

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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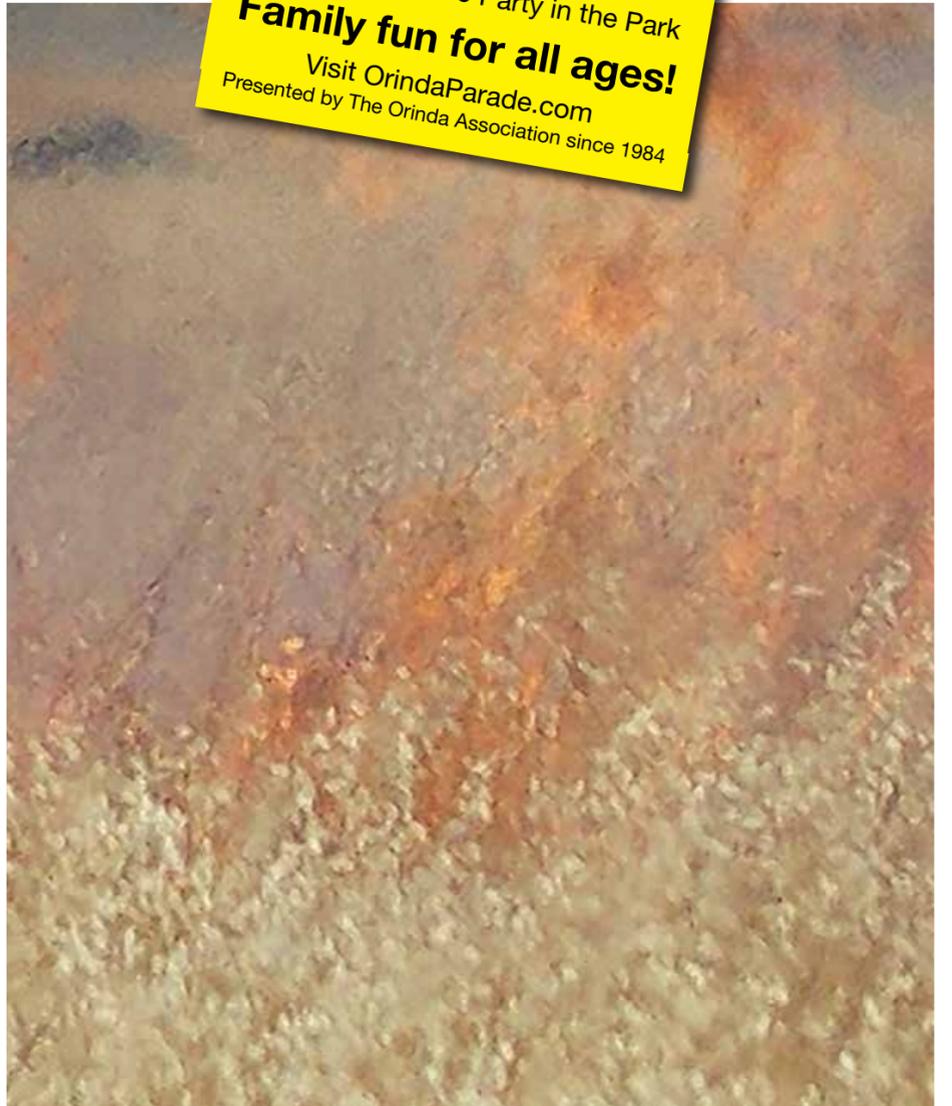
FREE

July 4th in Orinda!

JULY 4 2018 PDDJ-30

8 a.m. Haley's Fun Run for a Reason
 9 a.m. Book Sale
 10 a.m. Best Hometown Parade!
 11:30 Party in the Park

Family fun for all ages!
 Visit OrindaParade.com
 Presented by The Orinda Association since 1984



A ConFire firefighter drops a lit sparkler in a nearby field. The vegetation was ablaze five seconds later.

Photos Nick Marnell

This happened in five seconds

By Nick Marnell

Capt. David Woods dropped a lit sparkler to the ground during a June 19 Contra Costa County Fire Protection District training session and in five seconds, the vegetation was completely ablaze. The exercise occurred in a confined, regulated space, with dozens of firefighters readily available.

If you try this at home, you will likely not be immediately surrounded by professional emergency personnel.

"Sparklers burn at 1,200 to 2,000 degrees. They can very easily start fires, they are not safe and they are illegal," said Capt. George Laing.

With the dry grasses in the area, illegal fireworks can

cause hundreds of fires, taking off the street firefighters who could answer other emergency calls. Laing recommends that you enjoy the aerial firework displays licensed and regulated by the fire districts, like the Fourth of July fireworks show put on by the town of Moraga.

"We do not need any more ignition sources," Laing said.

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City rushes to rezone as developer pursues original 315-apartment project

By Pippa Fisher



Aerial view of the Deer Hill Road development site.

Photo courtesy City of Lafayette

While Lafayette city leaders address the rezoning of the controversial land on Deer Hill

Road in order to bring it into compliance with the general plan, they also took the step of enacting a 45-

day moratorium temporarily halting any development on that land.

... continued on page A3

La Finestra deal to lease Hacienda falls through

By Nick Marnell

Fine dining at the Hacienda de las Flores will have to wait until at least 2019 after the La Finestra Restaurant pulled out of a potential deal to lease space at the Moraga landmark. Restaurant owner Jeff Assadi said the insurance liability was too high and that the required tenant improvements ran nearly double the original cost estimate.

"We would be leasing a portion of the building, and my liability within the leased area was OK. But since alcohol will be served there, anything that occurs anywhere on the property, we would be liable," Assadi said.

Because the building will become multiuse, additional requirements had to be met in order

to house a restaurant, including accessibility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Also mandatory, according to the lease agreement, were renovations to the kitchen equipment and systems, including upgrades of the grease traps, the dishwasher, the hot water heater, the fans, the sewer connections and the fire suppression system. "There were expenses I never thought I would incur," Assadi said.

Town Manager Cynthia Battemberg said the town will apply for grant funding to comply with ADA regulations in the building, including upgrades to the bathrooms and the parking area. "By this time next year, the town could begin the work. ... continued on page A5

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