

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Home '13 expo
 Sunday, January 27, 2013
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Veterans Memorial Building
 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
FREE to the public!
www.LamorindaWebHomeExpo.com

26,000 copies delivered bi-weekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses

FREE



Lafayette resident Karen Bottiani with her horse, Cupcake

Photo Cathy Dausman

Horse Culture in Lamorinda Changing Bit by Bit

By Cathy Dausman

Colorful local street names like Cattle Chute Road and Dead Horse Canyon Road only hint at Lamorinda's involvement with horses. In fact, the semi-rural area has a long history with all things equine, dating back to Pony Express rides through Lafayette in the early 1860s.

More recently, rider Linda Ostman said Lamorinda was once an area of backyard horse owners and that Contra Costa County was known to have one of the largest horse

populations in the state of California.

"We rode our horses all over the place," said Lafayette's Nancy Brown. Brown grew up in Moraga where over time she owned and rode three horses. "I kept my first horse in the Moraga Horseman's Association pasture behind Joaquin Moraga School," she said. "MHA was the equestrian club back in the day."

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Quote of the Week:

"Could it be that our hospitality extends only to those who are as fortunate as us?"

Read Letters to the Editor, page A10

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Easy Access to Crime Information for Lamorinda

By Cathy Tyson

Who wouldn't want to know about crime in their neighborhood, especially if it's easy and free? CrimeReports.com allows users to input an address and a map pops up that displays all the crime in the immediate area, broken down by date, time and type. With the click of a mouse, it's easy to zoom in and out, to see crimes in Walnut Creek or Oakland.

When compared to Oakland, Lamorinda residents clearly have safer communities. When searching Lafayette, be sure to include California, lest that other Lafayette in Louisiana pops up. Moraga doesn't subscribe to this service, but oddly enough there was an error that placed several registered sex offenders, who have actual addresses in San Jose, in town.

Color coded boxes indicate if it's a

"T" for theft or "A" for assault or other logical abbreviation. Additional customization such as selecting a range of dates from three to seven to 30 days can be selected or narrowing down a search to incident layers, perhaps if someone only wanted to check out thefts from a vehicle can be chosen.

The company bills itself as the only near real-time source for both crime data and sex offender information. Because they contract with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, both Lafayette and Orinda crimes are posted on this website. Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen explains that CrimeReports.com is a private company that they subscribe to. "We feed the data that relates to Lafayette through the Sheriff's Office to the service provider." Information from over 700 participating law

enforcement agencies maps out the crime scene for all 50 states using cloud-based software.

For the past year, Moraga police have chosen Nixle for emergency messaging. Nixle uses phones and e-mail to deliver information to residents who have signed up for the free service. The idea started with a major road closure that led to a substantial traffic back-up. Moraga Chief Robert Priebe called it "a cost-effective solution" when it was introduced; there's no charge to the police department for the service. Nixle sends those that register notices on road closures, law enforcement activity, and emergency alerts. With a year of Nixle behind them, Priebe said, "We are very happy with it and have received several positive comments and appreciation from the community."



To sign up for Nixle, go to www.nixle.com or simply send a text message to 888777, and enter the appropriate information.

CrimeReports.com requires no sign up to look up addresses, however members can sign up to receive crime alerts if requested. There's also a free iPhone application.

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Life in Lamorinda

B1-B10

Theater Drama

ADA non-compliance leads to the closure of upstairs theaters at Rheem. Sophie Braccini has the details.



Sports

C1-C3

Girls Hoops

The lady Mats are dominating DFAL play. Simon Tryzna reports.



Our Homes

D1-D12

Counter Intelligence

Time to replace your kitchen counters? Cathy Dausman considers the options.

