

NEIGHBORHOOD COMPUTER

455 MORAGA ROAD SUITE H, LOCATED AT 5A RENT A SPACE

- * CUSTOM BUILT SYSTEMS
- * MAC - WINDOWS - LINUX
- * LOWEST PRICES IN THE AREA- GUARANTEED
- * HOUSE CALLS/SERVICE/REPAIR ALL MAKES & MODELS
- * FREE PICK UP AND DELIVERY (MORAGA ONLY)
- * SERVING MORAGA FOR OVER 10 YEARS

925.377.5257

WWW.NEIGHBORHOODCOMPUTER.NET

Pamela Halloran,
Broker Associate

Village Associates
(925) 323-4100
Pamela@PamelaHalloran.com





Put Pamela's
20+ years of
experience to
work for you!

Warning To Motorists!

All Auto Repair Shops Are Not Created Equal!

Saving money is a ok if you can trust that the shop will use the appropriate parts, offer a comprehensive warranty and replace only what is needed.

- FACT:** Oil Change Bargains often do not use the correct oil viscosity due to the cost of the correct oil for the vehicle.
- FACT:** Using the incorrect viscosity oil may cause engine damage and will void your manufacturers warranty.
- FACT:** Brake components made in China are not created equal. Many shops use sub-standard brake parts to offer low price.
- FACT:** Using poor quality brake parts usually leads to squealing, vibration, premature brake wear and poor brake performance.
- FACT:** Using poor quality parts and untrained personel may save money but produces sub-standard results in the long run.

Don't sacrifice quality for price!



Orinda Motors & Express Oil Change
Orinda Motors Inc. 63 Orinda Way, Orinda, Ca., 94563 (925)254-2012

www.orindamotors.com









We Make Storage Easy At 5A Rent-A-Space & Save You Money!



Don't shop 'till you drop, our prices are the best in Lamorinda, we've already checked!
Plus - We've got over 30 sizes & a price for every budget!

Units as low as **\$29.00***

Use our FREE Van to help you move in!

Get a FREE Gas Card for referring a friend, and FREE Terzetto's Card just for visiting 5A!



925-631-7000
455 Moraga Road Ste. F
www.5Aspace.com

MORAGA



*Reduced units - new rentals only, Exp. 9/30/09. Call for details on "Free Truck", rental truck rebate & Free Gas Card.

• Life in LAMORINDA •

MOFD Approves 2009/2010 Budget

By Lucy Amaral

Knowing full well that more changes will need to be made, the Board of Directors of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) approved the 2009/2010 General Fund budget and the Special Revenue Fund budget at their September 16 meeting.

Because of increased county fees, pension obligation bonds, and an increase in general operational costs, MOFD's General Fund, which is funded primarily through property tax revenue, will see a shortfall of a little over \$800,000 during the next fiscal year. The Special Revenue Fund, which is funded by the Fire Flow tax, will recognize a shortfall of over \$300,000 due to costs relating to the earthquake retrofitting of Stations 41 and 43, as well as several ADA compliance upgrades that need to be completed this year.

According to Interim Fire Chief Pete Nowicki, MOFD has already taken several cost-cutting measures to address the General Fund deficit. The Board of Directors noted in this meeting that it plans to devote an upcoming Board meeting to formulate ways of cutting anywhere from one percent to four percent more out of the current budget in efforts to achieve balance. A date, however, has not been finalized.

Over and above the current shortfall is the State of California's suspension of Prop 1A, allowing the state to borrow eight percent of allocated property taxes from local governments and special districts. MOFD will be shorted over \$1.3 million dollars for the fiscal year 2009/2010. The total will be split into two equal payments, which will affect the January 2010 and May 2010 property tax allocation. With the borrowing of funds, the State would be required to repay the district, with interest, within three years.

At the moment, Nowicki said that the shortfall will be covered from funds held in MOFD's reserve. However, the State has also created an option for local governments and special districts to ease the burden. The California Communities Development Authority, a nonprofit organization, may issue bonds on behalf of the special districts and remit the payment back to the district. This would allow special districts, such as MOFD, to recoup money borrowed by the State. Bondholders would receive their payment, with interest, from the State at a later date. As the deadline for participation is November, the MOFD Board said it will deliberate on this item at an October meeting.

Adding yet another possible fiscal glitch, the Contra Costa Assessment Appeals Board recently ruled that the County incorrectly calculated Chevron's refinery property tax. As MOFD received a portion of those taxes, and if a refund is sought, the District could be required to repay as much as \$350,000. According to Nowicki, this amount has not been included in the current financials because it is still a conceptual, future fiscal problem.

First Oktoberfest in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

In Munich, Oktoberfest starts on September 19; in Moraga, you have to wait until October 11 to start the harvest month with a celebration of abundance and good life. In Munich, almost 7 million liters of beer are consumed during the festivities. Moraga does not have such ambitions for its Oktoberfest and in fact, its version of the historical vintage festivity is family oriented, with activities and fun for all ages.

"The first objective of the Hacienda Foundation, which is organizing the feast, is to raise awareness of our beautiful facility and to provide the community with a good time," said Foundation Board Member Bob Reynolds. This free fall event will begin at 2 p.m. at the Hacienda de las Flores and will feature live German music by Big Lou the Accordion Princess, entertainment by the Golden Gate Bavarian Dance Troupe and activities for all ages. There will be space available for all to display their skills at sidewalk chalk art, a "Sound of Music" sing-a-long and who among us can resist the opportunity to pit our yodeling skills against those of our neighbors?

The Foundation promises that the offerings of food will be abundant and at affordable prices, with Saags providing meat and chicken bratwurst, bockwurst and frankfurters. Other foods will include sauerkraut, potato salad, strudel and ice cream. Spaten beer will be available on tap, as well as wine and several choices of soft drinks. "We will probably limit the number of beers per person," promises Reynolds, "we want to maintain the good spirit that infused the Cinco de Mayo celebration that we had at the Hacienda last May."

Judy Dinkle, President of the Hacienda Foundation, said, "We were delighted at the overwhelming response from our local residents to our first community Cinco de Mayo event this spring, and we are pleased to provide everyone in the community with another opportunity to enjoy this beautiful facility."

This year's Oktoberfest is hosted by the Hacienda Foundation of Moraga, with sponsorship by the Moraga Park and Recreation Department and volunteers from many local service organizations. Free overflow parking and shuttle service from the 5A Rent-a-Space parking lot on Moraga Road will be available beginning at 2pm on Sunday, October 11.

For more information check the website at: <http://www.oktoberfestmoraga.com>.

The Hacienda is located at 2100 Donald drive in Moraga.

Lamorinda's Artists Open Their Doors

By Andrea A. Firth



Formed 15 years ago, the Lamorinda Arts Alliance includes sculptors, painters, jewelers, glass-makers, photographers and ceramists. The Open Studio event will include artwork created from range of media in a variety of styles such as landscape paintings of the Lamorinda hills, welded iron sculptures, abstract photographs, and fused glass plates and jewelry. Light refreshments will be available at some studios. Vagner plans to have her friend, Carl Hylin, playing Irish music on the dulcimer and mandolin as art patrons peruse her work. All artists will offer their work for sale.

The Open Studio weekend will kick off with a reception at the Moraga Gallery on Friday night October 16th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Artwork from the each of the participants will be on display, and the artists will be on hand to discuss their work. The pre-tour evening event provides the public with a chance to plan the route for their art tour. Maps of the tour will be available and can also be accessed at www.laaopenstudios2009.blogspot.com.

Whether you're looking to score a bargain, add to your fine-art collection, or just enjoy a scenic drive to meet local artists, the members of the Lamorinda Arts Alliance will have their doors open wide and welcome you to come on in.

An artist's studio is his or her own museum or gallery," states Kris Vagner, a Lafayette-based artist and member of the Alliance. "The Open Studio event provides a great opportunity for artists to show their work in their own space and for clients to see the work in that setting. It's really refreshing and freeing to share your work directly," she adds.

The Lamorinda Arts Alliance has invited the community to come on in and take a look. The collective of local artists is opening their doors as part of the annual self-guided Open Studio Tour. Thirty-five artists will display their artwork at 15 locations throughout Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda on October 17th and 18th between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. each day.

Sculptor Joe Bologna and one of his scrap-metal creations. Joe will exhibit his work with artist Kris Vagner at Studio H (3405 Moraga Blvd. in Lafayette) during the Lamorinda Arts Alliance Open Studio Tour Photo provided

Shop locally whenever you can. Only your support of our local businesses will keep them open!