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Lamorinda's Religious Services



Willow Spring Church
1675-1689 School Street, Moraga
www.willow.springchurch.org
(925) 376-3550

Sunday Service Times:
Prayer @ 8am, Traditional @ 9am, Contemporary @ 10:30am,
Services for youth and children after
worship during the 10:30am service

Weekly Activities: Wednesday Community Bible Study @ 10am
Wednesday REVERB Youth Group @ 7pm
Friday BLAST! Kids Club @ 6pm

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
24 Orinda Way, Orinda (next to the Library) - 254-4212

Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Reading Room/Bookstore M-F: 11 am- 5 pm
(across from the Orinda Theater)

www.christianscienceorinda.org

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Way Orinda
Fall Worship Schedule begins 9/13

8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
9:40 a.m. Education for all ages
10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship Service
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

925-254-3422

Our Savior's Lutheran (ELCA)
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
283-3722 • www.oslc.net

Summer Sunday Morning Schedule
Blended Worship, 9:30-10:25 am
Adult Education, 10:30-11:15 am
"the church behind the car wash"

Beginning Sept 13:
Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 am

THE ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH
10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA 925.254.4906
www.orindachurch.org

"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
A Loving Community
Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM
Active Youth Program, Sunday School, Nursery Childcare, 10 AM
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

Worship the Lord with us
Sundays at 9:30am



Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church
10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga • www.mvpc.today.org • (925) 376-4800

St. Giles Episcopal Church of Moraga
Worshipping at St. Mary's College Chapel. All are welcome at our services.
9 a.m. Sunday Service: Holy Communion - with St. Giles' Choir.
Child care is available all year.
1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. 925-376-5770

LAMORINDA Community

Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and town (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for length or legal considerations.
email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

I cannot believe what I really read about Lafayette parking in the August 19 issue. We just had several meetings discussing the town plan for the future. While there were a host of opinions on the issues, any parking structures were treated with scepticism and not considered disreable.

Yet, I read that a prime property, such as the one on Mt. Diablo and Dewing is being considering for a parking structure. Whoever thought this one up needs a reality check. A new building that has added to the life in this area with restaurants and shops is still new. It would seem to me that adding to the life of this area would be to continue the fashion of this building and also playing into the future plan by creating a building that adds to the ambience of the area, not detract.

Parking in such a prime location is just plain nuts! Whoever floated this balloon needs a reality check.

Leonard Dorin
Lafayette

To the Editor:

Since MOFD's Fire Chief Pete Nowicki's egregious pension benefits have received attention locally and nationally in the Wall Street Journal, I feel it is incumbent on the citizens of Moraga and Orinda, who will be paying the approximate \$2.4 million in spiked benefits to Chief Nowicki, to look for the root cause. The chief was only looking out for his self interest which is to say he had the opportunity to raid the cookie jar and he succumbed to the temptation. It is apparent to me that the Board of MOFD is highly culpable in this matter and in my opinion, they should resign. This would allow a new slate of board members to clean up the fiscal irresponsibility that now permeates the culture.

There are no term limits in the MOFD good old boys club. Consequently the board has been running MOFD like it was a rich man's hobby spending the tax payers money without restraint. I was a member of Orinda's Revenue Enhancement Task Force. While serving I learned that the MOFD board had a long range plan to spend \$30 million for building projects including a new administration building and a new training facility. But, very little was planned for water pipe rehabilitation which was promised to Orinda back when MOFD was formed. That they were even thinking such thoughts points out that they certainly were not thinking about ways to deliver the needed services to the community on a cost effective basis. It surely never occurred to them to ask the basic management question: Is it possible to deliver our services in a more economical way? Until such questions are asked, possible solutions vetted and appropriate actions taken, the tax payers of Orinda and Moraga are going to continue to get a bum deal.

Bill Schmicker
Orinda

To the Editor,

Any longer-term resident of Orinda would certainly notice the enormous increase in neighborhood noise caused by the widespread use of gas and electric leafblowers. We've lived in Orinda 15 years, and in the past three years or so, it seems most homeowners employ a "landscaper" who visits weekly. Every one of these mobile gardeners has the backpack leafblower, and they spend from 15 to 45 minutes spewing dust and exhaust, and broadcasting that grinding shriek caused by their machines.

From inside our home, we can hear the blowers' noise emanating from homes and streets a quarter mile away! Just one single leafblower sends noise throughout the hilly topography of Orinda, permitting its uniquely irritating loudness to blanket several neighborhoods at a time. Literally dozens of

households put up with just one leafblower's use.

A couple of years ago, we told our gardener to switch to rakes and brooms. We could not in good conscience subject our neighbors to such unnecessary and intrusive noise. There's simply no justification for willfully infringing on my neighbors' right to the quiet enjoyment of their property!

Friends from nearby Piedmont visited recently, and they were astonished at how loud and frequent the leafblower episodes were! Piedmont banned their use several years ago; similarly Berkeley, Santa Barbara, and numerous other communities have outlawed leaf blowers. Orinda enacted a ridiculously ineffective "noise ordinance" back in 2004, that only bans gasoline-powered leafblowers on Sunday (but permits electric blowers on Sunday, which are nearly as loud!).

Orinda permits their use Monday to Friday from 8 am until 6 pm; and on Saturday from 10 am until 5 pm. We often hear them outside of these hours, particularly Saturday mornings and sometimes on Sunday afternoon. It is high time the city of Orinda moved to ban the use of these obnoxious and stress-causing machines entirely. Rakes and brooms do a fine job, don't pollute, and cost less.

Sincerely,
Susan and Peter Kendall
Orinda

Dear Editor,

Thanks Moraga-Orinda Fire District!

Daily we are bombarded with bad news, and so I hope that you will find fit printing this one. On July 30 at 1:10 pm, while working in my office at home, I felt that something snapped in my chest, followed by an excruciating pain. I assumed I had a heart attack and asked my wife to call 911. I don't know which station from MOFD responded, but they were at our front door within three minutes. My office is on the second floor and the crew had to carry me down in a special chair to the rescue truck. That is the last thing I remember. They must have put in on the way to John Muir Hospital an I.V. in my right hand (a real professional job the nurses in J.M. commented) and administered whatever medication they thought I would need, after which I passed out. My wife told me the rest of the story. In the Emergency Room Dr. Jacobs and her colleagues have quickly determined that I did not have a heart attack but a ruptured aorta leaving my heart requiring immediate surgery, which I found out later is much more serious than a heart attack. From the E.R. they transferred me to the Concord campus of John Muir where I underwent an extensive open heart surgery by Dr. Kamlot and his team the same night lasting nine hours. They were not sure until early next morning when I woke up in the I.C.U. if I will make it. I am now well on my way to full recovery and hope to resume my normal life within a month or so. I would like to express my sincere thanks to MOFD and particularly to the rescue team that took me to the ER for their quick and professional response. They were instrumental in saving my life.

Laszlo G. Bonnyay
Moraga

Public Forum JOIN IT

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section.

Just send your letter to letters@lamorindaweekly.com and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

Foreclosed Home Becomes Public Nuisance in Lafayette

... continued from page 1

It was more than I could handle and no longer was an investment. I hope now that the bank or the new owners are able to bring the property back to its previous condition, take much better care of it, and that the neighborhood could move forward in a positive direction," said Barcelona in a recent statement.

The City became aware of the situation when building permits were filed, but expired due to inactivity. The Contra Costa Building Inspection Department and City staff sent the property owner notice that he was in violation of Lafayette Municipal Codes regarding maintenance of property. It was so deteriorated that it had become a nuisance; the owner was given two weeks to clean it up. Well, that didn't happen.

Eventually after more notices, the City did the work and billed the owner for \$4,750. This represented \$2,850 for the abatement along with costs for the City Attorney, the Code Enforcement Officer and administrative fees.

"It has not been pleasant. I have to constantly call the City about rodents, and fire hazard due to teenagers living in the abandoned home lighting candles, and the pool in the backyard attracting mosquitoes. It has been a pain," said adjacent neighbor Vivian Williams. She also worries if she sells her home this eyesore lowers the value of her property.

The \$4,750 abatement fee wasn't paid so a lien was filed with the County for that amount. A pub-

lic hearing was held adopting a resolution imposing a special assessment of \$10,000 on the property in 2008, as allowed by the Lafayette Municipal Code section 8-2105 General Property Violations. A demand for payment was sent to the owner as well as the mortgageholder at that time, Countrywide Home Loans.

Now the special assessment total is up to \$15,000 - which represents the \$10,000 fine, the \$4,750 cost of abatement and now a \$250 dollar charge has been assessed to cover cost of putting a levy on the 2009 - 2010 property tax roll.


The home went into foreclosure last year with Countrywide Home Loans. Bank of America bought the firm, so now all of Coun-

trywide's mortgages and foreclosures are the responsibility of B of A.

"Just because a special assessment is issued doesn't mean the fine is terminated. At any time I can issue another citation if they continue not to reply to correspondence or return phone calls. The owner can rack up another \$15,000 to \$20,000 in fines," said Greg Wixom with the County Building Inspection Lamorinda office.

Calls to Bank of America were not immediately returned. Concerned residents can call the City Code Enforcement Officer about homes falling into disrepair at (925) 299-3207; concerns regarding structural issues should be directed to the Lamorinda Building Inspection Office at (925) 299-0263.

Lily Wescott
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Lafayette	\$787,973	\$1,043,696	\$1,739,740
Moraga	\$990,000	\$1,023,856	\$1,393,333
Orinda	\$866,264	\$1,161,214	\$1,463,250

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