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As seen in Lamorinda...



Members of Boy Scout Troops 212, 234, 246, and 249 watch Piper Steven McElhane of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco's Prince Charles Pipe Band during Veteran's Day ceremonies at Moraga Commons Park.



Mayor Teresa Onoda (center) surrounds herself with Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts from Orinda Moraga Service Unit #327 before the Veteran's Day ceremonies at Moraga Commons Park. This is the first year Girl Scouts have taken an active role in the commemoration. Photos Cathy Dausman

Lafayette's proactive measures prevent road collapse

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St. Mary's Road at the point of slide – exposed pipe visible. Photo provided

"The gas is located near the failed shoulder of the road and that was my biggest immediate concern."

"We needed to prevent any additional erosion or we could lose that section of St. Mary's Road into the creek (we were able to do that by covering the slide with plastic sheeting). Almost simultaneously, my thoughts went to how can we fix this and how fast can we get it done," said Moran, explaining how shocked he was when he first saw the slide.

Valentine Corporation of San Rafael was awarded a contract in

city can complete this project and be reimbursed for 93.75 percent of the costs."

Moran credits the contractors saying they did a great job and brought in the right equipment to reach down the steep slope to the creek, using a Gradall loader with a 60-foot reach from the roadway at the top.

Although drivers might experience frustration while held up in traffic, there are perhaps many aspects to a public works project that residents do not consider. Moran refers to the flaggers who were controlling traffic. "I did receive a request to use a timed temporary signal but denied that request for a couple of reasons. One reason is that two flaggers can adjust the amount of time they let through northbound or southbound traffic based on actual traffic loads. Humans will be more efficient than a timed signal."

"Another reason is that we still had to hold traffic in both directions when equipment was blocking both lanes and they would still need a traffic controller to operate the signal so that it would show a red light in both directions when both lanes were blocked."

Moran points out, "Because this repair is on a creek bank, the city needed to work with Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. This is quite a process and took months to get all required permissions. We will also have to monitor and report on the planting and riparian restoration for five years following the completion of the project."

With water from the rains now starting to flow in the creek, Lafayette is ahead of the game on St. Mary's Road.

BART parking

According to the Scoop website, most rides will cost a few dollars, and a ride home is guaranteed. If a rider is "Scooped" into the Orinda station, and for any reason, Scoop is unable to fulfill the ride back, Scoop will reimburse the cost of alternate transportation home up to a maximum of \$50 per month.

"This is also a great way to serve our parent community," said Vice Mayor Amy Worth, noting that parents who drop off kids at school in the morning would likely never get to the BART station by the typical 7:30 a.m. fill-up time and are even less likely to secure a coveted parking permit.

Those who could be negatively affected by the program are the BART parking permit holders, who pay \$105 monthly for the right to park in the Orinda station permit lot if they arrive by 10 a.m. By adding spaces for Scoop commuters, the district would be constricting the spaces available to permit holders, said Council Member Darlene Gee.

"So far, we've been able to avoid that," said Saltzman, explaining that data provided by Scoop has allowed the district to prudently manage parking space availability. After 10 a.m. any empty spot in the

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BART permit area becomes available to the general public for a fee on a first-come, first-served basis.

BART said it will make every effort to deliver the guaranteed parking spaces to Scoop users, but during certain events, like a San Francisco Giants afternoon baseball game, demand may be such that protecting parking spaces will be extremely difficult.

The BART-Scoop carpool program, a partnership with the nine-county Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission, debuted in Orinda on Nov. 13.