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Crew chiefs practice a harvest at the home of the Rossi Family in Lafayette, from left: Cathy Rambaud, Michael Kyelberg, Nadav Rave, Siamack Sioshansi, Arra Tojino, Christina Hensley, Peter Rossi with twin sons Mike (orange shirt) and Nic (white hat), Patricia Schultz, and Ken Madderra. Photo Andy Scheck

Technology Plus Ancient Gleaning Concept Equals Food for the Hungry

By Cathy Tyson

“Anyone can do it,” said board member Jeff Goodfriend as he exuberantly discussed some of the nuts and bolts to assembled do-gooders about becoming volunteer crew chiefs at a recent Urban Farmers training. The

grassroots, non-profit organization addresses the problem of hunger in our local “world of plenty” and reduces the amount of perfectly good food going to waste while others are in need. Where else can a group of people in four hours harvest

roughly 1,000 pounds of local healthy food, while at the same time help out homeowners with an over-abundance of fruit by leveraging technology and man/woman power? ... continued on page A10

Quote of the Week:

“I bought bars of Irish Spring soap to scrape around the property. The dirt and plants smelled as fresh as the Emerald Isle. He basked in the clean fragrance of the leprechauns, leaping with glee.” Don't miss Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian, page D8.

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Laguna Creek Repair Project Protects Nature

By Sophie Braccini

The heavy rains of 2005 turned Moraga's Laguna Creek into a raging monster that tore at its concrete containment walls as it tumbled through the Hacienda de las Flores property. Since then, blocks of concrete have cluttered the stream, erosion has increased and trees have fallen or become compromised.

The town secured the \$650,000 it needed to repair the creek banks; 75 percent came from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the rest from the California Emergency Management Agency. The repair work began recently and will continue until the end of September.

A field biologist constantly monitors local wildlife and makes sure that birds are not disturbed during their reproductive cycle and red-legged frogs hop in peace.

Laguna Creek runs through the eastern border

of the Hacienda's property, next to the Pavilion, before crossing under Devin Drive; it merges with Moraga Creek, which flows to the San Leandro Reservoir. The year round stream is peaceful most of the time and provides a nice interface with the nature trail at the Hacienda. It used to run where the Pavilion is now located; it was Donald Rheem who diverted the flow in the early 1930s.

When unusually heavy rains fell in 2005 the creek became so powerful it caused major damage to the concrete side banks and the concrete cover above the 9-foot pipe that takes the stream under the site's interior roadway. Repairs have to be done upstream and downstream of the tunnel.

“There are three enemies to concrete,” says Michael Vidra of BKF Engineers, the firm that was awarded the construction contract, “water, water and water.”

A backhoe has been removing large pieces of concrete that fell into the creek during the storm and breaking up the remaining pieces. “The first step was to divert the water with a pump and a pipe so we can work in the stream,” explains Vidra, “then after we remove the concrete we will dig the side banks and bring it to a 3 to 1 slope, and fill it with large diameter rocks. Then we will build a more engineered wall with large footing.”

Downstream the concrete was also torn and the erosion of the unprotected banks makes visible the roots of trees that are starting the lean toward the creek. There the creek runs parallel to Moraga Road – it is not hard to imagine what would happen if the erosion continued and/or water infiltrated under the main thoroughfare.

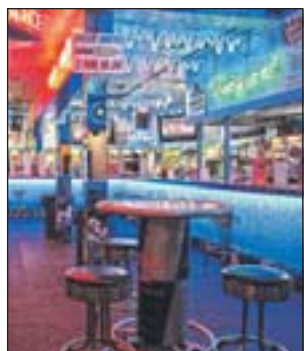
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Life in Lamorinda

B1-B10

Art on the Run?

The Orinda Library Gallery features art by the RoadRunners - page B1.



Sports

C1-C3

LSC Championship

Records fell when Lafayette swim teams took to the water last weekend - page C1.



Our Homes

D1-D12

AIA Tour Highlights Two Lafayette Homes

Cathy Dausman visits the unique abodes - page D1.

