

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY



www.lamorindaweekly.com

925-377-0977

**FREE Admission, FREE Parking, FREE Shuttle, FREE Bike Valet Parking**

**Saturday, Sept. 16 10-7 PM**

**Sunday, Sept. 17 10-6 PM**

Downtown Lafayette

**Live Music on Four Stages / Kid Zone**

www.lafayettefestival.com



2016 Iron Filmmaker third-place winners (from left), Milla, John, Zane, Tamara, Tina and Keira Elliott of Orinda, submitted a fourth entry this year in the CAIFF Iron Filmmaker Competition.

## CAIFF celebrates independence – one filmmaker at a time

By B. B. Kaye

Movies by independent filmmakers from as far off as Iceland, Japan, Germany and England will be shown in Lamorinda for the annual California Independent Film Festival, Sept. 7-16 in Moraga, Orinda and San Francisco. The festival has grown steadily over its 19-year history, beginning with a modest 28 films and a turnout of about 150 in 1999, and this year antici-

pates that an audience of over 6,000 will come to see over 80 films.

CAIFF gives filmmakers working without the largesse of a major studio the one thing most difficult to achieve for unknowns: an audience. It's a chance to have their work noticed and maybe, just maybe, create enough interest to break into a big-time career in film entertainment.

Festival founder Derek Zemrak said, "I wanted to give people in the Bay Area someplace to screen their movies. Being a filmmaker, I know how difficult it is. The first year, we showed movies in a conference room at the Hilton in San Francisco. Now, we spread it over 10 days and three theaters."

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The 13th Annual

### Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 10am - 3pm

www.OrindaCarShow.com

**Plan to Attend – Admission is FREE!**



## Oh rats! Rodents and other critters overrun Lamorinda

By Diane Claytor



This bold rat scampered up a pole to munch on seed from a hanging birdfeeder. Photo Jennifer Wake

The pitter-patter of little feet typically means something smile-worthy – a toddler running down the hall for a hug or a playful puppy scampering about. But these days, that pitter-patter may mean something far less pleasant; it could mean rats are living in your attic or walls, or voles, moles or mice are running across your deck.

The general consensus is that the rodent population has increased significantly this year in Lamorinda. A NextDoor.com post asking the simple question "Varmints in your yard?" elicited almost 80 responses, most answering yes. They've been found in pools – alive and dead. They've been destroying gardens – feeding on fruits, vegetables and flowers. They're dashing across walking trails and racing through open fields. Paul Hyde of Orinda has even seen rats shimmying down wires in an attempt to reach his bird feeder.

But it's not just in our area. Reports indicate that the numbers of these very unpopular animals are on the rise throughout the state – and, in fact, throughout the country. ... continued on page A12

## Lamorinda shows solidarity with Texas after major disaster

By Nick Marnell



Task force members decontaminating search dogs during Hurricane Harvey search and rescue efforts. Photo courtesy CA TF4 and Oakland Fire

Lamorinda public and private entities stepped up to aid the victims of Hurricane Harvey, providing assistance, shipping supplies and collecting donations for the devastated east Texas region, site of the heaviest tropical downpour ever recorded in the continental U.S.

Firefighter Stephen Rogness and engineer David Mazaika from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District joined two captains and three firefighters from the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District as members of the California Task Force 4 Urban Search and Rescue team, trained rescue specialists who departed from Oakland Aug. 26 for the drive to Texas to aid in recovery operations.

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