

LAMORINDA...So much to be thankful for!

# Lafayette Top Rated Schools Lafayette Reservoir Run

Safe Communities

d Schools Lafayette Reservoir Run Lafayette Library & Learning Center Orinda Safe Communities Lafayette Library & Learning Center
Lafayette/Moraga Bike Trail Moraga Commons Park

EFO Moraga Pheem Theater

Orinda Theater

Orinda 4th of July Parade

www.lamorindaweekly.com

Moraga Rheem Theater

**Art & Wine Festival** 

Reservoir

Above all else, we are thankful for our clients, family and friends! Happy Thanksgiving from the Brydon & Ives Team.

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## **Relaxing Sprinkler Rules for New Homes** and Remodels in Moraga and Orinda

By Sophie Braccini

Orinda Fire District's ordinance installation of sprinklers," she relaxing the rules regarding the in- added. "Last year I granted a varistallation of sprinklers in homes, ance for a 750-square-foot conlarge remodels and commercial crete block bathroom. It would buildings. In 2010 Moraga and have cost more than the building Orinda agreed to regulations that was worth to add the sprinklers." were more demanding than the rest of Contra Costa County. The city of San Ramon and other agennew text aligns the local guide- cies within the county to align lines with the rest of the county.

explained how the 2010 rule re- sprinklers for remodels is now a resolution to the Contra Costa quired residential remodels to in- total of 3,600 square feet and a 50 County Board of Supervisors on clude a sprinkler system when it percent addition. For commercial Dec. 3 (the board oversees the unadded over 50 percent of the exist- buildings, 5,000 square feet of incorporated areas covered by ing home and reached over 2,500 new building triggers the sprinkler MOFD).

he Moraga Town Council square feet. "For commercial new requirement. "The new code also recently ratified the Moraga- buildings, any size called for the

common practice. The new size the new rule that will take effect in Fire Marshall Kathy Leonard that will trigger the installation of 2014. Leonard will present the

allows for flexibility in building construction," she said. "We are also allowing for alternate means in commercial building. If someone can prove to the fire district that there are detection systems, or specific construction that give a The fire marshal met with the substantial amount of safety, then we will consider it as well."

The city of Orinda also ratified

#### **Civic News** Lafayette

## Standing Room Only for State of the **City Meeting**

... continued from page A1

ion that the Downtown Specific Plan sidized by the city with the exception obtaining grants will help keep the is flawed, encouragement to have ro- of the Eden housing development downtown functional. "We can't tell bust fire protection locally, perception which will provide 47 units for low-someone they can't build on their of "ugly" structures being built, to income local senior citizens. crowding on BART and in schools. Anderson calmly explained that the city doesn't run BART or the school district, and the public is always welcome at meetings to comment on the attractiveness or concerns regarding potential development, and that they are diligently working to resolve the fire and emergency service situation.

Subsidized housing came up; one person stated there is no reason to use who can't afford to live here." The mayor replied that all of the develop- Bay Area. "Building is going to hap-

The current surge in construction downtown is a concern of many residents. Lafayette's General Plan controls development, along with an extensive review process for all structures, said the mayor, making it clear that a Priority Development Area doesn't override that process. PDAs are eligible for capital infrastructure

"People have an economic inter-Lafayette's resources to bring in sub- est in developing their property," said sidized housing and "bring in people" Anderson, adding those interests have nothing to do with the PDA or Plan

Questions ranged from an opin- ment going on downtown is not sub- pen regardless;" having the PDA and property."

President of the Lafayette Homeowners Council and longtime resident Jenny Kallio was pleased with the large turnout and described the meeting as constructive, bringing awareness to citizens and complimenting the mayor on how he explained these volatile issues. In her opinion, the City Council is "doing its best to contain development." She added that information on current and future construction projects is available on the city website for "all the world to see." Go to www.lovelafayette.com

## Civic News Moraga

## Café Hacienda to Stay for Now

... continued from page A5

is that at the end of each business Hacienda. week she must pack up her supplies and store them somewhere asset for the town and that it has atelse to make room for the caterers tracted visitors to the lovely loca-

Gayle Somers, owner of the such as the weddings that are a residents have been seeking for Café Hacienda, said her challenge major source of revenue for the years.

who come for weekend events, tion, serving the quality food that the future.

The Town Council decided to Everyone agreed that cafe is an extend Somers' rental agreement for three months, at no cost, while the stakeholders meet to discuss

#### **Civic News** Fire Districts

# Commitment to Lafayette Reaffirmed

#### ... continued from page A9

He is in talks with MOFD, but neifund the project right now, he said. Still, he is looking at all angles.

"What if we sold our current station (16) site?" he said. "We're looking at liquidating properties that we own to make this happen, even asking for a loan. We're serious."

Carman's message ther district has sufficient capital to Lafayette is one of commitment; a commitment to provide the city with the best possible fire and emergency service. He is aware, though, that the city feels it is not getting the service from the district that it pays for.

"If the cities want more say in are doing and why we are doing it."

how the district provides service, they should seek a governance change. The current system doesn't allow for city input," he said. "Maybe a new governance model would allow that.

"At least, I want to make Lafayette understand fully what we



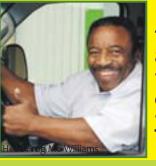


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