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The green lawns at the Moraga Commons may turn a bit brown this summer, but thanks to local mitigation measures, not as brown as the unwatered weeds pictured here below the walking path. Photo Ohlen Alexander

Will Brown Become the New Green in Lamorinda?

By Sophie Braccini

With state mandated water restrictions in place, and the East Bay Municipal Utility District's water reduction goal at 20 percent, local municipalities are taking notice, with many adopting the slogan "Brown is the New Green." But thanks to mitigation efforts throughout Lamorinda, parks, sports fields, golf courses and other grassy areas may keep a mostly green luster this summer.

"We might see some green turning brown," said Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram, referring to The Commons and Rancho Laguna parks. "It will depend on how hot this summer is going to be."

The three Lamorinda communities are working to reduce water consumption, starting by following EBMUD guidelines: watering no more than two non-consecutive days per week with

no runoff; watering only before 9 a.m. or after 6 p.m.; not watering within 48 hours of measurable rainfall; and not watering ornamental turf on public streets.

Ingram is refusing to let the large lawn used for weddings at the Hacienda de las Flores in Moraga turn brown, so he enacted spot watering with a mobile sprinkler. But the town has stopped watering the median strips. ...continued on page A13

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Lamorinda

Administrative Staffing Exodus at High School District

By Cathy Tyson

More than half of the central administration staff is leaving the Acalanes Union High School District. At a recent school board meeting, Superintendent John Nickerson reflected on a substantial number of changes. "Specifically, five employees who lead departments will be retiring, and one department lead has resigned to pursue a promotion in another school district," he said. "The lead administrators in business services, human resources, adult and alternative education, student services, special education and auxiliary services, food services, custodial services, and maintenance and grounds will not be with the district in 2015-2016."

Some of the soon to be vacant positions will not be filled; instead Nickerson presented a leaner reorganized staffing chart to governing board members for consideration, which will result in significant savings going forward.

"It's a total coincidence," said Business Services Associate Superintendent Chris Learned, whose last day will be July 31. He has been with

AUHSD for 18 years, and prior to that worked at the San Ramon Valley School District for 20 years. He could have retired at age 55, but describes himself as someone who likes to go to work in the morning. Considering the move for some time, Learned feels the district is in good financial shape and "it's time." In his opinion, many of the senior staffers are aging baby boomers who have earned their retirement and are simply moving on.

In addition to Learned, Steve Fishbaugh, director of maintenance and grounds, will retire after 20 years with the district. Kevin French, began his career in 1978 as a resource teacher in Southern California, moved up the educational ladder with stints as assistant principal, middle school principal, high school principal, and deputy superintendent in Davis all before joining AUHSD as associate superintendent for administrative services in 2010. Cheryl Hazell-Small has spent 43 years in education, ultimately serving as director of special education since 2003.

Frank Acojido, director of the Del Valle Edu-

cation Center will be missed, along with several teachers: Scott Brady-Smith, Miclyn Carmichael, Paul Fitzgerald, Marshall Pfeiffer, Charlotte Taylor and librarian Patricia Hadley, who are all leaving the district. Also moving on are Teena Philpott-Rigal, attendance technician, and Maria Schultz, testing technician; they both worked at Miramonte High School.

Another agenda item highlighted at the meeting was a report on Gov. Jerry Brown's May revision – adjustments to his statewide January budget proposals, reflecting the state's current robust economy and increased sales tax revenue. Learned is working on what that will mean to the AUHSD for their next meeting on June 3. He anticipates one-time money of approximately \$3 million coming in to "help the district maintain its reserves" that had recently been drawn down due to the state's newly established local control funding formula, which provided an inadequate base level of funding. "The budget looks a lot better" than last year, he said. ... continued on page A14

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