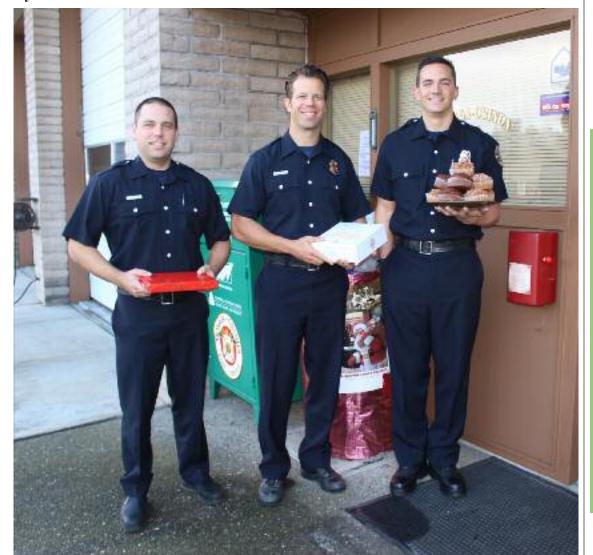
Friendly Drop-Offs at Local Fire Stations Keep Spirits Up

www.lamorindaweekly.com

By Chris Lavin



Moraga firefighters Dave Iman, Mark DeWeese and Andrew Leach with goods dropped off during the week, including a box of See's candy, a Nation's pie and a mound of homemade muffins. Photo Chris Lavin

firefighter: the proverbial cat in a early morning hours, Lamorinda tree, horrible things like car acci- firefighters mostly receive good dents, an unruly nursing home goods. A recent visit to Station 41 resident, then, of course, actual in Moraga revealed a table hold-

firefighters throughout Lamorinda often deal with is a ring at the door, to find a local resident holding a contribution – like a ing to the airport stopped by bechicken, or a bicycle ... or grenades?

dropped off," said Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief unusual things dropped to fire sta- any babies dropped off in the Stephen Healy in a voicemail. tions: a coral snake in a two-liter Lamorinda area in more than a You have to think: Who keeps bottle, a pug in a dog carrier, leaklive grenades? "And m1000 fire- ing dynamite. crackers," he added. Those are more than 10 times more power- thank-you gifts," said Mark Deful than an m80. Don't want to Weese of Station 41. The station years ago in a Santa Ana station have too many of those lying used to receive a lot of "sharps" around. Or even one.

While it turns out that some a rooster, or even a laying hen wait for recycling time.

ou never know what you that turns out to squawk a little might have to deal with as a more loudly than expected in the ing a box of See's candy, a pie Yet something surprising that from Nation's and a big stack of homemade muffins, all unso-

Once a frantic resident rushcause he couldn't get the padlock open on his luggage. That is an "We've had live grenades unusual request, however. One firefighter website keeps a list of

packages, those red medical waste containers full of things like syenterprising East Bay residents ringes used by diabetics. "Most of have figured out that the good old those go to the police departments local fire department is a safe now. But we still get a lot of medplace to drop off things that might ications." The firefighters tote have become a nuisance, such as them to a big locker out back to babies," DeWeese said.

In recent years residents are becoming more aware that to dispose of medications by flushing them down the toilet or tossing them into a landfill pollutes the groundwater table and the Bay, so they are more likely to drop off bottles of old pills at a fire station. And years ago, all fire stations were made to be "safe drops" for unwanted babies. Ring the bell, hand over the child, no questions asked – a program that has been credited with cutting down on newborn child abandonment and mortality.

"Thankfully we haven't seen decade," said Contra Costa County Fire Protection District "Most of what we get are Operations Chief Lon Goetsch. A baby dropped off a couple of was recently reunited with the four firefighters who took her in. She was immediately adopted by a local family shortly after her birth and came back to re-meet her four "uncles."

> "No, we don't get too many He looked thankful.



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This Is Not a New Year's **Resolution Column**

By Nick Marnell

resolutions, when you fault!" know they will be broken? Like mine: I resolve to stop chewing much more sense to write: I predict that I will break my New Year's resolution to stop chewing gum by Jan. 5.

And to those of you who think I am not qualified to write a prediction column? Don't forget: for 2014, I predicted that Moraga real estate prices were going south. And last year, I predicted that I would keep this job through 2015. The jury is still out on that

So here we go.

I predict that the San Francisco Giants will win the World Series in 2016. It's an even year, the heat off of the team. "It's that again in 2016. darned newspaper reporter in the

I predict that Candace Andersen will win re-election to the gum in 2016. But why print that Board of Supervisors in 2016. in a newspaper article? It makes Again, not a reach, considering that nobody has challenged her. And now you know the secret to writing prediction columns: Stick to the sure-things.

Here's another sure-thing. That every single male in Lamorinda (and planet earth), as soon as he hears an Adele song come on the radio, will change the station within two seconds. (That was

I predict that, no matter how many new restaurants open in Lafayette next year, it will still be impossible to get a seat at Chow when you want one.

No matter how much rain we right? How far out on a limb am I get this season, even if it is 400 going here? Besides, now that I percent of average, I predict that am the first columnist to commit the East Bay Municipal Utility to this in print, I can be blamed if District will come up with new the Giants don't win it. It takes rationale to raise our water rates

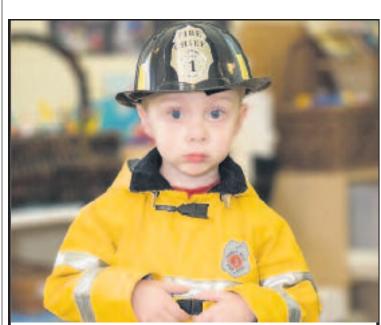
With the failure of station 46,

hy bother writing about East Bay who caused this. It's his and the renovation of fire station 16 and the rebuild of fire station 43 occurring simultaneously, I predict the residents of north Orinda and western Lafayette will secede from their districts and form their own volunteer fire de-

partment in 2016. All of the nonsense about predicting the economy based on who wins the election, who wins the Super Bowl, whether the first baby born is a boy or girl, I say, go with my prediction, which has never failed me: if the S&P 500 rises over 15 percent, it will be a good year financially.

In the old days, before the Internet, it was much easier to get away with making outrageous predictions in the newspaper, because that newspaper would be thrown out within a week. Now, we've got to live with this column online for eternity. So, I close with a prediction that you can take to the bank: My editor will remove this column from our

website on Dec. 31. Happy New Year, everyone!



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