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WEEKLY

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Delivered bi-weekly to all Lamorinda homes & businesses

\$0.00

Volume 04 Issue 16

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Wednesday, October 13, 2010

BIG BAND BALL ROOM DANCE

The Big Band of Rossmoor

Friday, Oct. 15th 8:00 P.M.

Veterans Memorial Building, \$10 per person at the door

Now offering: FREE Dance Lessons at 7pm!

Call 284-7404 for reservations



Acalanes' senior quarterback Mike Leamy (#7) hands the ball to junior running back Joe Dreyer for a touchdown run against Campolindo last Friday. Photo Pam Alsterlind

Local Football Rivalries Play Out

Miramonte defeats Acalanes who defeats Campolindo; the circle closes on Oct. 22 when Miramonte meets Campolindo

Quote of the Week:
"Please join us in voting for..."
 Lamorinda speaks out about the candidates.
 Read Letters to the Editor, pages A10-A12

By Alex Kozela

"There's nothing like it."

That's how Acalanes quarterback Michael Leamy described defeating his team's arch-rivals Campolindo, 24-20, last Friday in a make-or-break game that could end up being crucial to both team's fortunes.

After losing to their neighbors for the past two seasons and in jeopardy of falling to 0-2 in DFAL (Diablo Foothill Athletic League) play, a determined

Acalanes came from behind to win their first league game of the season and halted their two-game losing skid in the process.

"This game was about coming out and playing hard for four quarters, playing one play at a time, and getting after it from the very first play to the very last," Acalanes head coach Mike Ivankovich said. "We didn't even talk about winning. Accomplishing that is more important than the win."

Yet the Cougars (4-2, 0-2) were the team that looked the sharpest out of the gates, as they went 63 yards on three plays in only the first minute, leading to the game's first touchdown on a Joey Bertrand run.

After the Dons (4-2, 1-1) equalized in the first minute of the second quarter, Campolindo came right back when Derrick Margerum scored on a one-yard run. ... continued on page S3

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Fire District Faces Serious Financial Pain

By Cathy Tyson

"Service delivery modification" – these three little words are the end result of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District's staggering \$12 million shortfall for the 2010/2011 fiscal year. "We simply don't have enough money in the budget to continue the same level of service," said Fire Chief Daryl Louder.

The Contra Costa Fire Protection District (District) serves 600,000 people via 30 fire stations in a 300 plus mile area from Antioch to Lafayette to Clayton and beyond. Approximately 70% of the District's 44,600 calls for service in 2009 were for emergency medical service.

The ugly truth is that without additional revenue, "There will be draconian cuts to fire service," said Louder, addressing the Board of Supervisors at a recent meeting. With 88% of the District's budget coming from steadily decreasing property taxes across the county – something's got to give.

Reserves are expected to be completely gone by next year. Having cut staff and expenditures as much as possible, the Chief believes the only other option is to reduce personnel which accounts for 85% of the District budget. ... continued on page A4

Orinda Seeks a Vision

By Andrea A. Firth

Orinda Visioning—what the City has labeled the next step in the downtown revitalization planning process—sounds like a good way to start talking about the future of Orinda's two downtown commercial districts, The Crossroads and Orinda Village. In fact, the City has been at work on developing guidelines to revitalize the downtown for over three years.

The current City Council set the wheels in motion with the creation of the Planning Process Review Task Force (PPRTF) in September of 2007. Hundreds of meetings and report pages later, as the task force's recommendations were working their way through public

hearings held by the Planning Commission, the downtown segment of the report was sidelined by public outcry over a proposal to allow building height to increase to 55 feet in some areas. In response, the City has regrouped and planned two public workshops to provide community members the opportunity to discuss how they want to see their downtown change in the years to come.

The idea that Orinda's aging commercial districts could use a facelift is not new. The City's challenge has been to develop a rational framework to facilitate revitalization that coincides with a vision for downtown that has broad support in the community. ... continued on page A9

Mike Segrest: An Exit Interview

By Sophie Braccini



Mike Segrest, Moraga's outgoing Town Manager, talks with us about his experience and offers his perspective on what needs to happen for Moraga to remain a great place to live. "The most dangerous thing to happen to Moraga would be that nothing happens," says Mike Segrest, who believes our community is at a turning point. Moraga is a bedroom community with an 85% sales tax leakage. ... read on page A7

A Conversation with Abraham Verghese

By Lou Fancher



When I called Abraham Verghese for our phone interview to preview his upcoming appearance at Lamorinda's Three Communities, One Book Program on October 26th, I was expecting to wait. He's a doctor, after all, and in my experience, that meant 30-60 minutes thumbing through Psychology Today, or Oprah's O Magazine (guilty pleasure,) before hearing his caramel-toned voice. Instead, he was ready, willing, and most poetically able to answer questions about health care, ... read on page L4

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