

Lamorinda Pow Wow

By Cathy Tyson

Was it excitement, or seismic activity that shook up attendees at the annual Tri-Cities Meeting where representatives of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda got together to summarize the highlights and lowlights of the past year? Civic leaders from City Council representatives, to Police Chiefs, to City Planners, to City Managers, gathered in Lafayette's new Veteran's Hall for the regional update. The expertise and devotion that these hard working civil servants have for their respective jobs and the community was apparent. All these people make it their jobs to enhance life in Lamorinda. Most residents aren't aware just how much effort goes into keeping Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda up and running.

The lengthy meeting covered a wide range of topics that affect the area. Emergency preparedness, an EBMUD road project and Lafayette planning were just a few of the many presentations that evening.

How appropriate was the first order of business on the agenda, Emergency Planning Progress Report? The Alum Rock temblor, literally rocked the meeting. No one panicked, although there was a parade of officials taking to the hallway with cell phone calls. The recently held tabletop exercises received excellent marks from outside consultants who remarked, "It was commendable the way they worked together."

It was apparent by the volume of concerned comments that EBMUD was in the hot seat, discussing the summer 2008 road closures for necessary water pipe replacements along Moraga Road. The fear was that when this project is coupled with the repaving of Moraga Way in Orinda, it could potentially be the mother of all traffic jams for area residents, especially those going into and out of Moraga. A consultant hired by EBMUD analyzed area traffic and projected less than 5% additional traffic on Moraga Way. Nora Harlow, Community Affairs Representative for EBMUD was reassuring, "we are building in flexibility, and will be able to adjust the project," just in case projected traffic scenarios are not what's anticipated.

"This has been an exciting year with projects in Lafayette," explained Niroop Srivatsa, Lafayette's Planning & Building Manager. The Woodbury, an 80-unit luxury condominium project will be build near the Veteran's Hall, a 20-unit project is slated to go up near the Lafayette Park Hotel on the other end of town, and the city is also partnering with an independent affordable senior housing company. Together the hope is to have 50-units of affordable senior housing. Whole Foods is coming to town and the Mercantile Building is almost complete.



Traeger Wood Pellet Grills

You ought to be smokin'

\$100 OFF - limited time



MORAGA
HARDWARE & LUMBER
SINCE 1967

MON-FRI: 7:30AM-6PM
SAT: 8AM-6PM SUN: 9AM-5PM
(925) 376-3600
1409 MORAGA WAY
MORAGA SHOPPING CENTER

Traeger wood pellet grills for your Thanksgiving turkey