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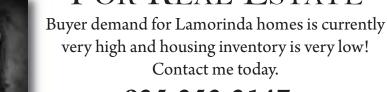
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### It's April in Lamorinda

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Civic News Moraga

### Moraga to Poll Residents

#### ... continued from page A4

**April Matthews** 

"We have to also talk about the maintenance (after the roads have been repaired)," said Mayor Mike Metcalf. Staff worked on different scenarios (see graph) charted out over a 20-year period for the upkeep of the renovated infrastructure. "We need \$25 million now, then various amounts of

the next 20 years, that can range Lew Edwards Group will design up to a total of \$42 million" said Council Member Dave Trotter. "We need a measure that would bond for a larger amount upfront els. than something else that would provide for continuing maintenance."

money to preserve these roads for late spring or early summer. The Marty McInturf at 888-7022.

the survey to test the response of the community to three potential revenue measures at different lev-

Residents interested in hosting informational sessions in their homes for their friends and neigh-The poll will be conducted in bors should contact Town Clerk

### Here are the three revenue measures under consideration:

Mello-Roos Community Facilities District (a "CFD") is a Special Tax. Once approved, a Special Tax Lien is placed against each property in the CFD. Property owners then pay a Special Tax each year. If the project cost is high, municipal bonds will be sold by the CFD to provide the large amount of money initially needed to build the improvements or fund the services. By law (Prop. 13), the Special Tax cannot be directly based on the value of the property. Special Taxes instead are based on mathematical formulas that take into account property characteristics such as use of the property, square footage of the structure and lot size. The formula is defined at the time of formation, and would include a maximum special tax amount and a percentage maximum annual increase. Staff believes that the flexibility in designing the formula permits fairness (such as taking into account residents who live on private roads). Needs a two-thirds majority approval to pass.

Ad Valorem Property Tax is a tax calculated by allocating bond debt service to all taxable parcels in proportion to their assessed value determined by the County. The annual amount is deductible on individual income tax returns under current law. Needs a two-thirds majority approval to pass.

General Purpose Sales Tax would be a half percent or one percent added sales tax on any purchase within the Town's borders. According to Jerry Bradshaw the passage of such a measure in El Cerrito did not result in any sales loss. Only 60% of the revenue may be used to service the debt of a bond. It captures non-Moraga drivers coming to the discount stores, and would generate road repair funds in an amount ranging from \$300,000 to \$600,000 (1% increase) a year. Needs only a simple majority approval to pass.

### ...from Front Page

## Leap Year Birthdays: Uncommonly Good!

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accept that February 29th exists!"

Bronwyn's mother Kate Hutchi-'Over the years it has been a lot of fun wyn's birth date," she said. Families tend to make that special birthday celebration memorable: Bronwyn recalls a Princess party on her "first" birthday, and a Hawaiian theme party on her "second". "I do have the best birthday in the world," she said.

Isabella went to Florida when she turned "one" and says her parents have a "special surprised planned" this year. With a sister born near Thanksgiving and a brother born between Christmas and New Year's, Wiltshire's birth date was less unique in his family. And this year, "although it's taken me 80 years to become an adult," he says his daughters are throwing him a dinner party.

Expectant mothers sometimes anguish over delivering a Leap Year baby. Kate Hutchison said she was "even willing to share my [late February] birthday," rather than have Bronwyn on February 29th. Kathryn Morris agreed, "When I was pregnant, [Olivia] was overdue and I was desperate to have the baby...the one day I don't want to give birth is the 29th [of February]."

To put that special birthday in perspective, just talk to Leanne Parsons. She missed being a Leap Year baby by one hour. Parsons, who was born by cesarean section, said her dad wanted her to have a February 29th birthdate, but her mother did not. "Since my mom was the one pregnant with me for nine months she won, and at 11:00 p.m. February 28th I was born," she dad had gotten his way."

In contrast, Bronwyn had not met can't be all that bad."

"Some computer programs refuse to said. "I have always wished that my anyone sharing her special day until Lamorinda Weekly put out the call for Wiltshire recalls crossing the In- Leap Year babies. She now knows son said her daughter was the only ternational Date Line while at sea on three others, and one near-miss. Albaby born that day at Alta Bates Hos- one birthday. He had a friend in the though younger Leap Year folk may pital's usually busy maternity ward. maritime industry whose birthday be anxious for their special birthday was also February 29. For years, the to come around, Wiltshire has learned watching people's reactions to Bron- two competed to see who could tele- to be patient, and philosophical. "A phone the other first with birthday few of us are just a bit slow regarding the aging process, and I guess that

### **Leap Year Traditions**

Years divisible by four are Leap Years in the Gregorian calendar. Centuries not divisible by 400 are not Leap Years. Thus, 2000 and 2400 are leap years, while 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200, 2300 and 2500 are not. Under early English law, February 29th was ignored and had no legal

Leap Years are considered unlucky for marriage.

Scotland supposedly passed a law in 1288 allowing women to propose marriage during Leap Years. By tradition any man who declined a Leap Year proposal had to pay a fine, often a pair of gloves (to hide the woman's hands, bare of any engagement ring).

Guinness Book of Records verifies one family who produced three consecutive generations born on February 29:

- Peter Anthony Keogh was born in Ireland on February 29, 1940; Son Peter Eric was born on the Leap Day in the United Kingdom
- Peter's daughter, Bethany Wealth, was born in the UK on February 29, 1996.

A Norwegian family named Henriksen holds the official record for number of children born on February 29: three. Karin Henriksen had daughter Heidi in 1960 and sons Olav in 1964 and Leif-Martin in 1968. Leap years also appear with varying rules in the Julian, Chinese, Jewish, Persian, Islamic, Bahai, Hindu and Ethiopian calendars

2012 is also a leap second year.

A leap second is measured by an atomic clock, and added to or subtracted from Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) to make it agree with astronomical time.

A leap second compensates for slowing in the Earth's rotation. The first leap second was added to atomic clocks in 1972. A positive leap second will be introduced the end of June, but that's probably another story...

(online sources: Time and Date, Leap Year Day)

C. Dausman

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