

Lamorinda's Religious Services



Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Orinda, 254-3422

8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service
 9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
 9:40 a.m. Education for all ages
 10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship Service
 Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

Our Savior's Lutheran (ELCA)

1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
 283-3722 • www.oslc.net
Sundays: 8:15 am Classic Service
 9:15 am Education Hour
 10:30 am Contemporary Service



St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

A Loving Community
Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM
 Active Youth Program, Childcare
 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

St. Giles Episcopal Church of Moraga

Worshipping at St. Mary's College Chapel. All are welcome at our services.
9 a.m. Sunday Service: Holy Communion - with St. Giles' Choir.
 Child care is available all year.
 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. 925-376-5770

Temple Isaiah welcomes you to worship with us on Shabbat.

For specific questions, call the Temple office at 925-283-8575 or visit our website: temple-isaiah.org.
 1st and 4th Friday evening - 6:30 PM
 2nd and 3rd Friday evening - 8:00 PM
 Saturday mornings at 10:30 AM

If you would like your services listed, please email to info@lamorindaweekly.com or call 925-377-0977. A one inch listing will cost \$20.

We're online too: www.lamorindaweekly.com



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Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

All published letters will include the writer's name and town (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for length or legal considerations.

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Dear Editor,
 Linda Landau disagrees (Letter to the Editor, Lamorinda Weekly, April 2) with my opposition to Measure E, a ballot proposition which, if passed on June 3, will increase the property tax for the Orinda library by 44 percent. America is a free country, and I welcome Ms. Landau's comments.

In her letter, Ms. Landau states that the property tax "... is \$12 a year -- one dollar a month." The core issue concerning Measure E is whether a government-mandated price increase, like the proposed tax, is the best way to raise funds for the library.

If potatoes at my local grocery store go up in price by 44 percent, I can go to another store or not buy potatoes altogether. However, if the government mandates a price increase (such as by taxation), the price hike can be enforced by having the government confiscate the property of anyone who fails to pay the tax. Before voting to approve the library tax, Orinda residents should find out if the tax can be avoided by hiring a private company to run the library or by holding a voluntary fund-raiser.

Richard S. Colman
 Orinda

To the Editor,
 The proponents of the proposed Orinda Library Tax neglect to mention that Measure E has no ending date. This tax goes on in perpetuity. Because Measure E has no ending date, the voters' oversight authority is removed. Voters have no influence if this tax is misspent.

It is difficult enough to insure tax money is spent as the voters intend. Without an ending date, there is every opportunity for money to be spent forever as the politicians or administrators desire and not as voters intend. This tax should be renewed every 5 years so the voters have oversight. I will vote NO in June for this Orinda Bond Measure, which goes on forever because there is no ending date or voter oversight for this tax.

Bruce Nicolai
 Orinda

New Cell Phone Laws Shift Focus Back to Driving

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"Texting has gotten really big lately, but it's a really stupid thing to do when you're driving," French said.

Exceptions to the law include those operating a commercial motor truck or truck tractor (including pickups), implements of husbandry, farm vehicle or tow truck, and using a two-way radio operate by a push-to-talk feature. You can also use a hand-held device to call for help in case of an emergency, but this is only for a legitimate emergency, noted French.

"It's not for when you are running late to pick someone up, or when you're trying to meet up with someone at the mall," he said. "Ideally, I hope people will pull over to a safe place to make calls."

Although drivers under 18 cannot use a hands-free device of any kind while driving, this is considered a secondary violation – while using a hand-held device is a

primary violation – and you will be cited only if you are pulled over for another violation.

"It will be up to the officer's discretion to enforce the law, but I will support them completely," French said.

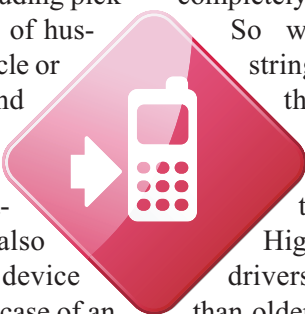
So why much more stringent laws for those under 18 years old?

According to the California Highway Patrol, teen drivers are more likely than older drivers to be involved in crashes because they "lack experience, tend to take greater risks, and are more vulnerable to driving distractions." This new law will help to eliminate one of the larger distractions.

In Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk's Friday Summary posted on April 4, Lafayette Police Chief Michael Hubbard explained it this way: "Have you ever been driving down the road and saw a car driving real slow or weaving back and forth and thought to yourself, 'There's a drunk driver,' only to find that the driver is talking on a cell phone. This is one of the very reasons for a new law restricting wireless telephone usage that will take effect in a few months."

"This is a good law," French added. "It will help us switch back to making driving a priority versus talking on the phone."

For more information about the wireless telephone laws, you can visit the California Department of Motor Vehicles Web site at <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/>.



To the Editor:
 The Orinda library is an incredible asset to our community and it needs our help. Orinda residents have access to an amazing collection of books, magazines, newspapers, the Internet and other media. Our library is a state of the art facility and a focal point of our community. It is a central gathering place where people meet and students study. The library is open until 8:00PM most nights and is open on Saturdays and Sundays. Nobody likes taxes but the proposed \$39 per year replaces the current \$27 per year tax. This increase of just \$1 per month is so insignificant that it becomes an easy decision. All Orinda citizens should support Measure E to help ensure appropriate use and operation of our beautiful library.

Glenn Alper MD, Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees
 Orinda

Dear Editor,
 It would be hard to match the benefits achieved through the library with any other benefits received through our tax dollars. The library is a public service that truly touches every facet of our community. As one individual with three children, I have utilized the library personally (or through my kids and husband) for children's programs, summer reading programs, travel plans, book club books, best sellers, research for elementary, middle, and high school projects, videos, books on tape, language learning, access to the internet, and a quiet place to study or write. To limit the hours of operation of the Orinda library would deny all of the above to some and much of the above to many.

Measure E would keep the library open 60 hours a week, making it accessible to working adults, children, and seniors alike. It may be true that for \$39, one might purchase two new books, but for that same cost per household, one could check out a limitless number of books and videos and do research and meditate in a sunny window seat. Now that is a deal! The library is the quintessence of life long learning that bars none. Support Measure E on the ballot in June to assure these services continue for all of our community.

Susan Forman
 Orinda

Symposium for Seniors

... continued from page 2

- Housing options for seniors, including affordable housing
- Aging in place and the choices elders can make in order to stay in their homes.
- Reverse mortgages and home equity conversions
- Transportation panel with representatives from Rides for Seniors, the Lamorinda Spirit Van, and the County Connection
- Volunteerism, the many benefits of giving as well as receiving.

"I'm excited about our being able to hold a forum in which Lafayette community members can learn, discuss, and participate in setting some priorities and direction in how Lafayette can better provide for its older adults," said McCahan.

In addition to all of this information and lunch, Mayor Mike Anderson will speak and entertainment will be provided by the Vagabond Players. Organizers have asked attendees to please RSVP so they have enough lunches and seating for all; in addition, rides are available via the Lamorinda Spirit Van. The number to call for both an RSVP and a ride, if needed, is Lafayette Senior

Services at 284-5050. The event runs from 9:30 until 3:00.

Duncan, a Board Member of the Lafayette Community Foundation wants to clarify that the invitation is open to everyone from church groups to service organizations and especially to individual seniors and their families. Organizers note that this is not a sales event, no one will be there to sell anything.

Sandra Smith, Lafayette Senior Services Commissioner notes, "It's going to be an interesting and wonderful day! But you must call to make a reservation as soon as possible because space is limited."

Rotary Hosts Exchange Program

By Cathy Tyson



From left to right: Andri Ivondanjaniaina, Josee Rasamoelina, Gary Irwin (Moraga Rotary), Beatrice Randrianarison, Paul Fillingier (Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary), and Colin Barnard, (Moraga Rotary), pictured during a tour of Google. Two other visitors not pictured, Hari Mathur and Olivier Lebon

Recently a number of local Rotary Clubs hosted a group of five business people from Madagascar for a Group Study Exchange. The program is designed to develop leadership skills to prepare participants to address the needs of their com-

munities.
 A total of five adults were involved in this particular exchange, which started with Berkeley Rotary, then moved here for a joint effort by Lamorinda Sunrise, Moraga and San Ramon Rotary, then the visitors moved on to Brentwood Rotary and beyond. They will be in the U.S. for the better part of April.

Paul and Glenda Fillingier hosted Beatrice Randrianarison and Jose Rasamoelina, and along with other Rotarians acted as drivers, schedulers and tour guides for the intrepid travelers. "They were just delightful," notes Glenda Fillingier.

"This is just one of many of Rotary International's projects to build better understanding among the people of the world," said Paul Fillingier. He continues, "Group Study Exchange Teams come to learn more about other cultures and share business and professional information."

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