

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Olivia Williams finished the 6-and-under 25-yard butterfly in 23.47 seconds.

Photo Kevin Nguyen

Lafayette Swim Conference's First Championship

By Rebecca Eckland

Last weekend, you saw the sights and sounds of any swim meet: the smell of chlorine, the flicker of a swimmer's body through the water, and excited cries as athletes neared record-breaking finishes. But this swim meet was unlike any other. Five Lafayette teams—Sun Valley Swim Team, Springbrook, Rancho Colorados, Lafayette Moraga Youth As-

sociation (LMYA) and Oakwood Swim Team-- competed together in the first-annual Lafayette Swim Conference (LSC) Championship meet at the Steve Heaston Aquatic Center.

A new innovation of the LSC is its methods of scoring. In addition to traditional scoring methods, LSC has added new categories. Teams are now ranked according to improved or "pop"

times and points per swimmer. There is also a "spirit award" which was granted to Sun Valley Swim Team for the unrelenting enthusiasm of its athletes and coaches.

Springbrook took the LSC Team Ranking crown, earning 5,310.5 points. Rancho Colorados was the runner-up.

... continued on page C1

Quote of the Week:

"Running, as opposed to serving, is a gauntlet for those who choose public service in retirement."

Read Harpham Decides One Term is Enough, page A5 (election updates for Lafayette and Orinda can be found on A2 and A7).

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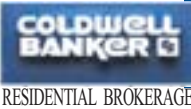
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Town Okays Sales Tax Measure for November Ballot

By Cathy Tyson

The Moraga Town Council enthusiastically agreed to put a one-cent sales tax measure, that would sunset in 20 years, on the November ballot to fund road and storm drain repair. It's no secret to residents that according to The Pothole Report, Moraga's roads rank in the lowest 15 percent of Bay Area roads.

Calling it a "team effort" Town Manager Jill Keimach noted that the endeavor started four years ago with RECON—Revenue Enhancement Community Outreach to Neighborhoods—which was organized to address Moraga's crumbling streets. RECON looked at cost cutting measures and a variety of possible revenue-raising scenarios including an ad valorem tax, a bond measure, a Community Facilities District and a sales tax.

RECON's recommendation came after surveys, extensive community outreach and focus groups showed support of the Town's effort to find a way to fix the roads. In a Town-sponsored survey by Godbe Research in May of 2012, a majority of those that responded supported a \$0.01 sales tax.

There's no extra money available to keep up with the \$25 million cost of road maintenance when the entire budget to keep the Town running is \$6 million annually. To deal with its own state-wide budget issues, government officials in Sacramento have taken nearly \$5 million from the Town of Moraga since 1992. Due to recent declines in property values the Town has seen a slight dip in annual revenue, while the cost of providing public safety, parks and recreation and road

repair has gone up.

"In order to begin addressing the \$25 million backlog in street and road repair needs out of the general fund would require the entire elimination of all other services the Town provides – for over four years," said Keimach in her staff report for the July 25 Town Council meeting. "The Town of Moraga continues to live within its means—never spending more than the current revenue would allow, but as a consequence the streets have fallen further into disrepair. Delaying maintenance and repairs to Moraga's local streets and roads only increase costs in the long run – without additional funds, our street and road condition will decline and the cost of repairs will triple in ten years." ... continued on page A4

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

Holy Shepherd Goes Green

Canyon Construction and Holy Shepherd team up for a new building. Cathy Dausman reports. Page B1



Sports C1-C3

New Mats Coach

Conrad Bassett catches up with Drew McDonald. Page C2



Our Homes D1-D8

Fix it or Fill it?



Cathy Dausman dives into pool remodeling. Page D1