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Public Forum JOIN IT

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section.

Just send your letter to letters@lamorindaweekly.com and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and town (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for length or legal considerations. **email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570**

Dear Editor



Thirty-one years after the release of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory the magic continues to live on through people like Zeina and Nabil Hissen, owners of Powell's Candy Shoppe in Lafayette. On March 14th, they made dreams come to life for the children of the Lafayette's Special Parents for Special Kids group. Recently Kathi, the mother of a sweet 6 year-old boy receiving special education services through the Lafayette School District, and a self-proclaimed big fan of the movie, contacted Powell's to see about a visit. This mom was joyfully surprised at the Hissen's response. Shortly after her call, her son received a coveted golden ticket in the mail, inviting him and several special friends for a before-hours private tour of the candy wonderland. The friends arrived full of wonder and excitement as a local Oompa Loompa guided them throughout the shop and even into the back, where the magic happens. The children received a gift certificate to share among themselves and they happily shopped for Powell treats. And, to top off the day, the friends got to meet Mike TeeVee from the original Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory movie! These special kids enjoyed a day they won't soon forget, thanks to Zeina and Nabil Hissen. It was magical for all. To learn more about the Lafayette Special Parents for Special Kids group, please visit www.ufp.com/lafspeed.
J. Smith for Lafayette Special Parents for Special Kids

Dear Editor,

For Willow Spring Church, Easter Sunday will be a celebration of Jesus' miraculous resurrection, as well as the provision of their new building that will house Lamorinda's only church service expressly for youth. In January of 2008, Willow Spring Church decided that their current facilities were no longer sufficient to provide for their current ministries, or for the future growth that God had for them. As the church prayed for an answer from God, a "dedication service brochure" from January 25, 1970 began to shape their prayers: they discovered that the original purpose and call upon the founders of Valley Church of Moraga was to "worship and serve God in this community." Knowing that God would have to provide a miracle in order for the church to remain in Moraga, they decided to "walk by faith and not by sight." Through many subsequent miracles and trials (including a rejection letter from a bank that now hangs in the foyer of the new building), God rewarded the church's trust and gave them their new facility at 1675 School Street. This acquisition will allow the church to continue their excellence in serving the community that God loves. Over the past year alone, they have served food to the homeless of Berkeley and San Francisco, entertained the elderly at Aegis of Moraga, cleaned up the Hacienda De Las Flores, donated gifts to the orphans of Haiti, served in Mexico with Rancho De Sus Ninos, and had over 200 people help wrap presents for the Bay Area Rescue Mission. It is because of these and many other efforts, that Willow Spring was honored to be voted the "Best Place to Worship in Moraga" in 2008 by the U.S. Small Business Association.
Zachary Diestler
Willow Springs Church, Moraga

Lamorinda's Religious Services

Our Savior's Lutheran (ELCA)
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
283-3722 • www.oslc.net
Sunday mornings at OSLC:
Classic Worship, 8:15 am
Education Hour, 9:30-10:20 am
Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am

Join us for
EASTER!
April 12
8:00, 9:30 or
11:00 am

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM
Active Youth Program, Childcare
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

St. Giles Episcopal Church of Moraga

Worshipping at St. Mary's College Chapel. All are welcome at our services.
9 a.m. Sunday Service: Holy Communion - with St. Giles' Choir.
Child care is available all year.
1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. 925-376-5770

Willow Spring Church

1675-1689 School Street, Moraga
www.willow.springchurch.org
(925) 376-3550

Sunday Service Times:
Prayer @ 8am, Traditional @ 9am,
Contemporary @ 10:30am

Weekly Activities:
Wednesday Community Bible Study @ 10am
REVERB (youth) @ 7pm
Friday Night BLAST! Kids Club @ 6pm
Saturday Night Catalyst (Young Adults) @ 7:30pm

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
Church Services and Sunday School (up to age 20); 10 - 11 AM
Informal Testimony Meeting, Wed 7:30 - 8:30 PM
24 Orinda Way www.christianscienceorinda.org
Visit our Reading Room and spiritual bookstore across from the Orinda movie theater.

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Orinda, 254-3422

8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
9:40 a.m. Education for all ages
10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship Service
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

HOLY WEEK SERVICES
Palm Sunday, April 5, Regular Worship Schedule
Maundy Thursday, April 9, Worship Service 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday, April 10, Services 12 noon and 7:00 p.m.
(Childcare for ages 5 and younger at 7:00 p.m.)
Easter Sunday, April 12, Services 8:15, 9:30 and 10:45 a.m.
(Childcare for ages 5 and younger from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon)
Easter Breakfast 8:30—11:00 a.m.

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC)
Adult singles are invited to Easter service on April 12 at 6:00 pm in the chapel followed by dinner in the Davies room at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette. A donation of \$6.00 is requested. Please RSVP to gerald@LOPC.org

Lamorinda Earth Day

By Sophie Braccini
"A Celebration of Local Solutions"
- April 19 from 11 to 4, Stanley Middle School 3455 School street, Lafayette.

The 4th Lamorinda Earth Day aims at inspiring residents to put their passion for a better planet to work locally. Everything this year will be local: eat local, shop local, move local, act local, power local. "The idea of trying to eat locally grown food and shopping locally has really caught on recently, but the idea also applies to transportation and power and many other areas as well," says Steve Richard, one of the founders of Sustainable Lafayette and member of the City of Lafayette's Environmental Task Force, "this year's festival is designed to inspire, share and collaborate on ideas for 'going local,' in many different ways, to create more sustainable and earth-friendly communities."

The Lafayette Environmental Task Force and Sustainable Lafayette have invited groups from our three cities to join in to offer a fun and instructive destination for a day for all residents. This year, the three Chambers of Commerce are participating along with other groups and businesses from Moraga and Orinda.

The Eat Local section is spearheaded by a sub-group of Sustainable Lafayette. "Our objective is to find sources of food in our closest proximity," says Linda Riebel of Sustainable Lafayette, "whether it's growing your own supply, buying from local farmers or a CSA (community supported agriculture), or from retail stores that make an effort to support

local agriculture." In this section of the fair, visitors will be able to sample local foods offered by about ten restaurants, growers, and other organizations that will host booths, including Nature's Bounty, Nibblers, Farm Fresh to You, Eat Outside the Box, Contra Costa Farmers' Market, and the Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust. Attendees will even be able to buy plants to start their own garden from local sources such as Mt Diablo Nursery or the Moraga Community Garden that will sell some 100 of the heirloom organic tomatoes plants that the group started from seed this winter.

Greg Wikler of Global Energy Partner and a member of Sustainable Lafayette coordinated the power local section. The purpose of that section is to help the community learn about the latest techniques for saving energy and also for producing renewable energy. "We wanted to present innovative solutions for the home and office," says Wikler, whose company manages energy efficiency programs around the country.

Among other booths, guests will be able to visit with a solar consultant answering questions on trends and policies, an architect presenting sustainable space planning, a vendor that will showcase green-based heating implementation systems: high efficient product for furnaces and air conditioners. Additionally, Springhill elementary will present a science project on energy efficiency that was developed by the young students.

The Move Local Zone is all about transportation and alternatives to driving around town. "One of the



Deva Rajan and the Moraga Community Garden will sell heirloom tomato plants in the "eat local" section of the fair Photo Sophie Braccini

highlights will be a bicycle rodeo for kids where they can learn safety and tips for biking around town," says Bart Carr, another of Sustainable Lafayette's founders. Also included will be smart cars, scooters, commuter bikes, and a plug-in hybrid vehicle (PHEV). 511.org will be on hand to promote ridesharing and their public transportation online trip-planning guide.

"The Act Local section of the Earth Day Festival will host a booth from Sustainable Lafayette, where t-shirts and metal water bottles will be sold," says Janet Thomas, member of the Lafayette Environmental Task Force and a Chemistry and Environmental Science teacher, recently retired from Acalanes High School. There will also be booths from Sustainable Moraga and the Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, where composting will be highlighted. There will be stands from the Lafayette Environmental Task Force, Voice of the Soil, which will explain soil testing and amendment. Students from Acalanes, Campolindo and Stanley Middle School will also participate.

"Earth Day is an opportunity to show people that 'being green' is not only about buying green products, but also about choosing to live a lifestyle closer to one's own community for the benefit of the whole," says Grant Stubblefield of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. Local merchants displaying their green products are expected to participate in that section as well.

Organizers expect hundreds of people to participate, share ideas, and learn new ways to live sustainably. "We are excited to have our community focus on Earth Day and we look

forward to neighboring communities sharing great ideas for making our cities healthy and sustainable," says Steve Richard.

Family Fun on Earth Day

- (see www.sustainablelafayette.org for schedule):
- Bicycle safety rodeo. Children grade K to 6th are invited to bring their bike and helmet for free practice riding through a mini version of a city street. Bike and helmet safety checks.
 - Collaborative Art Piece. Another unique feature of the festival will be a collaborative art piece entitled "Our wishes for the world" where everyone can share their wishes and actions for creating a more sustainable World.
 - Live Music: Calaveras - Original acoustic roots music from this well-known local band; Laura Zucker - Local award-winning singer/songwriter in the style of James Taylor, Bonnie Raitt, and Melissa Etheridge; Michael Black - Electro-melodic Americana
 - Green Movie Shorts - Several short movies will be shown on a continuous loop. The Story of Stuff, the history of food, etc. in room 401
 - Alliance for Climate Change Education ~ Presentation Slide show covering climate change issues and what kids can do about it.
 - Speakers:
 - Kathryn Lyddan for the Brentwood Land Trust.
 - Dr. Ellis Jones who has won numerous awards for his work on social responsibility and global citizenship. Dr. Jones is a professor at UC Davis and the author of the Better World Handbook and Better World Shopping Guide.

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