

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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26,000 copies delivered bi-weekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses

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FREE



Back row, from left: Leonard Pirkle, Patricia Philipopoulos, Cuong Ngo, Dave Trotter, Sherry Shahrooz, George Eliopoulos, Joanne Foy, Pete Crooks; front row: Edy Schwartz, James Madio, Karen Mendonca, Beau Behan, George Retelas
Photo Andy Scheck

“Monsieur Lazhar” Named 2012 Best Picture at CAIFF

By Laurie Snyder

A Canadian film about a teacher who transforms his pain in order to help his students transcend theirs has been on the lips of audience members and minds of reviewers since the opening of Lamorinda’s 14th Annual California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF).

Written and directed by Philippe Falardeau and nominated for a 2012 Academy Award as Best Foreign Language Film, “Monsieur Lazhar” took Best Picture at CAIFF’S 2012 Slate Awards last Saturday night at Moraga’s New Rheem Theatre. The awards were emceed by San Francisco film critic and

historian, Jan Wahl, who said of the Rheem, “This is OUR Cinema Paradiso.” Wahl also moderated a Q&A with Talia Shire and Burt Young, two of the Academy Award-nominated stars from the 1976 Best Picture Oscar-winner, “Rocky.” ... continued on page A12

Quote of the Week:

“I’m not someone who sees a communist under every leaf, but I see a communist under this one.”
Read the article Fighting for Paradise on page A6.

Advertising

The Spring Real Estate Market is here and it's going strong!
Over 100 Buyers through Lamorinda Open Homes on Super Bowl Sunday!
Multiple offers last week in Orinda and Moraga!
Interest rates are still at an all time low!

Call for a listing presentation and market update.

Jeannette Bettencourt
(925) 787-3464
jeannette.bettencourt@cbtnorcal.com
DRE #01154506

Laura Abrams
(925) 253-4611
laura@lauraabrams.com
DRE #01272382

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A Spirit of Cooperation at Tri-City Meeting

By Sophie Braccini

The City of Lafayette, City of Orinda and Town of Moraga assembled in Orinda last week for their annual Tri-City Meeting. Often filled with recounts of past achievements, these meetings seldom lead to action. This time, things were a little different. The three Councils made decisions on joint projects – some to which they had already committed, such as Emergency Preparedness – others with new objectives, like creating synergy in the area of public works and acting together to protest the County’s Sustainable Communities Strategy. Perhaps not surprisingly, roads and infrastructure were on the evening’s agenda. Orinda Council Member Dean Orr asked the three councils what they thought about working together to put joint transportation bids out to increase their bargaining power. Moraga Mayor Mike Metcalf

stated that market forces should be left to their own dynamic to create economy of scale. Orinda’s Vice Mayor Amy Worth agreed with Orr’s idea, and Lafayette Vice Mayor Mike Anderson added that the three cities should break the institutional barriers ahead of time so this synergy could happen. The elected bodies sent the ball to the court of the City/Town Managers to lay the ground work—the three managers responded that they had already decided to meet and work on aligning some strategies. Dennis Rein presented the results of his first six months as Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD). Rein’s scope of work now also includes Lafayette. He has finished an inventory of all the actors who would be involved in an emergency situation, and is now working on increasing synergies between the three communities,

creating a pool of resources that could be accessed by all, and training and drilling the stake holders. Canyon resident Jonathan Goodwin, whose community was cited as a model of emergency preparedness, added that whatever the minutia of the procedures, what counts when an incident happens is whether every resident knows the answer to the question, “What do I do now?” The last two subjects of the evening, parking at the skatepark and a presentation of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), were also areas where cooperation flourished. Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram presented an update of the plans for new parking at the Lamorinda Skatepark, the cost of which is being shared by the three communities. ... continued on page A11

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

Saving Grace: A Mother's Enduring Gift of Love

February 14 was National Donor Day. Cathy Dausman talks to a Lafayette mother and son who share a very special bond. B1



Sports C1-C4

SMC Bounces Back to Beat the Broncos



The Gaels drop to #21 after losing to Gonzaga. C1

Our Homes D1-D8

Lessons Learned from a Remodel

Sophie Braccini recounts her own home remodeling experience. D1

