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# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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The Longest Married Couple: Aileen and Tom Deahl. He's 96; they've been married 70 years. She says the secret to their happy marriage is same as the song: Accentuate the Positive  
Photo Doug Kohen

## Lunch of the (Three-Quarter) Century

By Cathy Dausman

**R**on Loos, the "Baby of the Year" turned 75 in May. Tom Deahl and Molly Gravelle, the club's new King and Queen, are both 96. And the Longest-Married Couple, Deahl and his wife Aileen, has been married 70 years. Welcome to the Three-Quarter Century Club luncheon, held June 15 at Orinda Community Church. The free lunch celebrated Orinda residents

who've reached their seventy-fifth birthday milestone, and keep on going. It is only the second Three-Quarter Century Club in the U.S.

The Orinda luncheon originated in 2000, when Rotary member John Fazel borrowed the idea from his hometown of Perry, Iowa.  
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### Quote of the Week:

"It's ironic that Lafayette is celebrating the public opening and purchase of open space (Acalanes Ridge) while Moraga is selling open space it already owns."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A10

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## Developing Open Space Along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail?

By Sophie Braccini



A portion of the Town's acreage near Rheem Blvd. and St. Mary's Rd; the Rheem crossing is near the top of the trail, on the right.  
Photo Andy Scheck

**T**here's a new battle brewing in Moraga. The bone of contention is a large parcel of land, owned by the Town of Moraga, along the popular Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail. The Town, which needs cash for infrastructure and capital improvements, would like to develop the land—

nearby residents and defenders of open space would prefer the Town leave the land alone.

In the middle of the dispute is the Planning Commission, which must eventually render a decision. The property, currently zoned as Open Space, is located across from Saint Mary's College

near the corner of Rheem Blvd and St. Mary's Rd. The Town would like to sell it as a property of between one and five lots that could be built on. On June 6 the Council, playing the role of the property owner in this story, asked the Planning Commission for advice on how the land should be divided.

Jim Townsend, Trails Development Program Manager for the East Bay Regional Park District that maintains and operates the Lafayette Moraga Regional Trail (Trail), told the Council that there should be no development on the land in question. "It is important for the community to recognize that this parcel is open space; we have a limited amount of it and when it is gone, it is gone for ever," he said.

Roger Poynts, a civil engineer and land surveyor, presented a plan for five small lots. His proposal considers all Town-owned land along Saint Mary's Road, including the Moraga Commons Park, as a single open space parcel of 40.8 acres. Open space density is one home for every five acres; he said that the Town could develop up to eight homes and recommended building five on a total of 1.7 acres. He suggested that in a time of need, this solution would be better than raising taxes.  
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### Schools C10

#### Count Reading In:

How to Build Reading into Your Child's Summer



**By Diana LaScala-Gruenewald**

After a long and rainy winter, the sun has finally decided to bless Lamorinda with its first radiant week. In every neighborhood kids are basking in their sudden freedom...  
read on page C10

### Life in Lamorinda C1-C7

#### Lafayette Locals Contribute to New Book



**By Cathy Dausman**

Cailin Mirabella is just 10-years old, but she's already designed winning artwork. Twice. A poster she designed while living in Arkansas in 2009 took first place in the second grade category in a statewide Smokey Bear contest. Now this self-possessed ...  
... read on page C1

### Our Homes D1-D8

#### Orinda's Windsor Chair Guy—George Lucido



**By Andrea A. Firth**

George Lucido was destined to work with wood. One of the first things he did when he moved to Orinda in 1984 was build a workshop out back, a small space of his own where he taught himself to carve wood. The walls of the workshop ....  
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