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Beauty store owner mobilizes donations for Camp Fire victims

Submitted by Kathy Merchant



Photo provided

As soon as Carrie La Shell, owner of Lafayette Beauty, learned of the devastation of the Camp Fire, she went into action. The first step was her own pledge of \$5,000 worth of shampoo, soap, lotions, cosmetics and more. Later her landlord joined in with a match-

ing \$5,000 donation. La Shell quickly reached out to her beauty store community to collect \$25,000 worth of sundries, gift cards, blankets and pillows, reading glasses, and first aid kits. "The thought of people sleeping in a Walmart parking lot in the cold with nothing was

heartbreaking, and I wanted to do something to help," she explained. The response in donations was so overwhelming that La Shell had to rent a U-Haul truck to deliver the goods. What a beautiful way to wrap up 2018.

Volunteers sought for committee and commission vacancies

By Sora O'Doherty

Perhaps it is your New Year's resolution to volunteer to serve your city or town. If so, the following information will be of interest:

Lafayette

Lafayette needs volunteers. There are currently openings on the following commissions and committees: Capital Projects Assessment Committee, Creeks Committee, Community Center Foundation, Downtown Congestion Study Committee, Downtown Street Improvement Master Plan Implementation Committee, Emergency Preparedness Commission, Environmental Task Force, Senior Services, Transportation & Circulation Commission, Youth Commission. Apply anytime; vacancies remain open until filled. Application forms are available at <https://www.lovelafayette.org/home/showdocument?id=456>.

Moraga

Moraga depends on volunteers to serve on all of its boards, committees, and commissions. In 2018,

there are still openings on the Design Review Board (one opening), Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee (one opening), and the Park and Recreation Commission (one opening). If interested, applicants may go to the town's website and click on the applicable committee or commission to complete the application/questionnaire. A signed copy and a letter of interest and resumé, should be sent to the town clerk or dropped off at the clerk's office, 329 Rheem Blvd.

Orinda

The city of Orinda is seeking applications from resident volunteers to serve the city on its Planning Commission (three terms expiring), Parks and Recreation Commission (two terms expiring), Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission (three terms expiring, one vacancy), Finance Advisory Committee (two terms expiring, one vacancy), Historical Landmarks Committee (two terms expiring), Art in Public Places Committee (one term expiring), and the

Public Works Aesthetic Review Committee (one term expiring).

The city of Orinda is also seeking applications from resident volunteers to serve as the city's liaison to the following local agencies: Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District Trustee (one vacancy), County Library Commission (one term expiring), and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority Citizen Advisory Committee (one vacancy).

Statement of Interest forms are available from the Orinda city clerk's office, 22 Orinda Way, by emailing City Clerk Sheri Smith at ssmith@cityoforinda.org or by calling (925) 253-4221. Application forms may also be downloaded from the city's website.

Completed Statement of Interest forms should be submitted to the city clerk's office by 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4. Qualified applicants will be invited to interview before the City Council on Saturday, Feb. 9.

Moraga's 2018 Year in Review offered as Trotter and Onoda step down

... continued from Page A4

Thank you to the staff, both past and present, for teaching me what I needed to know, so that I could be the best council member that I could be." She felt that it has been the best town council Moraga has ever had.

Trotter welcomed newly elected council members Mike McCluer and Steve Woehleke, offering

them his congratulations and best wishes. He agreed with Onoda that the past 12 months was equal to, if not better than, previous councils. Amidst his thanks to staff and fellow council members, he noted, "It's been a privilege to serve with you these past few months." Trotter then mentioned his wife. "Thank you Debbie for everything."

Trotter concluded, "I've had a very good run on the town council. Twelve years is a long time." He added, "I leave with few, if any, regrets; hundreds, if not thousands, of friends made along the way and a profound appreciation for the faith and trust that the people of Moraga have given me."

Moraga Town Council reorganizes

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I'd like to thank all the residents of Moraga, my supporters and my family. I'm going to do my best to represent Moraga. I'm a town council member, but I'm really just a resident like everybody else, and I'm here to serve you, and that's

from the heart."

Woehleke conveyed, "I'm humbled and honored to be elected. I owe many, especially my wife, Peggy. I pledge tonight to listen and take on board what my fellow town council members communicate."

He added, "I understand there's much to accomplish in Moraga. My priority is to craft goals that can also be supported by the resources that we have. I look forward to working with my co-council members on that."

Council opts for applications, interviews to fill vacant seat

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Residents expressed their opinions and argued analysis of the votes to demonstrate how Samson should or should not be appointed there and then.

Mayor Cam Burks acknowledged the volume of public input, and noted that both options had significant merit and compelling arguments. In the end, however, all supported the previously used open application/interview process and recognized the need to codify the process to develop policy for the future.

"I would like to thank the members of the public who took the time to attend meetings and provide insightful and sincere public comment on this very important matter," said Burks, noting, "The discourse, on all sides of the de-

bate, was civil and respectful and, again, demonstrates the passion in our community to come together, get involved, speak up, and advocate for what folks truly believe is in the best interest of Lafayette."

The council is accepting applications until 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4. Registered voters residing within Lafayette city limits can apply to fill the term, which ends December 2020.

The council will review applications and hold interviews during the week of Jan. 7 and hopes to make the appointment by Jan. 11, ideally installing the new member on the first council meeting of the year on Jan. 14.

For more information, go to the city website at <https://www.lovelafayette.org>.

City explores options on banning flavored tobacco products

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We must act now to stop what is enabling our next generation to become addicted – for life – to nicotine and tobacco," said Burks.

Statistics from the Acalanes Union School District California Healthy Kids Survey suggests there is reason to be concerned, particularly with the use of electronic cigarettes with 41 percent of juniors reporting they have used a vaping device.

And, among high school age smokers, over half use menthol-flavored products, according to the California Department of Public Health.

"It is time to put kids above profit," said speaker Dr. Phillip Gardiner, co-chair of The African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council during public comments, as he explained that the flavors used to entice kids is "putting flavor in the poison."

The council heard from several speakers, including Lafayette resident and member of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Margo Connolly who urged for a citywide ban, and from Amanda Gutzwiller of the American Lung Association, who

stated that four out of five kids who start smoking do so with a flavored product.

In 2009 the FDA banned flavored cigarettes excluding menthol. Although the FDA is currently considering a ban on the sale of FTPs there is no timeline for imposing such a ban. There are moves to impose a ban at the state level too, which is welcomed by Burks.

"I applaud federal and state government action in this space, specifically the leadership of our state Sen. Steve Glazer, and his other legislative colleagues who recently announced plans to ban sales of flavored tobacco products and flavored e-cigarettes. But we cannot wait for these large government institutions to move slowly through the process," said Burks. "As an independent city, we can act more nimbly and more quickly – this is where local government can make the biggest impact and it's exactly why I joined the city council."

Several neighboring towns and cities, such as Alameda, have imposed a ban and require licensing of tobacco retailers.

Behind closed doors, Orinda considers fate of 53 Rheem easement

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Scheg told city attorney Osa Wolff that the DeSpains relied upon the findings of a survey that, he said, "conclusively determines that the purported 'trail easement' does not correspond with the previously existing (and now permanently closed) path through the DeSpain's private property."

Further, he continued, "the rejected trail easement crosses unimproved land that would be treacherous for pedestrian access and use." Scheg warned that any attempt by the city to remove the DeSpain's gate would be "unlawful and prosecuted accordingly."

New Canyon Bridge

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Moraga Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg added, "The good news is that we're not budgeted to receive the funds in the 2018-19 fiscal year, and we've increased our priority for funding."

Kwan explained that although the emergency relief funds covering the \$11,000 per month rental of the temporary bridge expires

in September, the town will pursue additional grants by asking for an extension toward the permanent repair phase.

Drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians can take comfort in knowing that the temporary bridge has served Moraga well and will continue to do so for as long as is necessary.