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From Front Page

The Scoop on Mom

... continued from page A1

Those lessons include ice skating, violin, golf and dance. She plans to make a card for her mother next weekend.

When *Lamorinda Weekly* caught up with Zac Faber, the self-proclaimed "bottomless pit" of Lafayette, his bowl of marshmallow and orange flavored yogurt had completely disappeared. He did agree to pose with his mom for the camera.

When Lauren, 10, and Jake, 8, of Lafayette, were asked about their Mother's Day plans, they deferred to their mom, Jennifer Davis. Davis is

taking her children into the city "on a school night." The catch is that both children, quite literally, have to listen to their mother. Davis and 13 others will read their personal essays for a "Listen to your Mother" presentation (www.listentoyourmother-show.com/sanfrancisco/) at the San Francisco Jewish Community Center.

Meanwhile in Orinda, when asked about their mom, Rebecca, Morgan and her brother Jack said, "We have a great Mom." Jack seemed to contemplate the question

a moment before diving into his ice cream cone.

At another table, big brother John, 8, said he loves that his mom, Kellie Williams, "lets me skateboard," and 3-year-old brother Jake said that although he likes it when his mom takes him to preschool, he really likes it when Dad gets to take him!

Probably distracted by her brothers, 6-year-old Ashley said simply, "She loves me."

And that's the scoop. Happy Mother's Day!

Civic News Lafayette

Council Considers Plastic Bags

... continued from page A3

One resident wrote to the city council concerned about bag bacteria and losing freedoms. Longtime resident Joan Bruzzone stated, "I object to the legislature governing behavior."

Jay Lifson of the Chamber of Commerce spoke up to make clear the chamber had no position at this time, but the group had engaged in thought provoking discussions. However, he did speak to stores, including Safeway, that would not oppose the ordinance if adopted.

Council member Don Tatzin questioned whether Lafayette is responsible to enforce bag ordinance rules and if so, what would be the cost? Staff time to pursue the issue was another concern—he noted several items that were put on hold while the downtown specific plan was being addressed that might have to be delayed again.

"We can't legislate that people wash them," said council member Traci Reilly who is concerned about food-borne illness.

Perhaps the ultimate answer lies in Sacramento; currently AB 158 and SB 405 are working their way through the state legislature and would create statewide regulations rather than the patchwork situation that exists now. The bills would establish a ban on single-use plastic carry-out bags at supermarkets, pharmacies and convenience stores throughout the state. In the meantime, the discussion on the bag ban issue was continued by the city council until May 13.

Listen to Civic Meetings from Home

... continued from page A3

"The other great thing about this new technology is that after the meeting is over, the audio for each meeting is then 'tagged' to specific agenda items. So if someone wants to listen to a previous meeting, they can go into the archive, choose the audio for that meeting, and skip directly to a particular item in the agenda."

Because these meetings tend to run long, it's possible to double dip, attending in person for the first half, and checking in at home for the conclusion. While public participation and civic engagement are noble goals, folks with young families who log

long hours at work are among the demographic that rarely attends civic meetings. Perhaps streaming audio will encourage this demographic to tune in.

"We think that this is going to be really helpful to promote the city's goal to be as transparent as possible for our public meetings and documents," said Robinson.

The cloud-based technology can manage and store unlimited public meeting data. It's easy to use; just go to the city website, www.love-

lafayette.org, click on agenda, staff reports and minutes under headings for various entities – city council, planning commission and so on. Archived meetings are organized by date with newest first—just click on audio for the meeting you are interested in. The meeting's agenda also shares the audio webpage with helpful links to staff reports detailing specific items. It's almost like being there.

Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

Moraga-Orinda Joint Council Meeting

Fire Chief Randall Bradley presented an overview of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District at a joint meeting of the Moraga Town Council and Orinda City Council held April 29 in Orinda.

Bradley outlined the district's long-range financial plan, which shows MOFD debt cleared within 15 years, based largely on a 4 percent annual property tax increase and a favorably-negotiated union contract. Labor negotiations resumed in March; MOFD firefighters have worked without a contract since 2011.

Orinda council member Victoria Smith asked Bradley about his plan to lower response times in Sleepy Hollow. "I believe the answer for Sleepy Hollow is to move our station 45 toward Miner Road and put it either near the intersection of Camino Pablo and Miner, or in the area near the country club. But that's about 10 years out," he said. "It's hard to just move fire stations."

Bradley said that he is still in favor of the joint venture with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District to build and operate a new fire station 46 on Lorinda Lane in Lafayette, despite mixed support from his board.

Moraga Mayor Dave Trotter said station 46 should be staffed and operated by MOFD. He warned that reducing staff at Lafayette station 17 to help fund the consolidation would become a problem for Moraga.

"Lamorinda needs to be managed by a single fire service," stated Trotter.

Early Red Flag Warning

The National Weather Service issued the first Red Flag Warning of 2013 for the Lamorinda area on April 30. "We can't recall a Red Flag Warning occurring any earlier than this in at least 15 years," said Austin Cross of the NWS.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District chief Randall Bradley stated he is very concerned about wildfires this year due to the lack of rainfall, higher than normal temperatures and an abundance of dry vegetation, and that he staffed additional firefighters and equipment for the Red Flag Warning period.

"During the actual Red Flag period, it's critical to prevent accidental fires," said Daryl Louder, fire chief of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. He urged caution in using machinery, and working around outside fires and other ignition sources.

ConFire recommends that residents create an adequate defensible space around their homes, and remove dead or dying vegetation from their properties. "The most important time is before the Red Flag period occurs," said Louder.