

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Photo Sora O'Doherty

Dancing with the Cars and car show feature Mustangs and Cobras

By Sora O'Doherty

This year, the theme of the 2024 Orinda Car Show and the fund-raising Dancing with the Cars event feature Mustangs. And no, despite the charming poster for the event, horses will not be present. However, there will be a good representation of Ford Mustang cars, including a number of Cobras from The Cobra Experience in Martinez.

As usual, the dinner dance will be the evening before the car show. The Orinda Classic Car Show weekend will feature Dancing with the Cars on Friday, Sept. 6 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on the Orinda Library Upper Plaza. This is the 20th annual fundraiser party sponsored by Rotary Club of Orinda. Proceeds will benefit seniors, students, food banks, and other community projects sponsored by the Club. Tickets are available at www.orindarotaryfundraiser.com through Aug. 30.

On Saturday, Sept. 7, the 20th Annual car show,

in partnership with Orinda Motors and Orinda Classic Car Center, will be showcasing 200 classic cars, and will also feature music, food, and special exhibits. This event is always free to spectators.

Drew Serb, who formerly lived in Orinda for 25 years, will be bringing a contingent of 14 Cobras to the Car Show. Two of the cars belong to Serb. The Cobras were manufactured by Ford, as are Mustangs.

According to The Cobra Experience website "In the 1960's, the Cobra captured the heart and imagination of car racing enthusiasts. Carroll Shelby, the facilitator of the famous Cobra, GT40, Daytona Coupe, GT350, and GT500, amongst others, campaigned cars from 1962 to 1968 at Shelby American in Southern California. These cars remain giants for their contributions to the evolution of the muscle car industry in this country."

As the car show reaches its 20th year, Serb has entered cars about 15 times. Serb saw the opportunity to open a museum, The Cobra Experience, dedicated to the Cobra when he bought a 25,000 square foot building in Martinez. Serb actually owns about half of the 32 cars on display at the museum, which is open to the public the third Sunday of each month and for other special events throughout the year.

All of the owners of the Cobras will attend the car show, because shortly thereafter they will join Serb for a thousand mile drive through California, with stops in Truckee, Castle Crags State Park five miles south of Dunsmuir, and Graeagle in the high Sierras, before returning to the Lafayette Park Hotel. Serb has been leading the Cobra drives for 30 years.

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Moraga town council appoints all candidates to fill upcoming vacant seats

By Vera Kochan

This upcoming election, Moraga voters would have been tasked to vote for three candidates to fill the seats of incumbent town council members whose terms are ending at the end of the year (Mayor Teresa Onoda, Council Members Renata Sos, and David Shapiro). Given that only three candidates threw their hats into the ring, the town council held a special meeting on Aug. 21 in order to appoint those candidates to fill the seats and save Moraga's taxpayers the expense of a local election this Nov. 5.

Town Clerk Amy Heavener's staff report stated that "Brian Dolan, Lisa Maglio, and Graham Thiel filed nomination paperwork and qualified as official candidates by the Contra Costa County Elections Division." The

report continued, "According to State Elections Code 10229, when an equal number of qualified candidates equals the number of open seats, Town Council may, at a regular or special meeting held before the municipal election, adopt one of the following courses of action: Appoint to Town Council the individuals who have been nominated; or hold the Town Council election on Nov. 5."

By choosing to appoint the three candidates to the town council, Moraga is expected to save a significant amount of money. The County estimates that, at a cost of \$3.26 per registered voter (which as of June 5 was 12,783), the town's savings could amount to nearly \$41,700.

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Creek access behind construction site raises issues

By Sora O'Doherty

The Friends of Orinda's Creeks are feeling frustrated by not being able to irrigate riparian plantings beside San Pablo Creek in Orinda, including behind the old Bank of America (BoFA) building that is being redeveloped.

BoFA closed their Orinda office, and the building was vacant for several years. It was sold to the new owner, Orinda Way LLC, owned by Paymun. The new owner, Bahadour (Ben) Zarrin of Paymun, plans to redevelop the property to house three restaurants downstairs,



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Steps constructed behind 25 Orinda Way leading to Creek Trail.

with offices above, including the offices of Paymun.

The plans were approved by the City of

Orinda and then building permits had to be obtained from Contra Costa County.

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