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LAMORINDA

WEEKLY

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Wednesday, February 17, 2010

BIG BAND BALL ROOM DANCE
 The Big Band of Rossmoor
Friday, Feb. 19th 7:00 P.M.
 Veterans Memorial Building, \$10 per person at the door
Call 284-7404 for reservations



Talk of the Towns

By Sophie Braccini, Andrea A. Firth and Cathy Tyson

Quote of the Week:
 "While Lamorinda residents spend 24 to travel 4 (minutes and miles) our smiling leaders shovel sand in celebration of a fourth bore for '24.' What a snore!" – See Letters to the Editor, page 8.

On the evening of February 11, the governments of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda met at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center to share perspectives. Three issues were covered: the Police Services Study that was commissioned by Lafayette and Orinda; Revenue Enhancement options/ballot measures; and Downtown Revitalization ef-

forts. The polite exchange provided the three Councils and Town/City Managers the opportunity to take stock of each other's projects without venturing toward debate or negotiation. The three communities have much in common, yet they traverse parallel tracks that seldom cross. See page 3 for the full report.

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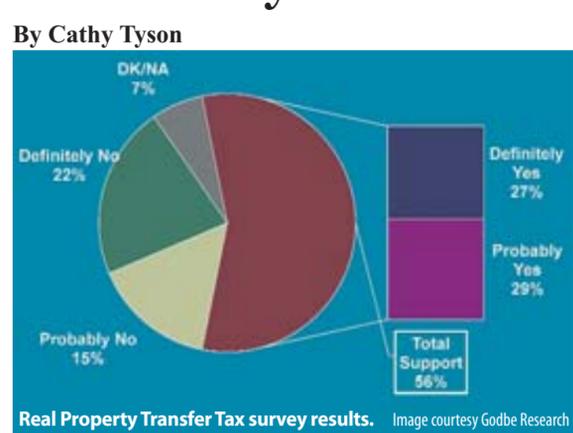
AUHSD Proposes Parcel Tax

By Angela LaScala-Gruenewald
While politicians in Sacramento continue attempts to revive California's plummeting economy, the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) Governing Board met in Lafayette on Tuesday, February 2nd, to approve a resolution for an Emergency Educational Parcel Tax. Even with the passage of Measure G in November of 2009, the district still faces a \$4.8 million revenue shortfall for the 2010-2011 school year. To help alleviate this deficit,

the resolution will present a five-year parcel tax to voters in April (as a May 4th mail-in ballot). The proposed \$112 per parcel tax provides for a citizen's oversight committee, offers a senior exemption and, if approved, would raise approximately \$4 million for the district. The Board believes a parcel tax is necessary to avoid the severe loss of science, foreign language, English, social studies, arts, and mathematics classes. Board members voted unanimously to put forward the

five-year tax that would begin July 1, 2010, and would reduce the district's budget deficit to \$800,000. If the measure passes, up to 50 teachers could retain their jobs. Even so, the future of Del Oro High School and several classified positions will be undecided and face possible elimination (See related AUHSD budget article on page S5.) The meeting began with a public hearing. ... continued on page L3

Charter City and Transfer Tax Survey Results Promising



In a recent survey, 400 Lafayette voters were asked about their potential support for making Lafayette a charter city and queried about support to increase the property transfer tax rate, quality of life and spending priorities. Godbe Research completed the twenty minute phone survey and found, "Overall Lafayette voters placed major city services including preserving open spaces, repairing streets and road, reducing traffic congestion and reducing crime at the same or higher level of importance than preventing local tax increases," noted a summary presented at the February 8 City Council meeting. A total of 56% of respondents answered definitely yes or probably yes to the question, "To maintain and improve city services; including: repairing and maintaining local streets; extending library hours and services; maintaining police services; preserving open spaces; maintaining downtown landscaping and increasing parking; Shall the City of Lafayette increase the Real Property Transfer Tax, which is collected when a property is sold, by \$7 per \$1,000 dollars of the sales price?" A simple majority, just over 50%, is the threshold needed to pass the measure. ... continued on page 2

Orinda's 25th

By Andrea A. Firth
 July 1st, 2010 marks the 25th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Orinda, and the City has a long list of events and activities planned to commemorate the event throughout the year (see sidebar). The July 4th parade, which was established about the same time that the City incorporated, will be a focal point for the celebration. read on page A7



By Susie Iventosch
 It's not every day you see a traditional wood-burning pizza oven in the suburban family kitchen. And, though it did not top the list of bells and whistles Katy and Mike Keough of Moraga expected to install in their newly remodeled kitchen, they're sure glad they did! "It's been really fun," said Katy. "Everybody gets involved in the process and the kids have fun ... read in our new "Our Homes" section

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