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## Back to Pencils, Back to Books

... continued from page A1

Orinda elementary and middle schools opened Aug. 23, giving those students an extra day to sleep in. Students attending an Acalanes Union High School District campus as well as all Orinda Union School District students will note the installation of overhead solar panels on their respective campuses. As the OUSD website points out, in addition to utility savings the move will provide "significant weather relief (i.e. shelter and shade) to children and parents."

### Back-to-School-Nights by City:

- Lafayette:**
- Acalanes High School: Sept. 15
  - Stanley Middle School: Sept. 13
  - Burton Valley: Sept. 1
  - Happy Valley: Aug. 25
  - Lafayette Elementary: Sept. 1
  - Springhill Elementary: Sept. 24 (\*Kindergarten: Sept. 22)
- Moraga:**
- Campolindo High School: Sept. 15
  - Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School: Aug. 25
  - All Moraga elementary schools (Camino Pablo, Donald Rheem, Los Perales) Sept. 1
- Orinda:**
- Miramonte High School: Sept. 15
  - Orinda Intermediate School: Aug. 25
  - All Orinda elementary schools (Del Rey, Glorietta, Sleepy Hollow, Wagner Ranch): Sept. 1.

## Lamorindans Celebrate National Night Out

By Cathy Dausman

It was neighbor meet neighbor one hot August night as 12 groups across Lamorinda took to their yards and streets welcoming police, fire and civic visitors Aug. 2 for National Night Out.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign designed to strengthen partnerships between first responders and communities and make neighborhoods safer. Eight Orinda neighborhoods gathered for annual NNO events, said Orinda NNO coordinator Patti Young. It was the third year of NNO participation for the city but the ninth year Orinda held "night out" celebrations, she said. "People seemed to be pretty excited about it," Young said, adding she thought that Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team publicity helped



From left, Officer Anthony Craig, Sergeant Brian South, Officer Will Davis, Officer Randy Pacheco, Acting Chief Jon King, Corporal Angela Likos and Officer Mike Dreyfuss  
 Photo Cathy Dausman

boost the attendance numbers. Moraga hosted NNO events in four neighborhoods; a fifth neighborhood held its event the preceding Sunday. Lafayette hosted one NNO event. Many neighborhoods offered hors d'oeuvres or dessert finger food during their NNO event; some swapped excess garden produce. Police and fire vehicles arrived with flashing lights and delighted children of all ages. NNO was established in

1984; it currently boasts participation in more than 16,000 communities from all 50 states. NNO is a presentation of the National Association of Town Watch with local sponsorship by the Moraga Citizen's Corps Council, the Orinda Citizen's Corps Council and the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission. To prepare a NNO celebration for your neighborhood next summer go to <https://natw.org/about>.

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### Moraga

## All Access Park

... continued from page A5

Ingram met with Rotarians, engineers and architects to find possibilities. On Aug. 16 he presented commissioners with six options, four at the Commons and two at Rancho Laguna Park. The two locations at Rancho Laguna Park were on the north side, an option that did not carry any extra cost, and the south side of that park that would cost an extra \$132,300 for reconfiguration of the asphalt path. The four options at the Commons suggested locating the new equipment either close to the upper or lower playground. The first option proposed to use the space adjacent to the upper playground where swing sets are located, with an estimated cost of \$370,500. The second option would have wrapped the new area around the lower playground and toward the picnic tables; it would require tree removals and would cost \$154,400. The third option would place the new park also near the tot-lot, but separate and closer to the Matt Biondi fountain and the Veterans Memorial rock; this option would require also tree removal and cost

\$132,900. Since that option uses a more flat area and less grading it is the one recommended by the engineers who were consulted. The fourth option proposed to relocate the lower tot playground to the location of the second option and replace it with the all access site; its cost was estimated at \$385,300. Besides one parks and recreation commissioner who said he was concerned with overcrowding the Commons, all commissioners agreed to drop the idea of locating the new playground in Rancho Laguna Park. Commissioner Bill Carman advocated for option two because he felt it was more inclusive and integrated all children, but the majority made the decision to recommend the third option to the council. The Rotarians present at the meeting indicated that they favored a central position for the park at the Commons, but that they could live with whatever decision the council would make. They are looking forward to the final determination of a location so they can start a fund-raising effort of large proportion.

### Moraga Commons Master Plan

The town will hold two communitywide meetings to get input from residents about their vision for the central park for the next 10 years. The meetings are scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 9 and Sept. 26.