

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Wednesday, September 19, 2007



Campo juniors Carly Reifsteck and Molly Crowder

Miramonte Mascot

Photos Gavin Schlissel

## Big Time Football

See page 15

By Kevin D. Shallat

### Volunteerism Keeps Lamorinda Humming

By Jennifer Wake

Volunteers can be the lifeblood of a community. From service clubs, to religious groups, to non-profit organizations and foundations, countless hours are logged by tireless Lamorinda volunteers every day. And the help does not go unnoticed.

Head librarian, Susan Weaver, says she wouldn't be able to do what she does without the help at the Lafayette Library. "We couldn't do any of our programs or could not function without our volunteers," she said. "The Friends of the Library underwrite all of our programming costs, if we have a paid performer, flyers, and big programs like Lamorinda Reads. And we have hundreds of volunteers who route books, re-shelve, and clean. They say it takes a village to raise a child. I guess it takes a village to run a library."

According to Friends of the Lafayette Library coordinator Sally Bellenger, the group of 35-40 volunteers who work in the book room in various capacities raise an average of \$50,000 a year. Through their efforts since its inception in 1967, the Friends have been able to donate \$750,000 to the new library building.

Yet it can be back-breaking work. Each week, approximately 2,000 books are dropped off in donations, and volunteers must carry the books from the curb to the book room at the Lafayette Community Center.

"At the moment, we have over 40,000 books for sale in the book room," said Bellenger.

Why do they do it? It's simple: "We love libraries and love books," she said.

This type of passion seems to be the catalyst that drives many volunteers.

Moraga resident Bill Durkin began volunteering at age 14, teaching swimming lessons. "I guess that stuck, since I've been doing volunteer work ever since," he said.

Currently Durkin is a docent at Bedford Gallery. He has served as president of Sustainable Moraga for two years, is a member of the California Emergency Response Team (CERT), and works in the Community Garden.

"I find volunteering rewarding in many ways," he said. "It's a way of taking the edges out of thinking you are so different from others, and I learn a lot about Advertising

myself when volunteering for groups like a suicide and crisis center."

A former teacher, Durkin believes that "if you work at something a little each day (or week), you can get things accomplished, and then get a sense of achieving your goals."

For others, just finding how their skills fit a need is a fulfilling experience.

Lafayette resident Bruce Veenstra knows lighting. When his church decided to upgrade their lighting system to be more eco-friendly, he calculated the costs and benefits of a lighting efficiency upgrade, and plans to use a week of his own vacation time to install more than 200 energy efficient devices such as T8 fluorescent tubes, electric ballasts, fixtures, CFL, motion sensors and their control units, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette.

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Boy Scout Troup 200 members Joshua Koenigsberg, Ramez Jweainat, and Zack Lewis of Lafayette hand fliers out promoting e-waste collection to patrons of the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival Photo by Jennifer Wake

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### Planned Roadwork May Challenge Lamorinda Drivers

By Sophie Braccini; Wendy Scheck contributed to this article

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) plans to replace three miles of aging water pipeline that runs under Moraga Road between the Lafayette Water Treatment Plant and Moraga's Draeger Drive. Work is scheduled to begin in June of 2008, and conclude in the summer of 2009. The project will necessitate the complete closure of Moraga Rd between Old Jonas Hill Road and Sky Hy Drive for 6-8 weeks next summer.

In related news, the City of Orinda has planned improvements to Moraga Way from Ivy Drive to downtown Orinda, which will also take place next summer. EBMUD is working with the City of Orinda on the timing of road closures. Moraga Orinda Fire District Chief Pete Nowicki said at a meeting in Moraga last Friday that the district's ability to respond to emergencies would not be negatively impacted by the overlapping roadwork.

#### The Pipeline Project:

The replacement of the current 24" wide pipes, which were installed in the 1930's and 1950's, is a project of the EBMUD's Water Treatment and Transmission Improvements Program. EBMUD held an informational meeting at the Lafayette Recreation Center on September 13, during which EBMUD Senior Civil Engineer John Hurlburt pre-

sented the plan and took questions from concerned residents.

The first phase of the project will be Old Jonas Hill to Sky Hy. Because Moraga Rd is very narrow and windy in that section, it will have to be completely closed to through traffic during work hours. This will happen during the summer of 2008 when schools are closed. Traffic will be diverted to St. Mary's Road.

Subsequently, trench work will take place from Sky Hy to Draeger Drive; Moraga Rd is wider there and only a partial closure of the road will be required. Residents voiced fears that even a partial closure was likely to create havoc, especially when occurring near schools.

As it stands now, the contractor will be authorized to work weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. An exception to this schedule will occur when trenches will have to be dug at Moraga Rd and Rheem Blvd. In order to minimize the interruption of traffic at this major intersection, the contractors may work up to 24 hours per day with the objective of completing the work within two days.

When asked why all the work wasn't done at night, Hurlburt replied that although EBMUD would love to be able to do that, the noise level would

make nighttime work impossible.

For safety reasons, trenches will be covered when not in use.

The last part of the discussion was around the cooperation needed between the two cities and EBMUD to coordinate renovation and improvements on Moraga Road. Moraga Public Works Director Jill Mercurio, who was present at the meeting, indicated that the town and EBMUD had been working together on this project for years. Plans to renovate Moraga Road will proceed alongside EBMUD's work, to offset some of the costs.

It should be noted that the plans are not yet final, and some modifications are anticipated. Hurlburt encouraged further public comment. Email can be sent to [tiip@ebmud.com](mailto:tiip@ebmud.com), or letters sent to his attention at EBMUD, 375 11th St. MS 701, Oakland CA 94607. The public comment period will close on October 11th, and the final will be available after November 27th.

For more information go to: [http://www.ebmud.com/water\\_environment/water\\_supply/current\\_projects/moraga\\_rd\\_pipeline\\_project/default.htm](http://www.ebmud.com/water_environment/water_supply/current_projects/moraga_rd_pipeline_project/default.htm)

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