

LAMORINDA

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8th Annual Senior Symposium
"AGING BY DESIGN"

Saturday, August 6, 2016
 8:30 am – 12 pm

Lafayette Elementary School
 950 Moraga Rd., Lafayette

Advanced registration
 qualifies for a \$100 Gift
 Card to Diablo Foods
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A long freight train hauled by an impressive mallet steam locomotive rounds a bend on the Los Arabis Creek garden railroad.

Photo Victor Ryerson

Trains Roar Through Lafayette's Happy Valley

By Victor Ryerson

The Los Arabis Creek Railway Company is not your average railroad. Although its long freights and flashy passenger trains wind along a creek and through the trees of Lafayette's Happy Valley, nobody is hollering, "Not in my backyard!" As a matter of fact, many

of us would hope to be so fortunate.

The Los Arabis Creek is a garden railroad, the creation of train lover Bob Evans, and it runs in his backyard. With his wife Norma, he recently opened it to visitors from all over the country, and to local friends and neighbors.

Attendees of the National Garden Railway Convention, held this year in the Bay Area, were their guests as part of a tour of local garden railroads. On July 10 neighbors and other members of the public were also invited to have a look. Nobody left disappointed. ... continued on page A12

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Help Local Foster Kids Get Ready For School This Year...Donate Supplies at 5A!

Many don't even have the basic supplies...

5A Rent-A-Space in Moraga is collecting donations of new school supplies for our area's Foster Children. For every donation we will give you a gift with our "Thanks"! Our goal is 100 items at each 5A location...

Will You Help?

A list of needed items is at 5aspace.com. Promotion Ends 8/21/16

AAAAA RENT-SPACE Store It Yourself & Save
 455 Moraga Rd. Ste.F (925)643-2026 www.5aspace.com
 Use our FREE van to move in when you rent!

Lamorinda Limelight: Larry Olson

A Lifetime of Service Continues

By Cathy Dausman

Larry Olson has worn so many hats in his adult life it is a wonder you can see his face. The soft spoken Orinda man with a voice reminiscent of longtime Disney narrator Rex Allen claims to be retired, although it would be more accurate to say he continues to work but no longer gets paid.

Recently Olson flew his Piper J-3 Cub to Lompoc for the West Coast Cub Fly-in. He also owns a Cessna 172; these aircraft are not just his hobby, but tools of his volunteer trade. Olson has devoted 15 years' flight time to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

"Initially search and rescue was our main focus," he says, along with an aids-to-navigation inspection of the hundreds of markers spread along the delta waters, but the focus now is on Department of Homeland Security matters and drug interdiction.

Olson and his crew also act as a



Larry Olson Photo Cathy Dausman
 living marine resources unit; searching for whales on the move or entangled in fishing gear, and noting the location of crab and salmon vessels.

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How Proposed Transportation Sales Tax Will Impact Lamorinda

By Nick Marnell

The Board of Supervisors July 12 approved the expenditure plan of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, paving the way for a countywide one-half cent sales tax measure to appear on the November ballot. The plan proposes funding for several high-profile projects in the Lamorinda area.

Since 1988 the dollars generated through voter-approved sales tax measures C and J, and administered by the CCTA, have funded a wide variety of major Contra Costa County transportation projects, notably the Caldecott Tunnel's Fourth Bore. The current Measure J half-cent sales tax, in effect through 2034, will generate approximately \$2.5 billion. If the new half-cent sales tax measure is approved, it will bring in an additional \$2.9 billion through 2047.

The expenditure plan provides for funding over five major areas, including transit, major highway corridors, local streets and roads, the environment, and the safe trans-

portation of children, seniors and people with disabilities.

"It took a lot of compromise among many, many groups and organizations to bring us to where we are today," Board Chair Candace Andersen said.

In order for a jurisdiction to receive its share of the funds generated by the proposed sales tax, it must meet a long list of criteria, including the adoption of a development approval process that supports transit, bicycle and pedestrian access. Each jurisdiction must also demonstrate reasonable progress in providing housing opportunities for all income levels, and must maintain growth within clear urban limits.

"You want the voters' money, these are the rules," said Don Tatzin, Lafayette city council member and CCTA commissioner. A public oversight committee will make sure that the rules are followed.

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Civic News A1-A12

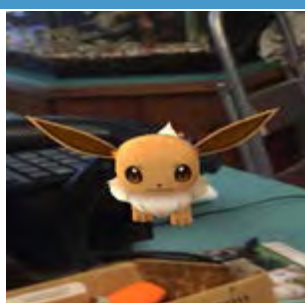
Orinda OKs biggest budget in its 32 years. – page A6

Fire District A8

Director Fred Weil decides not to run again. – page A8

Life in Lamorinda B1-B8

It's peekaboo with Pikachu as Pokemon GO takes over. – page B1.



Sports C1-C4

Former Lafayette rower is now headed to Rio. – page C1.



Our Homes D1-D16

Advantages to staging a home for sale. – page D1

