

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY



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The evening sky over Lamorinda Oct. 12 filled with smoke from the North Bay wildfires.

Photo Andy Scheck

## Smoke puts a chokehold on Lamorinda

By Nick Marnell

The worst air quality ever recorded in many parts of the Bay Area descended upon Lamorinda the week of Oct. 9 with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District reporting Very Unhealthy air caused by smoke from the massive wildfires in the North Bay.

The amount of air pollution was unprecedented throughout the Bay Area, according to Ralph Borrmann

of the air quality district. With active wildfires and changing wind patterns, the poor air quality lingered in Lamorinda, with reports of local hardware stores quickly selling out of masks.

However, Victoria Ballabares of Contra Costa Health Services advised that masks provide little protection. "People feel safe with masks, but we do not recommend

them because they do not stop the particulate matter from the smoke from those fires," she said. "Keep indoors and keep outside air outside."

All schools in the Acalanes, Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette school districts remained open but curtailed outdoor activities. Homecoming games were canceled. The Orinda Library closed. ...continued on page A8

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**Peter Liu's Active Listings:**

- 17 Nephi Ct., Lafayette: 4bd/3ba, \$1,265,000
- 651 Moraga Rd. #10, Moraga: 3bd/2ba, \$515,000
- 785 Augusta Dr., Moraga: 3bd/2ba, \$1,050,000
- 114 Lucille Way, Orinda: 4bd/3.5ba, \$1,295,000
- 595 Dalewood Dr. Orinda: 5bd/4.5ba, \$2,195,000
- 52 Coachwood Terr., Orinda: 3.75 ac lot, \$1,195,000
- 240 Taurus Ave., Oakland: 4bd/4.5 ba, \$2,090,000

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## Get your street feast on: food trucks staying in Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Much to the delight of What's Up Downtown Orinda, the City Council agreed to continue the pilot food truck project on Thursday nights into the spring, while at the same time seeking a request for proposals for a permanent food truck event.

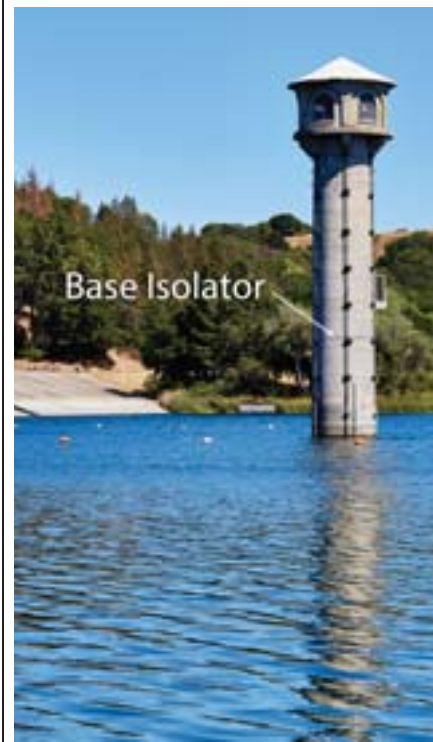
Local restaurateurs, however, were not unani-

mously happy with the pilot project. Representing the Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director Sophie Braccini told the council at the Oct. 5 meeting that formal restaurants felt no impact from the food trucks, but that the casual restaurants felt they were severely impacted.

... continued on page A11

## EBMUD to jumpstart Lafayette Reservoir tower repairs

By Nick Marnell



Officials of the East Bay Municipal Utility District said that it will begin the seismic renovations to the Lafayette Reservoir outlet tower in 2020 once the project is approved by the California Division of Safety of Dams and the district completes its planning, design and community outreach. The DSOD found that the tower was vulnerable to a major seismic event and though EBMUD had planned to retrofit the tower by 2022, the state agency said the proposed timeline was unacceptable, with continued delays "increasing the potential risk to public safety."

According to Xavier Irias, EBMUD director of engineering and construction, the district and its consultants came up with three options for the tower renovation. Option No. 1 would be to cut off the top of the tower, which would reduce the tower weight and prevent it from overstress. An alternative was to strengthen the tower with external rods and tendons. ... continued on page A8

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