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Windy Margerum shows off her winning medals (left). Margerum in long jump (top right); Monte Upshaw, 1954 (lower right). Photos provided

Keeping track of Lamorinda long jumpers

By John T. Miller

Three generations of track and field stars continue to make news in the Lamorinda area. Monte Upshaw, the patriarch of the family, passed away in July and will be honored next year with a long jump festival. His eldest daughter Joy continues to excel in Masters track and field competition worldwide; a younger daughter Grace – a two-time Olympian in the

long jump ('04 and '08) – stays active with private coaching, and Joy's daughter, Acalanes High School grad Windy Margerum, is off to a flying start at UC Berkeley competing in track and field. Joy's eldest daughter Sunny is a former Central Coast Section champion long jumper whose college career at Berkeley was cut short by an Achilles injury.

Joy and Grace, along with their other siblings Chip and Merry, plan to honor their father with a Monte Upshaw Long Jump Festival to be held at Edwards Stadium next year. The event is being planned to coincide with the Brutus Hamilton Invitational meet on April 27-28. Proceeds will go to benefit the UC Berkeley track program.

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Advertising



Here's to a happy, healthy and homey new year!

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Lafayette department of engineering to merge with public works

By Pippa Fisher



New Public Works/Engineering Director Mike Moran Photo Lamo archive

Lafayette's engineering and public works departments are set to merge in early February in a minor reorganization.

Recently approved by the city council, the shuffle was prompted in part by Lafayette City Engineer Tony Coe's announcement that he will be retiring on Feb. 12.

The public works and engineering departments will be combined into a single entity under the public works director; the city engineer position will be eliminated. Two existing employees will be reclassified into new mid-management positions of engineering services manager and public works superintendent.

Additionally the city will be adding a full-time position in administrative services – a communications analyst who will manage the city's social media accounts, write the "Vistas" quarterly newsletter and coordinate the new "Lafayette Listens!" online public opinion-gathering website.

City Manager Steve Falk explains, "Many if not most cities have a single person who directs public works and engineering." He says that Lafayette will be following that approach.

"Mike Moran will assume the new combined position of public works/engineering director. Meanwhile, Donna Feehan will be reclassified as the public works maintenance manager, and Matt Luttrupp will be reclassified as the engineering services manager," says Falk.

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Rheem Theatre closes its doors: Will the phoenix rise up again?

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Leonard Pirkle, Linda Summers Pirkle, Edy Schwartz and Derek Zemrak were among more than 100 attendees at the final viewing of "Shape of Water" on Sunday night at the Rheem. Photo Andy Scheck

The Rheem Theatre's lights went out for good on Sunday, Jan. 7. A fairly large number of residents came to the last evening and expressed their sorrow at seeing the only Moraga entertainment venue closed. Questions about whether the Moraga Community

Foundation might be able to capitalize on these regrets and raise enough money to buy the theater, how much money it would need to purchase the venue, and whether the theater is even viable in the long run continue.

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