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Volume 02; Issue 14

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Friday, September 17, 2008



Photos Andy Scheck



September 20 & 21



**Art & Wine
Pear
Festival
Restaurant
Tour**
See
pages
18 & 19

By Cathy Tyson

Detour on Mt. D. for the A & W

LAMORINDA WEEKLY
this week

**Council Candidates
Speak Out on Civic
Pride, Participatory
Democracy and the
Spirit of Volunteerism**
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The Making of the President
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Lamorinda Schools Ace API
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The Crush is On

By Andrea A. Firth

Dave Parker turns and waves his hand high above the row of grapevines behind him in response to the sounds of his daughter who is yelling goodbye as she departs for kindergarten. Ali knows just where to position herself on the driveway so that her father can see her from where he is perched up on the hill between two long rows of vines. They exchange a few secret hand signals, and she heads off to Rheem Elementary School down the street from their home.

Although Dave and his colleague Mike have been picking grapes—today it's Voignier—since the break of dawn and they face another four or five hours of picking to complete the harvest, he is relaxed. Parker is dressed comfortably in shorts and sweatshirt and has a few days facial stubble—a winegrower's uniform. Ali and her sister Jessalyn were out helping him to pick earlier, and he plans to take a tray of the sweet, marble-sized green grapes to Ali's class for a taste test later that day. This intermingling of work and family life suits Parker whose commercial wine making venture, Parkmon

Vineyards, has grown consistently over the past three years.

This is the tenth lot that Parker has harvested in the past eleven days. Parker picked lots of Zinfandel and Sauvignon Blanc grapes in late August. His first harvests in Moraga were at the start of September: three lots of Pinot Noir grapes from the backyards of local vineyard owners who have Parker produce

their wine. "In 2007, we ended up picking about 12 tons of grapes and making close to 600 cases," states Parker "This year, I've planned for about 14 tons and about 700 cases, but so far, yields have been coming in so low that we may end up a bit short of that estimate."

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School Bus Safety – Motorists Must Look Around, Slow Down & Stop

By Jean Follmer



When school starts, the school buses are back on the roads. This often results in a slower commute and the frustrating realization that an earlier departure may be necessary to "beat the bus" in order to arrive at destinations on time. If you do happen to "beat the bus" on weekday mornings, the Lamorinda School Bus Program (LSBP) still urges you to use caution on the roads. "Even when the bus isn't there (at the stop), we have kids along the road waiting for buses and drivers need to be careful. In the morning, kids are crossing the street unassisted, so that's a vulnerable point. We try to encourage the kids to arrive (at the bus stop) 5 minutes early," said LSBP

Program Manager Juliet Hansen. However, many kids are running to catch the bus and are crossing streets without looking in the process. In the afternoon, drivers physically get out of their buses to help children cross the street. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, pedestrian accidents account for two-thirds of school bus-related fatalities.

If you do get caught behind the bus, it's important to remain calm and accept the fact that your drive will likely take a bit longer. In each Lamorinda community, there have been cases of drivers cutting off buses and passing stopped buses that have their flashing red lights on. Gary Hein, Lead Driver for Durham School Services said the worst red light runner streets are:

- Lafayette** Reliez Valley Road from Grayson to Pleasant Hill and Pleasant Hill Road from Highway 24 to Olympic Boulevard
- Moraga** Moraga Road from Rheem Boulevard to St. Mary's Road and Rheem Boulevard between Moraga Road and Glorietta Boulevard
- Orinda** Anywhere on Miner Road and Anywhere on Overhill Road

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