

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Independent, locally owned and operated!

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Saturday, Sept. 21 10-7 PM
Sunday, Sept. 22 10-6 PM

24th annual Lafayette Art Wine Music festival
 September 21 & 22

Live Music on 4 Stages & 3 Kid Zones

www.lafayettefestival.com



Back row, from left: Matthew, Les, Brett, and Executive Director Daniel Hogue; front row: Heather, Cat, Emma and Susan. Photo Pippa Fisher

Las Trampas state-of-the-art facility planned

By Pippa Fisher

There's excitement in the air on the Las Trampas campus, tucked away by the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail. Participants and staff alike are getting ready for big changes as they prepare to tear down the dated structure and build a new, state-of-the-art campus to better serve the most vulnerable in the community, breaking ground by

late fall. If walking into the current, dated building is like taking a step back to the 1960s, that's because, in fact, it is exactly that. The campus evolved and grew out of a 1958 ranch house serving children with severe disabilities. Currently Las Trampas serves the needs of 70 day participants aged 22 years and older with moderate to profound intellectual and developmental disabilities, with 15 in wheelchairs. Some live with caregivers, others in residential

homes with 24-hour supervision, and others under supported and independent living services. The building on the 2.5-acre lot on Lana Lane is inadequate on many levels, even beyond the visibly peeling paint and obvious disrepair. It is not ADA compliant. Doorways are narrow and difficult for wheelchairs. There is barely any space for the many buses that drop off each day. They are limited in the number of individuals they can accept and have a significant waitlist. ... continued on Page A11

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Scandal rocks Moraga Community Foundation

By Vera Kochan

Moraga Community Foundation announced in a Sept. 6 press release a potential embezzlement scheme perpetrated by F. Robert Fritzky while serving as MCF's treasurer. Fritzky, a founding MCF board member, was nominated and elected into the treasurer's position. After an MCF document review, the foundation alleged that Fritzky began diverting funds into his personal checking account in June of 2016, well before his wife, Jeanette Fritzky, was diagnosed with lung cancer in July 2018. The MCF press release noted that Fritzky "also diverted MCF monies to a bank account belonging to MedMaxRx, LLC, his pharmaceutical consulting firm based in Mor-

aga. He also wrote numerous checks to the Jeanette Fritzky Foundation, a purported non-profit charity founded in November 2018 following the untimely death of his wife, former Moraga Town Council Member Jeanette Fritzky, in September 2018." During a recent board meeting, Fritzky reported that the MCF Mechanics Bank account contained over \$140,000 rather than the roughly \$9,000 it currently contains. He did so with a printed monthly financial report, which MCF now knows to have been fabricated. Fritzky was replaced as treasurer by Wendy Schreck, who is also the associate publisher of Lamorinda Weekly, during the July MCF board meeting, in which MCF elected a new set of board members. Schreck, in the following weeks,

requested all bank and financial records from Fritzky in order to perform her duties as newly elected treasurer. Her requests were stalled or ignored by Fritzky. Schreck was finally able to access MCF bank account information on Aug. 29. According to the MCF press release, "A review of the transactions revealed that Mr. Fritzky had written 53 checks from the MCF bank account totaling more than \$220,000 which were deposited in three other bank accounts controlled by him. "We have also reviewed bank records appearing to confirm that Fritzky forged the signature of another MCF director on nine checks in order to get around the \$5,000 cap on his check writing authority. The total loss to MCF on these

checks is in excess of \$61,000." Fritzky is also alleged to have made numerous electronic transactions from the MCF account in order to pay for personal expenses which were not authorized by the MCF board of directors. The Moraga Police Department was contacted on Aug. 29, the same day that the unauthorized transactions were discovered, and search warrants were served at Fritzky's home and business. Due to the nature of the allegations the United States Treasury Department has become involved. Moraga Police Chief Jon King stated, "They are the lead agency. We are continuing to work with them." The MCF also states there is a second MCF account with Union Bank that is currently being examined to determine

the extent of fraudulent activity. At this time, it appears that Fritzky wire transferred MCF funds totaling \$53,282.99 into his MedMaxRx account at First Republic Bank. Included in this activity are ATM cash withdrawals and payments for personal expenses such as credit card bills and travel expenses, which were discovered by a review of bank records. His alleged embezzlement from the Union Bank account at this point exceeds \$100,000 for 2017 alone. In the process of taking steps to recover all of the funds, MCF has learned that Fritzky had filed for bankruptcy twice. The first time was in 2010, and most recently on May 19, one day before his home was scheduled for a foreclosure auction. ... continued on Page A10

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