 new homes as a “Dramandes Architectural Improvement.” Commissioner Will Lovitt said the project is, “Under the radar of the town... It will change the west end of town dynamically.”

In order to approve the project, the Commission would have to be willing to permit a rezoning of the property, and to make exceptions to the General Plan which would include accepting buildings that are higher than currently allowed, with a much higher Floor Area Ratio (54% instead of the current max 35%).

The development plan also includes 2% less open space than is currently required. However, on the south side between the project and the street, lies property owned by the East Bay Municipal Utility District which can’t be sold to the developer and includes EBMUD right of ways. An agreement was reached between the developer and EBMUD under which the developer would plant, landscape and maintain this property, building a bicycle path and a pedestrian walkway. This would

be a visual improvement to the existing area and would be accessible to residents, but because the land belongs to EBMUD, Woodbury is not legally allowed to include it in the open space calculation.

In a session that ran nearly two hours, the Commissioners and City Staff addressed many issues with the developer and heard from representatives of the developer and consultants who explained in detail how they had integrated the recommendations of the Design Review Commission and how the complaints of neighbors were resolved.

The Commission decided to go forward and continue discussions at its next meeting on July 12th. The Woodbury development at the West End of Lafayette could set the mark for future developments in and around downtown Lafayette.

Advertising

### Moraga Library – Needed Improvements Could Be Coming Soon

By Sophie Bracinni

Orinda has a state of the art library, Lafayette is preparing to build one, while Moraga is struggling to find parts for its vintage heating and air conditioning system. The Moraga Library is a vital part of the community. In 2006, there were 97,580 visitors to the Library. Yes, Moragans love their library. It’s just that 33 years of service to the community has taken its toll. As the 2007/2008 town budget is being discussed, the opportunity to remedy this situation is manifest.

The County has been providing a library system to Moraga since 1918; it was located in different buildings until the present site was built in 1974. The title on the building was transferred by the County to the Town of Moraga at that time, although the Contra Costa County Library continues to manage operations.



Problems on the premises are numerous: the outside woodwork is discolored, the sign lighting is broken, there are large cracks in the parking lot, there are no smoke alarms, and the powered flagpole doesn’t work. But what’s really worrisome is what’s not in the public view: after heavy rains, water flows into the rear of the library (the hillside requires proper grading and drainage), the heating and air conditioning system is on the verge of failure and nobody is able to fix it, and the original roof that was partially repaired in 2006 needs to have its liner replaced.

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The Woodbury development area from Risa Road to the Indian Palace Restaurant today

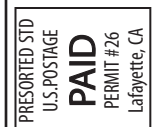


Veterans Memorial Building at the corner of Risa Road and Mt. Diablo Blvd with a future projection of The Woodbury development, provided by Matt Branagh, at Branagh Development, Inc. Danville



Site plan provided by Matt Branagh, at Branagh Development, Inc. Danville  
Marked in red is the extended walking, biking and recreation area landscaped by the developer

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