



LAMORINDA'S GARDEN TOURS 2008

read all about it
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New Cell Phone Laws Shift Focus Back to Driving

By Jennifer Wake

With millions of cell phone users in the United States, more than ever people are talking on cell phones while driving. With experts citing an increased number of traffic accidents due to the added distraction, new wireless telephone laws aim to make driving safer.

Orinda Police Chief Bill French says that although the statistics are really hard to define, it is easy to see how distracted driving is problematic. "It's hard to track whether someone was distracted after an accident," he said. "But I think everyone has a sense that people are paying more attention to talking on the phone than obeying traffic laws."

Starting immediately on July 1, the wireless telephone laws will go into affect, making the use of any hand-held device while driving a motor vehicle a citable offense. And there will be no grace period for the new law.

According to the California Highway Patrol, drivers over the age of 18 caught using a hand-held device will be ticketed and fined \$20 for the first offence, and \$50 for each subsequent offence. Drivers under 18 years old will be cited for using any hand-held or hands-free device, even if the device is a speaker phone installed by the car's manufacturer. Any use – including texting – is prohibited.

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SMC Uses Pitching Committee To Beat S.F. State

By Kevin D. Shallat

The Saint Mary's baseball team sandwiched a game with San Francisco State in between league games on Tuesday, April 1. The fans may have been a little confused on April Fools Day, as Saint Mary's used seven pitchers (none for more than two innings).

Head coach Jed Soto wanted to give his pitchers some work in preparation for the big Pepperdine series, which loomed for the Gaels the following weekend. The Gators of San Francisco State were able to chip away five runs on the day, but the Gaels held on to win this game, 7-5.

The game may have been a tune-up for the Gaels, but the all-time series record be-

tween the two teams was also on the line. The last time the Gaels played the Gators was in 1989 when the Gaels won 2-1. The all-time series record, prior to this game was 16-16.

Alex Schmarzo (1-0) was the starting pitcher for the Gaels, or more succinctly, was the first of seven pitchers to take part in the tag-team, pitch by committee method.

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Mailed to 24,600 homes and businesses in Lamorinda.

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