

Life in LAMORINDA

Online Crime Reporting Now Available

By Cathy Tyson

Got crime? Lafayette and Orinda residents can now make online reports through the Sheriff's Office for non-emergencies where no suspect can be identified, for example: forgery, harassing phone calls, trespassing, vandalism, theft, vehicle theft, and fraudulent use of a credit card. But wait, there's more – citizens can also request vacation house checks, report illegal fireworks and file barking dog complaints.

"This gives the citizens of Orinda and Lafayette an opportunity to do their own report if there's no suspect. It's a convenience, but it

will not affect our high level of service. We will still respond to calls for service. This is just another option," said Chief Bill French of Orinda.

This online system is not for emergencies that require an immediate police response. For any urgent situation, always dial 911.

"With less time spent writing reports, Deputies could devote more time to proactive policing. Our organizational culture demands timely and personal responses to calls from our citizens. While the use of the new program reduces personal contact, we must adjust to the debilitat-

ing loss of available staff," said Sheriff Warren Rupf referring to the recent budget reductions and staff cutbacks in a prepared statement.

The fill in the blank form is quite simple and easy to use, even this reporter could manage it. Go to www.cocosherriff.com and click "File Online Report Here." All reports are reviewed, the approved report will be sent back via email as a convenience. The report can be used to file an insurance claim, if needed. Moraga has its own police force, so it doesn't contract with the Sheriff's Office.

National Charity League, Inc.

Lamorinda Chapter Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Submitted by Susie Romack



NCL Presidents (current and past): Top row: Michele Crabtree, Trudy Barron, Tina Ross, Barbara Galligan, Sue Howard Seated: Mary Jane Arnold, Winnie Jasper, Shand Green

Over 100 members of the Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League, Inc. kicked off their 20th Anniversary last month at their

Patroness meeting. Special guest speaker was Michele Crabtree, a resident of Orinda, currently serving as President on the National Board

of Directors. Michele is a founding member of the Lamorinda Chapter, where she served as Grade Level Advisor, Ticktock Vice President, and President (1994-1995). She shared her enthusiasm, communication skills, and ability to connect with people to our local chapter members.

The Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League, Inc. has rapidly grown to a current membership of over 300 mothers and daughters. The girls, in grades 7 through 12, participate in a multi-faceted 6 year program which offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities with 30 philanthropic organizations in the community.

For more information about the Lamorinda Chapter of the National Charity League, go to www.nellamorinda.org.

A Reporter's Journey in the Age of Obama:

Mark Curtis to Hold

Book Signing at Lafayette Book Store

By Lee Borrowman

One of the Bay Area's favorite newsmen, veteran political reporter and former KTVU anchor Mark Curtis, will be at the Lafayette Book Store, 3569 Mt. Diablo Blvd., on Sunday February 8th from 3:00-5:00 signing copies of his new book, "Age of Obama: A Reporter's Journey with Clinton, McCain and Obama in the Making of the President 2008."

Curtis, a Danville resident and occasional contributor to the Lamorinda Weekly, spent most of 2008 on the Presidential campaign trail working as a freelance reporter, blogger and political analyst. "It was an amazing journey; the political 'road trip' of a lifetime," he says.

The book, which was released on Inauguration Day, January 20, "chronicles my visits to over thirty states, as I followed the candidates from Iowa and New Hampshire in January; to the end of the primary campaign in South Dakota and Mon-

tana in June; then onto the conventions in Denver and St. Paul in late summer. It's not just the story of the candidates and campaigns, but the story of many average American voters I met and interviewed in bars, restaurants, shops, at political rallies and on Main St. in many towns across our great nation. It's the story of their hopes, dreams and aspirations for this election," explains Curtis.

The following is an excerpt from Chapter 8 – North Carolina:

The location was the "Lexington BBQ" out on U.S. Highway 64 west of Interstate 85.

Bill Clinton and supporters gathered there at 11:30 this morning. He shook hands and posed for pictures with about 200 people, all the while imploring them to go vote for Hillary in the North Carolina primary.

Then the ex-president headed in for lunch, and we knew this would be a long wait, no matter that

he was scheduled to be in Winston-Salem at 1 p.m. Finally about 1:20, Mr. Clinton emerged from lunch, shook hands, and signed books for some people, then stopped to greet me. As he shook my hand, I inquired, "How was the barbecue Mr. President?" "It was unbelievable," he said, "The barbecue was good. The hush puppies were good," he added. "Anything else?" I asked. "If I had the ice cream, I'd need a nap," Clinton said. He walked a few steps further and - still waving to the crowd - got into his Secret Service van.

At first I wondered, "What was I thinking? This is the most critical election in 60 years, and I ask the ex-president and husband of one of the candidates about food? Then I thought, "Lighten up, Mark. Campaigns are supposed to be fun, too!"

Curtis is currently working on his Doctorate in Educational Leadership at St. Mary's College in Moraga.

Ayers Lecture at SMC Leaves Audience Polarized

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Education professor and former '60s radical Bill Ayers answers audience questions following his lecture at SMC Photo Jennifer Wake

Ayers' lecture steered far from the topic of terrorism. Even while expletives were shouted toward him, he spoke in a quiet, measured tone. He cited the urgency of social reform and the need to switch the current education system from one which teaches obedience and conformity, to one which encourages imagination and courage.

"I want small schools, small classes, more teachers, more contact," he said. "I want small groups of people asking questions."

Ayers spoke of activism, asking the audience to "pay attention, be astonished, and do something," and spoke frequently of Martin Luther King, Jr. and his work.

"I urge you to read all of his speeches, especially the one from

April 4, 1967. That was the speech in which he came out very eloquently against Vietnam."

Although supporting the right to protest, Ayers said he was offended by one thing: "They said I would warp your impressionable minds. I thought: What books shouldn't you read, also?"

Many of the questions asked after the speech were made by students and focused on education reform. Minder and Cullinane were both disappointed that protesters weren't given the opportunity to express their thoughts during the question/answer portion.

"The protest's secondary goal was to make sure they had a counterpoint to the 'one-sided lecture' by Bill Ayers," Minder said. "Our goal

was to present the students with the truth, as told by eyewitnesses to events about 40 years ago. Just when it was our turn to counter Ayers' statements, the moderator called time and told everyone to leave."

Ayers did stay after the program was over to talk with anyone who wanted to speak with him, and was quickly surrounded by a large group of audience members.

"Some individuals walked up to Ayers afterward," Minder said, "but this is not the same as using a microphone and having a dialogue in front of everyone in the room."

"I tried to get up to him," Froymovich added, "but the throngs of people trying to ask questions were too thick."

MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

Auctioneers & Appraisers

Free Appraisal Event

Thursday, February 19 from 11am to 2pm

at the Orinda Theatre
2 Orinda Theatre Square
Orinda, CA

To make an appointment or to learn more about this event, please contact:
Tammie Chambless at (510)740 0220 extension 130
tammie@michaans.com

Michaan's Auctions will be conducting a Free Appraisal Event offering you an on the spot verbal evaluation on your fine art and antiques in the following categories:

- Fine Paintings and Prints
- Furniture and Decorative Arts
- Asian Art



1. Xu BeiHong (1895-1953), 'Cat,' Framed and glazed, ink and color on paper, Sold for \$3,500 on January 4, 2009.
2. Nathan Olivera, American (b. 1928), 'Head' 1967, Lithograph, Sold for \$1,872 on January 4, 2009.
3. Robert William Wood, American (1889-1979), 'Monterey Landscape,' Oil on canvas, Sold for \$6,500 on June 21, 2008.
4. Tibetan Polychrome Gilt Bronze of Yamataka, Sold for \$25,740 on August 3, 2008.
5. Napoleon III Gilt Bronze Cut Brass Tortoise Shell Mounted Boulle Meuble D'Appui Sold for \$4,973 on June 21, 2008.
6. S. Kirk & Son Sterling Two Handled Tea Tray, Sold for \$7,020 on December 3, 2007.

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