

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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FREE

Opening Day this Sunday

Lafayette Farmers Market

SUNDAYS YEAR-ROUND

URBAN VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET ASSOCIATION

South BART parking lot

9am-1pm

See you there!



The scaffold-enclosed Old Yellow House is off its foundations while being refurbished. Photos Cathy Dausman

Greening the (Pink) Old Yellow House

By Cathy Dausman

A colorful Orinda home and its storied past is becoming environmentally green, thanks to a new owner. The Old Yellow House, as it was originally known, has actually been pink since 1991 and unoccupied since 1966. But new owner James Wright said he is excited to begin his restoration project, emphasizing that he plans to refurbish rather than replace. His enthusiasm for the work to be done and his affection for the Orinda landmark is quite contagious.

Wright consulted with Orinda's Historical Landmarks Committee (HLC) to insure that the house "should look as close as possible to its original form." He introduced himself to neighbor and former resident Ezra Nelson, tapped Nelson's memories of how the house once was, applied for a historic landmark designation for the house, and plans to refurbish the dwelling, inside and out.

Its exterior will be repainted close to its original yellow color

and the inside will be made environmentally green. Wright is a renewable energy architect who plans to live and work at that address, while using it as a model for a zero-energy environment. Four HLC members and Assistant City Planner Roscoe Mata recently toured the site. The group approved Wright's exterior color choice. "I am so glad it's being preserved," said HLC member Kay Norman. "The feeling up here [second story] is so nice," said another.

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James Wright shows off the vintage newspapers nestled under the home's linoleum flooring.

Quote of the Week:

"The right to marry is an acknowledgment of the equal rights of gays and lesbians to engage fully in the life of our nation."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A9

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Moraga School District Entangled in Decades-Old Scandal

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga School District (MSD) has been confronted with an outcry from parents and local residents over the past two weeks, requesting the full investigation of whether then Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School (JM) Principal Bill Walters and possibly other school officials failed in their legal obligation as mandated reporters under the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act during the 1990s sexual misconduct scandal involving JM science teacher Dan Witters.

California Penal Code section 11164, known as the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act, states that individuals working in close proximity to children have the legal obligation to contact Social Services or the local law enforcement agency if they suspect or have reasons to believe that a child has been abused or neglected. The law was first written to include teachers in 1974.

All personnel working in the proximity of children are "mandated reporters." They include teachers, administrators, teachers' aids and assistants, but also employees of day camps, recreational facilities, and social workers, to name a few. According to Lauren Brosnan, community outreach coordinator with Contra Costa Children's Protective Services, pending amendments to the law will also include sports coaches as mandated reporters.

The mandated reporter must report suspected abuse as soon as he/she becomes aware of it. The law specifies the reporter has to call social services or police immediately, or as soon as feasible, and needs to follow up with a written report within 36 hours. Contacting the hierarchy instead is not an option.

Failure to report as defined by Penal Code 11166(c) is characterized as a misdemeanor pun-

ishable by up to six months in county jail, a fine of \$1,000, or both.

According to Moraga Police Chief Bob Priebe, the chief of police at that time discussed the case (non-reporting of suspected child abuse by Walters) with the then district attorney. "Since nothing was done at that time in regards to mandated reporting, child endangerment or any other issues, any prosecution at this time would be precluded due to the statute of limitations," said Priebe in an e-mail.

Moraga parent Sam Shapiro, dean of instruction and teacher at Athenian School, met with MSD Superintendent Bruce Burns June 1. He said the School District should take two steps: "First, the District should continue to look into ways to prosecute Mr. Walters for his failure to protect children.

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Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

Summer Reading, and More

Jennifer Wake has suggestions for summer reading fun! Page B1



Sports C1-C3

Acalanes, Campolindo Win NCS!

Simon Tryzna has the baseball success stories. Page C1



Our Homes D1-D8

At Home in Tuscany?

Sophie Braccini views an award-winning remodel with a distinctly Italian flair. Page D1

