

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

26,000 copies delivered biweekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses

The 14th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend
 Friday Night Pre-Party, Sept. 7th, 5:30pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS"



American Graffiti
 Our all-inclusive event kicks-off the Classic Car Show weekend and is Orinda's largest community-wide fundraiser. Special features include a display of cool cruisers and rad roadsters, souped up to drag the Main! Also enjoy signature cocktails, fabulous food, awesome auction items, and great music!

Seating is limited, so don't drag your feet!
 Proceeds from this event benefit a variety of Orinda non-profits and projects including: the Orinda Association, the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO), Orinda Parks and Rec, local arts and the Rotary Club of Orinda, which produces "Dancing with the Cars."

tix: OrindaCarShow.com

www.lamorindaweekly.com

FREE



Los Arribeños de San Francisco, which includes Joaquin Moraga descendant Lance Beeson, will perform at the Ranch House in Orinda during the annual Fandango. Photo provided

Joaquin Moraga descendant to perform at annual Fandango

By Sora O'Doherty

Growing up, Lance Beeson always knew that he was a descendent of Joaquin Moraga. He knew that during the 1940s, his family would have Fourth of July parties at the Moraga Adobe. A member of the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe, he came up with the idea of holding an annual Fandango to raise money for the restoration of the important property.

Beeson was perhaps the perfect person to focus on the project, as both a direct descendant of the land grant holder, Joaquin Moraga, and a musician in the eight-member group, Los Arribeños de San Francisco. The group, a performing unit of the California Fandango Project, presents interactive music, dance and activities of Hispanic California. Beeson is a

trained classical guitarist, who also plays the melodian, the button accordion, and performs as a vocalist. He has performed at each Fandango in support of the Moraga Adobe, and this year Los Arribeños de San Francisco will be providing the entertainment for the Fifth Annual Fandango on Aug. 25. They have also performed in venues including the John Muir Adobe, the Peralta Adobe in San Francisco, and at the San Francisco Free Folk Festival.

A member of a descendants group who studies history and genealogy, Beeson believes that the Moraga Adobe is a cultural and historical touchstone for this entire valley. Built in 1841, the Adobe is the oldest surviving building in Contra Costa County. ... continued on page A6

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Welcome Back to School, Lamorinda!



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A last-chance glimmer of hope for Lafayette Park Theater?

By Pippa Fisher

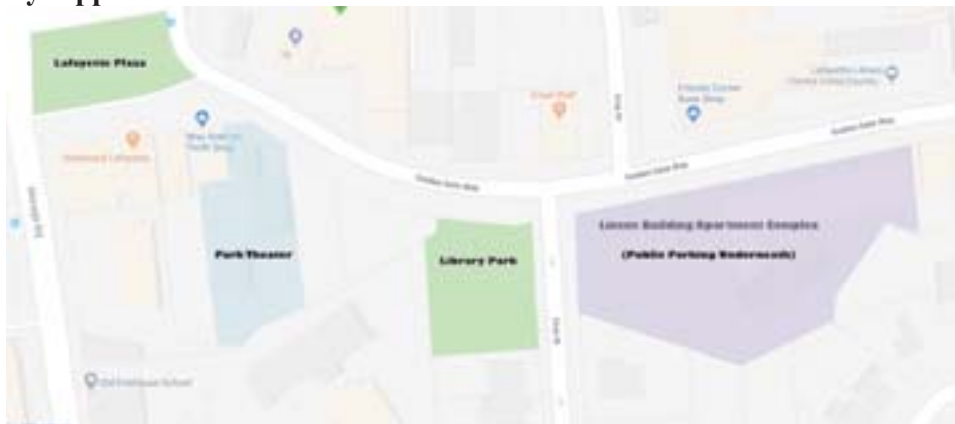


Image provided

Could a density transfer be an option for saving the Park Theater? Lafayette lawmakers have decided to take initial exploration of this as a creative solution further and plan to form a committee with the city, the developer and community organizations together with members of the public.

City Manager Steve Falk outlined the main points of the idea at the Aug. 13 city council meeting. Pointing to Moraga's re-

cent density transfer to save the Rheem Theatre as an example, he said there may be a similar opportunity for the Park Theater in Lafayette.

The iconic theater, built in 1941, sits at the heart of the downtown and has been closed since 2001. Now Oakland residential real estate developer John Protopappas, who owns the one and a half-acre apartment complex at 3483 Golden Gate Way known

as the Lincoln Property, has an option to buy the theater property, including the fourplex apartment behind the theater.

Falk explained that in exchange for the deed to the theater property, the city would transfer the density rights for those properties to the developer to apply to the Golden Gate Way property, effectively preserving the theater as such and achieving one of the city's goals for ensuring the historic plaza area not be developed. "The density would be transferred from one side of First Street to the other," said Falk. It would allow the developer to build an extra 25 units along with the currently allowed 52 units on Golden Gate Way.

Additionally more parking could be created behind the theater and a park area could be created at the corner of Golden Gate Way and First Street.

Falk cautioned that this is no sugarcoated vision. He pointed out that such a residential development would be very large, requiring a 35- to 45-foot façade.

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Photo Pippa Fisher

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