

Lamorinda

WEEKLY

Independent, locally owned and operated!

925-377-0977

Aloha Sunday

July 17, 2016

Na'Okina Hawaiian Band and Dancers

Worship: 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Luuu Lunch: 11:45 a.m.

Lunch tickets available at LOPC.org

Adults \$12/Kids \$6

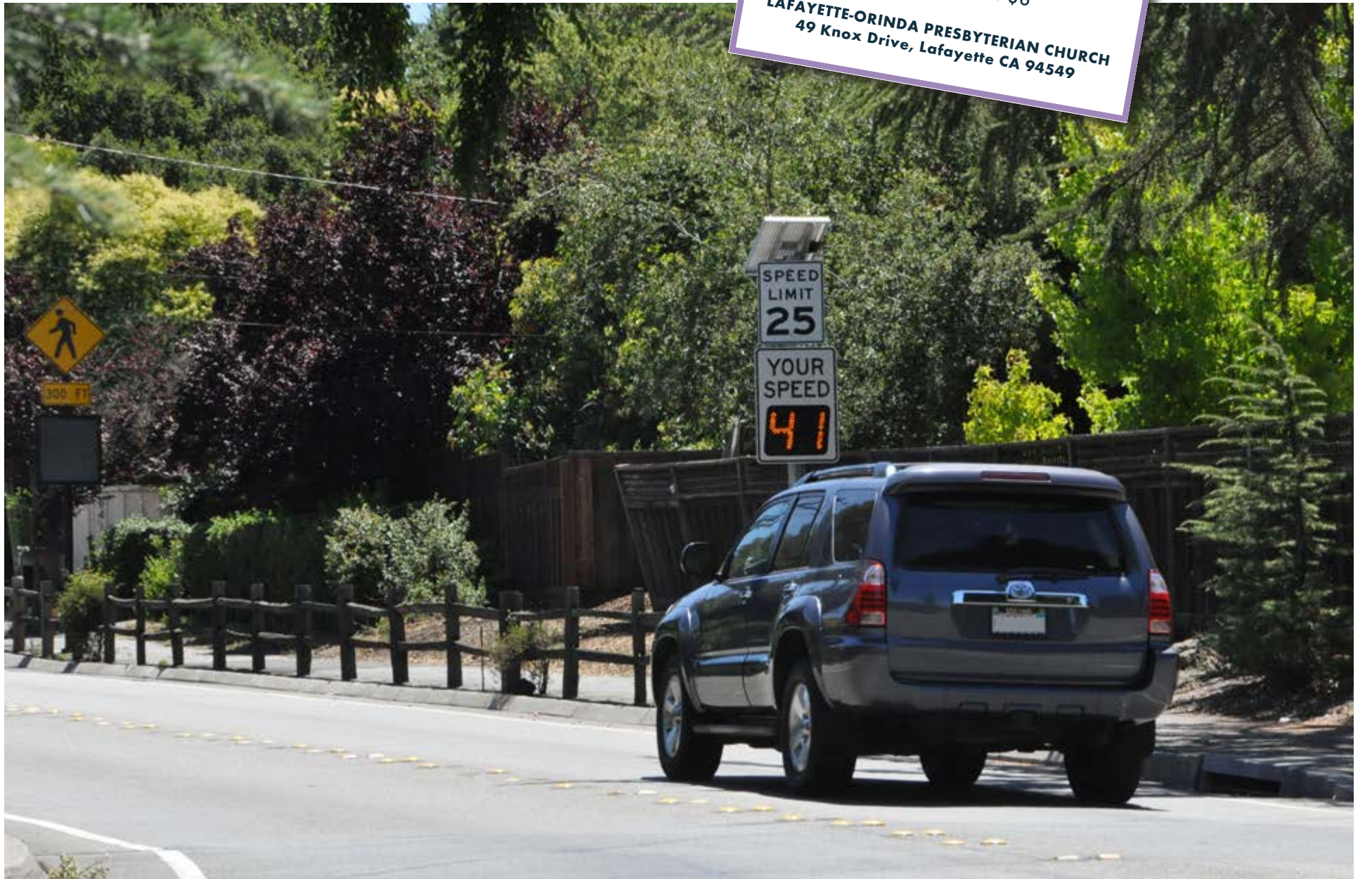
LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

49 Knox Drive, Lafayette CA 94549

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26,000 copies delivered biweekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses

FREE



Electronic speed signs like above on Moraga Road in Lafayette help to build awareness among drivers. Many drivers hit the brakes when approaching the sign last Saturday. Photo Andy Scheck

PDs Three Words: Slow Down Lamorinda!

By Sophie Braccini

A happy summer in the suburbs should mean sun, fun, friends and relaxation. No one wants increased traffic speed, inexperienced drivers and carelessness to lead to more accidents.

This is why the three Lamorinda police departments are reviving the Slow Down Lamorinda campaign that started in June of 2007 in the aftermath of three local speed-related

deaths. The three police chiefs say they'll be happy if this leads to zero infractions, because the campaign is about prevention and keeping people of all ages and in all modes of transportation safe.

Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen still remembers when his department received a call of an accident on one of Lafayette's long winding roads along the Orinda border a cou-

ple of years ago. The call was about a car into a tree, with several people trapped inside the vehicle and at least one person ejected from the vehicle. When officers responded, they found that the driver had lost control of the car, packed with seven kids. "The majority were transported to the hospital with injuries and I imagine they are still suffering the consequences of that day," says Christensen. ... continued on page A12

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Lamorinda

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION PRESENTS - ORINDA JULY 4th PARADE

10:00 AM – PARADE STARTS

11:00 AM – PARTIES ON BOTH SIDES OF ORINDA

MORE INFORMATION AT

ORINDAASSOCIATION.ORG

ConFire Chief: Reach Out, He'll Be There

By Nick Marnell



Jeff Carman Photo provided

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District was in dire need of strong leadership. The district had closed four fire stations after a failed 2012 parcel tax initiative, the labor group had tuned

out management, property tax revenue was flat and according to the county administrator, the district was headed toward bankruptcy. Lafayette, a city that accounted for more than \$8 million a year in tax revenue, threatened to detach from the district after the closure of one of its fire stations and plans for a replacement station stalled. If that weren't doom and gloom enough, a consultant warned the county that the ConFire business model was unsustainable.

It was the exact opportunity that Jeff Carman, a 29-year veteran of the Roseville Fire Department, had been seeking.

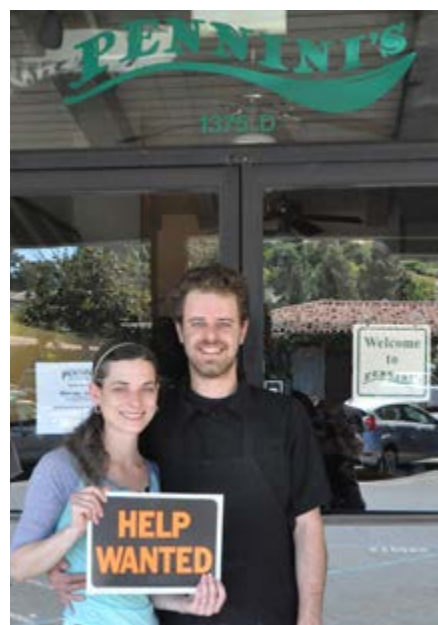
"I was ready for the challenge," said Carman, who took over as chief of the \$100 million district in October 2013. "They wanted someone who would look

at things differently. ConFire is much bigger than Roseville, so it was a little intimidating. I knew it wasn't a boutique fire department," – over 240 ConFire suppression personnel respond to 45,000 calls a year out of 25 staffed fire stations – "but I was up for it."

Carman, 52, in good enough shape that he recently took up snowboarding, started as a junior firefighter for the city of Grass Valley. As soon as he turned 18 he went to work for an ambulance company. He rose to assistant chief of operations at Roseville, leading the largest all-hazard fire district in the second-most industrialized county in California. There he faced his most difficult decision as an incident commander. ... continued on page A8

'Help Wanted' is Becoming a Familiar Sign in Moraga

By Jennifer Wake



Pennini's manager Dawn Fischer and her fiancé sous-chef Declan Johnston are looking to hire. Photo Andy Scheck

Walk the promenade at Moraga or Rheem Valley shopping centers and you'll see a common window display: help wanted signs.

In Moraga, Bianca's Deli, Mucho Wraps, Pennini's, and Moraga Hardware and Lumber, Across the Way, Lamorinda Pizza, Moraga Produce, Mountain Mike's, Tangelo and Graze all sport various signs in windows seeking extra help. Orinda and Lafayette seem less impacted, but signs can still be found at Jamba Juice, Chipotle, and Yogurt Shack near Whole Foods or at McCaulou's in all three Lamorinda locations. ... continued on page A9

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Moraga Road to stay four lanes – page A4		Woman from Orinda is ordained as "Catholic" priest. – page B1.		Rio-bound synchronized swimmers practice at Soda Aquatic Center.– page C1.		Airbnb's are thriving in Lamorinda. – page D1.	
Fire Districts	A8	MOFD debating disparity in Orinda tax – page A8					