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LAMORINDA Community

It's Time to Dine in Orinda

By Andrea A. Firth



Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) Volunteers cheer guests' donations at 2008 Orinda Restaurant Tour

Lamorinda food lovers should save their appetites for the second annual Orinda Restaurant Tour to be held on Tuesday, September 29th from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. Over 15 eateries from across the city will be providing tour

Photo provided by the Thompson Group goes with a sampling of their delectable wares. "We are excited to have four restaurants from the Orinda Village side of the city—Village Pizza, La Cocina, Siam Orchid, and Cafe Teatro—participating in the Tour this year," states

Orinda Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Candy Kattenburg. "We will have a trolley car available to transport diners to and from the two sides of the city."

The evening starts in Theater Square where Shelby's Restaurant and Lava Pit Hawaiian Grill will provide appetizers from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Over the subsequent two hours, diners are invited to stroll through the city and hop the trolley car to sample foods specially prepared for the Tour by each of the participating restaurants. Desserts will be offered from 8:00 to 8:30.

The Tour features a broad array of dining choices and variety of ethnic options from the all-American hotdog to German-styled comfort food along with Mexican, Thai, and Japanese fare. Participating restaurants not previ-

ously mentioned include Casa Orinda, Europa HofBrau, Kasper's Hot Dogs, Loard's Ice Cream, Petra Cafe, Peet's Coffee, Pizzeria Amoroma, Susan Foord Catering, and Yu Sushi. Tickets may be purchased in advance (\$30) through the Chamber of Commerce website or on the evening of the event at Theater Square (\$35). The Education Foundation of Orinda will receive \$10 from every ticket sold.

The Orinda Restaurant Tour is an extension of the Chamber's Shop Orinda Campaign and will be supported with manpower from Council Members Amy Worth, Tom McCormick, Steve Glazer, and Victoria Smith, Mayor Sue Severson and City Manager Janet Keeter. This will be an Orinda event that is not-to-be missed, according to Kattenburg.

Starlight Village Players' at a Orinda Chamber of Commerce Mixer



Members of the Starlight Village Players' cast of *Harvey* mingled with local business owners and City Council members at the Orinda Chamber of Commerce Mixer on September 10th.

Pictured are (standing L to R) Beau Behan, Candy Kattenburg, Lori Worford (as Nurse Kelly), Kelly Hansen (as Mrs. Chumley), chamber members AJ Nisen, Rick Kattenburg (in back), Malcom Cowler (as Elwood P. Dowd), and City Council members Amy Worth and Victoria Smith.

Seated are Mayor Sue Severson (L) and Susan Chapple as (Veta Simmons).

Photo Ohlen Alexander



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Residents Opposed to Town Staff Move will get a Hearing

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Hacienda de las Flores on Donald Dr. Photo Andy Scheck

The staff move itself was not discussed during the Council Meeting, but staff sought approval for the work at the Hacienda. According to Town Engineer Jill Mercurio, most of the construction is needed to repair the damage done by the fire that affected part of the building in March. "We took that opportunity to update some of the systems that had long needed maintenance, such as the alarm and

the electrical," added Mercurio. Segrest said the work that was requested to accommodate the return of staff is minor and reversible.

The budget to execute the repairs was approved unanimously. As for the move itself, Mayor Dave Trotter promised the residents that a hearing would happen shortly, possibly as soon as the next Council meeting on September 23.

Sneak a Peek at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center

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Reduced ceiling height in the children's library, pictured left to right: Don Tatzin, Steven Falk, Mike Zampa Photo Andy Scheck

Old Betsy, the 1926 Model T fire truck that has been relaxing in a garage for quite a few years, will soon boast a fine view of Golden Gate Way and be prominently displayed. "Gleaming in her resplendent red coat," said City Manager Steven Falk on a recent tour.

To solve "a problem that has vexed librarians since the time of Caesar," said Falk, will be the debut of a two-fold organizing system – the first of its kind in Contra Costa

County – an automated materials handling mechanism along with an inventory tracking system. When a patron drops off a book, an electronic reader sees a unique chip in each book, will check it in, and do a rough sort. Librarians can use a wand device to search for an individual magnetic tag to see if a particular book has been mis-shelved.

"These are designed to deliver faster and better service, and more efficiently use librarian's time," said

Cathy Sanford, Deputy County Librarian. This velocity of circulation is expected to eliminate the need for two full time staffers.

The Children's wing on the main Mount Diablo street level is about the size of the current library. Lots of intimate reading nooks and special pint size bookshelves along with a dedicated cozy story corner are included. There's also a shaded outdoor children's activity deck with a very unique built-in art in-

stallation at just the right height for little guys. Good news for moms, gold fish and apple juice along with lattes and biscotti are not a problem here and throughout the library.

But wait, there's more - a special Zen inspired Glenn Seaborg garden, a drive-up book return, and the Lafayette Arts and Science Foundation headquarters. Finally there's a separate Community Hall on the corner of Mt. Diablo and First Street that will serve as an emergency center for the city in case of natural disaster, have rotating art exhibits, and be the new home for public meetings like the City Council and more. The space will be available for rental for special events.

You just have to see it to believe it. Project Architect Killefer Flammang of Santa Monica has designed a landmark building that captures the essence of library banners that adorned Mount Diablo Boulevard, it will truly enable community members to: imagine, learn, explore, create and read. Doors to the Lafayette Library and Learning Center will open to the public at 10:00 a.m. on November 14.

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