

Civic News Moraga

Moraga School District Pins its Hopes on Measure B

... continued from page A1

“What school districts get is based on the number of special needs students they have. In Moraga we have few, which means that the plan for Moraga is to get to the 2007-08 level of funding by the school year 2020-21.” She adds that this projection is based on eight consecutive years of income tax growth for the state. “There are a lot of big ‘ifs’ out there,” she acknowledges.

If approved, the Measure B parcel tax would go into effect July 1, 2014. At this time Orinda residents pay \$509 per parcel for their schools, Lafayette residents \$528; this new tax would bring Moraga residents’ contributions to \$517.

Burns adds that the district has cut all of the administrative services it possibly could, and that all of the money from the tax will go to fund only educational services. “If the measure does not pass we would have to take drastic measures,” says the superintendent.

The school board has studied what the consequences of no parcel tax would be. “Class size, that’s now at 24, would go to 28 — maybe 32 in some classes,” Burns explains. “That’s what the state provides for, that’s what is found in districts such as the

Mount Diablo School District.” He adds that the programs and the extra-curricular activities that contribute to a positive atmosphere at schools and add to the quality of the educational experience for students would have to be cut, citing Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School as one example of the district’s success. “There is so much going on at JM now in terms of school climate with SSA, iKind, WEB, programs that didn’t exist five or six years ago,” says Burns. “Parents have a very positive opinion of our schools, and it is because of everything we have done over the past years.”

The school board decided to go for a fall election rather than spring because it is easier to mobilize the volunteers who have already begun calling registered voters and going door-to-door. The Moraga Education Foundation has postponed its usual fall phone-a-thon. “We do not want to confuse people,” said Kim Martranga, MEF president. “We will resume our fundraising campaign at the beginning of next year.”

The PTAs of all four Moraga schools, the Moraga Town Council, and numerous businesses and residents have endorsed Measure B. For more information, visit www.moragayesonb.com.

Bollinger Valley Development at a Standstill

... continued from page A5

The study work for the EIR started in 2006 and comments suggested that certain data elements need to be updated, such as traffic counts. “Staff and consultants have determined that additional analyses and studies are required to respond to comments on the draft EIR,” she said.

Commenting after the meeting, Brekke-Read said that the project could not move forward unless these studies are done. “So far the property owners have challenged the necessity to conduct the additional work, but we are con-

tinuing our discussion with them,” she said.

At the same meeting, the Town Council decided to give a go ahead to the process of a complete revision of the slope and ridgeline development in town, a process that the Bruzzone family has opposed. If local rules are modified, it may also have an impact on what can be done in Bollinger Valley and the property owners might decide to wait until decisions are made — they have not responded to questions regarding their intent in that matter.

Civic News Orinda

New Recycling Option



Photo provided by the City of Orinda

Pitching in is now easier than ever in Orinda with the recent installation by Orinda’s Public Works Department in the downtown area of five new recycling containers. The city was able to purchase the containers

thanks to the annual Beverage Container Recycling Grant funding it receives annually. Shown here with one of the new containers are Orinda City Council Members Victoria Smith and Steve Glazer. *L. Snyder*

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. **Send a letter to the editor:** letters@lamorindaweekly.com

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