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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Delivered bi-weekly to all Lamorinda homes & businesses

Free

Volume 02; Issue 8

visit us online: www.lamorindaweekly.com

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

INDEPENDENCE DAY



Festivities in celebration of Independence Day: See pages 18 and 19

Multiculturalism Thrives in Lamorinda

By Jennifer Wake

As the 4th of July approaches, a question comes to mind: Who are Americans, anyway?

Commonly known as a people of "baseball, hot dogs, and apple pie," a cultural shift has even hit American ball parks, with fare now ranging from sushi to sausages, linguini to lattes. We are a nation of cultural diversity. Lamorindans are no exception.

"America (and even my own family) is a melting pot," Lafayette resident Joanne Tan says.

Her two boys Benny and Daley Toudic have Chinese, French and British ancestry, so when her sons were 3 years old, Tan had them take French lessons for about three years. Now they are beginning to learn Mandarin Chinese.

"I believe that language is a stepping stone to understanding one's culture," Tan says.

And she is not alone. In recent years, immersion programs have become more common, according to the U.S. Center for Applied Linguistics. French For Fun in Lafayette of-

fers immersion programs for toddlers and elementary school aged children, Lafayette-based Small World teaches Chinese to children as young as one year old,

and KISS (Kids Into Speaking Spanish) immerses children in the language.

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Going Buggy!



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Women General Contractors: Move Over, Tool Man!



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Ground Breaking News: Moraga Road is Closed

By Sophie Braccini

Mountain Cascade and the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) did it; on June 16th they closed Moraga Road to through traffic at 9:00 a.m. sharp, not to reopen until 5:30 p.m. Everything had been tested, every flagger had his spot, every foreman had his phone, every worker his instructions. Things proceeded smoothly, and when the first traffic difficulties emerged the two companies were reactive and flexible, and modified the system in place to minimize the impact on residents.

Mountain Cascade won the EBMUD bid to install the new pipeline on Moraga Road. "We are doing more than replacing the old distribution system," explains EBMUD's Nora Harlow, "the new transmission pipeline is in addition to the existing pipeline, which will continue to function: for security purposes there will be two transmission pipelines along the same general alignment."

The project ends at Draeger Drive because EBMUD has a large reservoir up that road (Moraga Reservoir), which will be replaced in the near future. Before that happens, a reservoir will be built at Ardith Drive to provide water while the new Moraga Reservoir is constructed. This is all part of a comprehensive Water Treatment and Transmission Improvements Program, which will improve reliability of water service to Lamorinda and western Walnut Creek.

Harlow is the main contact person for all those who have issues with the project (510-220-4331). On Monday the 16th, her phone rang when people got stuck in traffic around 4 p.m. on St Mary's Road, and wanted immediate help. One of the biggest intersections is St Mary's with Glenside to the East (going toward Walnut Creek) and Woodview to the west. Mountain Cascade had stationed one of its most experienced flagger, Casey, at the corner. The young man says he likes his job, keeping traffic moving and being of real help to drivers.

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7-ton pipes are set in a 10 foot deep trench

Photo Sophie Braccini

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