

Life in LAMORINDA

Summer Road Closures: Residents Still Have a Lot of Questions

By Sophie Braccini

"How will I get to my house on Madrone during the closure?" "Will I get my mail?" "Will there be a flagger at Bollinger?" "Will emergency vehicles be able to pass through the work?"

These were just a few of the pertinent questions asked by anxious Lamorinda residents during the public meeting held by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) on April 10th regarding the public work that will significantly disrupt traffic on both Mor-

aga Road and Moraga Way over the summer.

EBMUD is engaged in a countywide renovation of its infrastructure, plants, pumping stations and pipes. The work that will have the biggest impact on our communities, starting this spring, is the replacement of the piping that runs from the Lafayette Reservoir to Moraga along Moraga Road. The work will involve the complete closure of Moraga Road from south of Old Jonas Hill Road to north of Sky-Hy Drive from June 16th to

August 22nd during week days, 9AM to 5:30PM. At roughly the same time, the city of Orinda will repave Moraga Way, working mainly at night but still restricting traffic to one lane in localized areas.

The seventy people who attended the meeting could be divided in two categories: those who live in one of the 63 residences that will need direct access to the closed portion of Moraga Road, and other locals worried about the impact of traffic on adjacent roads.

Bill Hossfeld, a Moraga resident, is the EBMUD Moraga Road Project Manager. He responded to most of the questions, along with representatives of Mountain Cascade Inc., the General Engineering contractor who will do the work.

"Will I be able to get out of my house at 11 o'clock in the morning?" asked a Moraga Road resident. "Yes," answered Hossfeld, "residents in the closed area will get placards to put on their cars to get access." However, entry will be granted only in one direction at a given time, either uphill or downhill, depending on where the work is located. "Since getting in and out will be disruptive to the crews; the more you do it when they are in front of your house, the longer it will take them," he added.

Residents of the area had concerns about their mail delivery,

as well as trash collection and other services. Nora Harlow, the public interface liaison for EBMUD who is working with local agencies, indicated that discussions are ongoing.

Most in attendance were residents living in the areas that are going to be greatly impacted by the diverted traffic. The two alternative routes to Moraga Road are Rheem South-East / Saint Mary's and further up, Reliez Station toward Olympic Blvd, or Rheem West / Acalanes Road toward Lafayette and Glorietta toward Moraga Way.

"Getting on St Mary's Rd from Bollinger Canyon is already challenging. With increased traffic it will be more difficult, but you are not planning to post a flagger there. Why?" asked a concerned resident.

Hossfeld explained that nine flaggers will be working along St Mary's Road and Reliez Station Rd, at critical junctions, to regulate and speed traffic. "That's the plan right now," he added, "we will be listening and adapt to the real conditions. Do not hesitate to contact us if problems are worse than what we anticipate."

Harlow, who is also a Lamorinda resident, has the dubious distinction of being the go-to person for problem reports; she can be reached at 510-287-0140 or nharlow@ebmud.com.



Road sign on Moraga Road in Lafayette

Photo Sophie Braccini

General concerns from the public involved the quality and disruption of the water supply, how quickly the roads would be repaved and emergency access. EBMUD responded that the quality of water would not decrease, that there would be no disruption of the water supply except for a two-hour shutdown in one area, and that the roads would be promptly repaved, ongoing, within ten days.

"The population needs to know that emergency response time will be impacted" during the closures, said Moraga Police Chief Mark Ruppenthal.

"Emergency vehicles will have access at all time," stated Mike Nelson from Mountain Cascade, "only part of the roads are closed, all you have to do is to ask the foreman to move the vehicles that are working on the road out of

the way." Harlow confirmed, "We are working with the Fire Districts and dispatching."

For those who will need to use alternate routes, it might be a good idea to check them out in advance. On May 19, the contractor plans to begin trenching and installing pipe, starting near Sky-Hy Drive and working south, stopping shy of Campolindo. This section of pipeline work will require alternating one-way traffic, weekdays from 9am to 2:30pm. Repaving on Moraga Way should start around the same time.

All stakeholders recommend that you check web sites that will be constantly updated, recommending better routes and exactly locating the disruptions. Go to <http://www.ebmud.com/> and click on Moraga Road Pipeline Project Update.

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"These pants are too tight." "That shirt doesn't fit anymore." "I may have to buy all new clothes." These comments from my wife, Lisa, led me to seek out Sheena at Living Lean. A mutual friend had gone on the Living Lean program, and the results were great. Lisa was a bit reticent at first about her ability to succeed in the program. In turn, we all knew that we would have to support her 100% as a family. Since joining the program, the entire family now eats brown rice (not easy, since Lisa is Chinese), Living Lean Bread, and we've virtually eliminated red meat and high fat foods. At meals, our kids often ask if we're "eating on plan." Lisa has made working out a way of life. Lisa went from 28% body fat to 15% body fat in 6 months and from a size 10 to a size 6. Lisa is discovering "new" clothes every day in her own closet. At our recent school auction, she was able to wear the same little sexy black dress she wore at our wedding rehearsal dinner 10 years ago, and it fits perfectly.

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Living Lean Team

Lamorinda Artists Bring Lots of Talent to Spring Art Show

By Sally Hogarty



Sculpture by Tamara Selvig

Eagerly awaited by art aficionados and bargain hunters, Civic Arts Education and Clay Arts Guild's annual Spring Art Show will have something extra this year - lots of beautiful creations by Lamorinda artists. From decorative gourds to beautiful pottery to dramatic photographs and stunning fused glass jewelry, shoppers can find one-of-a-kind gifts perfect for that June graduate or blushing bride.

Photo provided

Avid gardeners and talented artists, Orinda's Kate Chenok and Kay Van Hoesen will be among the Lamorinda residents in the April 17-20 show.

gourd plant and put it in her backyard garden - a space certified as a National Wildlife Federation Habitat. Before she knew it, she had 10 large gourds growing and was taking classes in how to turn them into art objects. Now, her decorative gourds delight art lovers with their colorful decorations and unique materials. "Gourds are really the pottery of the plant world," says Van Hoesen, who has incorporated pinecones into her pieces and stenciled others to resemble jack-o-lanterns for Halloween. "I particularly like working with pine needles," Van Hoesen adds. "Some of my gourds are

Moraga's Barbara Davis will display her colorful fused glass jewelry and wall hangings at the art sale. Formerly a mixed media painter, Davis discovered fused glass a few years ago. "I've always been attracted to color and texture," says Davis, "but with the fused glass, I not only get color and texture, I also get light. It's just breath-taking how the light can add to the piece."

A long-time Clay Arts Guild member, Tamara Selvig is looking forward to participating in the annual art show. The Lafayette artist will be displaying both her pottery and sculpture. "My favorite activity is to craft the human figure," says Selvig. "I do my best to project the beautiful curves, muscles, and face of the models while trying to capture their energy and spirit."

Lafayette's Barbara Shull and Patricia "Pitter" Scanlan will also be displaying their artwork at the April 17-20 show. For an opportunity to meet the artists, attend the opening reception on April 17 from 5 - 9 p.m.



Peyote stitched leaf pendant, by Barbara Shull
Photo provided

"I love the creative process in which a form emerges from a piece of clay," says Chenok. "It's immediate gratification which is so different from my life as a corporate executive. The enterprising artist has also converted a 1/2-acre hillside at her Orinda home into a native plant garden decorated with her earth-toned bowls and planters. The garden will be featured in the "Bring Back the Natives" garden tour this May.

Kay Van Hoesen not only creates beautiful art pieces, she also grows them in her backyard. Twelve years ago, the former teacher for the Orinda Union School District brought home a

functional and serve as bread baskets, bird houses and such. Others are purely decorative such as my gourd Santas." Lafayette photographer Liane Abrams has not only captured the poignancy of the white crosses in her home town that represent those who have died in Iraq, she has also shown the sorrow left behind in hurricane ravaged New Orleans in her stirring black and white prints. The freelance photographer, however, does not dwell on negative images. She also brings the beauty of sunlight beaches to life and is preparing several new pieces for the April show.

Civic Arts Education and Clay Arts Guild

- Arts and Crafts Extravaganza
- April 17 - 5 - 9 p.m. (opening reception)
- April 18 - 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- April 19 - 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- April 20 - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Civic Arts Shadelands Campus (all visual arts media) 111 Wiget Lane (at Ygnacio Valley Blvd.), Walnut Creek
Civic Arts Park Studios D&E (all ceramics) 1313 Civic Drive (adjacent to Civic Park), Walnut Creek

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