

Life in LAMORINDA

Ground Breaking News: Moraga Road is Closed

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The intersection of St. Mary's Road and Rheem Blvd.

When people started complaining about delays, EBMUD and Mountain Cascade were quick to react and a second flagger was sent to that intersection. "We keep testing and improving," says Harlow. She personally travels the different routes to test the system. All of the flaggers have a walky-talky and a foreman is in charge of their management.

EBMUD hired a professional traffic consultant during the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process, to perform detailed studies and provide recommendations for traffic control.

Traffic impact was only one of the systems studied, another big

one is the emergency response scheme. "Every battalion chief in the area, including Walnut Creek, has a specific radio system to reach us at any time," says Tony Batista, who is in charge of the project for Mountain Cascade. "Every foreman can be contacted instantaneously and the roads cleared in minutes." The trench for the pipeline is dug for the most part on the side of the road to allow emergency vehicles to pass once the Mountain Cascade vehicles are moved out of the way. "We have tested the system," confirms Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Chief Pete Nowicki, "for non-emergency transport we'll use the detour and for real emergencies we'll be

able to have the construction company clear the road while we are getting the victim." MOFD has access to helicopter transportation if needed.

The same strategy of "moving out of the way quickly" applies to residents living in the construction area. "Everybody's driveway has a steel plate ready to be put in place when someone needs to get in or out," explains Batista, "we are moving slowly, 140 to 200 feet a day and we are talking to every neighbor as we approach their home." The garbage company has agreed to come to the area before 9 a.m., while the postal service didn't want to change their route and will be accompanied on site.

The summer will be long and hot for the workers, flaggers and residents of the area. There will be no vacation for Harlow this summer; she's waiting for your phone call, and if you find that traffic is moving better than you anticipated, don't hesitate to call her with a word of encouragement.

CORRECTION to issue #7, 6-11-2008



The website to give donations toward Bob Frick's cycle across the United States for Habitat for Humanity Eat Bay is www.Firstgiving.com/cycleofhope. The website was incorrectly spelled in the last issue.

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Conservationists Help Kids Go Buggy for Bugs

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Children hold unique bugs as part of Insect Discovery Lab presentation at the Moraga Library

Photo Jennifer Wake

"Rosemary and lavender make honeybees very docile," Dorrington added.

The Insect Discovery Lab, through its education programs, hopes parents and children will learn the key role these insects and other arthropods have in the web of life, and make life decisions that

make a difference.

Whether understanding more about the honeybees of your backyard garden or the mammoth insects of the rainforest, there will always be a fascination between children and bugs. "Be eco-heroes with me," Geiges said.



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