

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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## raising HAPPINESS

Simple Steps for Happier Parents & Kids

Dr. Christine Carter

Sunday, October 14  
5:00 p.m.

Register at LOPC.org

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FREE



Postmaster Elena Tyrrell graciously accepts a plaque in her honor surrounded by, from left, County Supervisor Candace Andersen, long time resident Deva Rajan and Canyon Steinzig, President of the Canyon Community Association Photo Ohlen Alexander

## Zip Code 94516: Necessary at 90?

Canyon residents defend post office's usefulness

By Cathy Dausman

Canyon Post Office forms what resident Jeanne Lorenz called a "unique gateway to the community." Nestled in a secluded glade of redwood trees barely two miles from Moraga where trout still swim in the brook on site, cyclists speeding by lean into the roadway curves, the building doesn't look its age—perhaps because of a face lift in the mid-1980s—but the grand

dame of Canyon is now 90 years old. Naturally there was a party: the Canyon community held a birthday celebration August 25 to celebrate the post office and to raise awareness of its importance. Lorenz kicked things off, pointing out to the dozens of post office fans in attendance, including a handful of Lamorinda dignitaries and a television news

crew. "The post office is the straight arm of our curvy community."

Canyon Fire's Jonathan Goodwin welcomed new County Supervisor Candace Andersen, describing his home as "an unusual community, old west or perhaps from the Jurassic period; dinosaurs have been sighted here. ... continued on page A12

**Quote of the Week:**

"So, like Disneyland, we keep on reinventing ourselves."

Read *Craft Beer Land Debuts at Art & Wine Festival*, page A10

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## Moraga School District to Implement Safety Curriculum

Student Safety Committee presents recommendations to School Board

By Sophie Braccini

In the aftermath of reports late last spring revealing that a Moraga School District principal had failed 16 years ago in his duty as mandated reporter, Superintendent Bruce Burns proposed the creation of a Student Safety Committee that was tasked with spending the summer reviewing existing policies and proposing improvements. Last week, on the eve of the first day of classes in the new school year, the committee presented its findings to the Moraga School District Governing Board. Among the committee's recommendations is the implementation of a safety curriculum for the District's most vulnerable population—the students themselves.

"The committee went through what happened 16 years ago to identify gaps and make recommendations," said Burns. The Board accepted, and has begun to implement, all of

the recommendations, which include more training for staff and teachers, providing information to parents and the community, and the creation of a safety curriculum for all children enrolled in Moraga schools.

"A subcommittee is looking at what's being done across the country to teach children what is appropriate and what is not, and what their rights are," said Burns, who anticipates that a safety program for students will begin in early 2013.

Regarding additional training for adults, Burns explained, "Up to now we talked about mandated reporting, among other high profile issues, once a year with all District employees," he said. "The committee asked that the information be given twice a year." The first session with employees was held August 20; the second will happen before the end of Jan-

uary, 2013. A special workshop for the administrative team, at which barriers to reporting will be discussed, is scheduled for October.

The Board asked for clarification of what a teacher should do if a colleague tells her about a suspicion of abuse but doesn't know if that colleague has reported the suspicion. "The rule is, 'if in doubt, report,'" stated Burns.

Burns said the District is also trying to reach out to parents. "We organized an information session for parents on August 20," but although all District parents were invited, only eight attended. The timing of the workshop may have been the problem, he mused, adding, "That presentation was excellent, we might do it again later this year."

... continued on page A4

**LAMORINDA WEEKLY**

Town News	A2 - A12
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B12
Business	B6
Service Directory	B9
Food	B9
Not to be Missed	B10-B11
Sports	C1 - C3
Classified	C2
<b>HOW TO CONTACT US</b>	C3
Love Lafayette	C4
Our Homes	D1 - D8

**This Week Read About:**

Running for School Board	A2, A5, A6
Parking Permits?	A3
Road Work	A4
Historic Mural	A7
September Fun	A10-11
Pig's Big Adventure	B1
Electric Alums	B5
A Pair for Readers	B8
Kids Tri Results	C3

**Life in Lamorinda B1-B12**

### Tender, Loving Care

Laurie Snyder meets Moraga's Bruce and Bea Cunningham. Page B3



**Sports C1-C3**

### Gaels Start Strong

SMC men's soccer takes to the field. Simon Tryzna reports. Page C1



**Our Homes D1-D8**

### Feng Shui

Sophie Braccini discovers there are many paths to harmony. Page D1

