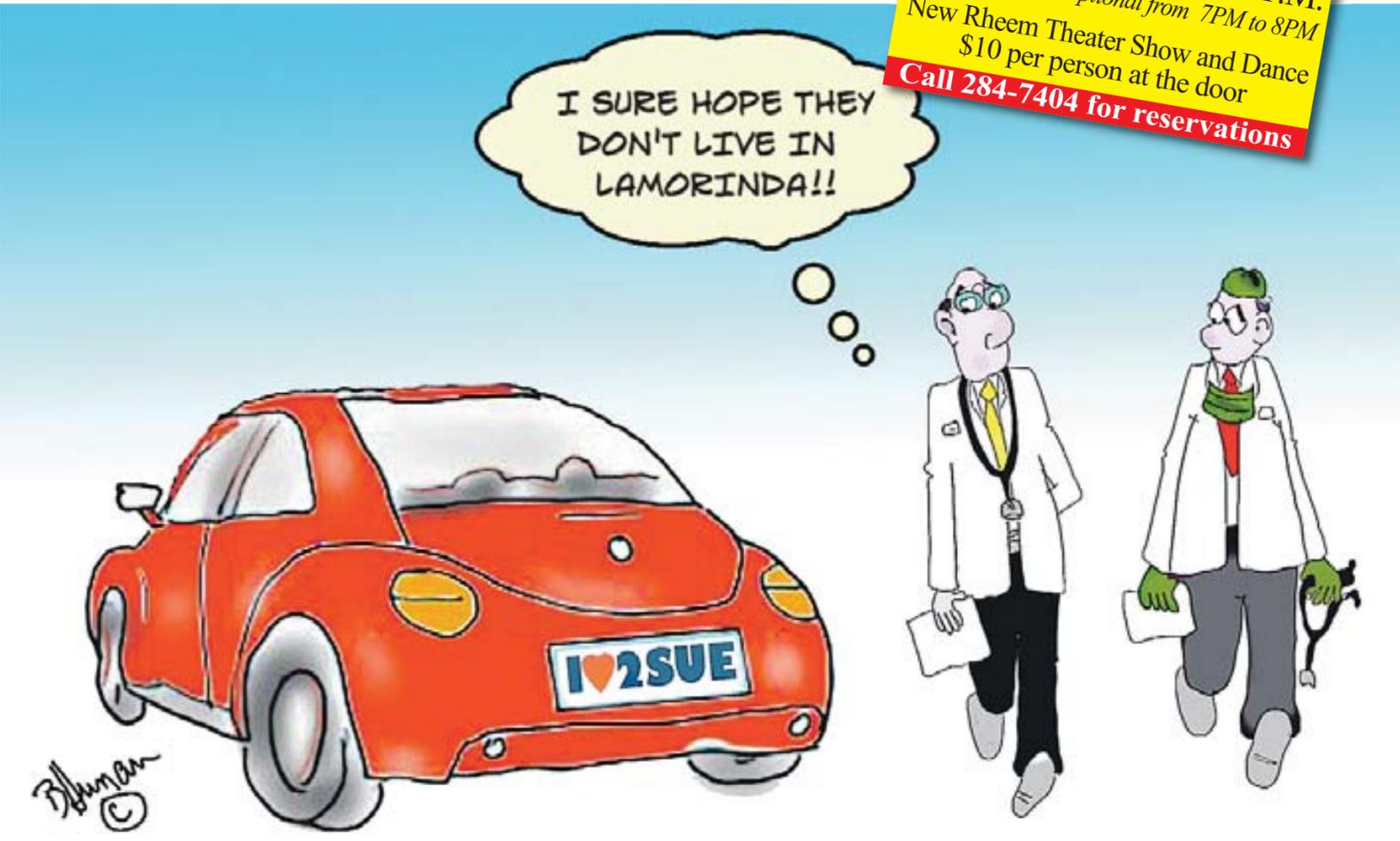


LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Independent, locally owned and operated!

www.lamorindaweekly.com • 925.377.0977



Licensed to Thrill: Vanity Plates in Lamorinda

By Cathy Dausman

Feel like taking a mini-vacation, without ever leaving Lamorinda? Craving something to amuse, challenge, and perhaps educate, all from the comfort and confines of your own automobile? Join us on a visit to the world of vanity plates, coming soon to a street near you. California

DMV offers a dozen specialized license plate backgrounds, with themes from environmental to academic, and well-known vacation destinations. There are Olympic plates and those which honor firefighters and veterans. But it's the words across those metal tags that sometimes puzzle, and

then delight us, as we sound out the shorthand (seven across, maximum) of a cryptic message.

Someone wears their love of town on their car bumper: 4M♥RAGA.

... continued on page A12

Quote of the Week:

"I was so shocked it took me a moment to get mad."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A8

Advertising

Joan Evans
Realtor
925-260-7555
DRE# 01168111

www.joanevans.com

FABULOUS SUPER-SIZED HOME!

89 Brookfield Dr., Moraga
5 + BR, 3.5 BA, spacious updated kitchen, versatile floor plan, lots of yard
\$1,319,000

Angie Evans Traxinger
Licensed Assistant
DRE# 01828901

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Town News	A2 - A12
Letters to the Editor	A8
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B12
Business	B6
Service Directory	B9
Food	B9
Not to be Missed	B10-B11
Sports	C1 - C3
HOW TO CONTACT US	C2
Classified	C2
Shop Moraga	C4
Our Homes	D1 - D8
This Week Read About:	
Clever Container	A2
Planning Signs	A4
Collin Pleads Not Guilty	A6
MOFD Board	A11
Cal Shakes' <i>Blithe Spirit</i>	B1
Veterans Offer Hope	B2
<i>Late Bloomers</i>	B4
Acupuncture for Pets	B5
Families Good for Business	B6
Fall Fashion Trends	B12

The Definition of "Suspicious Behavior"

Hawk-eyed residents help Orinda Police nab burglary suspects

Read Cathy Tyson's related article, Neighborhood Watch – a Helpful Burglary Deterrent, on page B3

By Laurie Snyder

When advising residents how best to protect their homes, Orinda's finest frequently quote the words of law enforcement officials everywhere, "If you witness suspicious activity in your neighborhood," followed by the digits of the telephone number for a 24-hour police response line. Often, though, area residents fail to take timely enough action because they aren't quite sure what types of behavior may qualify as genuinely *suspicious*.

A fine example was recently provided for Lamorindans. Just past 11 a.m. August 7, a Muth Drive resident called Orinda's dispatch line to report what she thought might be questionable activity by several young men. She saw, according to the Orinda Police Department account, "someone exit a vehicle and knock on doors of homes while three occupants remained in the car," and "provided a general description of the vehicle." Dispatch personnel were later informed that the four suspects from the car – all juveniles – "went to the rear of (a) house on Muth Drive."

A second Orindan, calling in later, reported a potential residential burglary on Martha Road. Thanks to both tips, an Orinda Police sergeant and his colleagues were alerted. The sergeant pulled over a vehicle matching the first caller's description at Camino Pablo and Brookwood. Other officers conducting a search of the home which was allegedly burglarized were able to confirm that a crime had indeed occurred.

Police were able to recover weapons (a shotgun and a knife), cash, jewelry, cameras, and musical instruments.

"An in-field line up was conducted with the four juveniles who were positively identified as the suspects," said police representatives. "The four were arrested for residential burglary and conspiracy" and booked into Juvenile Hall.

In both cases, said Orinda Police Chief Jeffrey Jennings, callers noticed activity that differed from regular neighborhood routines.

... continued on page A12

Late Summer Traditions



Photo Kevin Nguyen

Swim championships mark the coming of the end of summer in Lamorinda, as swim team families try to squeeze in quick trips out of town before the first day of school. Late July saw the new Lafayette Swim Conference's big event, which you read about in our last issue, while August heated up with the Orinda Moraga Pool Association and Contra Costa County Championship swim meets—read about these in our Sports section starting on page C1.

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

Wedding Cake Bliss

Susie Iventosch creates her first wedding cake, and shares some tips for do-it-yourselfers! Page B9



Sports C1-C3

High School Football

The Mats and Dons will be looking to take down the reigning DFAL champion Cougars. Symon Tryzna lays it out. Page C2



Our Homes D1-D8

Thinking About a Home Theater?

Cathy Dausman talks to the experts. Page D1

