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# LAMORINDA

## WEEKLY

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Pictured are Jim Lucas, Chuck Swanson, Tom McDowell, Rafael Topete and Al Resnick

Photo Ohlen Alexander

# Tappan Lane Residents Pave the Way

By Andrea A. Firth

Tappan Lane residents and neighbors on adjacent streets have taken the repair of this decaying public road into their own hands, or at least into their own wallets.

"Frankly there were areas that were dangerous. We were concerned about the safety of driving on the street through another winter," states Al Resnick, a 32-year resident of Orinda who has navigated the potholes on Tappan Lane for the past 11 years. "We had to do this ourselves, because there is no money available

from the City to get the repairs done anytime soon," he adds.

Resnick along with neighbors Tom McDowell and Catherine Soso distributed a flyer to Tappan Lane residents and neighbors outlining the problem and proposing a solution—to fix the road with funds contributed by the road's users. Then the three organizers took their campaign door to door. "People were quite responsive. We have gotten pretty good participation," states Resnick, who estimates that they will raise

\$24,000 for the road repairs.

"It was a low pressure sale," says Resnick. Residents were not required to participate or told how much to contribute. Resnick is also quick to acknowledge that the project was possible due to the fact that the contractor, JV Lucas Paving, Inc, a family-owned and operated business in Lafayette, provided their services at a discount. The asphalt supplier, County Asphalt, LLC, also provided a discount on material.

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## Supporters Push for Passage of Measure G

By Jennifer Wake

In the coming weeks, parents from the Alcalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) will be spreading the word to get out the vote on Nov. 3 for passage of Measure G—a new parcel tax measure designed to extend the existing AUHSD parcel tax indefinitely.

"Measure G will provide stable, local funding," says Tom Mulvaney, AUHSD Board Member and Measure G Chair. "This parcel tax is a renewal, a continuation of Measure A—a \$189 a year tax that equates to about \$3.64 a week."

Measure A was approved by voters in 2005 to restore small class sizes in English and algebra, and to restore competitive classroom programs. It brings in approximately \$6.7 million dollars annually to the District, but is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2011.

As stated in the Measure G ballot measure, proceeds of the parcel tax will be used "to provide stable local funding at [District] high schools and protect core academic programs

from deep State budget cuts; preserve science, mathematics, arts, music and foreign language courses; and maintain library hours."

Since the parcel tax amount stays at the existing rate, and continues its senior citizen's exemption, proponents of the Measure say there is no tax increase. But Measure G is unique because it contains no sunset period (expiration date)—a provision that has some local residents calling foul.

Orinda resident Richard Colman says now is not the time to seek a "permanent tax" when Lamorindans have been besieged with other tax and fee increases, the California unemployment rate is at an all-time high, and the economy might improve (see Letters to the Editor, Sept. 16, 2009).

"We are in a tough economic time," says Mulvaney, but given that the District doesn't expect to receive funding from any other source outside of the State, he says it's prudent to have a tax that the District can rely on.

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## Rash of Neighborhood Car Burglaries

By Cathy Tyson

On the evening of September 30 – October 1 there were nine car burglaries in Moraga. The one thing they had in common? All of the cars were unlocked. Six of the thefts were on Calle La Montana and Calle La Mesa in the Campolindo neighborhood. Some of the items taken were cash, an iPod power cord and Samsung car charger, Tom Tom GPS and an expensive tennis racquet. At one home the unknown thief used the garage door opener to open the garage door then proceeded to steal a briefcase from the BMW in the garage.

Perhaps the suspect ended his or her crime spree with the theft of a white 2008 BMW X3 from a Corliss drive resident. To make matters worse, the car owner's \$2,000 road bike was in the back of his car, along with his government credentials.

Moraga Chief of Police Robert Priebe warns residents that these are crimes of opportunity, "Don't leave anything in your car worth taking. Above all do not leave your car unlocked. It's pretty common sense."

(Editor's note: Orinda and Lafayette are not exempt from the car crime spree. Their police blotters have been heavily laden of late with "smash and grab" incidents -- windows broken and valuables removed from locked cars.)

## Hearst Gallery Exhibit is Really—Out of This World

By Andrea A. Firth



For centuries, artists have accompanied explorers to new frontiers to document new realms and to inspire others to follow. Space exploration—traveling past the Earth's atmosphere to the planets in our solar system and the universe beyond—while the dream of every aspiring astronaut ... read on page 5

## RED RIBBON WEEK

### Three High Schools, Three Ways to Promote a Drug and Alcohol Free Environment

By Sophie Braccini

With a fatal accident that cost the life of a Lamorinda student last year, local high schools are focusing on all the possible sides of alcohol and drug prevention, offering a mosaic of actions during "Red Ribbon Week"—a traditional time in late October for schools to promote healthy and drug free living. ... Read on page 9

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