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Wednesday, July 22, 2009



Nicholas Inserra, Springbrook Swim Team Photo Lisa Dirito

# Record-breaking Lafayette City Meet

## Springbrook Hogs are Victorious Again

By Jean Follmer

The six Lafayette swim teams descended upon Acalanes High School for the 43rd annual City Meet on July 11. Las Trampas, LMYA, Oakwood, Rancho Colorado, Springbrook and Sun Valley

were geared up and ready for action. City Meet began with "one to watch" in the girl's six-and-under 25-yard freestyle. Caitlin Smith, 5-year-old LMYA swimmer, finished first in both the preliminaries & fi-

nals. Smith went on to win the High Point trophy for her age group. Dillan Thoms of Las Trampas followed suit with a first place freestyle in the boy's six-and-under. Thoms also went home with the High Point trophy.

The Springbrook domination began with Nicholas Inserra in the Boys 11-12 50-yard freestyle. Finishing with a record-breaking time of 24.12, Inserra had the endless sea of red and black cheering

wildly. That was only the beginning of Inserra's unbeatable record-breaking streak - he set records in all of his events, Medley Relay 2:04.49, Free Relay 1:47.95, 50-yard butterfly 26.57, 100-yard IM 1:01.15.

... continued on page 18

## LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Town News	2, 3, 4, 6
Life in Lamorinda	5, 7, 8, 9
Letters to Editor	6
Living Longer & Loving It	8
Community Service	9
Real Estate	10
Business	11
Schools	12, 13
Not to be Missed	14, 15
Service Directory	14
HOW TO CONTACT US	15
In the Back Yard	16
Dining	17
Sports	18, 19
Classified	18
Love Lafayette	20

### This Week Read About:

Charter City Choice	2
Police Promotions	3
Who Will Pay for Roads?	4
Cyrano on Stage	5
Safety Fair	5
New Fire Fighters	7
Bruns Legacy	8
Garden Lights	11
Town Hall Kids Back	12

## Senior Needs Assessment Study Findings Announced

Lafayette Seniors Need Transportation, Housing and a Sense of Community

By Jonathan Seclow

On Monday, July 13, the Lafayette City Council heard the results of the Senior Needs Assessment study that it commissioned in March. The study was commissioned in an effort to prepare Lafayette for projected growth among the 55 and older population, a segment that already comprises 30% of the Lafayette. Due to the aging boomer generation, Contra Costa County estimates 5% growth among that segment by 2020.

The study indicated three major areas of concern for seniors in Lafayette. Respondents primarily emphasized the lack of transportation options for seniors who can't drive. Currently there are several services in the area that offer rides for seniors. The study found that the rides offered by those services, primarily the Lamorinda Spirit Van, Rides for Seniors, or Orinda's Seniors Around Town, did not meet the needs of respondents. In executive interviews, participants indicated that they

would like to see those services expanded.

The layout of Lafayette demands that its citizens have access to vehicles for transportation. Most of the goods and services are centralized in downtown Lafayette, while most of the residents live in the surrounding foothills. In order for seniors to continue living where they do, they will need to have some way to transport themselves to the downtown area.

... continued on page 8

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## Parks and Dogs in Moraga: Staff Recommends Community Outreach

By Sophie Braccini



In an effort to clarify the hours during which Rancho Laguna Park is open to the frolicking of off-leash dogs, Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram proposed amending the municipal code regarding animals and unleashed a maelstrom.

On July 22, the Moraga Town Council is scheduled to review the text proposed by the Parks and Recreation Commission to amend the code and consider Town staff's recommendation to table the issue indefinitely. Please check our website for updates, <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/>.

Staff suggests that a large community outreach effort be conducted by the Parks and Recreation Commission to study the programming of Rancho Laguna Park.

The Parks and Recreation Commission considered the issue thoroughly and received much public comment.

"We had to address some poorly stated language that was in the old ordinance and correct the signage at the park," said Ravi Mallela, chair of the Commission, "some dog owners had been fined by Contra Costa County Animal Services because of these inconsistencies."

The Commission also had to define the locations for the off-leash areas at Rancho Laguna Park, Moraga Commons and the Mulholland Open Space Preserve. "It was the unanimous recommendation of the Commission that there should be a way for all types of users to be comfortable in the parks," said Mallela, regarding restrictions the new text would impose.

Dog owners were all in support of clarifying the times of the day that dogs were authorized off-leash. They wanted to have a clear town ordinance that would supersede the County's rule that does not authorize off-leash dogs in parks. The contention appeared in restricting dogs to certain areas.

"The Parks and Recreation Commission's proposal to limit our dogs to just the paved path and turf area (at Rancho Laguna Park) created a variety of unpleasant emotions," wrote Bill Carman.

... continued on page 3

### Beautiful Gazebo Care of Garden Club

By Cathy Tyson



While some residents might grumble about pulling weeds, pruning and fertilizing, these folks can't get enough of it. Formed thirty-nine years ago, the dedicated members of the Lafayette Garden Club have spent countless hours supporting civic beautification projects.

At 150 members strong, mostly women and a few ... Read on page 2

### Orinda Historical Society Restores Bridge

By Andrea A. Firth



Charlie Vollmar was looking for something to sink his teeth into. He wanted his children, seven year-old twin girls, to have a sense of grounding, a sense of place. Running his own culinary business, Epicurean Exchange, and helping to manage his young family did not quite fill every minute of his day. And so, the Orinda Historical Society will probably never quite look the same.

... Read on page 6

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