



MICHAEL VERBRUGGE
CONSTRUCTION INC.
General Contractor

925.631.1055 www.MVCRemodeling.com

Specializing in kitchens & bathrooms.
All forms residential remodel/repair.




"A little bit of myself goes into every job."
Michael Verbrugge,
Owner,
Moraga Resident




Clean | Courteous | Conscientious
On-time | Trustworthy | Local References
Full design team resources available

~ HE'S ALL ABOUT LAMORINDA ~



CLARK THOMPSON
REAL ESTATE BROKER
Village ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE

Office: 925-254-8585
Cell: 925-998-7898
email: ct@clarkthompson.com
Search the MLS: www.clarkthompson.com



93 Moraga Way, Orinda
DRE #: 00903367

Cabinet Modifications

With over 25 years fulfilling custom needs, we can alter or modify most cabinetry, while still utilizing your existing cabinetry for:

- Large TVs/ Refrigerators and appliances
- Recycle Bins and shelf pullouts
- Cabinet alterations/repairs

Thinking about home, office, entertainment, custom cabinetry, shelving, crown mouldings, baseboards, new doors or mantels? We can help there, too!

925.827.1093 Paul Kephart Master Craftsman
www.TheCabinetMd.com




TG HARDWOOD FLOORS
Moraga California
DESIGN • REFINISHING • INSTALLATION
925-376-1118
Lic # 974653

Since 1993!
Tom Gieryng, owner and operator

CALL TOM FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

UPHOLSTERY SPECIALIST

REFINISHING AND RESTORATION

- Slipcovers • Pillows • Window Cushions
- Custom Upholstery • Design Consulting

Marine - Commercial - Residential

Pickup & Delivery Available • Free Estimates By Phone



M.R.S.
Fine Old World Craftsmanship
Family Owned And Operated For Over 55 yrs.

3418 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

Mon.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-2
(925) 962-0579

LAFAYETTE PAINTING

A Color Coordinated Exterior Paint Job By us will make your home Appraisal at least \$20,000 Higher!

All Work Supervised By Owner/Contractor

- Re-painting Specialist
- Color Coordinating
- Remodeling
- Restorations
- Waterproofing
- Redwood Deck Renewal
- Acoustic Ceiling Removal

A Local Contractor Living & Working In The Lamorinda Area For Over 20 Years
FREE Estimates 283-8621

\$300 OFF Complete Interior or Exterior exp. 9-1-13

Fully Insured Lic. #342005

BURKIN ELECTRIC

"Let Us Light Up Your Life"

Residential • Commercial • Industrial



Serving Contra Costa since 1991
More than 35 years experience
All Work Done by Owner

Bonded & Insured
Lic.#C10-631523

Professional Installation of:

- Ceiling Fans, Recessed & Track Lighting
- Kitchen or Bath Remodel
- Exterior/Security/Landscape Lighting
- Electrical Service Upgrade
- Complete Home Wiring - Old & New
- Spa Installation

(925) 672-1519
www.BurkinElectric.net



James Burkin
Sole Proprietor

Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force

Deep into the night of June 10 – actually, at 12:40 a.m. June 11 – and with the support of a handful of concerned Lafayette residents who stayed til the wee hours to voice their opinions, the Lafayette City Council voted unanimously to create the 2013 Emergency Services Task Force; its mission to analyze the delivery of fire and emergency medical services to Lafayette residents. It is expected to deliver a preliminary report by Sept. 30.

“One-third of the city has no fire service, and that is unacceptable,” said Councilmember Brandt Andersson. The Board of Supervisors closed Lafayette’s fire station 16 and has no plans to reopen it in the near future. When the board also rejected the station 46 consolidation plan between the county and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, the city decided to investigate fire service alternatives, including possible annexation into MOFD.

ConFire Advisory Board member Bill Granados made a plea to the City Council on behalf of the fire district. “We want to help. We’re not going to give up on you,” he said. “We didn’t drop the ball; four supervisors did that...What you’re doing tonight may open their eyes.”

The task force will be comprised of five to seven volunteers, likely including council members Andersson and Traci Reilly.

New President for MOFD Board

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District board of directors elected John Wyro as its president to fill the term of Frank Sperling, who resigned on May 24. The board will consider conducting a special election to fill Sperling's vacant seat; Sperling represented Division 1 in Moraga.

Testy Board of Supervisors

An angry and frustrated Contra Costa County Board of

Supervisors fired back at its June 4 meeting over the public's refusal to accept the dire financial condition of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. Because of budget cuts, the district is faced with another fire station closure in July and one more in January; this after the closing of two other stations in 2012, including Lafayette's station 16.

Firefighters stood along the chamber walls and cheered as ConFire Battalion Chief Ben Smith attacked the board for not finding the money to help rebuild the district. "I know you didn't create these problems, but you refuse to make the hard choices," he said. "You've left us with a ramshackle of a fire department."

"Find the money. We cannot close another fire station." Supervisor Mary Piepho affirmed that the board is committed to maintaining the safety and service to the community despite the budget cutbacks, but she did not think that the meeting chambers should become a battleground between the supervisors and the union. "We shouldn't be fighting one another," she said. "It's communication with the public that needs to occur."

Vice chair Karen Mitchoff was skeptical. "The public won't believe us until something bad happens," she said. "And then we'll be blamed when that happens." Since ConFire has been destaffed by nearly one-third, the board agreed that operational changes need to be made, with the safety of the firefighters of paramount importance. It directed Fire Chief Daryl Louder and staff to address structural issues - like automatic aid - that might further undermine the limited service that exists in the district. "We need to serve the district ratepayers first before we go outside our boundaries," said Piepho.

"We've cried out and we've cried out. I'm beyond frustrated," said Mitchoff. "We are telling the public the truth. But they don't want to accept the truth."

From Front Page

Three Lamorinda Odyssey of the Mind Teams Place in Top 20 at World Finals

... continued from page A1



Moraga Rotary team competing at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. Front row, from left: Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School students Austen Li, Jake Oxendine, Navid Boozarpour; back row: Maya Ramesh, Meera Ramesh, Ming Qian, Anshula Srivastava, and coach Omid Boozarpour. Photo provided

Then the competition started. Stanley Middle School's team placed 8th in its division for the problem "It's How You Look At It," Glorietta Elementary School's fifth-grade team placed 16th in its division for the "Tumble-wood" problem, and the Moraga team comprised of seven eighth-graders, sponsored by Moraga Rotary, tied for 12th place with Singapore's Saint Margaret's Secondary School and the International School of Geneva.

For JM team members Navid Boozarpour, Austen Li, Jake Oxendine, Ming Qian, Maya Ramesh, Meera Ramesh, and Anshula Srivastava, the voyage started in elementary school when Lydia Oxendine, Fei Lin and Diana Boozarpour heard about the program, talked about it and proposed it to their children. The group as it is today assembled in sixth grade and has competed for three years. They've always done well, but this was their first appearance at the World Finals in their age category.

"This year our project was really

creative and out of the box," says Navid. "We competed in the category called 'ARTchitecture: The Musical' and invented a flipping backdrop for our performance."

Each team faced unique challenges in the competition. For example, the JM team had to imagine, construct and execute a performance that included a replica of an existing ancient monument. The performance had to include three works of art that "disappeared" and two characters that went on a quest to find them. The performance also included two songs that were accompanied by some type of dance.

"We were very strong in the creation of the replica of Chichen Itza, of the artifacts and the general scenario," says Austen.

"One of the high quality things that we did was the acting," adds Jake, "acting, singing and dancing."

They also credited their great results this year to their coach, Omid Boozarpour – a senior at Campolindo and former Odyssey participant himself – for the way he challenged them to think creatively.

"The coach is there to encourage [the team], ask questions and push them to do their best," says Boozarpour. "He cannot make any suggestions."

Odyssey of the Mind is a truly multi-disciplinary challenge that teams work on months in advance of the competitions. Bringing props, materials and performing are not the teams' only challenges. During the competition, teams are given spontaneous problems they have to solve by themselves within a few minutes. For example, making as many bundles as possible of random objects with a small amount of string within three minutes, or inventing a story that has to integrate toothpicks.

Working as a team and trusting each other is a large part of what students learn.

There are many Odyssey of the Mind teams in Lamorinda but, according to the parents, what they need most are volunteer coaches so the program can expand even more. To learn more about Odyssey of the Mind, visit www.odysseyofthemind.com/learn_more.php.