

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY



925-377-0977

www.lamorindaweekly.com

**Home '18 expo**  
 Sunday, January 28, 2018  
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Veterans Memorial Building  
 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette  
**FREE to the public!**  
[www.HomeExpoEvents.com](http://www.HomeExpoEvents.com)

26,000 copies delivered biweekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses

FREE



Firefighter recruits from Academy 51 break through the roof of Fire Station 16 in Lafayette during Jan. 12 training exercise.

Photo Nick Marnell

## ConFire recruits practice rooftop ventilation and fire rescue

By Nick Marnell

Academy 51 recruits from the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District took 14 weeks of book knowledge into the field Jan. 12 as they practiced rooftop ventilation and interior fire rescue at the site of soon-to-be demolished Fire Station 16 in Lafayette. The exercises rang so authentic that passersby along Los Arabis Drive stopped and asked if the structure was burning down.

According to Assistant Fire Chief Lon Goetsch, ConFire recruits opened up ventilation holes in the roof, a procedure that lets smoke and air out of the building and removes heat from the structure. Less heat prevents flashover, where conditions are so superheated the structure becomes totally involved; the less smoke, the easier for firefighters to locate victims and to locate firefighters in distress. The recruits ran

into the smoky building, wearing their breathing apparatus, to find and remove people trapped inside.

The exercises displayed how critical teamwork is to a successful fire attack. Not surprisingly, teamwork and family are words that weave throughout the biographies of many of the 25 recruits.

... continued on page A8

Advertising

<b>LAMORINDA WEEKLY</b>	
Community Service	B7
Not to be Missed	B8-B9
<b>HOW TO CONTACT US</b>	B9
Classified	C2
Love Lafayette	C4



**Gorgeous Orinda Downs custom home with breathtaking views. Updated kitchen & HW flooring. New low price call pre-recorded msg 1-800 489-1443 ID: 4001**



**Your Home SOLD GUARANTEED Or I'll Buy It Myself!**



Agent & Seller must agree on price and possession date

**Peter Has Overseas Cash Buyers**

**925-708-0947**

No Gimmicks! For Details on my Exclusive Guaranteed Sale Program, listen to a FREE Recorded Message 1.800.489.1443 ID: 1072

## Plot lines redrawn, but what of the crosses memorial?

By Pippa Fisher

Planning commissioners unanimously agreed to allow the landowner of the controversial Lafayette crosses memorial to reconfigure his property into two parcels, each with a home on it, causing concerns about development and once again calling into question the future of the crosses.

The roughly 5-acre parcel sits between Oak Hill Road and North Thompson Road, with the crosses memorial opposite BART on Deerhill Road. Currently there are two vacant homes on one lot. The owner, Charles Clark, intends to reconfigure the lot lines to allow for one home on each of the two lots, allowing him to more easily sell the land.

Residents spoke out at the Jan. 16 planning commission meeting of their concern for the future of the site, fearing loss of the open space and the possibility of further subdivision and subsequent higher-density development of the land. The land is currently zoned for single-family units and is further regulated by hillside restrictions.

The crosses themselves have always been controversial. Started by Jeff Heaton and the applicant's mother, Louise Clark, as an anti-war protest in 2006, the memorial has now become a peace symbol that people

either love or hate.

Last year Clark offered the land containing the crosses to the city, either as a park or as a possible site for city offices. Both offers were rejected by the city.

After hearing public comment, which was overwhelmingly against the proposed plot revision, Clark said that he is just trying to sell his parents' property. "I can't sell two houses on one piece of land," adding, "I'm not trying to redevelop the whole town."

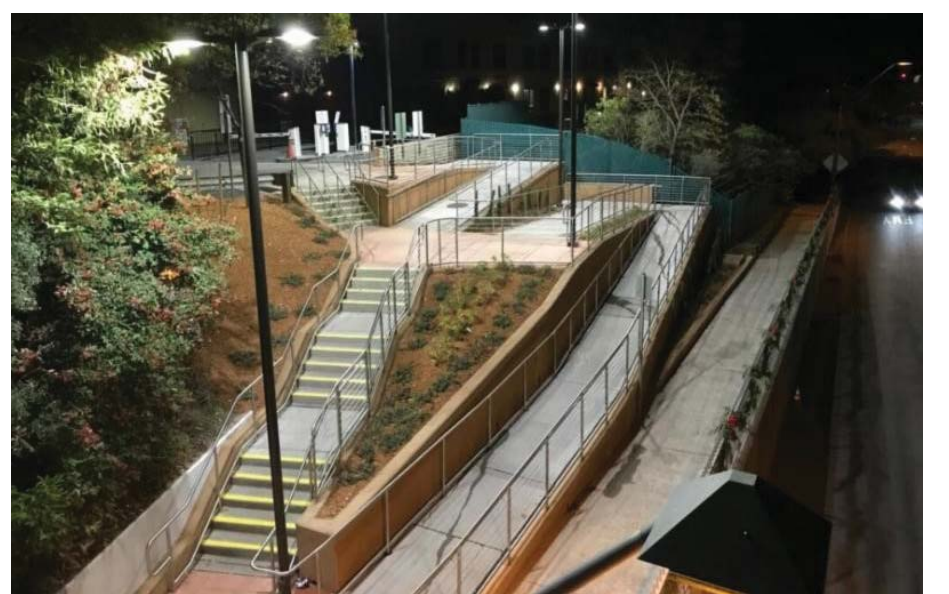
Planning Commissioner Gary Huisingsh reminded the audience of the commission's task – to act within its boundaries – which he said seemed simple, having had a satisfactory environmental report on the land and having met all requirements for a lot line adjustment on the property in question. Commissioner Will Lovitt agreed and made the point that neither motivation for selling nor future development is their concern. "It is private property and if it complies with the law then our constraints are clear."

Lafayette resident Mike Munnely, who lives next door to the plot, says there will be a public outcry once word of this gets out, given the notoriety of land containing the crosses memorial.

... continued on page A11

## Orinda BART access options looking up

By Sora O'Doherty



The new path to Theatre Square

Photo provided

BART parking often means problems for Orinda. Residents who use BART find it difficult to get a parking space in the Orinda BART lot and residents who don't use BART complain about BART users parking all over their neighbors streets, making it difficult to park. A new program to reduce the number of vehicles parking at BART was put into place, as well as up-

grades to the trail leading BART riders to and from downtown Orinda.

For those who walk to Orinda BART from the Theatre Square area, the city at the end of last year completed its BART Downtown Access Ramp and Lighting Project, which includes a new passage to Theatre Square that is well lit and ADA compliant.

... continued on page A12

### Civic News A1-A12

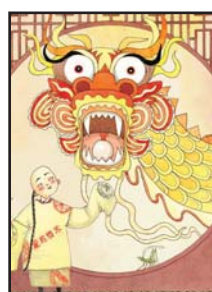
More questions than answers regarding winery regulation – page A4.

### Fire Districts

Station 16 delays cause staffing changes – page A8.

### Life in Lamorinda B1-B10

Award-winning author draws from Chinese roots – page B3.



### Health

Special Healthy Lifestyle Section – page B4.



### B4-B6 Sports

Increased interest in high school wrestling – page C1.



### C1-C4

### Our Homes D1-D16

Year-end home sales review – page D6.

