



Lamorindan



The Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise
Meetings Friday 7AM at Postino's Restaurant in Lafayette

February 23, 2007

Cal Lee — Star Reporter
Dave Dickson & Paul Fillinger — Pictures
Kevin Croak — Publisher

EASY COME, EASY GO

John Fazel generously (or maybe defensively) gave Chuck Kenney credit for this one: How big is a billion? A billion minutes ago, Jesus was alive. A billion hours ago, we were in the Stone Age. A billion dollars is what our government spends in 8 hours.

OCCASIONS, PAST AND FUTURE

One shocking event was that the B&A list somehow didn't make it here with Dave Watson. Also, Dave mentioned birthday and anniversary in his own life. How he got by with \$5 is a mystery. Thomas Raeth confessed to Tamara's birthday, spent on a ski weekend for a change, and living it up at the ski patrol cabin. This mundane story got an average \$20 fine.

More unusually, Ken Kosich has an upcoming celebration combining Patti's birthday with Kosich & Callahan's 60th anniversary. This almost eclipses the Auction as a big deal, and there may just be wine available at both events. The Pres has plenty of time to dream up appropriate recognition.



GOOD NEWS IN THE NEWS



Thomas Peeks did all the right things. For the prominent article and picture in the Sun featuring him as the Fitness man to go to, he did mention LSR, and he actually wore his pin. This allowed him to avoid any monetary recognition, although a scuffle between the Pres and Steve Ware resulted in \$5 floating into the Sgt-at-Arms' bucket from somewhere.

Ray Welles announced that a Rotary Peace Park has been created at Tice Valley Blvd. at Avenida Sevilla thanks to the efforts of the Rossmoor Rotary, which obtained an acre from the Golden Rain Foundation. Unfortunately, if you weren't here, you probably weren't there for the dedication and celebration this afternoon. But the existence of this new park is certainly worth a mention.



BETTER NEWS ON THE AUCTION

Ken the Curmudgeon actually said things are going well. But not perfectly. "Promises, promises" are nice, but those items have to be gotten in, as the booklet is being finalized. Names of guests certainly should be put in there. There apparently may be quite a few guests -- the number "300" was being bandied about, but this newsletter disclaims any guarantee of accuracy there. Ken's partner Dick Callahan of "shooting two" fame will be the MC, and a caterer has been lined up so you won't starve. The committee, from First Lady Riley on down, has done a fabulous job.



THIS IS THE CITY



We heard from Tracy Robinson, Administrative Services Director (i.e., running the show) of the City of Lafayette. When the boss is gone, she's the Acting City Manager. She's been with the City for 7 years. For us, she went through some items of interest.

The new Library will start going up in April; the bid was just awarded. It's on the web. Cost is \$43 million. An impressive 2,200 out of 8,000 households contributed, totalling \$9 million. \$12 more came from bonds sold through the State, and the balance from the Redevelopment Agency which was founded by the City in 1995, using County money. No general City funds are used. Construction will take about two years. There will be underground parking for about 80 spaces.

The Downtown Strategic Plan has been undertaken to proactively find out what the City will look like in the future. There will be a series of workshops put on by a consulting firm, and the ultimate funding will be by the Redevelopment Agency. Among the issues will be senior housing, offstreet parking, and whether to buy a given parcel. Senior housing, mandated by the State, will be a big item. Shortly a project will be implemented through an agreement with Eden Housing, location to be determined.

Parking meters are always of interest. Last year, an officer for general municipal code enforcement was hired. This was funded by raising meters from 50 cents to \$1, effective next month.



Perhaps the biggest issue common to the area cities is roads. In 1995, the citizens approved \$13 million for roads and drains, which fixed the main arterials. But the residential streets are in very bad shape, and there is about a \$24 million shortfall of available money. In 2004, a ballot measure for a \$29 million ad valorem tax failed to pass with the required 2/3 vote, partly because this tax would have favored long-time residents under Proposition 13 at the expense of others. This June, another attempt will be made, but through a parcel tax, \$150 for each residential property, and quite a bit more for businesses. The City does have the money to maintain the roads once they are fixed.



Some of Tracy's responses to questions: Locating housing in the center of town is desirable. Traffic mitigation measures have helped Moraga Road somewhat. The lawsuit by Lafayette against Moraga over the Palos Colorados project has been settled, partly because the proposed golf course was eliminated by Fish & Game. There's no application for the Albertson's location yet, only rumors. Crime is down despite two high-profile murders; meth is the biggest problem because of being located by the freeway; Lafayette has the fewest officers per capita in the county; 43% of the general fund goes to the police; the chief is retiring. Looks like Ernie can forget about curing the bottleneck caused by three Squirrel Restaurant parking spaces; they are there under an agreement with the City.

Finally, the issue of the crosses across from the BART station has been settled after respectful public input. A certain LSR president wonders how the City officials running the meeting manage to keep everyone respectful.



GUESTS

David Kruegel, Moraga Rotary
Hayes Inglehart, 10 years Rotary and past president from L.A.
Riley the Auction Maven

UPCOMING

- 3/2: Michael Kohn, author of "Dateline Mongolia"
- 3/3: For the last time, Dinner/Auction!
- 3/9: Four-Way Speech Contest
- 3/16: Mark Sherry, SF Air Traffic Controller
- 3/23: Jenny Oorbeck, Central C.C. Waste Authority
- 3/30: New Member Talks
- 3/30: TGITLFOTM, Yeager's, 5:30
- 4/6: Dr. Peter Corona, educator and consultant
- 4/13: Mike Muir, grandson of John Muir
- 4/20: JoEllen Peterson, Raphael House and Sophia Project
- 5/4: Jill Buck, GoGreen Initiative
- 5/18: Amy Worth, MTC (formerly Orinda City Council), regional transportation
- 6/8: Shelley Sandusky, attorney, death Penalty in California
- 6/17-6/20: International Convention, Salt Lake City

