

# LAFAYETTE LAMORINDA



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**39th Annual Lafayette Community Thanksgiving Breakfast**  
Friday, November 17, 7am-8:30am  
Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center  
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FREE



The Javandel family: dad Kamran holds Delaney, center, and mom Kristen milks the occasion for all its worth.



Participants large and small dress for success at Orinda's Halloween parade for tots.

Photos Cathy Dausman



A foursome of toddlers arrive decked out for fun as a strawberry (Claire McDevitt, left), jack o'lantern (Anya Deems), skeleton (Jameson Pruess) and duck (Cary Phillips).

## Tiny tots trick-or-treat at Orinda park

By Cathy Dausman

Mickey and Minnie Mouse, a cowboy, fresh fruit, animals, a skeleton, Harry Potter and firemen, super heroes galore and a castle full of princesses turned out for the Orinda Halloween Parade for Tots Oct. 26 and stayed for snacks and a meet-and-greet with real Orinda police and firefighters at the Orinda Community Park.

The parade is a long-running and much beloved Orinda tradition, attracting between 75 and 100 toddlers, says Recreation Supervisor Jennifer Weiss. The event originated years ago through the now defunct Orinda Community Center Auxiliary, and is held each year, rain or shine (rain moves the parade indoors).

Participants with adults in tow toddled after Glinda the Good Witch (Weiss in a dress of pink chiffon, topped with a silver crown) as she looped the length of the park pathway, stopping to greet Chewbacca (Jackson Stearns) and pumpkin Josh Hays, both of whom offered treats to Glinda's entourage.

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Advertising



Jon & Holly are proud to serve clients in the East Bay, but they call Lamorinda *home*.

As a Moraga native, Realtor Jon Wood has taken particular pride over the years in helping Lamorinda buyers and sellers find their way home to this wonderful community. Holly Sibley, a Realtor and longtime Lafayette resident with children in the local schools, has a wealth of knowledge about Life in Lamorinda. Jon & Holly's combined expertise and proven track record of success ensures a smooth real estate transaction, while their thoughtful, caring approach makes clients feel like members of the family. Search Jon Wood Properties on Yelp to learn more.

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## Moraga revenue measure survey causes some confusion

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council will review the results of a survey Nov. 8 that was ordered to gauge the community's support for new taxes. The results are in and indicate that without additional information, a majority of residents are willing to tax themselves to maintain the storm drains, but are less likely to do so to address other financial needs of the town.

Other questions remain unanswered: How much is really needed from residents to compensate the unfunded infrastructure maintenance (roads and storm drains)? What other unmet financial needs does the town have besides its infrastructure? Will the council feel it can garner the community's support to address some or all of these needs?

It is not really a question of "if," but of "what" and "how much." The results of the survey that the town conducted a few weeks ago show that a majority of residents would support a storm drain fee per parcel in the \$144

a year range, an amount that is grossly insufficient to address the storm drain issue in its entirety, and that would do nothing to improve all of the other unfunded needs of the town.

Seven months ago, SCI Consulting Group made a presentation to the town's leadership during a storm drain plan workshop and estimated the per parcel taxation needed to address the problem at \$312 a year; \$144 per parcel would cover the high priority projects and legally mandated expenses, but not the medium priority ones that are the largest category with a funding need of \$11.4 million. There were talks at the meeting of what amount would be supported by the community. Vice Mayor Roger Wykle said that Moraga residents were intelligent people who could support a full cost measure, if provided with a complete and reliable picture of what exists, as well as the plan for moving forward. He noted that trust between the residents and their government was key

to ensure success on a ballot.

The storm drain tax would not begin to address the town's unfunded asset replacement, or improve the town's reserves. At the end of 2014, a subgroup of Moraga's Audit and Finance Committee presented the results of its study of the town's asset replacement plan. The subgroup calculated that the town should set aside more than \$600,000 a year to replace its assets – not including the roads, drains and building frames. Since then the asset replacement fund has been completely depleted and no savings have been made. At the mid-year budget revision meeting, Administrative Director Amy Cunningham noted that the total unfunded needs for this budget cycle equaled approximately \$517,000. The director added that Moraga is not the only community that has not sufficiently saved for asset replacement and infrastructure maintenance; it is a problem that plagues the entire country.

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## Lafayette City Council approves three-year extension for city manager

By John T. Miller



Steve Falk at this year's Reservoir Run  
Photo Gint Federas

After fielding many objections, particularly from the Save Lafayette contingent, the Lafayette City Council voted 4-1 to approve a three-year contract extension for longtime City Manager Steven Falk. Council Member Ivor Samson cast the lone op-

posing vote.

The overall salary was \$246,294 per year, representing a 3 percent raise. The severance package was reduced to 12 months – down from 18. This was due to the city attorney bringing the contract in line with state law.

Michael Griffiths, president of Save Lafayette, opposed such a high compensation package and presented a list of grievances, which blamed the city manager for his handling of the Planning Commission and Design Review Board investigations (see accompanying article), citizen lawsuits against the city, cost overruns on the parking lot on the old East Bay Municipal Utility District pumping plant site and many other items.

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