

# LAMORINDA Community

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## 29th Annual Community Thanksgiving Breakfast

Presented by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce  
**Friday, November 21, from 7:30am – 9:00am**  
**Guest Speaker: Lafayette Mayor Mike Anderson**  
 Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

Breakfast graciously provided by Susan Foord Catering.



Music will be performed by Qued Up, an a capella quintet.  
**\$15 per person.**

Begin the holiday season in a significant and meaningful way.

**Reservations Lafayette Chamber of Commerce at 925-284-7404**  
 or by visiting our website at [www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org).  
 Reservation required by November 19th



## Historic Election Party Rocks the Plaza

... continued from page 2

Nancy Skinner, who won for Assembly District 14, along with Mark DeSaulnier, winner of the Senate District 7 contest, had inspiring remarks. Unfortunately Orinda City Council Members were unable to attend due to a city meeting conflict. Both incumbents, Steve Glazer and Victoria Smith, won their races.

It was an incumbent sweep in Lafayette. Although he's concerned about the state budget, Mayor Mike Anderson was happy to be re-elected, "We've got the team back together, thanks to the voters." Carl Anduri said he's, "excited for another four years." Carol Federighi was unable to attend.

In Moraga, Mike Metcalf and Karen Mendonca clearly won two of the three Town Council seats. At press time it was too close to call - Howard Harpham and Janice Kolbe are in a dead heat for the third seat, with only a seven vote difference between them.

ally cheering. "Yes, we can" young and old came together to celebrate on this clear cool evening what this election means to our country. Anderson summed it up, "Feels like a new day - with change echoing through neighborhoods all across the country."

With the audience occasion-

## Delivering Mail and a Helping Hand

By Cathy Tyson



Good Samaritan Jeovani Abenoja, and Chuck Jenkins on the Jenkins' back deck Photo Cathy Tyson

It was Betty and Chuck Jenkins' lucky day. Turns out their regular carrier technician, Jeovani Abenoja is the Safety Captain of the Lafayette Post Office and is First Aid certified through the American Red Cross. Who knew those skills would come in handy on a recent Thursday afternoon?

Abenoja, 23, who has been working for the Postal Service since he was 19, was making the usual delivery rounds in a relatively remote area on the city limits. Chuck Jenkins, 85, a retired Captain of the SS Jeremiah O'Brien during World War II, had just suffered a fall in the backyard, cutting his leg, breaking two fingers and dislocating his thumb. Abenoja offered his assistance; Betty Jenkins gratefully

accepted. "He's a fine young man, and was a great help," she said.

"The Jenkins and I have been good friends for over two years, and I'm glad I was able to do something nice for them, and show them how much I care. I would do it again in a heartbeat!" said Abenoja.

Jenkins was seen later that day by his regular physician, who put a cast on his right arm, but has now made a complete recovery. He is happy to demonstrate that he's regained his strong handshake, despite his injuries.

Not one to blow his own horn, Abenoja is mandated to report assistance, if given. There really are Good Samaritans out there, sometimes they're just undercover.

## Motorists Duped into Dumping Dough at Dealerships

Federal Law states a manufacturer cannot deny any warranty claim due to maintenance being performed by an independent repair shop. Many consumers have been led to believe that they are required to return to the dealership for maintenance of their vehicle. This is not true according to the law. In fact it is illegal for any dealership to state or imply that your vehicle must be serviced by them to keep the warranty valid.



### Recent repair shop comparison has been performed:

	Orinda Motors	Dealership
Service Keeps Your Warranty Valid	Yes ✓	Yes ✓
Factory Trained Technicians	Yes ✓	Yes ✓
State of the Art Diagnostic Equipment	Yes ✓	Yes ✓
Access to Factory Repair and Service Info	Yes ✓	Yes ✓
Tires and Alignment	Yes ✓	Some
Emissions Testing	Yes ✓	Some
On-Site Rental Service	Yes ✓	Some
Complimentary Vehicle Pickup & Delivery	Yes ✓	Some
Trust- Always Get What You Pay For	Yes ✓	Some
Excellent Customer Service	Yes ✓	Some
Green Business	Yes ✓	1 (inCCC)
Open Door Shop Policy	Yes ✓	No
Locally Owned / Family Business	Yes ✓	No
While You Wait! Drive Through Service	Yes ✓	No
Access to Your Vehicles Technician	Yes ✓	No
Conveniently Located In Your Home Town	Yes ✓	No
Local Community Support and Involvement	Yes ✓	No

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## New Library Nearing Completion

... continued from page 2



Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk leading a hard hat tour of the new library Photo provided

Unfortunately, during that time, the quarry had dug progressively further into the mountain and the delivered product had large pink blotches throughout the stone. According to Ann Merideth, Community Development Director, "a new granite has been selected, and it is on order."

Kathy Merchant, President of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation, says the Board of Trustees and dozens of volunteers have been hard at work on the \$4 million Open Doors, Open Minds initiative with the goal of raising money to increase open hours, expand programming, and enrich the collection. They are working hard to reach the half-way milestone by the end of this year. Picking just a few words to describe the new library, Merchant said, "innovation, community building, and transparency." She reflects on these trying economic times, "now more than ever, it's im-

portant to have a free resource for the whole community to use."

Although quite a bit has been accomplished, obviously there is more construction work to be completed. According to Merideth, the two buildings - the Library and Community Hall - are framed and the roof structures and utilities are in place. Also the interior walls creating the different rooms are framed and the structure for the solar panels is in place. The windows and metal roof panels come next. With the recent rain, crews have been working hard to water proof the structure.

Public art has been approved by the Redevelopment agency. Brian Goggin and Kana Tanaka are the lucky winners for the Outdoor Plaza Corridor and the Children's Activity Deck.

On the financial front, the Lafayette Community Foundation has raised and donated a staggering \$12.5 million towards construction

of the project. Back in November of 2004, an \$11.9 million grant was awarded to LLLC by the California Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Board. Finally, the Lafayette Redevelopment Agency just issued "A" rated, double tax free bonds on October 29, 2008. They are available in \$5,000 increments through Piper Jaffray.

Killefer Flammang Architects of Santa Monica worked diligently incorporating new and old into the cutting edge structure. The building features: recycled teak, low-e windows, a separate teen area, three group study rooms, a community meeting room, large adult area with quiet zone, storytelling and class visit space for thirty children, an Art and Science Discovery Center, a space for "Old Betsy," and a used book store. Other highlights include windows in the shape of the big dipper, a very unique artistic solar fireplace with prisms, and what will surely be the best looking public restrooms in town.

**Glenn Seaborg Consortium Partners:**  
 California Shakespeare Theater  
 Chabot Space & Science Center  
 Commonwealth Club of California  
 Greenbelt Alliance  
 John F. Kennedy University  
 John Muir Health System  
 Lindsay Wildlife Museum  
 Oakland Museum  
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 University of California Institute of Governmental Studies  
 Lawrence Hall of Science

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