

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Photos Cathy Dausman

The Scoop on Mom

By Cathy Dausman

Few things in life are as comforting as warm sun and ice cold treats! And when Mom buys, the smiles are glued to children's sticky faces. *Lamorinda Weekly* recently asked the younger set what they liked best about their mom—other than having her take them for ice cream!

Jake, of Moraga was digging into his cold bowl of cookies

and cream-flavored ice cream—his favorite. "She gives me hugs and kisses all the time," he said of his mother, Stacia Ruffolo. As if that alone didn't melt your heart, he added he was willing to "pay for [her] ice cream" on Mother's Day.

Clara and her mom Daisy Sop live in Orinda but were enjoying their "after school activity" in Moraga. They came in

search of purple Ube ice cream, but settled for rainbow sherbet. Clara, just 2, was focused more on her treat than the interview, but did admit shyly she likes her mom's "big hugs."

Second-grader Gabriella, of Lafayette, pondered the question a moment while studying her frozen treat. "She takes me to all my lessons," she said of her mom. ... continued on page A12

Quote of the Week:

"We just want everyone to know that anyone can get breast cancer, but also, that anyone can help fight it too."

Read Reagan and Zoe's Mother's Day Walk Against Breast Cancer, page B5.

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~ HE'S ALL ABOUT LAMORINDA ~

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Sperling to Step Down

By Nick Marnell

Moraga-Orinda Fire District board president Frank Sperling confirmed to *Lamorinda Weekly* that he will announce his resignation from the board of directors at its May meeting. Sperling has represented MOFD Division I since his election to the board in 2006, but he and his wife will soon be moving out of the district.

"This was a bittersweet decision that we have made," said Sperling. "While in many ways it simplifies our lives, it also removes me from one of my greatest passions - to continue volunteering to make Moraga and Orinda even better places to live. Because my primary residence will no longer be in Division 1 of the MOFD, I need to step down prior to our move. I will for-

mally notify the MOFD board and the public at our May 15 board of directors meeting that my term will end on May 24."

Sperling has lived in Moraga since 1987. He said that it was time to move to a smaller house, but he could not find what he needed in the Lamorinda area; Montclair will be the Sperlings' new home.

Though Sperling would take no personal credit for any accomplishments as director, he did note with satisfaction the district's recent development of its long-range financial plan and its plan to move toward a 100 percent certified paramedic firefighter staff.

Sperling's term expires in 2014. Director John Wyro is the board's vice president.

It Could Happen

The "what if" scenario for Lafayette fire service

By Nick Marnell

Is Lafayette nearing its breaking point with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District? Consider these recent comments and actions:

- In 2012, ConFire closed Lafayette's station 16.
- A potential fire station consolidation with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District has been questioned by members of the MOFD board because of their lack of faith in ConFire's finances.
- At a recent Lafayette city council meeting, supervisor Candace Andersen could not assure MOFD director Fred Weil that Lafayette's station 17 will not experience a staffing cutback

in order to help fund the proposed consolidation. "She did say that two-person companies work very well, in places like Vallejo. I tried to talk to her about this after the meeting, but she wouldn't talk to me," said Weil.

- Vince Wells, president of United Professional Firefighters Local 1230, spoke guardedly about the district's future. "ConFire is at an unsafe staffing level at this point. A lot of things are not known about what is going to happen with ConFire," he said.

- ConFire's 2013-14 preliminary budget called for more station closures. ... continued on page A9

Life in Lamorinda

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Moraga Triathlon: 372 athletes, 1 bagpiper?

Chris Lavin has the story, page B1.



Sports

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Special Olympics

Marissa Harnett reports on a great day at Acalanes, page C2.



Our Homes

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Divine Designs

Catherine Kauder previews the Lafayette Juniors' Kitchen Tour, page D1.

