

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Christmas Eve Services

Come join us at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church this Christmas Eve!

Family Services.....3:00 p.m. & 4:30 p.m.
 Traditional Services.....7:00 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.
 Homecoming Communion Service...11:00 p.m.

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
 49 Knox Drive | Lafayette, CA 94549
 Questions? Email worship@LOPC.org

FREE



A 66-year-old water main on Reliez Station Road ruptured with a 15-foot-long break on Nov. 27. Photo courtesy East Bay Municipal Utility District

Do Aging Pipes Pose an Unseen Threat?

By Cathy Tyson

While residents in Lamorinda and beyond have been hammered with conservation messages during this historic drought, an estimated 2.6 million gallons of water went down the drain Nov. 27 when an East Bay Municipal Utility District water main broke on Reliez Station Road, flooding five backyards and affecting 35 EBMUD customers.

The break was reported at 4:30 p.m. and took just over six

hours until the water was finally shut off at 10:45 p.m. The water lost was the equivalent of the amount of water 19 homes would use in a year, according to figures from the California Single Family Water Use Efficiency Study, which estimates the average household uses 360 gallons of water per day.

When a major break releases water that impacts nearby waterways and creeks, the utility is required to send a report to the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System which

has regulatory standards for wastewater discharge. According to the EBMUD Potable Water Discharge Report that was filed with the Water Board, Fish and Wildlife, and the city of Lafayette, "The discharge lasted for six hours for several reasons including difficulty finding isolation valves in the dark under water and mud, the need for specialized equipment to close the larger valves, and one valve being broken open requiring alternative valves to be located and closed."

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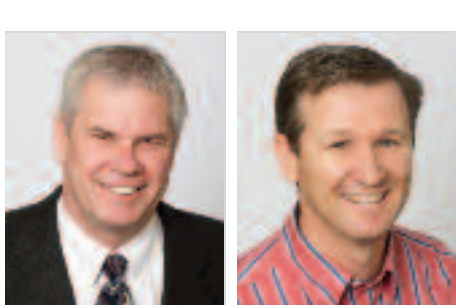
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The Bernie & Ryerson Team

Wishing You a Happy and Healthy 2016!

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Avoid Becoming a Victim of Fraud

Identity theft and fraud forum focuses on ways to protect yourself

By Cathy Tyson

The phone calls and emails are becoming all too familiar: A grandson is in jail in Peru, urgently needing bail money; you have won the Nigerian lottery and need to send funds to pay for taxes to claim your winnings; the Internal Revenue Service will arrest you if you do not send money owed for back taxes right now; a contractor calls to say he will be in your neighborhood soon.

Unfortunately, these calls and emails are all likely scams.

So how do you protect yourself? The Crime Prevention Commission recently hosted an Identity Theft – Fraud Forum with speakers including the Lafayette Chief of Police, and representatives from the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, the IRS and the California Contractors Licensing Board, who gave specific information about best practices to avoid becoming a victim.

"Real estate fraud is a bonanza for criminals," said former Deputy District Attorney of Contra Costa County Ken McCormick to a standing room only crowd at the



Locked mailboxes Photo C. Tyson
 Veterans Memorial Hall.

Elders are often the target of real estate crimes, especially in Lamorinda's prosperous neighborhoods, because they usually have a larger net worth, and they can be subject to undue influence from both shady real estate professionals and family members, according to McCormick.

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A Note About Our Newspaper Carrier

Blackhawk Enterprise (email – mailblackhawk@gmail.com) has been delivering the Lamorinda Weekly to all homes in Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga since January 2011. The team of eight drivers works hard to make sure you get your newspaper every other Wednesday. Blackhawk Enterprise and its team members would like to wish our readers a joyous holiday season and a very happy new year. You will also see a flyer from them in this week's issue.

Thank you,
 Lamorinda Weekly