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SPRING IS IN THE AIR



Ask Jeff
 all this mean?
 Signed: Dry Rotted in Danville

Dear Dry Rotted:
 This is a common problem with tires that are inflated with standard compressed air. Shop air compressors can generate a lot of moisture which, when used to inflate your tires, can lead to drying out of the rubber. When tires are exposed to high temperatures and UV rays for long periods, the rubber can dry out and begin "rotting". Rotting is usually seen on the sidewalls and appear as cracks and splits in the rubber. This condition can become very dangerous if left untouched. The good news is there is a way to prevent dry rot. Inflate your tires with nitrogen. Nitrogen is a completely dry air that will not create this drying out process. Always choose a reputable tire shop that offers nitrogen inflation to inspect your tires for air pressure and condition monthly.

Believe it or not, spring is almost here. And that means travel season is just around the corner. All of this welcomed rain will soon be replaced with an overabundance of sunshine and warm temperatures. Driving conditions will also change. With April being National Car Care Month, it's time to have the cars inspected, serviced and prepared for the season ahead. Getting the car in for service can be difficult and sometimes inconvenient, but just like going to the dentist, it's just something you have to do. Remember, "Maintenance will always be cheaper than repair".

Dear Jeff:
 My vehicle uses synthetic oil, so I only have to change my oil every 7500 miles. Recently, my low oil level light came on, but I'm still not due for service. Why should this light be coming on?
 Signed: Low in Lafayette

Dear Jeff:
 My mechanic told me my tires are dry rotted. My tires aren't that old. What does

Even though the manufacturers recommendation for oil change service is

7500 miles, you still need to monitor your oil level and occasional top offs between service may be needed. Remember to check your car's vital fluids, check and adjust tire pressures and top off when needed at least every month.

Dear Jeff:
 One of my tires has been losing air for a while, so I took it to a tire shop for repair. When they took the tire off the wheel, they said the tire could not be repaired because I waited too long to have it fixed. What should I have done to prevent this?
 Signed: Flat in Fremont

Dear Flat:
 Due to the weight of cars, tires must be kept properly inflated or internal sidewall failures can occur. There is a tremendous amount of heat generated inside a tire, so when there is insufficient air pressure, the sidewalls can develop a friction related failure. This is very unsafe. Whenever you have a low tire, get air in it as soon as possible and take it to a trusted, competent shop for repair. Never settle for a quick "plug job" because the tire needs to be dismantled from the wheel and inspected then repaired from the inside out. Jeff Joyce has been the Manager of Express Oil Change & Tire Center since 2004. He can be reached at 925-254-8989 or jeff@orindamotors.com

Why Choose Express Oil Change & Tire Center?

- ✓ Quick lube convenience with professional, competent technicians that are properly trained to service today's complex automobiles.
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Want to join a swim team?

Come join Sun Valley Swim Team (SVST) this summer for the perfect combination of competitive spirit and team fun!

Non-pool members are welcome to join our team. You'll love our sense of community and our new pool! In addition to swim team (ages 5-18) we also have a Pre-Team program for ages 4-5. We are also offering a pre-season stroke clinic coached by the Cal Women's Swim Team.

Clinic is open to all swim teams.

Swim team registration is Sunday, March 15th 12-2pm at Sun Valley Pool (1000 Leland Drive, Lafayette)

For more information, check out www.SwimSunValley.com or contact BVE parent Tracy Broback at GoRays@SwimSunValley.com.

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LAMORINDA Community

Moraga's Town Council and Park and Recreation Commission Hear from Sports and Pet Enthusiasts

By Dean Okamura
 A crowded room of sport enthusiasts and dog owners eagerly waited for their opportunity to address the Special Joint Meeting of the Moraga Town Council and Parks and Recreation Commission held on March 3rd at the Hacienda de las Flores. The most divisive topics on the agenda included an open discussion for the use of Measure WW funds and the status of Rancho Laguna Park as an off-leash area for dogs.

Measure WW was passed in November 2008 and allows the East Bay Parks District to disperse \$125 million from a bond issue for city park and recreation improvements. Moraga is projected to receive nearly \$735,000 after a specific project is identified.

When the floor opened, Colin Knightly, Director of Lamorinda Lacrosse, responded, "with nearly 400 players, a third of which comes from Moraga, it is becoming difficult to compete with the other sports for field space."

Joe Rosenbaum, President of Moraga Baseball and coach for Lamorinda Rugby, continued the sentiment by indicating that even

on sunny days the prospects of finding quality space for practice is remote. He described how poor weather days make practice on tennis courts or in gyms the only option.

After several more emotionally charged statements the Council closed the floor and made recommendations. Commissioner John Haffner summed up the support for more sport fields from Vice Chair Liz Faoro and Council Members Mike Metcalf and Howard Harpham by stating, "...we will move slow, but aggressively (in developing a plan)."

Mayor Dave Trotter indicated that a Joint Use Agreement between the Moraga School District and the town has not been finalized. This agreement would allow the Town of Moraga to improve school properties for public use provided upkeep is made by the town. Without this agreement, improvements to school property cannot occur.

When asked, Richard Schafer, Superintendent of the Moraga School District, indicated that a mutually vetted agreement

was presented to the town for approval late last year and the Town set a date in April for a response. After learning of the Council's openness to improve school property, Schafer indicated that the Moraga Sports Alliance (an advisory committee that was established in order to identify the best school property for sports field improvement) has already agreed that Camino Pablo is the best site for improvement.

Discussion of the vision for Rancho Laguna Park began with the room still crowded. Dog owners and frequent users of the park spoke about the park's rural feel and access to East Bay Park trails, its social value for pet owners, and poor suitability for sports field construction.

Residents expressed how a dog friendly area adds value to the experience of living in Moraga. Metcalf and Trotter followed with recommendations to the Commission focused on clearly identifying hours of use in the Moraga Municipal Code and studying if the farthest east portion of the park could be dedicated as a dog area.

OUSD Parcel Tax Passes

By Andrea A. Firth
 The Orinda Union School District (OUSD) Parcel Tax proposition passed with almost 71% of voter support and nearly 60% of voters participating in the March 3rd Special Election.

After what he describes as scary and thrilling ride down the campaign trail, OUSD Parcel Tax Committee Co-Chair (and City Council Member) Steve Glazer's dominant feeling the morning after the election was relief. "This was quickly followed by the utmost thanks that our Orinda community has shown again how much they greatly value our schools," he adds. Described as the campaign's key strategist by Co-Chair Riki

Sorenson (who also serves time as the OUSD Governing Board President), Glazer predicted the turnout and number of votes needed to pass the parcel tax within a percentage point and a few hundred votes.

Although the majority of ballots were cast by mail, the Parcel Tax Committee's third Co-Chair, Lynn Goodman Molloy, organized an army of 90 volunteers who went door to door on a very rainy Tuesday, where an inch and half of water poured down on the Orinda streets, to get out the remaining twenty percent of voters to ensure the parcel tax passed with the requisite 2/3 voter approval.

The new parcel tax will

cost Orinda residents \$525 annually and generate an additional \$870,000 in revenue for the School District each year. The parcel tax monies could start to accrue by July according to OUSD Superintendent Dr. Joe Jaconette. The Governing Board has begun preliminary discussions regarding how to allocate the parcel tax funds. "We want to be cautious and deliberate in spending the parcel tax," states Sorenson. "We are not likely to use all the parcel tax money at once to solve a problem. We are more likely to use it over a period of time. This is how it has been managed historically," she adds.

Positive Lafayette Bike Park Stakeholders Meeting

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"You could really pack in quite a few jumps. This site has a nice slope, great contours, when we look at a park, that's what we want, good flow and circulation," said Lopes.

He emphasized the importance of getting input from stakeholders at the ground level as to what specifically they would like to see at the Lafayette Bike Park. Attendees were handed a Design Development Survey with elevation lines to pencil in their preferred features and a Community Profile Survey, to gather information on the types of users and develop a list of possible future volunteers.

Bike Park users have asked to build and maintain the

jumps in the future bike park, allowing them the flexibility of adjustments over time, this also creates a sense of ownership and promotes volunteerism that will benefit others, and keeps costs down. Area parents will be pleased that there will be a "constructive" summer activity for their teens to engage in, that gets their kids off the couch. In addition, perhaps local merchants will be pleased that this is a potential destination for loitering students.

"We want this to be a model for other parks departments in the Bay Area who are in the same situation," said Lopes. Encouraging the youthful users, "This is your chance; please give detailed

descriptions of features you want." Possible options include: rollers, berms, table top jumps, gap jumps - very popular with this crowd, hip jumps, step ups, drop progression, rhythm jumps and more.

When asked if any of the meetings attendees has experience building jumps, quite a few hands went up (possibly the scofflaw creek-bed diggers.)

After initial heavy equipment grading, a substantial number of volunteers will be needed to do jump construction. Potential users are highly encouraged to go online to fill out the Community Profile Survey along with the Design Development Survey. www.lafayettebikepark.com

Miner Roadworks May Be Major Disruption

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CCCSD will be working around the clock periodically throughout the project when the new pipe lining is cured; this will not result in additional road closures.

Anything Else? The City has planned an overlay project for Charles Hill Road—one of the detour routes—funded

through the newly available stimulus package infrastructure funds. The exact timing for the Charles Hill project is unknown but will not overlap with the EBMUD project according to Orinda's Public Works and Engineering Director Chuck Swanson.

Burying the overhead

PG&E utility lines along Miner Road has also been discussed along with the possibility of widening the road to allow the addition of a walkway and/or bike path. The City Council plans to address the PG&E plans and timing at an upcoming meeting.