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Gaylan Ishizu, Pharmacy Manager at Longs/CVS in Moraga, hopes there will soon be a safe drug disposal site in Lamorinda

The Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA) has initiated a pilot program, in partnership with Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (Central San) and the City of Walnut Creek, for the safe disposal of pharmaceuticals. Unfortunately, in spite of these efforts, local pharmacies and agencies still recommend disposal methods for medications that can be dangerous for our environment and, ultimately, for our drinking water.

In an unscientific survey, we made a few phone calls to inquire of some local drugstores and agencies as to how to get rid of expired medications. Evidently, word of the proper method by which to dispose of meds has not reached our local drugstores and public agencies, because we received a variety of questionable advice. Only one pharmacy, the Medicine Shoppe in Orinda Village Square, directed us to the disposal bin at Walnut Creek City Hall.

The first call was to the drugstore at which our caller had purchased a specific medication. "We do not recycle it," said the pharmacy receptionist he was transferred to, "the best way is to leave the medicine in its container, fill it with water, add cayenne pepper, close the bottle, wrap it in duct tape and throw it in the garbage."

Intrigued by this recommendation, our caller contacted other stores that sell medications. He received similar advice from another pharmacy, "put water in the container, dissolve the material, close it back up and toss it in regular trash," said the clerk, who added, "that's how we do it." A follow-up call to that store's licensed pharmacist yielded a different response. The pharmacist said that they send their expired medicine to an out of state location and get credit back. ... continued on page 7

Got Drugs?

Safe Disposal of Medications
By Sophie Braccini

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County Cuts Hit Sheriff's Office, 4-H Program Given Reprieve

By Jennifer Wake

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors approved a budget on March 31 that cut \$50 million from county programs, resulting in potential layoffs of 56 sheriff's deputies and 18 district attorneys, as well as the elimination of non-emergency health care to adult undocumented residents.

Fortunately, Lafayette and Orinda police de-

partments, which contract police services through the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department, do not foresee any adverse consequences from the cuts.

"Because the deputy sheriff positions with the Orinda Police Department are fully funded by the City of Orinda there will be no layoffs," said Orinda Police Chief Bill French. "I do not anticipate any drop off in

the level of service that we offer the residents of Orinda. We will continue to provide the best service possible. Times are tough, but there has been no impact thus far."

And in a surprise decision, the County's 4-H program got a reprieve. ... continued on page 5

Advertising

EBMUD Considers Suspending Mandatory Water Conservation and Raising Rates

By Sophie Braccini

On Tuesday, April 14, the East Bay Utility District's (EBMUD) Board of Directors was scheduled to hear a staff recommendation to suspend the Drought Management Program requiring severe mandatory water conservation and to adopt a significant two-year rate increase. The rate increase could be effective either July 1 or at the end of September. At press time the meeting had not taken place, so we will update this article on-line as soon as information becomes available; go to www.lamorindaweekly.com, click Read Online and then click the story link.

As it does each April, EBMUD receives a report defining water reserves for the rest of the year. The combination of a 13% drop in water consumption from last year, and a more acceptable level of precipitation have replenished reserves to a level

that now allows the agency to loosen its policy on restricting water usage. This year, storms have delivered 85% of average precipitation to-date. While this performance is better than last year, it will leave the agency far from the 600,000 acre feet of maximum water storage. The reserves should exceed 445,000 acre feet in September, a level that's historically caused EBMUD to ask for voluntary conservation from its users, not mandatory.

John Coleman, the EBMUD Board member representing Lafayette, among other cities, explained his position. "I plan to ask for the end of mandatory rationing in July," said Coleman, "users have shown a tremendous amount of responsibility and now that we have improved reserves we need to reward them."

... continued on page 7

Warning: Road Work this Summer on Moraga Road

By Sophie Braccini

Sound familiar? Not to worry, the traffic this summer on Moraga Road will not look like it did in 2008. It will, however, bear some resemblance as the public works departments in Moraga and possibly Lafayette are planning to patch and seal the popular route.

Last summer saw a big traffic challenge, as the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) disemboweled Moraga Road to add an additional much needed water pipeline. Residents may remember the road closure and flaggers on the alternate routes; the resulting congestion was not as bad as we feared.

So what will happen? Three projects should hit the streets concomitantly. In Lafayette, the town

is contemplating cap sealing the portion between Rimrock Road and the city limit (Sky Hy Dr.) The most unpleasant part for us drivers is that Moraga Rd is very narrow there and that the best solution for expedient work is to close the road. According to Matt Luttropp, Lafayette Associate Engineer, this work shouldn't take more than three days.

In Moraga the work will be divided into two much more involved projects. First a rehabilitation of Moraga Road between Sky Hy and Buckingham Drive, then the resurfacing of the artery between Buckingham and Draeger. Why two projects and not one? In a word: financing. ... continued on page 3

Serving More Than Sandwiches at the Huckleberry Café



By Cathy Tyson

"The curried chicken salad sandwich is very popular, also the turkey, avocado and bacon. Our brownies are delicious - very chocolatey and chewy," said Jacquie Allen, Program Director of the Huckleberry Café-To-Go. Although the food is terrific, this small business actually focuses on training the staff. "I am just so proud..." **Read on page 5**

The Gift of Time: Skilled Volunteers Found in Local Retirees



By Jennifer Wake

Not long ago, retirement was considered a time for travel and leisure. Today, more retirees are seeking to continue an active role in their communities, volunteering as a way to stay connected. Moraga resident and Town Councilmember Mike Metcalf didn't slip quietly into retirement. With an engineering... **Read on page 8**

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