


Lamorinda's Religious Services



Our Savior's Lutheran (ELCA) - 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
www.oslc.net • 283-3722

Each Sunday: 8:15 am Classic Service, 9:15 am Education Hour
10:30 am Contemporary Service

March 6, 13: 7:00 pm Lenten Services in Chapel

March 20: 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service

March 21: 7:00 pm Good Friday Service

March 23: 8:00 and 9:30 am Classic Easter Services
Bells, Brass, Choir
11:00 Contemporary Easter Service
Adult and Youth Ensembles

St. Giles Episcopal Church of Moraga

Worshipping at St. Mary's College Chapel. All are welcome at our services.

9 a.m. Sunday Service: Holy Communion - with St. Giles' Choir.
Child care is available all year.
1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. 925-376-5770

Temple Isaiah welcomes you to worship with us on Shabbat.

Temple Isaiah For specific questions, call the Temple office at 925-283-8575
or visit our website: temple-isaiah.org.

1st and 4th Friday evening - 6:30 PM
2nd and 3rd Friday evening - 8:00 PM
Saturday mornings at 10:30 AM

If you would like your services listed, please email to
info@lamorindaweekly.com or call 925-377-0977.
A one inch listing will cost \$20.

Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

All published letters will include the writer's name and town (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for length or legal considerations.

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; **Regular mail:** Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Dear Editor,
Moraga citizens should send a big thank you to our Town Council for agreeing Wednesday night to provide voters access to complete information about the Bruzzone development initiative before we vote on it. Instead of rushing it to the June ballot as the developer wanted, the Council decided to make a thorough analysis before placing it on the ballot. That way, voters will have the time and information needed to fully understand what the initiative would do prior to voting on it in November.

The open space left in Moraga is precious and decisions made now will determine the quality of life in our town for generations to come. When a developer writes an initiative, hires outside signature gatherers to collect names and sends out intimidating hit pieces to the residents, elected officials should make a special effort to ensure the public has solid information on which to base its decision. Thankfully, we have Council members who have done so.

Jon Leuteneker, Moraga

Shop locally whenever you can. Only your support of our local businesses will keep them open!

Movers Take the Snow Train

Submitted by Ted and Dawn Schlink

A group of enthusiastic Moraga Movers boarded the Snow Train in Martinez on February 12 bound for Reno. They rode in a beautiful, refurbished Santa Fe Car with Navajo decor through mountain passes and tunnels among unbelievable

drifts of snow. The Movers marveled at the magnificent scenery from spacious and very comfortable seats on the Dome Car, the Piano Car, and the Dance Floor Car. Great entertainment included a banjo player, a guitar playing comedian, and a fantas-

tic "card shark." Snacks and beverages were served and very much enjoyed. All participants had wonderful accommodations at Harrah's, where not only gambling was offered but great shows as well. One lady on the train was dealt a royal flush - a

rarity to say the least!
Many other fun-filled trips are being planned this year. The Moraga Movers welcomes all active Lamorinda residents age 55+. For more information call 376-6622.

We're online too: www.lamorindaweekly.com

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Commonwealth Club Brings Willie Brown to Lafayette

Submitted by Joan Stevenson

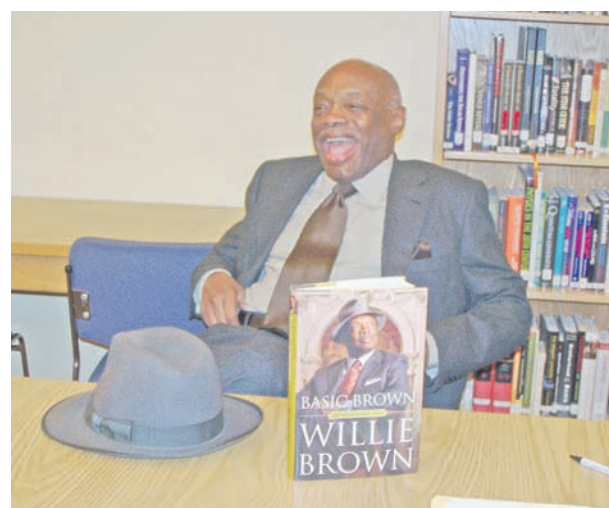
Former two-term Mayor Willie Brown of San Francisco, one of the most powerful politicians in the country, spoke before a capacity house in Lafayette on Monday, February 25th. He was the guest speaker for the Commonwealth Club which met at the Bentley School while the new library is under construction. In his recently published autobiography, "Basic Brown: My Life and Our Time," Brown shares anecdotes from his

life and career, which began in 1961 when he conducted his first sit-in demonstration. That was when he fell in love with politics and he never looked back. Known for his flamboyantly honest assessments of the world of politics, he spun stories for his audience that included anecdotes about the current stable of players.

His book is the awe-inspiring tale of how an African-American boy born in segregated Texas

rose to be the center of California and national politics for an astonishing four decades.

The Commonwealth Club is a member of the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium, a resource of the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center. The Consortium, the first of its kind at any American public library, will bring together twelve educational and cultural institutions to create an exciting learning community.



Willie Brown at the Commonwealth Club. Photo by Penny Porter

- Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium Consortium Members
- UC Lawrence Hall of Science
 - Oakland Museum of California
 - Chabot Space and Science Center
 - Commonwealth Club of California
 - The Oakland Zoo in Knowland Park
 - John Muir/Mt. Diablo Health System
 - Lindsay Wildlife Museum
 - California Shakespeare Theater
 - Greenbelt Alliance
 - John F. Kennedy University
 - Saint Marry's College
 - UC Institute of Governmental Studies

Theft from Cars, Parking Lots More Common in Orinda

By Chris Lavin

Riffling through a car for valuables has been a common occurrence ever since there were cars and petty thieves, but Orinda police are seeing what they perceive to be an increase in such crimes, as well as the theft of a common device, the catalytic converter.

"If people would simply lock their car doors, we wouldn't have so many problems. And people still leave their keys in the ignition if they are just running into a store for a minute," said Detective Nate McCormack, head of community policing at the Orinda Police Department. When McCormack was told that quite a few people still held onto those habits, he simply rolled his eyes and shook his head.

Locking doors, however, will not protect the catalytic converter, installed below the chassis in all cars and trucks to filter poisons out of the gas that runs our vehicles. According to the police and local mechanics, the converters are being stolen from driveways and the BART parking lots at night.

"Oh, yeah," said Brian Mun, of Orinda Motors. "We've seen this."

While no firm statistics are available, McCormack said that outright car thefts seem to remain somewhat steady, with one or two cars stolen each month, but that thefts to cars' contents seem to be on the increase. And the one coveted item that isn't found in the glove compartment, he said, is the catalytic converter, which has become a common stolen item on official police reports - and locking



Brian Mun of Orinda Motors holds a catalytic converter - the object of recent thievery
Photo Chris Lavin

your car won't do much to deter that crime.

"There's not a lot you can do," he said. A thief will crawl beneath the car, usually at night, with a wrench or more handily a battery-powered saws-all tool, and in a couple of minutes, viola, he's off with the catalytic converter, a part of the exhaust system that cycles poisons out of the car's emissions. "Some of them (catalytic converters) are held on with only a couple of bolts," McCormack said.

"We've seen a couple of these (thefts)," said Mun, of Orinda Motors. "One of our customers had his stolen from his truck at the BART station parking lot."

McCormack said officers are not exactly sure what the thieves do with the converters, but recycling centers are a likely destination, because the rather heavy converters contain precious metals such as platinum and rhodium. There may

well as a second-hand market for the converters "because they're so expensive," McCormack said.

Catalytic converters vary in price, from several hundred dollars to more than \$1,000 - and often need to be replaced when a car or SUV will not pass a smog test, making it a need-to-replace part.

"The only thing the driver knows is that the car is making a whole lot of noise in the morning when it starts up," McCormack said. "So they drive to a mechanic who tells them that their catalytic converter is gone - it's been stolen."

McCormack said the best preventative for petty crimes is to lock the house, lock the car, and don't leave the keys in the ignition. For the converter, one might consider a garage. "One that isn't left open," McCormack emphasized. "A lot of people leave their garage doors open."



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