

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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The southwest view over Carr Ranch from Rocky Ridge above Saint Mary's College shows the Sanders Ranch neighborhood, center, and the Moraga Country Club on the right. Photo Andy Scheck

## 600-Acre Carr Ranch to Become Public Open Space

By Sophie Braccini

For almost 100 years, the 600 acres of rolling hills and spectacular views on unincorporated land at the southern border of Moraga, including grazing land, ponds, creeks and woods that extend to the San Francisco Bay, has been managed by the Carr family. After years of discussion, the family has made the decision to enter into a contractual relationship with the John Muir Land Trust (JMLT), formerly the Muir Heritage

Land Trust, a nonprofit organization that manages expanses of open space in perpetuity throughout Contra Costa County.

JMLT, which owns the Acalanes Ridge, the Bodfish Preserve in Orinda, and hundreds of acres of open space in Martinez, the Alhambra Valley, Franklin Ridge and the Pacheco Marsh, launched a campaign to raise the \$7 million needed to purchase Carr Ranch with the goal to close escrow by July 2016.

"Our first purpose for this land is to protect the watershed," explains Linus Eurkel, the executive director of JMLT. "John Muir Land Trust's acquisition of Carr Ranch is a one-time opportunity to permanently protect high quality Bay Area drinking water at its source. The purer the source, the better the water."

...continued on page A8

Advertising

### LAMORINDA WEEKLY

News	A2 - A12
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B12
Not to be Missed	B10-B11
<b>HOW TO CONTACT US</b>	<b>B11</b>
Food	B12
Service Directory	B12
Sports	C1 - C3
Classified	C2
Shop Orinda	C4
Our Homes	D1 -D16

#### This Week Read About:

Traffic Signals Tweaked	A3
LSD Addresses Student Increases	A2
Town Center Homes Referendum	A4
Orinda Wayfinding Signage	A6
AUHSD Overcrowding	A11
Springhill Custodian Retires	B3
Lamorinda Idol Finalists	B7
Local MLB Draft Picks	C1




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## Child Abuse Prevention in Lamorinda

School districts' Speak Up and Be Safe program marks two-year anniversary

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Carol Carillo and Carol Shenon show the "Speak Up Be Safe" safety rules. Photo Sophie Braccini

Carol Shenon recently completed two years facilitating the "Speak Up Be Safe" child abuse prevention program at all the Lamorinda elementary and middle schools. The three school districts in partnership with the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County fund the program. According to Shenon and Carol Carrillo, the council's executive director, the program gives children lifelong skills to prevent all kinds of abuse.

"What we want is for the communities to get together and be trained to prevent abuse," says Carrillo, "and the one thing we can start with is to talk about it."

A key component of the prevention program is the children themselves, says Shenon. "We teach kids what is and is not appropriate, to set boundaries, to learn to speak up, to understand that it is never their fault, and to have a safety network they can pull from if something happens."

Shenon was hired by the Child Abuse Prevention Council after the school districts decided to partner on this project. The Moraga mom's first job was to research available programs. ... continued on page A12

### Civic News A1-A12

Rheem Theatre Reprive – page A5.

### Fire Districts A8

New pension reporting rules for MOFD – page A8.

### Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

Will Forte interviewed by Acalanes students – page B2.



### Sports C1-C3

DFAL Boys' Spring Sports – page C2.



### Our Homes D1-D16

The building of a beautiful garden – page D13.

