

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY



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FREE

**Taste of Lafayette**  
 Tuesday, May 16, 2017  
 5:30pm - 9:00pm  
 Wine Reception w/ Music  
 Stroll & Sample Lafayette's Best Restaurants  
 Dessert & Coffee  
<http://bit.ly/Taste17>  
**NEW meeting spot**  
 corner Mt Diablo Blvd/Lafayette Circle

## Lafayette's Earth Day Festival targets 'Sustainable Youth'

By Pippa Fisher



With a very "hands-on" approach this year, Lafayette's 12th annual Earth Day Festival will showcase local youth groups as well as exhibitors.

The fun will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 23 on Golden Gate Way behind the Lafayette Library and Learning Center and at the plaza of the library.

Hosted by nonprofit organization Sustainable Lafayette,

together with the LL&LC, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lafayette, this year's festival has plenty of educational fun for everyone.

Lamorinda 4-H will have a petting zoo featuring their livestock projects. Global Student Embassy will demonstrate how to create a garden in a small space. The Lafayette Community Garden will bring vegetables and display chickens.

Imperfect Produce representatives will talk about food waste and encourage purchasing of "cosmetically challenged" produce. White Pony Express will educate festival-goers on their food rescue program and Sustainable Lafayette will host a "Repair Café" where volunteers will repair household items onsite to prevent them ending up in a landfill.

... continued on page A10

Advertising

**LAMORINDA WEEKLY**

Letters to the Editor	A8
Community Service	B4
Not to be Missed	B6-B7
<b>HOW TO CONTACT US</b>	B7
Classified	C2
Shop Orinda	C4

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## Town Hall Theatre continues to lead by 'green' example in Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher



Tom Stack wants to eliminate plastic water bottles at THT. Photo A. Scheck

Joining forces with Sustainable Lafayette for an educational movie night, Town Hall Theatre continues to be a leader in "going green."

Sustainable Lafayette will

be presenting a special showing of "A Plastic Ocean," a visually stunning 90-minute movie about our global disposable lifestyle, the impact plastic is having on the oceans and how it affects

marine life, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 28.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. A discussion will follow the screening. Money raised through ticket sales and donations will be used to help eliminate the use of plastic water bottles at the theater.

Town Hall Theatre Board Vice President Tom Stack explained the endeavor. He estimates that more than 4,000 bottles of water are sold at the theater each year and it is his goal that patrons will bring reusable bottles which they will be able to refill from a brand new water bottle filling station to be installed by Kevin Burke of Valley Plumbing, paid for from the proceeds of this special movie night. Refillable bottles will also be available for purchase at the theater.

... continued on page A11



## Local school districts anticipate possible budget deficits

By John T. Miller

The Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga school districts will be looking at ways to make ends meet as they face possible deficits in funding for the upcoming year.

While budgets may not actually be cut, difficulties may arise due to increased costs without additional money to cover those expenses.

For example, Superintendent Bruce Burns of Moraga School District points to increased costs of funding the State Teachers Retirement System and the Public Employee Retirement System.

"The increased pension costs have no revenue stream," says Burns, "and may require districts such as MSD to plan to reduce expenditures."

The lack of reimbursement for certain mandated costs, such as for special education, has put a stranglehold on the districts. Lafayette School District Superintendent Rachel Zinn said that the federal government originally promised to reimburse 40 cents on the dollar for those costs, but now pays only 18 cents.

... continued on page A12

<b>Civic News</b>	<b>A1-A12</b>	<b>Life in Lamorinda</b>	<b>B1-B8</b>	<b>Sports</b>	<b>C1-C4</b>	<b>Our Homes</b>	<b>D1-D20</b>
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Moraga schools to change kindergarten to all-day – page A4.

**Fire Districts** **A8**  
 Lower insurance rates for MOFD residents? – page A8.

Saint Mary's students take on Miranda's "In the Heights" – page B1



Local golf teams take a swing at the DAL title – page C2.



Orinda Garden Tour focuses on outdoor living – page D1.

