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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Wednesday, August 31, 2011

"Raising Centered Kids"
MADLINE LEVINE, PhD
 of 'Race to Nowhere' &
 Stanford's 'Challenge Success' Program



Sunday
Oct. 9

6:00-7:00 p.m. \$10 / in advance
 Presented by lamorinda familycenter at LOPC
 REGISTER ONLINE TODAY, **LOPC.org**



Last week's welcome program included painting the large "SMC" up on the hill. Photo Ohlen Alexander

WoW: Meet the SMC Class of 2015

By Alex Kozela

The first weekend of college life can be an opportunity to kickstart an exciting new chapter in someone's life, but that's not to say the task isn't also daunting at an unfamiliar school. The student leaders at Saint Mary's College, however, have done their best to wel-

come the incoming Class of 2015 with open arms.

After moving in last Thursday, freshmen Gaels participated in a full slate of activities in the appropriately-named "Weekend of Welcome," including: a farewell dinner; a scavenger hunt; painting the SMC; "Gray

zones" that focused on the struggles of college life that range from alcohol use to roommate situations; and a "Playfair" that eased the process of meeting peers through a series of icebreakers.

... continued on page A8

Quote of the Week:

"(She) taught me that thinking outside the box is not only acceptable but the best way to bring about lasting peace." Sadly, read the article, *Peace Activist and Green Award Winner Louise Clark Dies*, on page B3.

Advertising

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Town News	A2 - A10
Community Service	A8
Letters to the Editor	A10
Life in Lamorinda	B1-B8
Not to be Missed	B4-B5
HOW TO CONTACT US	B7
Dining	B7
Sports	C1-C3
Classified	C2
Service Directory	C4
Schools	C4-C5
Shop Orinda	C6
Our Homes	D1-D8

This Week Read About:

Big Deal	A2
New Planning Director	A4
Urgent Repair Policy	A6
Pear Lessons	C1
Zucchini Pride	B3
Master Gardener Event	B5
Fall Fashion	B8
DFAL Volleyball	C1
Measure E Projects	C5

Firestorm: Prepare Your Home

FireWise home assessments offered by MOFD

By Lucy Amaral



Homeowner Keith Horrocks takes notes while MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley discusses what actions to take to make his home a more defensible space. Photo Lucy Amaral

Many of us would rather not think about what might happen in a major disaster, and it can be even harder to go about preparing for such an emergency. We tell ourselves, "It may never happen." Or, "it's too complicated." And probably most common: "We have time...we'll do it later."

When it comes to natural disasters, such as a wildland fire, that kind of thinking can be dangerous. Moraga Orinda Fire District's (MOFD) Fire Chief Randy Bradley has said that it's not a matter of "if" a firestorm will happen; it's a matter of "when." And, when it comes, it could be big, and fast. High temperatures, racing "Diablo Winds," and low humidity can combine with disastrous results. A tragic example of this combination is the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire storm. In less than 24 hours it consumed more than 1,500 acres, destroyed or damaged 3,469 living units, killed 25 people, injured 150 people caused \$1.5 billion in loss.

Bradley said that Moraga and Orinda share a number of similarities to Oakland. "The homes are about the same age, and the vegetation and topography are similar," he said. The thing going for the area, he added, is that the lots are bigger than the standard Oakland lot, so there might be less home-to-home ignition.

... continued on page A9

Life in Lamorinda B1-B8

Labyrinths: Walking in Circles with a Purpose

By Cathy Dausman

The pace of life in Lamorinda can sometimes make people feel as if they're running in circles. Oddly enough, some seek out another circle to quiet the mind and disconnect. They walkread on page B1



Sports C1-C3

Tough Competition Ahead

By Alex Kozela

The Saint Mary's women's soccer team is off to a flying start in what promises to be a challenging but hopeful campaign.

The Gaels have begun the young season undefeated, tying 1-1 on the road... ..read on page C3



Our Homes D1-D8

Luxury Homes Rise at Wilder

By Diana LaScala-Gruenewald

The Wilder exit lies just east of the Caldecott Tunnel on Highway 24, and pulls quickly away from the noise of traffic. Shortly the road drops over a hill, revealing a silent, stunning vista full of radiant yellows and greensread on page D1

