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interested in attending please call us at (925) 283-6160 to sign-up. Alternatives For Animals, 1042 Brown Ave, Lafayette.

Get ready for July 4th at the Moraga Commons Park. Activities happening all day: starting with Fun Run and Pancake Breakfast at 8am; the Dog Parade at 9am; Bike parade at 10:30am; plus jumpies, games, community booths. A free concert featuring Larry Lynch & the Mob starts at 7pm with fireworks after dark. To donate to the fireworks show send your check, made payable to the Town of Moraga, to 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga, CA 94556.

In Orinda on July 4th there are events for every age group starting with the annual Pancake Breakfast, flag raising ceremony, fun run, parade, live music, food, games and booths in the park following the parade. Everyone is invited to participate in the planning, sponsor a booth or event, participate in the parade, host a booth in the park, or just come and enjoy the events. See www.orindaassociation.org for a detailed schedule. The Orinda 4th of July parade begins promptly at 11am. The parade will proceed through the Crossroads business district, back down Camino Pablo under Highway 24, right on Santa Maria Way, then left on Orinda Way past the reviewing stand in front of the Orinda Community Center.

ATHLETIC ENDEAVORS FOR A CAUSE

The first annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer for Contra

Costa County will be held on June 19th at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek. Everyone is invited to participate. Since 1993, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer has been the American Cancer Society's rallying cry to raise awareness and money to fight breast cancer. In that time, 6 million walkers have raised more than \$400 million through Making Strides. The American Cancer Society has awarded approximately \$388.4 million to breast cancer research since 1971. For more information about the Contra Costa Making Strides event, call Gina Bowen at (925) 934-7640 (3) or visit <http://makingstrides.acsevents.org/contracostacounty>.

Moraga Annual 4th of July Fun Runs. Join hundreds of Moraga residents for the annual 4th of July Fun Runs with either the 2 mile, 5 mile, or the exciting Kiddie Race. These races are sponsored by the Campolindo Cross Country and Track Teams. Not only are the 2 and 5 mile courses certified, but this year we are also adding a chip timing system! To add to the excitement, registered runners can head over to the Moraga Commons Park right after the race for a free pancake breakfast sponsored by the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee (MYIC). Go to www.campotrack.com for race information/registration or contact Race Director, Liz Faoro, at (925) 377-5930 or faorowg@comcast.net.

Celebrity Golf Tournament and Social, July 25-25, Orinda Country Club. Includes an elegant dinner and entertaining auction (non-golfers welcome). Benefits Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the

Bay Area, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, and the Orinda Community Foundation. Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, Honorary Chair. Register at www.CelebrateEverydayheroes.org.

The most exciting cycling event, climbing the Bay Area's most devilish peak, is open for early registration due to popular demand. The Mount Diablo Challenge is a 10.8 mile timed bike ride, starting at the Athenian School in Danville and climbing up Southgate Road 3,249 feet to the summit of Mount Diablo. Registration is first come first served and the first wave to start the race is always the most popular so early registration is key. More than 1,000 cyclists compete and prizes are awarded for several categories in a ceremony at the summit with food and beverages for all. Riders of all ages are welcome and can compete on any type of non-motorized cycle, including tandems, unicycles and hand powered vehicles. Interested cyclists can take advantage of early registration at <http://www.SaveMountDiablo.org>.

CLUBS

You are invited to attend the June 15th meeting of the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society from 10am to noon at the library of the LOS Church, 2949 Stone Valley Road, Alamo. Program: Race, Religion and Reading Records Right. Speaker: Lavinia Schwartz. The topic will of interest to both beginner and the more advanced genealogist. For information call Ed O'Donnell (925) 299-0881, or visit our web site <http://svrgensoc.org>.

Daryl Louder Named Contra Costa County Fire Chief; Inherits Budget Challenges

By Lucy Amaral



Photo provided by Chief Louder

The Contra Costa Board of Supervisors announced that Daryl L. Louder has been named Fire Chief for the Contra Costa Fire Protection District (CCCFPD); Louder started the job June 1, taking over from interim Fire Chief John Ross. In his new position, Louder will oversee fire and emergency medical services to nine cities (including Lafayette) across a 304 square mile area with 30 fire stations.

"It's an honor and a privilege to be selected as the Fire Chief for the District," he said. "This is a wonderful opportunity for my family and me to live in a great community and for me to work with a great organization."

Louder has been a firefighter for over 27 years, most recently

holding the positions of Assistant Chief of Business Services and Deputy Chief of Special Operations for Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in Virginia. Louder said he looks forward to working with CCCFPD.

"I have always had a lot of professional respect for the west coast fire and emergency medical services. They tend to be very professional and progressive," said Louder. "Additionally, there are many unique hazards and threats in California that provide professional challenges. Many of the socio-economic and demographic factors in Contra Costa County are similar to where I lived in Virginia, so that made the area attractive."

With the economic downturn, Louder said he does face serious issues and is currently meeting with District partners and stakeholders to garner information. "The most obvious and immediate concern is the economic environment facing the District," he said. "Once (those meetings) are complete we will prioritize the areas that we need to address. We will then identify the best solutions and develop a strategy to address them."

A preliminary 2010/2011 budget for the Fire District has been

proposed, Ross said, with various budgeting scenarios available depending on final numbers.

One "worst case scenario" budget reduction item that has been discussed is the temporary closing of a number of low-volume stations. Lafayette's Station 16, located on Los Arabis, has made the short list of possible sites targeted for short-term closures. "Short-term" in this case could be several years, added Ross.

As actual revenue numbers won't be available until July 1, Ross said that the Board of Supervisors will delay final approval of the budget until after those numbers are available and evaluated by Chief Louder.

Louder affirmed that his goal is to continue to offer quality service to District residents. "(CCCFPD) is a quality organization that provides excellent all-hazards service to our community with limited resources. I want to ensure that we stay focused on the community and residents during our fire prevention and emergency response efforts," Louder said. "I look forward to working with the community and all of our stakeholders to plan and prepare for the future of the District."

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