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## Three Lamorinda Schools Garner 'National Blue Ribbon Schools' Status

Submitted by Jonathan Lance and Kathy Frenklach

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson Sept. 29 congratulated 29 California public and four private schools that are being recognized as 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools. The California winners of the coveted award are among 285 public (traditional, charter, choice, and magnet) schools and 50 private schools announced by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

Contra Costa County had four schools honored with the prestigious award, which made the county home of the second most Blue Ribbon Schools, after Los Angeles County.

**The schools are:**

- Campolindo High (Moraga),
- Acalanes Union High School District
- Happy Valley Elementary (Lafayette), Lafayette School District
- Del Rey Elementary (Orinda), Orinda Union School District
- Neil A. Armstrong Elementary (Danville), San Ramon Valley Unified

"California's newly selected Blue Ribbon Schools are among the best in the nation and reflect our state's commitment to preparing students for college and career," Torlakson said. "We celebrate these models of excellence as they shine in the national spotlight. I congratulate all the hardworking stu-

dents, teachers, parents, staff, and administrators who made this recognition possible."

Superintendent of Orinda schools, Dr. Joe Jaconette said, "Del Rey is the first school in our district to receive this type of national recognition. All schools in the district were previously recognized as a California Distinguished Schools. The Orinda School District is proud of the success achieved by the students and staff at Del Rey. We know the award confirms the work of students, educators, and parents in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content."

The federal Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools from elementary through high school. The California schools were recognized as Exemplary High Performing Schools and were required to be performing in the top 15 percent of schools statewide as measured by state assessments. National Blue Ribbon Schools will be honored at a national awards ceremony on Nov. 9-10 in Washington, D.C., where each winner will receive a plaque and flag. Details of the 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools can be found at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbs/2015/index.html>.

Lafayette

## None the Richer in Lafayette

*Pouch containing cash found*

By Cathy Dausman

Lafayette police are temporarily at a loss to determine who else is at a loss – of a substantial amount of money. A good Samaritan found a zippered pouch containing cash the week of Sept. 14 in the parking lot of the Old Firehouse School and turned it over to the office. The office staff contacted Lafayette police, and the pouch is currently in the evidence room, said police services assistant Eileen Fahy, who processes all incoming evidence, including found property. Most days she deals with backpacks containing clothing or toiletries. She says her storage space is limited and eventually the item will need to be transferred to the county sheriff's offices. Fahy said this money may represent "a bank deposit for a school sports program or a small business." To claim the item, contact the Lafayette Police Department at (925) 299-3236, describe the pouch and the amount of

money it contains. The owner needs to appear in person, present identification, and sign for the pouch. Fahy summarized the loss

saying, "It's somebody in the community," and from what she told *Lamorinda Weekly*, it isn't chump change.

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## Letters to the Editor

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the *Lamorinda Weekly*. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for submission guidelines.

email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com);

Regular mail: *Lamorinda Weekly*, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

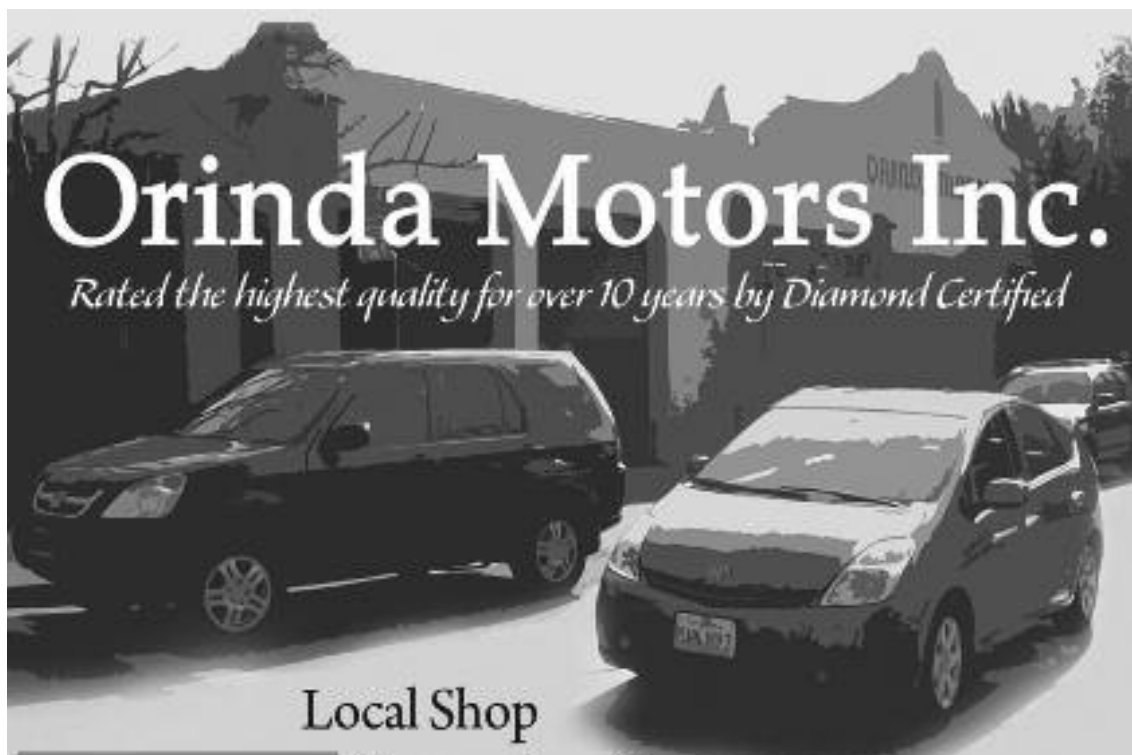
Editor:

MOSO and its associated municipal code zoning rules are cherished by most Moragans as a needed protection for Moraga's open space. These protections have served the Town well for almost 30 years.

At its September 9 meeting, on a 3 to 2 vote, the Moraga Town Council waived the first reading and voted to approve a zoning text amendment (ZTA) that further weakens Moraga's open space provisions. This ZTA is a prerequisite for one commercial enterprise to proceed with its permit process to establish a for-profit recreation business, to be located in a quiet residential neighborhood at the former Moraga Tennis and Swim Club. Purportedly, this unneeded ZTA applies only to MOSO-zoned open space but the same zoning provisions presently exist for non-MOSO open space. Similar provisions exist for most of Moraga's residential neighborhoods as well. This ZTA sets a dangerous precedent for future zoning revision and further weakening of Moraga's open space protections. Is this what most Moragans want for their community? I think not. Please see the Contra Costa Times article on the September 9 meeting at: [http://www.contracostatimes.com/bay-area-news/ci\\_28791683/former-moraga-lawmaker-cries-foul-over-proposed-use](http://www.contracostatimes.com/bay-area-news/ci_28791683/former-moraga-lawmaker-cries-foul-over-proposed-use).

This ZTA was put before the Planning Commission on August 3 where a majority of the Planning Commission refused to support this proposed ZTA, instead providing recommendations to the Council as to how to proceed, recommendations that a majority of the Council apparently chose to ignore. If you truly value your open space protections, act now before it is too late. Write to all five council members and tell them that you do not want MOSO's zoning provisions weakened in any way. Attend the next council meeting when the second reading and final decision on this ZTA will be made, and express your concerns during public comment.

Clay Serrahn  
Moraga



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