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Ask Jeff

SPRING AHEAD-FALL BACK



As we prepare to set our clocks back, it's also time to evaluate our vehicles again as the seasons are changing as well. California's climate tends to be very mild most of the year so certain parts of our vehicles are left unused. One area is our wiper blades. Have you tried them out lately? Remember, wipers sit out exposed to the UV rays year round and the worst thing is to encounter a decent rain and not being able to see clearly. It's not only unsafe, but it's very preventable and they are not very costly to replace. One idea is to check your wipers in the fall when adjusting your clock back.

Another area to remember seasonally is your cooling systems. Belts, hoses and thermostats are maintainable and are much less expensive to replace than your entire engine. Take your vehicle to a competent, honest service facility that is in tune with prevention, not just cures.

A mechanic recently recommended flushing out my brake fluid, but it still looks clean to me. How often should I have my brake fluid flushed?

Signed, Carl in Concord

Dear Carl: Brake fluid provides the brake system its entire life support and should be tested and replaced at least every 30000 miles. Brake fluid can take on moisture and other contaminants that are not always seen by looking at the fluid.

Dear Jeff:

My windshield wipers are streaking and they are only a few months old. Why is this? I haven't hardy used them yet.

Signed, Blurry in Berkeley

Dear Blurry:

I guess the first thing that comes to mind is if there are any chips in your windshield? Even tiny rock chips can interfere with the wiping ability of your wiper pattern. Secondly, try cleaning your wipers with rubbing alcohol on a cotton ball and clean off the rubber strips. You may want to try the new "Flat Blade" wipers that are one piece of molded rubber that actually conforms to the shape of your windshield. Ask your service provider for a set next time. I'm sure you'll be impressed with the results.

Jeff Joyce has been the Manager of Express Oil Change & Tire Center since 2004. He can be reached at 925-254-8989 or jjoyce@orindamotors.com

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Community Service

Real Estate Agents Help Build **Submitted by Steve Maita**

Hom



Photos provided Darlene Hattersley is ready to work

n Wednesday, September 23, about two dozen agents and staff of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Orinda, Fremont and Oakland took time off from selling homes to help build one. The work was in support of Habitat for Humanity, the organization that helps low-income working families building their own homes. The Coldwell Banker team worked on a group of three and four-bedroom townhomes at 10800 Edes Avenue in Oakland, painting, installing flooring, putting in window trellises, and many other jobs.

Rotary Club of Lafayette Gives to Local Music Programs

Submitted by Ron Wake

Tom Stack wields a hammer like a pro



Left to right: Dick Holt, Judy Lazarus, Leslie De Boer, Jenny Reynolds, Norm Dea, Mo Levich, Brian Pardo, **Bob Athayde**

ifteen years ago, Dick Holt had the vision that Rotary could raise money for the Acalanes High School Music department by having a concert. This wasn't to be just another concert but one performed by student musicians with the Lafayette Reservoir as the beautiful backdrop. Lafayette Rotary constructed a stage on a grassy

Overlooking the Reservoir,

first "Concert at the Res" was a success. Stanley Middle School and The Rossmoor Big Band joined in later years to make the concert a true community event. Rotary, with the help of many talented students, has raised thousands of dollars to provide instruments for the schools.

This year, Dick Holt presented honorariums to Norm Dea, Acalanes Music Depart-

Photo Andy Scheck the students performed and the ment; Bob Athayde with Jenny Reynolds, Stanley Middle School; Brian Pardo, Bentley School, and Mo Levich, Rossmoor Big Band.

Over the years Holt's friend Leslie DeBoer helped with the concert graphics design. She asked Dick to give her honorarium to Xenophon director Judy Lazarus. Xenophon helps disabled children work with and learn to ride horses.

Moragadogs.org

Submitted by William Carman



Left to right: Joan Dorsey, Elena Bocek, Velda Chapman, Judy Dyer, Seth Freeman, Jeanne Moreau, Bill Carman, Bob Symon, Larry Koncz Photo Andy Scheck

wners of well behaved J doggies from Lamorinda can now celebrate. On October 9th it will be official, per Moraga town ordinance 225. All good dogs can show up with their owners at the park and socialize. To celebrate, we are launching www.moragadogs.org.

Before you go to Rancho Laguna with your dog, please read www.moragadogs.org. Every dog owner bringing their dog to this park should read the PETiquette page for what is

proper behavior. If you will be coming to the park for the first time, read the first timer page, it will ease you into the experience.

We did not forget that Americans will spend over \$50 billion in discretionary income on their dogs in 2010. We know the social elite show their dogs. So if you are interested in a restaurant and want to know if they like well behaved dogs in their outside seating areas? We called all the ones in Lamorinda and asked for you, then listed them on the restaurant guide. If your pet is in an emergency, we have the links to local 24 hour animal hospitals, and animal poison control hotlines. There are two photo albums, one of a small number of dogs who use the park, and another of just the park or dogs in

E-mail Moragadog@moragadog.org with a picture of your lost dog, or the one you found and we will help you reconnect with your real best friend.