

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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TRICK OR TREAT STREET
 Downtown Lafayette
 October 24 • 4-6 P.M.
 www.lafayettechamber.org
 #LafayetteEvents



From left: Giulia Massari, of Lafayette, visits the Harvest Festival with daughter Deborah Ferber and granddaughter Francesca Ferber; also enjoying the celebration are Alison Hill, of Sustainable Lafayette, and "Papa John" Keifer. Photo Andy Scheck

Good Times at the Community Garden Harvest Festival

By Sophie Braccini

Harvest is a time of joyful celebration as the fruits of the summer's hard work are gathered, shared and possibly stored before winter arrives. The celebration is even more meaningful when a whole community honors its work and achievements, along with lasting ties of friendship and respect. The Lafayette Community Garden celebrated its third, and most abundant, season Oct. 19 by sharing food, fun and activities. Like the earth, the community gardeners will rest this winter and be ready to plant again in the spring.

"More than 350 people came today," said community gar-

den co-founder Janet Thomas as festivities started winding down under the oblique rays of autumn sun last Sunday. The five-hour party included food, presentations, games and activities for the kids. "It was a wonderful celebration," added Thomas.

Everyone was welcome at the festival. Special guests included wildlife biologist Doc Hale; representatives from the Herb Society; Penny Porter, who owns All in a Jar; and more. "We gave tours of the garden, had information about the natural riparian ecosystems, and the history of the area," said Thomas,

"this garden is about growing food, and it is also about community and nature conservation."

"I was so proud of our garden today," says new garden member Kirk Dakis. "The garden was impeccable, the mulch, the flowers, the hay bales and fall display. Everybody in the garden did a great job and we had a lot of fun." Music resonated in the beautiful garden along Mt. Diablo Boulevard – mellow jazz by the Dominants, a group of Acalanes and Stanley students, and Gary Peare's ukulele players

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Remember to Vote Nov. 4

Orinda offers ballot drop-off box for vote-by-mail and absentee ballots

We've got mail! In the weeks leading up to an election, *Lamorinda Weekly* receives more Letters to the Editor than the previous six months combined. We publish as many as we can – read what your friends and neighbors have to say about the candidates on pages A8-A10.

The Moraga Citizens Network Candidates Night forum is still available for viewing at www.lamorindaweekly.com and www.moragacitizensnetwork.org. In our last issue before Election Day, Laurie Snyder continues her report on the candidates for Orinda City Council on pages A6-A7.

Your vote is your voice – and with the majority of Lamorindans voting by mail, the City of Orinda is partnering with the Contra Costa County Elections Office in a new initiative to make it even easier to ensure your vote counts, especially for those who prefer to wait until the last minute to complete their mail-in ballots.

Through Nov. 4, county residents who are registered to vote-by-mail (or absentee) may place their ballots in a secure, red steel ballot box at the office of the city clerk at Orinda City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, from Monday through Friday during normal business hours as part of the CoCo Vote-N-Go program.

Ballots may also be dropped off from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the County Elections Office in Martinez, located at 555 Escobar Street, or at any polling place on Election Day. For more information, contact Orinda city clerk Michele Olsen: (925) 253-4221, molsen@cityoforinda.org, or visit the County Elections website at www.cocovote.us.

-L. Snyder; L. Borrowman



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Stylish solutions for holiday dining - page D7.

