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# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin is pleased to introduce the (not yet dressed for its debut) Lafayette Library and Learning Center

Photo Doug Kohen

## Sneak a Peek at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center

By Cathy Tyson

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Youngsters, oldsters and everyone in between will have something to enjoy at the brand new Lafayette Library and Learning Center (LLC). Although still under construction, it's getting nearer to completion every day and will be finished in time for the scheduled November 14 grand opening to the public.

From the smart book check-in system that automatically sorts and checks-in books to teen homework rooms, spacious children's area, dedicated historical society room, and technology lab, form and function come together brilliantly. Even without books on the shelves and with plastic covering the massive light fixtures, the interior looks like a

sleeker, more contemporary version of the Ahwahnee Lodge in Yosemite. Maybe it's the voluminous airy space of the main library area or the rough hewn columns and beams of the exposed truss system, hard to nail down the exact reason, but the LLC will be a terrific asset for residents to enjoy long into the future.

The attention to detail throughout the building is astounding – especially given the three story sloping site here in earthquake country and the need to accommodate so many different user groups.

Mayor Don Tatzin said they wanted to make the building inviting for kids coming from nearby Stanley Middle School and Lafayette Elementary and

encourage them to loiter and possibly even get their homework done. The outdoor plaza and amphitheater on the corner of Golden Gate Way and First Street are not only inviting places to hang out and wait for car-pool pick up, but a welcoming entrance to the building with lots of greenery and spectacular artwork.

The Historical Society will have a permanent home for the first time. Visitors can take a look at Peter Thompson's anvil from the first blacksmith shop in town, along with photos and organized archives. Also on the lower level will be the Friends of the Library Used Book Room – a clean, well lit place to get best sellers for a pittance. ... continued on page 8

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### Orinda Community Fund Takes Shape

By Andrea A. Firth

"I'm working very hard to raise private dollars to supplant the community funding that has been cut," states Orinda's Mayor Sue Severson as she describes the genesis of the Orinda Community Fund—a voluntary donation fund that enables residents to give tax-deductible contributions to the City to support community events and programs.

During the annual budgeting process this past spring, Orinda's City Council, like municipalities across California, had to balance the city's budget in the face of reduced revenues and contributions from the state. Ultimately funding was cut to a number of community programs, which represented about \$20,000 of general fund expenditures annually. The Council remained committed to supporting events like Orinda Idol and the July 4th celebration and programs such as Art in Public Places, but they needed new financial resources and felt that the community would be willing to help. Severson stepped up to take on the Council's charge to create a plan to find private monies to fill the void.

"Residents have always been able to make donations to the city," says Severson, noting that land and financial contributions have been given to the city in the past. The idea for a specific fund with a formal focus on supporting community programs was one of the recommendations of the Revenue Enhancement Task Force, she explains. ... continued on page 4

### Town/College Economic Partnership Growing

By Sophie Braccini



SMC students wearing the new t-shirts at a Women's Soccer game last Sunday. Left to right: Lacey Olson, Sarah Randall, Christina Katsaris, Aaron Jones Photo Andy Scheck

Neal McSherry is very passionate about what he does. As the Director of Ticket Operations for Saint Mary's College (SMC), he is charged with getting students and the surrounding community out to the school's various games and athletic events. ... continued on page 3

### Local Singers Vie for Winner's Circle at Orinda Idol 2009



By Jennifer Wake

Sequins, taffeta and even feathered boas adorned many of the more than 60 finalists and runners up who took the stage at the Orinda Theatre last Sunday to compete in the final competition of Orinda Idol 2009. But the true sparkle came from within when these kids (who ranged in age from 5 to 18... read on page 16

### Lafayette Gallery Celebrates Ten Years Together



By Andrea A. Firth

The Lafayette Gallery is celebrating ten years in the making with a special joint exhibition of work by past and present members at the Orinda Library through the end of the month and a unique anniversary exhibit on display at the Gallery through October 10th. The Lafayette Gallery, a co-op of artists, was the brainchild of Kathy DeForest and Judy Miller. ... Read on page 9

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