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Tuesday-Saturday 10-6

Farmers' Market Holiday Harvests

OPEN WEEKLY, RAIN OR SHINE! CAFARMERSMKTS.COM 1-800-806-FARM

Santa is coming to the Farmers' Market!

Kids will love Santa's free Kids Crafts, and You will love finding the freshest fruits and vegetables direct from local farmers and specialty food purveyors, just perfect for your holiday celebrations!



MEET SANTA ...

Moraga Farmers' Market
FACEBOOK.COM/MORFARMERSMKT
MORAGA CENTER AND MORAGA WAY

**SUNDAY
DEC. 18
9AM - 1PM**



**SATURDAY
DEC. 24
9AM - 1PM** *Diablo Valley Farmers' Market*
FACEBOOK.COM/DVFARMERSMKT
N. WIGET LANE & MITCHELL DRIVE, WALNUT CREEK
OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE & NEW YEARS EVE!

Join 5A and share in



The Magic of Christmas

Everyone is welcome
and everything is Free!

Free photos with Santa, Sunday, Dec. 18th from 11:00 am ~ 3:00 pm. Plus... treats, gifts and activities!

Free wrapping room with ribbon, paper and everything you need to wrap secret gifts! Dec. 1-23

These events are just our way of saying "Thank You" to our community this Holiday Season!



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Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community!

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only).

Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis.

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com;

Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

Bravo! to the Lafayette PD and the Lafayette City Council in their purchase of-- in place of two new patrol car replacements-- two motorcycle units. This enhanced enforcement program was completed at no added associated cost and gives us a capability we have not heretofore had. From what I am hearing, not all Lafayette residents are altogether delighted with the new motorcycle enforcement. But the two existing traffic officers -- who previously had used cars and now ride cycles a good part of the year, are earning their keep. The Lafayette PD accident stats for year end 2010 totaled 106 collisions. The 2011 collisions totaled, as of Nov. 1, 58. We could expect (if 2010 is an indication) 10 more for the missing November/December numbers. Those would make for a total of 68 for this year. Some of this reduction can, no doubt, be attributed to the reduced vehicle volumes on our roads due to the economic downturn. But, certainly, not all. The motorcycle units started in mid-July and augmented their training by attending motorcycle school. Motor cycle units for Lafayette --which can be useful on Lafayette terrain in locations where patrol cars often cannot-- had been considered several times in the past. And, for various reasons, were rejected. Fortunately, Chief Mike Hubbard and our creative City Council found a way to get them for us. I know of many Lafayette residents who surely will be very grateful.

Lynn Hiden
Lafayette

Editor:

Our community, Orinda, is such a great city! But, our community has such bad roads!

With only an \$11 million annual budget, Orinda will never be able to spend more than \$1 million annually on road repair/maintenance. This guarantees that each year, the City will make fewer repairs than the roads need. Our roads -- particularly our residential roads, where most of us live -- will gradually and inevitably deteriorate even further. More potholes. Even gravel? The trend is down, down, except for the big roads, where we get matching funds from outside.

Much of our sales tax and property taxes leave Orinda, never to return. Our big brothers, Contra Costa County and the State of California grab our revenues and don't let go.

Convince the legislature to change the law? Keep more of that existing revenue here? Very unlikely to convince the huge -- and nearly broke -- State of California to change. They have enough problems. Get money for Orinda roads from the fire department? From our school districts? Other local districts? They are separate entities. Separate boards of directors. They have enough problems; they have a legal duty to take care of their own responsibilities.

Can we just re-order our city budget? Give more to roads? That would cripple police services. Cripple recreation services, classes at the Community Center, especially for our children and older adults (CPR classes).

Should we just let the roads go? Yes, we could.

Or, should we try to keep more money here, to fix our roads by ourselves? One way to do that is to vote in a new revenue stream or tax that, very strictly, may only be used in Orinda, only for Orinda roads, not for anything else. Such a tax cannot be subject to the highway robbery that is foisted upon us now by the county and state.

Will it take political will to do this? Of course. But, it is within the control of our community.

Keep our money at work in Orinda. Bypass the dysfunction in state and federal governments. Embrace changes we citizens of Orinda can make to put our hands on the cash we need.

We can fix my road, fix your road, our roads, our community.

Sincerely,
David W. Anderson

Orinda

... continued on next page

Public Announcement

Supervisor Gayle B. Uilkema will be interviewing applicants for District 2 county commissions and committees. Lamorinda residents are invited to apply for current vacancies:

Contra Costa County Women's Commission (CCCWC) advises the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and other entities on issues relating to the changing social and economic conditions of women in the County, with particular emphasis on the economically disadvantaged.

Family & Children's Trust Committee (FACT) makes funding recommendations on the allocation of a variety of funds for prevention and intervention services to reduce child abuse and neglect, provide supportive services to families and children, and promote a more coordinated, seamless system of services for families.

Application forms and more information are available from Supervisor Uilkema's office (925/335-1046), the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors (925/335-1900), or on line at <http://contra.napanet.net/maddybook/>.