

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Mailed bi-weekly to all
Lamorinda households
Free

Volume 01; Issue 11

visit us online: www.lamorindaweekly.com

Wednesday, July 11, 2007



Ted Brooks, Matt Sharp, Dee Sulprizio, Pat Stewart, Bob Miller

Photo by Lee Borrowman

There are many reasons to live in Lamorinda. We have the best weather, the best schools, a low crime rate and every visit to the grocery store or local eatery is an opportunity to run into someone you know. For some of us, another draw to this area is the outdoor life. From swim team to hiking trails, Lamorinda has it all. This month, cycling will have its moment in the spotlight as the Lafayette Criterium returns for its third year. Cycling has reached new heights of popularity in recent years, and hundreds of cyclists roll through Lamorinda every weekend.

Whether your idea of a Sunday afternoon bike ride is tooling around the Moraga Commons on a tricycle, taking in the views while cruising along Skyline/Grizzly Peak, riding the Lamorinda Bicycle Loop, building up a sweat climbing Mt. Diablo ... continued on page 13



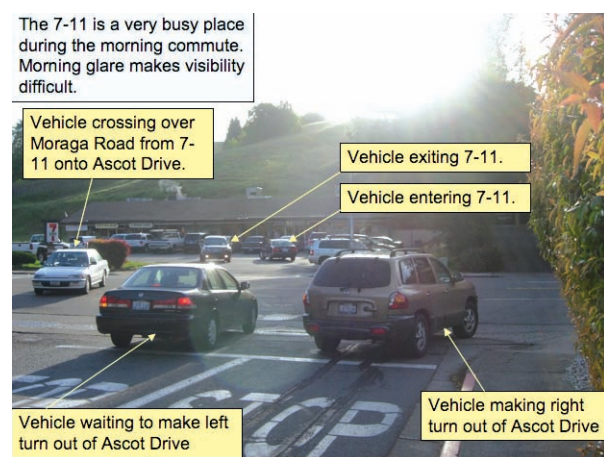
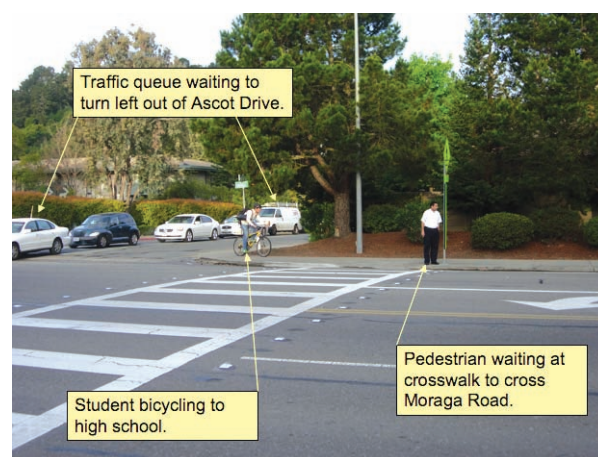
Ted Brooks, Lamorinda Cycling Club/Synergy
Photo by Mark Adkinson,
Ph.D., Hors Categorie Photography

Something for Everyone

By Lee Borrowman

Town Wins \$601,000 Grant for Ascot Signal

By Steve Angelides



Moraga Town Engineer Jill Mercurio announced at the Town Council meeting on June 27 that the Town has been awarded a \$601,425 state grant for a signal and other improvements at the corner of Ascot Drive and Moraga Road.

Of 335 grant applications statewide, only 78 were funded. 10 of those were in Contra Costa County. The next highest grant was for \$482,000.

"We did very well," a beaming Mercurio said as

she made her announcement, which was followed by a round of applause. Mercurio prepared the grant application on an expedited basis in just a couple of weeks after learning of the prospect for the state funds and obtaining approval from the Council to apply.

While commenting on Mercurio's success when he spoke to the Moraga Chamber of Commerce a couple of days later, Town Manager Phil Vince heaped praise upon her. "We have a great Town Engineer," said Vince,

"and she's one of the best grant writers I've ever met."

According to Vince the signal at Ascot has been one of the Town's priorities for the past several years. A previously prepared traffic study, along with photos she took, enabled Mercurio to win the grant on short notice.

The Town will match the state funds with \$67,000 of street improvement funds to complete the total \$668,000 cost of the project. Mercurio expects engineering work on the project to start in the fall.

Harry Potter Week Arrives!

By Nee-Sa Lossing

Harry Potter fans rejoice as the seventh, and final, installment of the popular children's series is released this month, accompanied by the fifth movie. The set release date for the book, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, falls on July 21, while the movie, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, premieres ten days earlier, on the 11th.

"Harry Potter Week," as fans have lovingly nicknamed the ten day stretch between releases, holds many fun events embracing the series, besides the official releases.

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Get in the swing of summer...

Slow Down Lamorinda!

The Slow Down, Lamorinda! campaign will wind down next week. This week's target enforcement area is in Moraga, on Moraga Road at Corliss, and the final week will be in Orinda, on Moraga Way at Brookside.

So who has been speeding up and down the streets of Lamorinda? Most Lamorindans will say, "Not us!" It appears that at least some of us do, but we are not alone. Statistics obtained from the Lafayette Police Department indicate that during the first four weeks of the campaign about 36% of speeding tickets issued were handed to residents of Lamorinda. 34% of ticketed speeders lived in other parts of Contra Costa County, and 30% were from outside the county. The percentage of speeders who are residents was highest on Moraga Way, and roughly half of the speeders on Pleasant Hill Rd lived not in Lamorinda but in other parts of Contra Costa County. Lafayette's Chief Mike Hubbard had not finished compiling the June statistics when we went to press, but says the overall numbers are not likely to vary much over the length of the campaign.

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Lafayette's New Police Chief Focuses on Customer Service

By Lee Borrowman

Fourteen years ago, Mike Hubbard was a Lafayette traffic cop who wished he could do more to help the community than issue speeding tickets. Timing is everything, and now he is back; this time, he is the boss. Arriving just in time to be one of the forces behind the Slow Down, Lamorinda! campaign, Hubbard has completed his first three months as Lafayette's new Chief of Police, and he is delighted to be here.

"I plan to give to the citizens of Lafayette as much and time and energy as I give to the bad guys," says Hubbard, adding sincerely, "How often do we get a chance to really help people?" Being Chief is a wonderful opportunity, he explains, "Because I can implement philosophies that I've held for years."

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Chief Mike Hubbard and his wife at a Welcome reception

Photo by Andy Schek

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