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Wednesday, October 29, 2008



Halloween

see page 11
Halloween Goes Hollywood in Moraga
 By Andrea A. Firth

Youth Commission's Haunted House Rocks
 By Cathy Tyson

From Pumpkin Patch to Trick-or-Treating at ghoulishly garbed homes, Lamorinda's kids get ready for Halloween

Photos by Andy Scheck and Lamorinda Mom's Club

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

this week

Orinda Candidates Forum - Similarities and Differences Made Clear **Page 4**

ORINDA

Drought: Are We Meeting Our Goals? **Page 5**

Over 40 new Letters to the Editor! **Pages 17, 18, 19**



Some of the best reading of this issue can be found on pages 17, 18 and 19

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Upcoming Election-Related Events

Nov 4 - Vote! If voting by mail, your two-card ballot needs .59 postage. If you've already mailed your ballot with less, don't worry - the Contra Costa County Elections Division will pick up the difference, but warns that ballots with insufficient postage may be delayed; so if you haven't yet mailed yours, don't forget to add that extra .17 to make sure your vote counts.

Nov 5 - The Lamorinda Democratic Club invites all Lamorindans to an outdoor celebration on to commemorate this year's historic elections. Enjoy lively music and refreshments with your fellow Lamorindans from 6:00-8:00 pm in Lafayette Plaza Square (corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road). Local officials and state representatives will share their

thoughts concerning the critical impacts made by America's ethnic communities as well as by the environmental, grass-roots and women's movements upon this historic election of our country's first African-American President. Bring your family, friends and neighbors and celebrate!

For more information, visit:
<http://www.lamorindademoclub.org>

Nov 10 - Hear an analysis of the election and discuss the impacts as St. Mary's College and the League of Women Voters present a post-election forum. The event begins at 7:00pm in the Soda Center and is free and open to the public. Forum participants will discuss the impact that the results of the November 4th

election will have, both locally and the state and national level. "We have designed a great panel," says Tim Farley, St. Mary's Community and Government Relations Director, "Steve Sloane, who teaches Political Science, will represent St Mary's and analyze the international impact of the elections; Marc Sandalow, political analyst for KPIX Channel 5 and KCBS Radio will come from Washington to talk about the impacts of the national races; Carla Marinucci, political analyst from the San Francisco Chronicle, will talk about state results and Lisa Voderbrueggen, Political Editor of the Contra Costa Times, will address local issues." Professor Mike Russo will moderate. Speakers will share their insights and take questions from the audience.

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Discover the Pride of Lafayette

Moraga-gate?

By Andy Scheck, Sophie Braccini and Lee Borrowman

After being contacted by a concerned Moraga resident who had received an anonymous political email from a person or persons who refused to divulge their identities, calling themselves by the apparent misnomer, "Moragans for Government Integrity" (MGI), the Lamorinda Weekly was surprised to discover that MGI had used our Post Office Box number as their mailing address. The Lamorinda Weekly is not affiliated in any way with MGI, nor would we be involved with one-sided political action, particularly an action that contained racial innuendo -- this was cause for further investigation.

A check of MGI's website registration (www.moragansforgovtintegrity.com) appeared to reveal a flurry of recent activity. Prior to the use of the Lamorinda Weekly's address, the site's administrative contact had been listed under the last name Clement, with a Burbank address. A day later, the name of the site's administrative contact was changed to Mark Felt, phone number 925-123-4567, and our address (Mark Felt, as many may recall, is the name of the former Associate Director of the FBI who revealed three years ago that he was the source known as "Deep Throat" in the Watergate scandal.)

Publisher Andy Scheck contacted the legal department of the site host and filed a report with the Moraga Police Department.

The regulations of the Internet Corporation for

Assigned Names and Numbers require the administrative contact for a web site to have a legal address. Clement could not be reached for comment. The Moraga Police Department is still investigating.

Clement's name also formerly appeared on the website registration of Moraga Town Council candidate Howard Harpham, although that too was changed on the same day as MGI's and Harpham is now listed as the contact for his own website, www.howard-harpham.com.

When we approached Harpham with our documentation at a recent Town Council meeting, wondering if there was a connection, Harpham replied, "I guess it looks like it," but declined to comment further.

The anonymous email in question suggested that a link exists between current Council member Ken

Chew, Council candidate Karen Mendonca and Walnut Creek printer Cedric Cheng.

One of the claims was that Chew had pressured Town staff to award a printing contract to Cheng without going through the proper bidding process. Philip Vince, who was the Town Manager at that time, said he was aware that allegations had been made and did not wish to comment. The business between Cheng and the Town was for an amount below that which would have required the Town to follow a competitive bidding process. "I looked at the offer, asked my clerk to compare a few unit cost prices and made the decision," recalls Vince.

Another element of the email was an inference that Chew and Cheng were conspiring to nail down the Asian vote for Mendonca.

... continued on page 9

Time Change!

Daylight Savings Time ends November 1st; don't forget to set the clock back one hour.

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