

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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

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FREE

Orinda Parade Photo Ohlen Alexander

Moraga Fun Run Photo Ian Goltra

Join Us In Orinda On The Fourth of July!

8:00 AM Haley's Run for a Reason

10:00 AM Parade with a variety of marching bands, music and lots of festive floats.

11:30 AM Park Celebration with more music, food and fun for all ages

BEST HOMETOWN PARADE 2014

More information go to Orindaassociation.org.
Presented by The Orinda Association for 31 years



Happy Birthday, America!



Orinda Community Park Photo Ohlen Alexander

Moraga Fireworks Photo Kevin Goto

By Sophie Braccini

It's almost Independence Day, so strike up the band! This year's Fourth of July parade in Orinda will offer something new: The Blue Devils C Drum and Bugle Corps, along with four other marching bands, will be part of the festivities. The parade will feature bands such as MJ's Brass Boppers, the Mariachi Trio, the Lamorinda Pick-up March-

ing Band, and the Saint Gabriel Celestial Brass Band. Local veterans will lead the fun and colorful parade, which starts at 10 a.m. from the east BART parking lot, while volunteers from local organizations, community members, little tykes, students from local schools, and staff from local businesses will show off their love of country and Lamorinda while they

walk along the parade route or ride on creatively decorated floats.

"This year we have made a big effort to decorate Orinda," says Orinda Association President Bill Waterman. "People will notice, for example, the multi-colored balloon arches that will be installed in town." ... continued on page A12

Advertising

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Town News	A2 - A12
Business	A10
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B12
Classified	B8
Not to be Missed	B10-B11
HOW TO CONTACT US	B11
Service Directory	B9
Food	B9
Sports	C1 - C4
Love Lafayette	B12
Our Homes	D1 - D16

This Week Read About:

Smart Parking Deal	A2
Focus Groups Forming	A4
Budget Balancing	A6
Historical Landmarks	A8
Conspicuous Bravery	B1
Local Aviatrix	B3
Mastering the Masters	B5
Botany of Booze	B11
Boys' All-League	C2

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Better Homes and Gardens REAL ESTATE
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89 Davis Rd, Suite 100, Orinda

Moraga Recognized as a Safe Place to Live

By Sophie Braccini

Three years ago, GreatSchools.org ranked the Moraga School District as the sixth best in the nation. In June, the small town landed near the top of another list – according to Movoto, a national online real estate brokerage based in San Mateo, Moraga is the fifth safest city in the state.

The Bay Area was well represented on Movoto's Top 10 Safest Places in California. Hillsborough gets bragging rights to the No. 1 spot, along with Saratoga (No. 2), Los Altos (No. 7) and Danville (No. 10). Lafayette is among the 50 safest cities, coming in at No. 35.

Informed by the FBI's 2012 Uniform Crime Report, Movoto looked at 365 California locations with populations over 10,000. "Known throughout the state for its stellar school district, this Bay Area town is also one

of the state's safest," the company reported.

"This is very gratifying," said Robert Priebe, Moraga's police chief. "But realistically, these good numbers say a lot about our citizenry and the type of people who live here." Priebe added that there were fewer crimes committed in Moraga during 2013 – 184, down from 193 in 2012 – although he said there are still too many thefts. "We can do even better," said the chief. "We show our presence around town and we've done a very good job solving crimes."

Delving further into Movoto's blog, *Lamorinda Weekly* also found that no Lamorinda city is among the sexiest, most exciting, or, as shocking as this news will be to local teens, the most boring places in California.

U-Turn, Then Full Speed Ahead

By Nick Marnell

The Board of Supervisors reversed course from one year ago and unanimously passed a motion to authorize the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District to continue negotiations with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District to jointly build and operate fire station 46. Only Supervisor Candace Andersen, whose district includes Lamorinda, cast a yes vote at both meetings. The four supervisors who voted no in 2013 fell into two camps.

Chair Karen Mitchoff and Supervisor Federal Glover based their assents on the timing of the proposal. "It's the right idea at the wrong time," said Glover in May, 2013. But now, with the threat of closing additional ConFire fire stations all but squelched, he said he did not want to bypass doing something that could be beneficial to the district. "We've been able to reopen fire stations that served communities more critically impacted by closures than was Lafayette at this time last year," said Mitchoff.

Two supervisors based their turnaround votes on the proposal that ConFire presented to the board on June 17. "With the more complete information we were given, I felt comfortable acting to pursue the station," said vice chair John Gioia. "There were better details, and it was a better deal for ConFire," added Supervisor Mary Piepho.

... continued on page A11

please...

...thanks

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

A Stitch Over Time

Local seamstress passes along family tradition – page B3.



Sports C1-C4

SMC All-Stars

Former Gaels return for Alumni Weekend – page C1.



Our Homes D1-D16

Gray Water Recycling

New systems and techniques to reduce water use highlighted – page D10.

