



Independently owned and operated!

25,000 copies delivered biweekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses

25,000 FREE copies

www.lamorindaweekly.com

925-377-0977



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Heavy brush and dense trees on undeveloped land pose a huge fire risk; MOFD ordinance 22-02 requires 100-foot fuel break at perimeter of undeveloped parcels.

# Wildfire mitigation efforts blunted by reluctant residents and public landowners

By Sora O'Doherty

In the month of June, of the 2,846 fire inspections conducted by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, 1,252 properties failed the inspections and by the end of the month only 243 homes either had the work completed and reported or completed and been re-assessed, according to MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker who spoke at the second 2x2 meeting of the Orinda

City Council and MOFD on July 12. To date this season 3,474 inspections have been completed and Winnacker said he is confident that MOFD has the right staffing. But he did report a reluctance of homeowners to complete the work to bring their property into compliance with the new fire code. "Today," he said, "a resident called the police on me because they felt that I was harassing them." In addition to the reluctance of residents to re-

move vegetation, Winnacker reported that there is a problem with big public landowners, such as the East Bay Regional Park District, the East Bay Municipal Utility District, and the city of Orinda. According to MOFD Ordinance 22-02 which became effective on April 16 following the board's March 21 approval, undeveloped parcels of 10 acres or greater require that a fuel break of 100 feet be maintained around the entire perimeter of the parcel. ... continued on Page A8

Advertising



- Not to be missed B3
- How to contact us B3
- Classified C1
- Love Lafayette C3

# Citywide Sidewalk Sale underscores Lafayette's small town feel

By Lou Fancher



Photo J. Wake

What better way can there be to celebrate summer by starting the day on July 30 with free coffee and breakfast treats enjoyed with family, friends and neighbors at the Lafayette Plaza Park? The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lafayette will host the morning soiree accompanied by local artists and business owners whose booths will add zing – and a warm-up – to the annual Citywide Sidewalk Sale event.

After the libations, shoppers on the streets and sidewalks of Lafayette will engage in the civic action of commerce to support local retail, restaurants and service providers. Participating shopkeepers, restaurant owners and a variety of locally-owned businesses offer special discounts and sales throughout the day.

Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson says that "great cities need to have certain elements to make them great. The first is a really good story. It needs to be historical or have a strong sense of place. Lafayette has its Green Hills and Great Schools stories. Like many small towns, Lafayette struggles with the pressure of building more housing and the desire to keep the community semi-rural. Lafayette embraces new concepts and trends. We have three big landowners in town who have worked very hard to find the right mix of locally owned small businesses and national brands. It's the best of all worlds."

Underscoring Lifson's obvious enthusiasm for local business promotion is a deep-rooted belief in the history of cities. He says the mix of businesses and buildings that have been in Lafayette for decades and newcomers to the marketplace in renovated digs brings to his mind memories of Chicago. "The mix of really old architecture and the rebuilding of Chicago after the great fire in 1871 had many modern buildings popping up. They were all so different and they blended together well." ... continued on Page A10

**Civic News A1-A10**

Orinda Planning Commission approves 51 new senior housing units - Page A6

**Public Safety**

New Wildfire Prep guide goes out to residents - Page A8

**Life in Lamorinda B1-B3**

Take a step back in time on the Old Moraga Town Site Walking Tour - Page B1



**Sports C1-C3**

Lafayette native, Olympic medalist and Title IX crusader - Page C1



**Our Homes D1-D16**

Pick plants with fun names to create a garden menagerie - Page D1

