



Independently owned and operated!

24,000 FREE copies

www.lamorindaweekly.com

24,000 copies delivered biweekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses

925-377-0977

MOL Flag Football **NEW**
 Girls 7th & 8th Grade
 Olympic Division this Fall

Registration Opens May 15th!
 Scan the QR code or go to molfootball.org



Festival goers get an inside look at a beehive.

Photo Jeff Heyman

Fun in the sun at Earth Day festival

By Jeff Heyman

Hundreds of Lamorindans turned out on a picture-perfect Sunday for this year's Lafayette Earth Day Festival, held on Sunday, April 21 in Lafayette Plaza, the city's long-time community gathering place. The annual festival, put on by Sustainable Lafayette in cooperation with the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lafayette, took a different direction this year by being held outdoors and putting the emphasis on making Earth Day an all-in-the-family affair.

There were activities for everyone: Adults could visit the city's Environmental Task Force booth to try

out battery-powered leaf blowers (and be reminded that gas-powered leaf blowers will be banned in Lafayette starting July 1), while kids – and the young at heart – could lose themselves with fluffy and feathered friends in the Lamorinda 4-H Club petting zoo, or enjoy a myriad of games and activities at the All Ages Recreation Downtown booth. And no one will forget the beekeeping display that delighted young and old alike. Jan Pinkerton Spieth from the Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association brought an observation beehive, which she used to point out the queen to fascinated onlookers.

Bicyclists had their bikes tuned up free of charge thanks to 511 Contra Costa, and everyone was encouraged to learn how to do more to improve our environment. There were booths and displays devoted to wildlife, sustainability, wildflower planting, farmers markets, recycling and composting, community gardening, and more, including how to make earth-friendly art. For Earth Day 2024, Lafayette Plaza was the place to be; it was clear from the broad smiles and infectious excitement, Lamorindans were delighted – and educated – by this year's Lafayette Earth Day Festival.

Advertising

Lamorinda Weekly

Not to be missed	Page 10
How to contact us	Page 10
Obituary	Page 11
Classified	Page 11
Shop Orinda	Page 14

Laura Abrams
 laura@lauraabrams.com
 DRE # 01272382
510.697.3225
 5 Moraga Way, Orinda CA.
 www.lauraabrams.com

COLDWELL BANKER

Now More than Ever -
EXPERIENCE Matters in Real Estate

Laura has 25 Years of EXPERIENCE As A Top Producing Agent With - Coldwell Banker, Orinda

Coldwell Banker has over a Century of navigating change offering unsurpassed World Class Marketing and Technological Innovation.

The show goes on at Orinda Theater – just two less days – for now

By David Scholz



Photo David Scholz

A calling card for Orinda has long been the vibrant marquee of the Orinda Theater aglow seven nights a week for those driving by along Highway 24.

It's a little less so these days, seeing it dark on Mondays and Tuesdays, as owner Derek Zemrak comes to grips with a \$2,000 spike in the cinema's PG&E electricity bill.

"Our goal is to open seven days a week," he said. "We just have to figure out how to do it. We have to do it efficiently."

The one exception to the recent decision is for the last Tuesday of the month for a popular classic film matinee experience that will still welcome patrons on April 30, and for the last Tuesdays in May and June, respectively.

... continued on Page 8

Fire insurance non-renewal puts pressure on Lamorinda residents

By Lou Fancher

Lafayette Council at the meeting April 8 received a staff report from City Manager Niroop Srivatsa about State Farm's plans to stop renewing or cancel home and apartment insurance policies in California beginning July. The move is projected to impact 72,000 insurance policies statewide. In Lamorinda, the non-renewals range from the lowest at 11.6 % for Moraga, to Lafayette's 30.4%, with the highest in Orinda, at 54.7%. Although not within the city's governing authority, the State Farm non-renewals and increases in rates across the board have significant impact on the safety and

monetary security of local residents.

Niroop said "It appears that in Lafayette, 30% (actually 30.4) of the State Farm clients will receive non-renewal notices – not as high as Diablo, Orinda, Calistoga, or Las Gatos, but still significant." She reminded council it is a growing concern already heard from many Lafayette constituents. "State Farm may not be the only insurance carrier that goes through with these non-renewals," she added as an advisory warning.

The City of Orinda issued a letter sent to State legislators and the insurance commissioner urging

them to take some action. With Orinda residents holding 3,115 policies, 1,703 are or will be canceled. The letter was sent by Orinda Mayor Darleen Gee, with council members, the city manager, the Moraga Orinda Firewise Network, and United Policyholders noted as included. The letter stated that while the exact extent and scale of the non-renewals is not yet known, residents are "increasingly concerned and fearful" and "efforts to find replacement policies or even to contact and possibly access the State FAIR plan are problematic."

... continued on Page 2

Civic News

SMC Athletic lighting project – Page 4

Public Safety

BART - buses replace trains – Page 8

Life in Lamorinda

Spring Fashion – Page 9

Sports

Justin Pines - Life after a pretty sharp left turn – Page 13

Our Homes OH1-OH8

Goddess Gardener features Climbers – Page OH1