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# LAMORINDA

## WEEKLY

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Wednesday, September 2, 2009

**For LAMORINDA**  
**Curves**  
 fitness  
**Grand re-Opening**  
**Sept 12-18**  
 594 Moraga Rd., 376-0110  
 (Rheem Center, near Home Goods)  
**Prizes, Fun, Call for Calendar of events**  
 Also ask about our **FREE** nutrition class



Chip Herman (standing) and Whitney Haist (driver) with Haist's fully restored 1926 Dodge Brothers Roadster which will be on display at the 5th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show  
 Photos Ohlen Alexander

# Orinda Classic Car Show—Five Years and Going Strong

By Andrea A. Firth

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**Don't miss the opening of the Lafayette Farmers' Market, Thursday, Sept. 3rd, 4-8p.m., Lafayette Plaza Park.**

**"I**t's all about building community and giving back," says Chip Herman as he looks out the window from his seat inside Geppetto's toward Orinda Way, which on September 19th will be lined with vintage and modern exotic cars for the 5th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show. Herman, a 20-year resident of Orinda and the event founder, displays a youthful exuberance and his passion for cars as he describes the plans for this year's show. "Orinda's Car Show is unique because of the range of great vehicles we get from the community," says Herman. "Each year we have both classic cars in mint condition and others that are lovingly driven every day. We get hot rods and other custom cars, race cars, and even the oc-

casional vintage Air Stream camper. There's something for everyone," he adds. The car show has become an Orinda tradition and has grown exponentially over the past five years. The first year, the show attracted 22 cars and raised \$1,600 for Seniors Around Town, a volunteer organization that provides transportation to senior residents. Last year, there were over 125 cars on display and the show netted \$16,000 for the seniors' program. Herman expects year five to be even bigger and better. "I've been to a lot of car shows," he says, "[The Orinda Car Show] has some hidden gems, some really amazing cars. It rivals any national car show."

... continued on page 18

<p><b>72 Tappan Lane, Orinda</b></p> <p>Stunning Remodel with Panoramic Views!  <b>\$2,050,000</b></p> <p>DRE#01272382</p>	<p><b>43 Bear Ridge Rd, Orinda</b></p> <p>Sleepy Hollow Hideaway  <b>\$1,695,000</b></p>	<p><b>9 Via Hermosa, Orinda</b></p> <p>Beautiful Country Club Tuscan Villa  <b>2,900,000</b></p> <p>Pending</p>
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## MOFD Board Selects Stakeholder Group to Interview Fire Chief Candidates

By Lucy Amaral

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors moved yet another step further in selecting a new fire chief. At the MOFD Board meeting held August 19, the Board announced that a committee made up of community members, local police and fire chiefs, and MOFD employees will serve as its 'Stakeholder' group (see sidebar), which will interview the candidates. The interview session was set for September 2.

Avery Associates, the executive search firm retained by the Board, was charged with submitting the top six to eight candidates to the Board and the Stakeholder group for interviews. Board President Pete Wilson said that the Board of Directors also has the option of adding any candidate from the original 56 applicants if they feel it necessary.

Once the Stakeholder group finalizes its interviews, it will make recommendations to the Board. "We hope to obtain a wide point of view as to what's important to all the dif-

ferent groups - municipalities, organizations, individuals, etc., - all those that the fire district serves," Wilson said. The Board will then conduct final interviews on September 14 and make its decision soon thereafter. Wilson said he hopes the process is complete and a new Fire Chief is hired by September 30.

The new Chief will replace Acting Fire Chief Pete Nowicki. Nowicki, who retired in December 2008, has been serving as interim Fire Chief until a replacement is found. Depending on the start date for the new Chief, Wilson said that the Board has the option of continuing Nowicki's contract on a weekly or monthly basis.

Also on the August 19 MOFD agenda was a request by Orinda resident Steve Cohn, on behalf of a community group, FAIR (Fire and Infrastructure Renewal), asking the Board for access to incident response time data that MOFD used for a 'standards of coverage' study.

... continued on page 8

## Foreclosed Home Becomes Public Nuisance in Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



This home is at the center of the controversy Photo Cathy Tyson

The City of Lafayette just wanted to see it cleaned up; easier said than done for a foreclosed home on the corner of Condit Road and Pleasant Hill Road. What originally was a request to clean up the yard has now become a \$15,000 lien on the property.

It started in 2004, when the home was purchased as an investment by Joel Barcelona. A large addition was planned in the rear of the home, so the back of the structure was opened up and framing began. Sheet rock and insulation were removed

from the interior of the existing structure; what was left was a hollow shell. Unfortunately Barcelona, like many Californians, fell on hard times, and was unable to complete the remodel. The home eventually went into foreclosure.

"The neighbors have been very patient and endured the nuisance for too long. At one point it was intended to be my family's primary residence but that fell through."

... continued on page 6

## Orinda to Host California Independent Film Festival

By Andrea A. Firth



What will Orinda soon have in common with Park City, Utah; Telluride, Colorado; and Cannes, France? A film festival! In April Orinda, specifically the historic Orinda Theater, will become home to the California Independent Film Festival. Read on page 5

## Eat, Drink, Listen and Shop at Lafayette's Art and Wine Festival

By Cathy Tyson



On September 19 and 20, Lafayette will hold its biggest event of the year, the Art and Wine Festival. A portion of Mt. Diablo Boulevard will be closed to cars, but open for strolling, drinking, munching and shopping - possibly even dancing. With easy parking at BART, the Festival features top notch food, wine and micro-brews, along with more than 250 booths ...Read on page 19

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