

# LAMORINDA

Independent, locally owned and operated!

26,000 copies delivered biweekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses

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FREE



The Original Miracle Melting Snowman, a clever gift from Lafayette's Indigo & Poppy.



Beautiful holiday decor from Orinda's McDonnell's Nursery.



One of the unusual candles by The Austrian Atelier you'll find at Moraga's Across the Way.



Kids clocks from Clocks, Etc.



A Hanukkah display at Orinda's Sanvitalia.



The unique beet parchment bowl from the Moraga Art Gallery. Photos Diane Claytor

## Avoid the Malls and Shop Locally This Season

By Diane Claytor

The holiday frenzy has begun. The roads are more congested, parking is harder to find, the to-do lists are getting longer and patience is beginning to thin. If anything is improving, it may be the kids' behavior, in the hopes that Santa does, indeed, know if they're good or bad.

There's no reason to endure the long lines of cars and people, the picked-through inventory or the stressed-out salespeople at the mall. Not when you can shop in Lamorinda.

Here is a sampling of 12 independent family-owned stores in our community, a very small selection of the number of varied and excellent local places to shop, with some hot ideas for cool gifts. The majority of the stores offer complimentary gift wrapping and free nearby parking. All provide outstanding personal service.

*Unique Candles and Bath Accessories*

*Across the Way* has been a Moraga institution, providing

beautiful and diverse household and gift items since 2000. A walk through the store inspires new and creative ideas for every room in your house. Manager Susan Marconi notes that, "I want people to feel comfortable looking for really cool items. We have unique candles, soaps, lotions, diffusers, all of the highest quality."

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**Join us for Photos with Santa at 5A Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> from 11am - 3pm**

Santa will be at 5A with Free Photos, frame, cookies, cocoa, arts & crafts! Don't forget to use our FREE Wrapping Room with everything you need to wrap presents clear 'till 12/24!

5Aspace.com

**5ASPACE**  
Store It Yourself & Save

**(925)643-2026**

We move you in with our free van when you rent

### Roundabout, New Lights will Aid in Fixing Traffic Woes

By Pippa Fisher



The intersection at Olympic and Reliez Station Road. Photo P. Fisher

A hot topic in Lamorinda is the "new" traffic control measure currently being studied or installed in Moraga and Lafayette: roundabouts

In Lafayette, the roundabout at the intersection of Pleasant Hill Road and Olympic Boulevard in Lafayette is nearly complete, bringing this new traffic calming measure to the city.

New, that is, to Lafayette. Many people claim round-

abouts have proved a successful solution to traffic all over the world for many years, but it might take Lamorinda residents a while to get used to driving through their very first roundabout.

As the roundabout gets closer to completion, residents are now using it and for the most part, it seems to be handling the volume of traffic. City Engineer Tony Coe says that it is going very well.

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Photo Gint Fedaras

### Headed to State!

For the first time in the school's history, the Acalanes girls volleyball team is headed to the State Championship match Dec. 3.

Coach Ernie Rodriguez's squad earned their showdown in Orange, California, against Crossroads of Santa Monica, by topping No. 4 Sonora in the NorCal Division 3 State Championship on Nov 26.

See story on page C1.

### Carr Ranch Saved

Lamorinda residents had much to be thankful for when it was announced last week that the historic Carr Ranch had been saved.

East Bay Municipal Utility District and the John Muir Land Trust announced Nov. 22 a partnership that saves the 604 acres of pristine Lamorinda land for future use.

EBMUD's Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve \$4.5 million to purchase the land, formalizing a partnership between EBMUD and the JMLT to acquire the land from the Carr family, which has owned the land for over a century. Carr Ranch will be permanently preserved as watershed land, essential wildlife habitat and open space for public enjoyment.

"Carr Ranch is a beautiful area that EBMUD will carefully manage as we do our other protected watershed lands," said EBMUD spokesperson Andrea Pook. "This open space benefits the people in Lamorinda (and all our customers) who will be able to easily access this spectacular land."

JMLT will manage permanent public access to Carr Ranch for light recreation such as hiking, wildlife viewing, dog walking and equestrian activities. No biking will be allowed.

"We couldn't have hoped for an outcome that better serves the public's need for permanent protection and access to this spectacular natural landscape," said Linus Eukel, executive director of JMLT.

—P. Spear and N. Marnell

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