

# Lamorinda Weekly

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NOET Vineyards. Kristiina and Eero Teerikorpi planted Cabernet Sauvignon grapes two years ago.

Photos Andy Scheck

## Lamorinda Now a Name of Viticultural Significance

By Sophie Braccini

After years of gathering data to demonstrate to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau that Lamorinda is indeed a distinctive region, local winegrowers were celebrating Feb. 24 after the TTB established the 29,369 acres of Lamorinda as an American Viticultural Area (AVA).

Ben Olsen, a Moraga real estate agent whose father has been

growing grapes since the '70s, thinks that the AVA adds credibility and that it can give agents some interesting opportunities, presenting the unique and special winemaking cottage industry to newcomers. "I don't make wine myself," he says, "but having that connection has both economic and historical relevance."

Orinda businessman David Cronin was excited about what he calls a wonderful distinction, an honor and a real achieve-

ment. "It can be an additional attraction for the community," he says. "Not only is the area beautiful, but now it has its own designation."

From now on, only winemakers within the boundaries of the AVA, using at least 80 percent of grapes grown here, are authorized to indicate the Lamorinda origin on their labels.

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## More Lamorindans Now CERT-ified

By Cathy Dausman



Photo Cathy Dausman

Lamorinda now has more neighbors trained to help their neighbors when disaster strikes. The latest group of Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team participants concluded their training during a night session Feb. 23 at the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District training cen-

ter, bringing the total number of volunteers in Lamorinda to nearly 700 - a number which could easily reach 750 by year's end, says program manager Duncan Seibert.

This class was the largest to date, with 54 enrollees, but attrition and schedule conflicts whittled

down the number of graduates. Seibert estimated about 34 completed the work this session. Lamorinda CERT is taught over six weekly evening classroom sessions and ends with a hands-on practical exam testing participants' knowledge and skills in the fields of first aid, search and rescue, victim extraction and fire suppression.

CERT appeals to a wide variety of ages and abilities. Seibert says Lamorinda CERT taught residents of Orinda Senior Village, where the average enrollee's age was 80, and they welcome teens age 16 and up when accompanied by an adult. Gavin Flum of Orinda was one of the youngest CERT students to date; he attended with his father, Chris. The younger Flum is a former Boy Scout and current Orinda Police Department cadet who feels the CERT program is an opportunity to learn "every little thing."

"The more you know about everything the higher you'll get," his father added.

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Lafayette School District leans toward bond measure – page A2.

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**Life in Lamorinda B1-B12**

Meditation a source of peace for domestic violence survivor – page B2.



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NCS basketball outcomes – pages C1 and C2.



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Mudroom designs offer a clean space for clutter – page D10.

