



See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Lafayette:
 www.lovelafayette.org
 Phone: (925) 284-1968
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.lafayettechamber.org

Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting: Monday, July 8, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, July 15 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

Design Review

Monday, July 8, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Arts & Science Discovery Room

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Young singers dazzle at Lamorinda Idol performance in Lafayette

By Elaine Borden Chandler



Photo Elaine Borden Chandler

Lila Weis and Mia Cortesio harmonize together with "My Love, My Life" from Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again.

On Friday evening, 31 Lamorinda students waited with anticipation in Lafayette Plaza while around them their friends and families settled down on picnic blankets. Little children chased after one another around their seated parents, takeout boxes were ripped open and bags of cut watermelon were hauled out of huge wicker baskets, and families eagerly tried to find on a space the shady half of the lawn. It was the last Rock the Plaza of 2024 and the crowd had come to see the singers

of Lamorinda Idol perform.

Lamorinda Idol is a singing program where local students compete to win in eight categories. These singers have already gone through auditions in May and are now working towards the final competition in August. On this day, they performed their competition songs in Lafayette. Students ranged from students of Acalanes to Wagner Ranch and from boisterous elementary school students to seasoned high school se-

niors. Svea Peterson, who opened the performance and received whoops for her fantastic sustained note in "Gravity", has won seven different awards in past competitions.

Not only was the skill of the students incredible, the variety of songs performed was impressive. The most popular choices were pop songs and Broadway tunes. Miles Peter, a third grader from Wagner Ranch with a soft husky speaking voice and belting singing voice, sang "I Just Can't Wait to Be King" from The Lion King. Quinn Pennington, after giving a fantastic rendition of Olivia Newton-John's "Magic", bluntly commented on how her background music was about to abruptly cut off, to the crowd's amusement. Margaret Meckes superbly handled the R&B stylings of Nancy Wilson's 1964 hit "How Glad I Am." Vedita Rajaraman shyly danced while she confidently sang Whitney Houston's "I Wanna Dance with Somebody." Colette

Goodman, who earlier had performed "Defying Gravity" with Cara Impallomeni and Ceci Bayley, wistfully sang "Ring of Keys" from the Broadway musical Fun Home.

Jolie Xu was one of the singers this year, performing the song "Stay" with her friend, neighbor, and classmate Collette Burke. While the girls sang skillfully on stage, Xu's sister and friend scampered about in the crowd with big smiles and signs that said "Go Jolie and Coco!" Xu was a finalist in last year's Lamorinda Idol and said that this year she had less stage fright. "I really like singing so when I heard about this competition I wanted to do it because I thought it was a good experience and fun," she explained and then added with a mischievous smile, "Also kind of because there was a prize."

The audience was enthusiastic and relaxed, alternating between chatting amongst themselves and watching the singers pull out all the stops.

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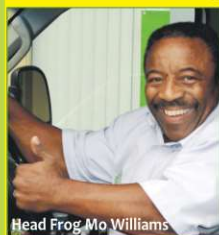
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Families enjoyed Lamorinda Safety Fair and Ham Radio's "Field Day"

By Sora O'Doherty

The Lamorinda Safety Fair joined the Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group (LARIG), on Saturday, June 22 at the Lafayette Reservoir. While LARIG was conducting their annual Field Day, other local agencies set up tables and brought exhibits to demonstrate how they are addressing local safety issues, to raise awareness and disseminate important information.

Some of the groups represented were the Lafayette Police Department, Moraga Orinda Fire Department, Contra

Costa Fire, the Contra Costa Sheriff's office, and Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT.) There was a plethora of trucks to explore at the event, from fire trucks to communications trucks to search and rescue rigs. East Bay Regional Parks was represented, as they have their own police and fire departments, including two helicopters.

Families were able to get on the air with local ham radio operators, see specialized fire fighting gear up close, learn to perform CPR, meet first responders, and browse



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Lafayette resident Levi Newman, age four, really enjoyed meeting the firemen of ConFire and exploring their truck.

the public safety exhibits with plenty of free giveaways.

Radio fans could talk to ham radio operators from around the world during Field Day, which is an annual event where 40,000 radio hobbyists set up temporary radio stations in public places to demonstrate their skills in emergency radio communications and practice for a real disaster response. LARIG pitched tents and erected different types of antennas to see how many ra-

dio contacts they could make with field gear, including batteries, solar panels, and generators.

Al Archangel, LARIG's president, explained that everyone was able to join the fun of making radio calls with a special Get-On-The-Air station that was operating just for this event. "This was a great event for youngsters and oldsters alike and a way to explore ham radio and also see the latest in public safety gear and emergency response preparations," he said.

Creekside Weekend Couples Retreat
 October 4th, 5th, and 6th
 With Dr. Darrell Christian

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Reconnect, Rediscover, Thrive: Your Journey Begins Here

- **Schedule:** Friday evening wine and cheese reception, followed by sessions from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM on both Saturday and Sunday.
- **Meals:** Continental breakfast and lunch provided each day.
- **Location:** Creekside cottage in Lafayette, CA

To contact me or for further information:

- **Website:** darrellchristian.com/couples-retreat/
- **Email at:** CouplesRetreatswithDr.C@gmail.com • **Phone:** (925) 935-8646
- **Couples Blog:** darrellchristian.com/blog/

Correction: "Summer Fun 101" in the June 19 issue suggested joining a book club at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, but at this time they do not have a book club to join. However, Reasonable Books in Lafayette has a book club on the last Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.