

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Local artist David Mudgett, on left, works to install "Resolve" with city staff on the new roundabout March 13.

Photo provided

Art balanced on Lafayette's roundabout

By Pippa Fisher

With a small group looking on, Lafayette's latest piece of art was installed on a rainy afternoon in the middle of the new roundabout at the Pleasant Hill Road/Olympic Boulevard intersection.

The sculpture "Resolve" stands 16 feet tall and consists of eight corten steel dodecahedrons balanced dynamically one

on top of the other and secured to a concrete pedestal. It is a substantial work of art – each module weighs 420 pounds.

Local artist David Mudgett told the city council last year in his presentation that he had chosen the geometric shapes to reflect Lafayette's policy of putting education first, suggesting math, science and nature. The title, he said at the time,

reflects the city's resolve to solve traffic issues.

To illuminate the sculpture at nighttime the artist will be installing lighting to give the piece a more dramatic feel. Staff Liaison to the Public Art Committee Juliet Hansen says there isn't a date set yet for the lighting installation but that lights are forthcoming.

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Community uneasy about revamp of Orinda Community Park

By Sora O'Doherty



The Orinda sports wall is a popular spot for tennis practice.

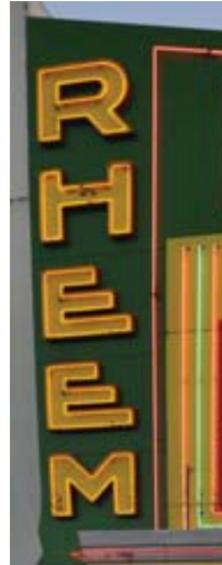
Photo Sora O'Doherty

Public resistance to a proposed master plan for Orinda Community Park at a recent council meeting focused on two elements: how the changes would affect the Orinda Starlight Village Players, and the relocation of the sports wall to facilitate the installation of three bocce ball courts. A number of public commenters ar-

gued that the changes to the park would be a death knell to the local theater group, currently in its 35th season. Other members of the public addressed the sports wall issue, noting that it is one of the most popular features in the park, and that placing it within a tennis court was not a viable alternative. ... continued on page A11

Rheem Theatre to become a community asset: Agreement signed to sell to MCF

By Sophie Braccini



The Moraga Town Council agreed at its March 14 meeting to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Mahesh Puri, owner of the Rheem Theatre, to create a new parcel containing the current Rheem Theatre, two retail spaces on the left and right of the theater entrance and an apartment unit upstairs, with its ownership to be transferred to the Moraga Community Foundation for \$150,000. The MOU also indicates that the town will support Puri's application to develop the adjacent vacant 1.26-acre site. At this time there is no certainty who will operate the theater and when it would reopen.

Making the theater a community-owned asset managed as a nonprofit has been a goal of the Moraga Community Foundation since its creation a few years ago. By owning the new parcel, it will be possible for MCF to revitalize the theater by adding food and drink locations to its footprint, said MCF Board member Andy Scheck. Mayor Dave Trotter said that this MOU offers the best opportunity for Moraga to finally preserve the Rheem Theatre for the long term as a locally owned movie theatre, and cherished community asset.

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Group living option benefits local young adults – page B1.



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Miramonte girls basketball at semi-finals – page C1.



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Papa John continues workshops about backyard chickens – page D1.

