

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Need to contact us?  
925.377.0977 or 925.330.7916

Mailed bi-weekly to all  
Lamorinda households  
Free

Volume 01; Issue 10

visit us online: [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)

Wednesday, June 27, 2007



## Surviving Swim Team

By Jennifer Wake

Photo by Andy Scheck

**K**now a parent with kids in swim team? Then you probably either know a fantastic “multitasker,” or someone on the edge of insanity.

When you ask about swim team, the discussion often shifts to the child: it builds character, teaches discipline, and offers a way to improve on a swimmer’s personal best. For parents, however, swim team can mean long hours at the pool, including juggling volunteer duties and multiple practice times, dealing with younger siblings, ensuring you have the proper supplies on hand, and getting your child to each race. There is also the fight against the elements: the blazing sun once the fog burns off at all-day meets on weekends; or the bitter cold once the fog rolls back in at night during the week. It is easy to feel overwhelmed—especially if you are new to swimming.

The trick, says Orinda/Moraga Pool Association (OMPA) board member and mom of three, Erica Zeidenberg, is sticking it out and finding a way to keep it in perspective.

Zeidenberg signed up her eldest son, Jonathan Glidden, for swim team ten years ago when he was going into second grade. Having never been part of swim team before, she thought it was a great way to get her kids water safe. “When we started, I had no idea what I was getting into,” she said. “I was really out of it. It’s another world. Meets are very organized; it just seems like chaos.”

...continued on page 5

Each summer, thousands of parents and family members converge at dozens of pools throughout Lamorinda, spending countless hours volunteering for jobs such as these timers shown above – sometimes standing in the blazing heat, other times in the freezing cold – all for the love of this community within a community: **swim team**.



### A New Face for Lafayette’s West End?

By Andy Scheck

Lafayette’s Planning Commission tackled yet another Planned Unit Development at its meeting last Thursday evening. This time it’s an eighty unit residential condominium development at the city’s west end, at 3758 Mt. Diablo Blvd., behind the new Veterans Memorial Building.

Acting on behalf of The Woodbury LLC, KO Architects proposed five buildings incorporating 80 new homes as a “Dramandes Architectural Improvement.” Commissioner Will Lovitt said the project is, “Under the radar of the town... It will change the west end of town dynamically.”

In order to approve the project, the Commission would have to be willing to permit a rezoning of the property, and to make exceptions to the General Plan which would include accepting buildings that are higher than currently allowed, with a much higher Floor Area Ratio (54% instead of the current max 35%).

The development plan also includes 2% less open space than is currently required. However, on the south side between the project and the street, lies property owned by the East Bay Municipal Utility District which can’t be sold to the developer and includes EBMUD right of ways. An agreement was reached between the developer and EBMUD under which the developer would plant, landscape and maintain this property, building a bicycle path and a pedestrian walkway. This would

be a visual improvement to the existing area and would be accessible to residents, but because the land belongs to EBMUD, Woodbury is not legally allowed to include it in the open space calculation.

In a session that ran nearly two hours, the Commissioners and City Staff addressed many issues with the developer and heard from representatives of the developer and consultants who explained in detail how they had integrated the recommendations of the Design Review Commission and how the complaints of neighbors were resolved.

The Commission decided to go forward and continue discussions at its next meeting on July 12th. The Woodbury development at the West End of Lafayette could set the mark for future developments in and around downtown Lafayette.

Advertising

### Moraga Library – Needed Improvements Could Be Coming Soon

By Sophie Bracinni

Orinda has a state of the art library, Lafayette is preparing to build one, while Moraga is struggling to find parts for its vintage heating and air conditioning system. The Moraga Library is a vital part of the community. In 2006, there were 97,580 visitors to the Library. Yes, Moragans love their library. It’s just that 33 years of service to the community has taken its toll. As the 2007/2008 town budget is being discussed, the opportunity to remedy this situation is manifest.

The County has been providing a library system to Moraga since 1918; it was located in different buildings until the present site was built in 1974. The title on the building was transferred by the County to the Town of Moraga at that time, although the Contra Costa County Library continues to manage operations.



Problems on the premises are numerous: the outside woodwork is discolored, the sign lighting is broken, there are large cracks in the parking lot, there are no smoke alarms, and the powered flagpole doesn’t work. But what’s really worrisome is what’s not in the public view: after heavy rains, water flows into the rear of the library (the hillside requires proper grading and drainage), the heating and air conditioning system is on the verge of failure and nobody is able to fix it, and the original roof that was partially repaired in 2006 needs to have its liner replaced.

... continued on page 3

**Get your Grill on!**

Largest **weber** selection in CC County  
On display & in Stock

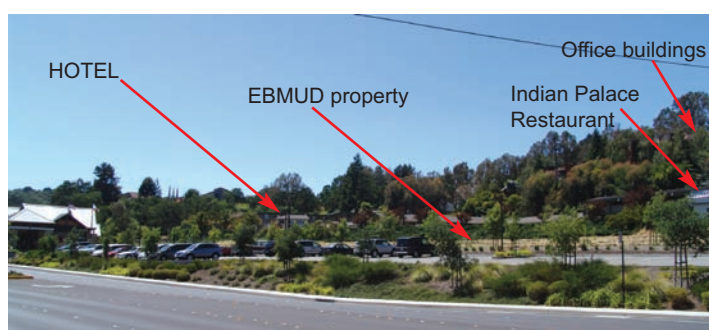
★ ★ see ad page 3 ★ ★



Free popcorn every Sat/Sun 10-3

MON-FRI:  
7:30AM-6PM  
SAT: 8AM-6PM  
SUN: 9AM-5PM  
(925) 376-3600  
1409 MORAGA WAY  
MORAGA SHOPPING CENTER

MORAGA HARDWARE AND LUMBER



The Woodbury development area from Risa Road to the Indian Palace Restaurant today

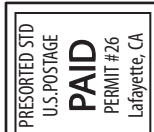


Veterans Memorial Building at the corner of Risa Road and Mt. Diablo Blvd with a future projection of The Woodbury development, provided by Matt Branagh, at Branagh Development, Inc. Danville



Site plan provided by Matt Branagh, at Branagh Development, Inc. Danville  
Marked in red is the extended walking, biking and recreation area landscaped by the developer

Mailed to 23,000 homes and businesses in Lamorinda.



LAMORINDA WEEKLY this week			
Towns news	2, 3, 4	Calendar	6
Lafayette Signs	2	SMC Campus Happenings	6
Orinda Historical Society	4	Letters to the Editor	6
The Go Daddies	5	Farming in Lamorinda	7
Lamorinda Home Sales	8	In the Back Yard	11
Moraga Barn	8	How to contact us	12
Teen Summer Jobs	9	Lamorinda Restaurants	12
Teen Scene Column	10	High Tech Treasure Hunting	13
Disk Golf	14	Sports	14-15
Classified	16	Shop Moraga Special	16



# Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

# Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, July 19
Planning Comm.	7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, July 12
Design Review	7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, July 10
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm Community Center 500 St Mary's Road Wednesday, July 11
Circulation	7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, July 16
Emergency Prep.	9:15am City Offices 3675 Mt, Diablo Blvd. Suite 265 Wednesday, July 11
Senior Services	4pm Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, June 28

check online:  
Town of Lafayette:  
<http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us>  
for:  
• all meeting notes  
• calendar updates  
Chamber of Commerce:  
<http://www.lafayettechamber.org>  
for:  
• local businesses  
• upcoming events



**Dialing for Bra Size, 6/14/07** The manager of the Cold Stone Creamery on Mt. Diablo Blvd., called police to report that a strange man has been calling the shop sporadically for the last six years, speaking with female employees, asking for name, age, and bra size with sexual innuendo. The mystery caller tells the women he'll be waiting for them outside the shop when they finish work.

**Non-chainsaw Massacre, 6/14/07** An older white male Fredricka Ave. homeowner recently called police to report that his 20 foot tree was cut down to 8 feet while he was away on vacation. A witness saw an elderly female neighbor clipping branches a week before while the homeowner was away. The alleged lumberjack, age 74 with some dementia, admitted she cut off some branches, but denied chopping the tree down to eight feet.

**Have Drugs Will Travel, 6/5/07** An officer stopped a white, male, age 27 from San Ramon on Dewing in Lafayette. A records check showed him to be on parole. He had a glass pipe with white residue on his person. A strip search at jail found possession of a baggie of white crystal methamphetamine.

## Only You Can Prevent Sign Scofflaws

By Cathy Tyson

Tired of looking at the proliferation of banners and signs along Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette? It's up to residents to complain about it, if they'd like to have them removed.

At the City Council Special Meeting on June 11, new language was adopted with regard to non-commercial property, but the existing commercial sign ordinances were not changed. Always an interesting read, the Lafayette Municipal Code has page after page of rules that define signage, placement, permitting etc. Niroop Sri-

vatsa, Planning and Building Manager, said, "It's the City's policy to enforce these laws on a complaint basis." Signs in business windows are exempt, but banners, flags, pennants, sandwich boards and signs attached to trees are regulated by the Municipal code.

The City's Municipal Code is very clear. Section 6-2501(2) eliminate visual clutter and create a more attractive and healthy economic business climate. Section 6-2520 (a) it is unlawful to install, erect, move, alter, replace, paint, suspend or attach a sign (except for maintenance

purposes) without a sign permit, unless the sign is exempt from permit requirements. What makes a sign exempt? There are 24 listings in the code, from bumper stickers on cars to mailboxes to temporary realty signs and more.

"Overall we have been assured that the City will work with the Chamber (of Commerce) and local businesses on the sign ordinances, says Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson. "Some are too restrictive and some are too loose."

## History Comes Alive at the Lafayette Cemetery

By Cathy Tyson



Back in 1854, when Franklin Pierce was President, the same year the U.S. Mint opened it's San Francisco branch to pay gold rush minors \$16 per ounce for gold, young Henrietta Hodges was the first person buried at the Lafayette Cemetery, before it was even officially opened. She died of tuberculosis at 13. Her parents asked permission of the landowner to bury her on the hillside. The Cemetery, which

team of oxen from Wisconsin. Even Clarence William Brown, one of Lafayette's first citizens, and member of the Volunteer Fire Department. He drove the town's first fire engine, "Old Betsey" and owned C.W. Brown Hardware in the 1920's. Margaret Bickerstaff Rosenberg, the first schoolteacher in town, is also laid to rest here.

The Cemetery is unique in that it is a publicly owned

sister, brother or second, if they have a direct relative that resides in the 1937 school tax district, as noted above. A non-resident fee is added to the usual charges for people who meet the qualifications. Still compared to other privately owned cemeteries it's a bargain.

Patricia Howard, Superintendent/General Manager of the Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery District says, "I love it here,



Headstone - John Standish

was privately owned from late 1854, was officially transferred to the City in 1937. It's a little under five acres of trimmed grass and shady oak and pine trees and has a large collection of historical markers for the many original Lafayette settlers laid to rest here.

Some historical notables buried there include, a relative of the Donner party, along with Nathaniel Jones the first sheriff of Contra Costa County. Civil War veteran H.A. Sweet and George W. Hammett, Sr., who came to Lafayette in 1853 by a



Cemetery in bloom

asset for the city. Some residents may not have noticed a tax of approximately .000075% per \$1,000 of property value that goes toward supporting the facility. Oddly enough the tax is based on the 1937 school district boundaries, which at that time encompassed Alamo, what is now Blackhawk, Danville, parts of Walnut Creek and Lafayette.

The benefit of this tax is a substantially discounted burial at the Cemetery if the deceased lived in the tax district. At the moment a person can be laid to rest for \$1495 plus a few additional mandatory fees; \$575 to open and close the site, \$300 for permanent upkeep of the grounds, and \$550 for a liner. For Orinda and Moraga residents, they can only be buried at the Lafayette Cemetery under two circumstances. First if they have a direct relative buried there, mother, father,

it's very peaceful. It's the living you have to worry about." The Cemetery is located at 3285 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, next to the Lafayette Park Hotel and is open from sun-up to sun down every day of the year.

## High-Tech Sewing Studio with Bling!

Sewnow! Makes Sewing Accessible to Everyone

By Lee Borrowman



Susan Goldie checks a beginning student's work

In a large room that's flooded with natural light and that somehow seems calm and quiet even when it's full of excited students, Susan Goldie leans over a young girl's shoulder and says softly, "You're doing a great job, and I love your choice of fabrics!" The girl smiles, and continues to carefully guide her creation beneath the slowly-moving needle of a sewing machine while her mom looks on proudly. "I can't sew a stitch myself," says the mom, "so I'm absolutely delighted that my daughter has this chance to learn!"

The place is Sewnow!, which opened its doors in Lafayette last December. Sewnow! offers classes in fashion design and sewing for kids (8+), teens and adults, specialty workshops on topics such as embroidery and alterations, "open studio" access, custom birthday parties and an immensely popular summer camp.

"We (Goldie and husband Peter) came up with the concept for Sewnow! when we realized that young girls and teens were very interested in creating their own fashions, and there is not really anything available that allows them to learn the traditional art of sewing in a modern, hip way," explains owner Goldie, who is also one of three supremely patient instructors at the studio.

Sewnow! gives budding fashion designers the chance to create their own clothes that express their unique style and personality. "Every project begins at the design table, where students use our templates to plan their design, choose their fabric and findings, and sketch their idea. We then teach them all the skills they need to cut it out and sew it together," Goldie continues. "It is

so rewarding and exciting when young designers complete their first tote bag and are amazed to see how professional it looks."

The classes are popular with kids and adults alike, quickly becoming a favorite after-school activity this past spring. "90% of the students from our first session of Fashion Sewing 101 returned to do our 201 class, and we have been excited to add an extra camp session this summer in response to high demand," notes Goldie. "Adults using our open studio time have commented that our machines are incredible- they even thread themselves!, and it is so nice not to have to use the dining room table to cut out a big project."

And the bling? Many of the kids' projects are finished at a table dedicated to decoration. If it sparkles, shines or glitters, it can be attached to a creation. Can you have too much bling? "Yes," said Goldie during a recent birthday party, "We usually have to set a time limit, or else they'll just keep adding more!"

### Who Are They?

Susan and Peter Goldie live in Lafayette. Susan is a graduate of LaSalle Fashion College in Montreal with nineteen years of experience in fashion design. She has designed costumes for major theatrical productions and also ran a couture design business offering custom wedding gowns and evening wear. Peter is a successful business executive with twenty-one years of marketing and management experience.

### Where Are They?

Sew Now! is located at 960 Moraga Rd, Lafayette. For more information go to <http://www.sewnow.com>, or email [info@sewnow.com](mailto:info@sewnow.com).



*Ware Designs*  
Fine Jewelry since 1977

- Custom Designed Jewelry
- Remodel Heirloom Jewelry
- Expert Repair
- Appraisals
- Pearls Restrung

Tues 12-5 Wed-Sat 10-5

**50% off**  
**Watch Battery**  
Now \$5, Reg \$10

1 watch battery per person. Exp. 8/31/07. Usually installed while you wait. W/coupon. Restrictions apply.

**"The Forge"** 3416 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette  
283-2988 [www.waredesigns.com](http://www.waredesigns.com)

### Have trouble keeping weight off?

- Physician diagnosis & treatment
- Medications &/or supplements
- Medical meal replacements
- Mindful eating coaching
- Solutions for stress, mood, sleep
- Personable, customized, simple

**Weigh 2 Health**  
Can help you find  
& keep  
the healthiest you

**SUMMER SPECIAL 20% OFF FIRST MONTH**

Call now for a  
**free consultation**  
(925) 658-2500



Nathalie Bera-Miller, MD, MPH  
Bariatric & Preventive Medicine  
953 Mountain View Drive,  
Lafayette  
[www.weigh2healthmd.com](http://www.weigh2healthmd.com)

Are you active in  
Town? Do you enjoy  
attending Council or  
Planning Meetings?  
Become a Contributing  
Reporter for the  
Lamorinda Weekly!  
Your impartial reporting  
of issues is more  
important than your  
previous writing  
experience.  
Email us at  
[info@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com)  
or call 925-330-1983



## Bay area Drainage, Inc.

"For all your drainage needs"

- French Drains
- Underfloor Drains
- Downspout Systems
- Subdrain Systems
- Sump Pumps
- Retaining Walls

Locally owned and Operated Contractor LIC # 762208

# 925•377•9209



visit our website  
[www.bayareadrainage.com](http://www.bayareadrainage.com)



# Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

# Moraga

Calendar	
City Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo	
Wednesday, June 27	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Monday, June 18	
Design Review	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Monday, June 25	
Park & Rec	7:30pm
Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Tuesday, June 19	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way	
Friday, July 13	
Chamber of Commerce	8am
Terzetto's Moraga Shopping Center	
Friday, June 29	

check online:  
Town of Moraga:  
<http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us>  
for:  
• all meeting notes  
• calendar updates



**Cranky Golfer, 6/19/07** There was a disturbance between a golfer and a security guard at the Moraga Country Club. The golfer became angry with security for removing the flags from greens prior to golfer finishing his round. Golfer attempted to follow security guard into locked front lobby, allegedly being disrespectful and confrontational. Guard slightly pushed golfer away, so that he could secure the door. Golfer's sunglasses broke as a result of the confrontation. No police prosecution requested. Incident to be handled by MCC in-house.

**Grad Party Busted, 6/14/07** Police were dispatched to a loud high school party on Joseph Drive. Officer noticed several hundred vehicles on Joseph Drive and on nearby streets, and approximately 400 people at the party. With the assistance of Lafayette and Orinda police departments, the party took over an hour to be cleared. The resident stated he was having a graduation party for his friends and it just got out of control.

**Attempted Suicide, 6/14/07** An officer was dispatched to a report of screaming coming from a Miramonte Drive residence. Officer noted water coming from the second floor of the residence and loud female screaming. An elderly female was found in the upstairs bathtub fully clothed with the shower running. She told officer she wanted to kill herself and to leave her alone. She was taken to the hospital for a 72-hour mental health evaluation hold.

## Moraga Library – Needed Improvements Could Be Coming Soon

... continued from page 1



The Moraga Library at 1500 St. Mary's Road

At the June 13th Town Council meeting, the Friends of the Moraga Library presented a request for \$18,000 to take care of the most immediate maintenance issues. By the end of the meeting, it was decided that these repairs would be included in the Capital Improvement budget that will be discussed at the Town Council meeting on June 27th. The estimated costs for replacing the Library's heating and air conditioning system and repairing the roof are \$229,500 (Source: "Capital Improvement Programs" budget presented to the Town's "Audit and Finance Committee" on May 29, 2007, p. 37).

The asset replacement fund is not yet available to



Two valves of the HVAC system similar to the one that failed in April 2007

cover the project so it's likely the Council will have to use some of the "Palos Colorados" money. This money comes in installments from the developer of the Palos Colorados project over a 10 year period.

The first installment of \$225,000 has already been paid to the Town.

During the June 13th Town Council meeting, it appeared Council Members were supportive of the library. Mayor Metcalf believes Palos Colorados money should only be spent on non-recurring projects like library repair and maintenance. Council Member Bird, who consistently focuses on the town's financial stability, believes we need to address the maintenance and repair of existing infrastructure such as the library.

The Friends of Moraga Library will also attend the next Council Meeting on June 27th to support their beloved institution. David Kruegel, President of the Friends, encourages all Moraga residents to support this much needed maintenance. All Moragans are welcome to come and voice their opinion during the public comments period of the meeting, which will be held at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School at 7:30pm.

## Statue Honoring Bruzzone Installed As Commission Reviews Donation Policy

By Steve Angelides

The statue honoring Moraga developer Russell Bruzzone was installed at the Moraga Commons last week while the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed a draft policy on future donations.

The statue of children flying kites was donated to the Town by Joan Bruzzone in honor of her late husband. It was placed on the hill above the band shell where the Town's popular summer concerts are held.

The donation stirred controversy when it was accepted by the Town Council March 14 on a 3 to 2 vote. Although all the council members approved of the statue, they accepted it on a split vote because it included a plaque honoring the late developer. The Council then asked the Parks and Recreation Commission to recommend a policy regarding donations in the hope of avoiding such controversies in the future.

The Commission reviewed the first draft of that policy at its meeting last Tuesday. The policy was drafted by commissioner Karen Mendonca. She said she adapted it from a similar policy adopted two years ago by the town of Port Angeles, Washington.



The objective of the draft policy is to spell out the Town's needs, and encourage donations that fulfill those needs as well as providing funds to maintain the donated items. The draft policy would permit memorial plaques to be directly affixed to donated items such as benches, bicycle racks, picnic tables, drinking fountains, and playground components.

However, the draft avoids the controversial topic of donated public art by excluding it from the policy and subjecting it to full review and approval by the Commission and the Council. After some of the commissioners questioned the exclusion of public art from the draft policy, Parks and Recreation Director Penelope Leach suggested that the draft be revised to include donated public art. However the commissioners present unanimously agreed that the policy should not go so far as to include loaned art.

At the Council meetings in which the Bruzzone donation was considered, former commissioners stated that previous memorial donations had been declined because the Town had a past policy or tradition of limiting memorial donations to the Heritage Patio. However, so far nobody has produced any documentation of that. At last week's meeting former commissioner Bob Giomi said he had minutes of every Commission meeting while he was a commissioner, and that he would search for such documentation.

Leach commented that if there was such documentation, the commission should consider incorporating such past policy or tradition in the draft policy. Mendonca will prepare a second draft of the policy taking into account the comments made at the meeting.



**Hallmark**  
KEEPSAKE

Join us for  
**Keepsake Ornament Premiere**  
July 14, 2007

*Free Gift with \$100 Ornament purchase*

H & A Hallmark Shop • 1460-H Moraga Road • Moraga • 925-376-7580



**Morning Activities**

8:00 AM	Kiddie Run
8:30 AM	5 Mile Run
8:40 AM	2 Mile Run
10:00 AM	Awards at the Bandshell

**In the Commons**

9:00 AM	Dog Parade
10:30 AM	Kids Bike Parade
10:30 AM	Fire Department Vehicle Display
10:30 AM	Police Department Vehicle Display
10:30 AM	CERT and Rescue 1 Display

2007 July 4th Celebration  
**Wednesday July 4th**  
at the Moraga Commons Park  
All Day Activities

11 AM - 5 PM	Inflatables
11:00 AM	Food Booths Open

**At the Bandshell**

5:30 PM - 6 PM	Performance by Amanda MacDowell
6:30 PM	National Anthem by Amanda MacDowell
6:35 PM	Mayor's Welcome and unveiling of the new statue.
7:00 PM	Larry Lynch & the Mob
9:00 PM	FIREWORKS!
9:30 PM	Larry Lynch & the Mob closes celebration

**Moraga Parks and Recreation Foundation presents:**  
**2007 Free Summer Concert Series**  
Thursdays at the Moraga Commons Park  
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

<p>Thursday, June 28 <b>Dave Russell Band; Rock 'N Roll</b></p> <p>Wednesday, July 4 <i>Independence Day Festivities</i> <b>Larry Lynch &amp; the Mob</b></p> <p>Thursday, July 12 <b>Motor Dude Zydeco; Cajun</b></p> <p>Thursday, July 19 <b>Stone Soup; Rock 'N Roll</b></p>	<p>Thursday, July 26 <b>Mixed Nuts; Decades of Rock</b></p> <p>Thursday, August 2 <b>littledog2; Rock 'N Roll</b></p> <p>Thursday, August 9 <b>Juke Joint; Blues</b></p> <p>Thursday, August 16 <b>Ventana; Latin</b></p> <p>Thursday, August 23 <b>Celtic Heart; Irish</b></p>
---	---



## Get your grill on!

2007 WEBERS ON DISPLAY AND IN STOCK

# Moraga Hardware and Lumber

across the way



weber

FREE ASSEMBLY - WE DELIVER

We have the largest selection of

# Weber Grills

in the Bay Area


Extensive Selection of Weber Accessories  
Knowledgeable Sales Associates



(925) 376-3600  
1409 Moraga Way  
Moraga Shopping Center

across the way

(925) 376-3600 ext. 3  
1480 G Moraga Road  
Moraga Shopping Center  
(across from Moraga Hardware & Lumber)




**RESIDENTIAL  
PACIFIC  
MORTGAGE**

The Right Lender to Know™

Gordon Steele

Mortgage Consultant  
Office: 925.627.7109  
gsteele@rpm-mortgage.com  
www.rpm-mortgage.com/gsteele



925-627-7109

1777 Botelho Drive • Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
serving Lamorinda since 1986  
CA Dept. of Real Estate - real estate broker license # 01201643



# Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

# Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way	
Wednesday, July 17	
Planning Comm.	7pm
New Location: City Hall 22 Orinda Way	
Tuesday, July 10	
Park & Rec	7pm
Room 7, Community Center 28 Orinda Way	
Wednesday, July 11	
Historic Landmarks	3pm
Garden Room, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way	
Tuesday, July 24	
Liaison	8:30am
Room 7, Community Center 28 Orinda Way	
Monday, July 2	

check online:  
Town of Orinda:  
<http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/>  
for:  
• all meeting notes  
• calendar updates



**Vegetable, Donut and Beer Theft, 6/10/07** A homeless man was caught with snow peas, cauliflower, cucumber, a cinnamon bun and a can of malt liquor in his pockets after he walked out of the Orinda Safeway. Total value of his haul is \$6.75. Store manager requested prosecution. The alleged thief apologized and offered to pay for the items. He had \$12. on him.

**TV Stolen, 6/8/07** An unknown person entered an unlocked home via the front door on Scenic Court between 11:00 - 12:00, while elderly homeowner was asleep. Mystery thief stole flat screen LCD Samsung television. Homeowner awoke at noon and found front door open and TV gone.

**Mailbox Mischief, 6/7/07** Unknown person damaged mailbox by knocking it down, possibly with a car. The Southwood Drive homeowner heard a crash, but didn't see anything. Damage is estimated at approximately \$150.



**7:00 A.M.**  
Haley's 4th of July Run for a Reason Registration, in front of the Community Center  
**7:30 - 10:30 A.M.**  
Pancake Breakfast in front of the Library  
**8:00 A.M.**  
Haley's 5 Mile Run starts - 2 Mile Family Walk follows  
**10:00 A.M. Parade**  
**11:30 A.M.**

**Orinda Community Park festivities, music, food and entertainment!**

Concert in the Park, 11:30-1:30, Silver Spurs (Country); Chamber of Commerce Hot Dog Stand (11:30-2:30); Haley's event area by the tennis courts includes Silent Auction, Home Depot Kids' Workshop, Quenchers Smoothies.

**Join the All Volunteer Orinda Marching Band!**

All instruments, ages and levels of ability are welcome. Rehearsal will start at 9:00am up the hill from Casa Orinda and the gas station (drummers meet at 8:00 and must register in advance, M. Green 254-9169).

You must provide your own lyre, wear blue pants or shorts, a white shirt and have red on your hat or socks. Music is available in advance by calling 283-0361 and leaving a message with your name and phone number.

## "Three Quarter Of a Century" Celebrates Access to the Outdoors for All

**By Sophie Bracinni**  
On June 21st, "Three Quarter of a Century" celebrated life and the great outdoors during its annual luncheon at the Orinda Community Church. Every year, on the third Thursday of June, Orindans 75 years old and better are invited to a luncheon and to hear a speaker on a topic of interest. The group was formed 8 years ago by Orinda resident John Fazel. According to John, "the purpose is to honor our seniors and offer them a fun event where they'll meet good friends and have a great time." Last Thursday, the group invited Michael Muir, the great grandson of the legendary John Muir, to speak about his the organization he founded, Access Adventure.

This non-profit is unique in the world. As Muir presents it, "Our mission is to provide wilderness and open space access for people with disabilities using innovative, solar powered, wheelchair accessible horsedrawn carriages." The programs of Access Adventure are provided without charge to anyone with a condition that limits their ability to get around. The carriages are built by Thornlea Carriages in Wabash, Indiana.

Access Adventure provides wilderness trips from March to October in Humboldt County, the Yosemite area, the Los Padres National Forest and other wild places around the world. The association is run by a diverse group of volunteers linked by their love of nature, horses and a passion to serve. A professional horse trainer, Muir was struck by multiple sclerosis at age 15. On Thursday, the 55 year old man fired up his audience with his passion and energy. He told them how, in 2001, he led an international team



Helen Vurek luncheon queen crowned by Keith Miller Prudential Photos by David Dickson, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary



Celebrating the passage of time: Joyce Mann, Helen Vurek, Thomas and Aileen Deah of people with disabilities driving wheelchair accessible horse-drawn carriages on a three thousand mile, ten month journey across America. By the end of the luncheon, all the programs describing upcoming Access Adventures had been snapped up by the crowd.

The meeting ended with the crowning of the Queen, King and longest married couple of the assembly. Helen Vurek, 97 years old was the queen for the second year in a row. Thomas Dehl, 92 years old, was crown the king and also received the longest married couple award with his wife

Aileen, celebrating their 67 years together. Fazel promises that this very successful event will go on for many more years. He can count on the support of the Orinda Prudential Office managed by Keith Miller, a main sponsor of the event, along with the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. Our 75+ year old citizens represent about 6% of the total population (and growing), but fun activities are rarely organized for them. For more information email Fazel at [runmtms@prodigy.net](mailto:runmtms@prodigy.net).

## Orinda Historical Society Seeks Volunteers

**By Chris Lavin**  
History is gaining ground on the Orinda Historical Society, with stacks of documents and photographs that need to be cataloged gathering dust.

"We have a lot of them," said Erik Anderson, a software engineer who serves as vice president of the society. "We're in the process of trying to find them all and cataloging them."

To do that the OHS is using volunteer senior citizens and sometimes even high school students who receive training on the society's new photo digitizing equipment and put to work in the society's office on the ground floor of the Orinda Library. The scanners and software were purchased with a grant from the Rotary Club.

In a second "call to action," Andersen said, the public is now able to purchase the best of the photos over the Internet at [www.orindahistory.org](http://www.orindahistory.org). Board members hope that local merchants will begin displaying more scenes of Orinda's bucolic past in restaurants and office space - even private hallways at home.



This photo shows the Theodore Wagner house. Wagner loved the scenic beauty of the valley, and he built an expensive house in 1882 on what is now the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. The grounds included barns, a dairy, a hotel, a blacksmith shop, a brick-making kiln, and the first telephone in Orinda. He built a platform where a band would play on Sunday afternoons for all of his neighbors who came to enjoy his elaborate grounds. Wagner became famous for his parties and festivals, and was instrumental in creating the image of Orinda as a pleasant, scenic retreat.

"We're on a shoestring budget, and we're all volunteers," Andersen said. "We can use a lot of help."

And there are boxes upon boxes to be dealt with.

"We get all kinds of stuff from all kinds of places," Andersen said. "We've had donations from newspapers, from private estates, the city, and even just private individuals who find stuff."

Some of the documents are used in displays, but the ultimate goal is to have photographs sorted and scanned and

filed under intuitive categories. To volunteer, call the OHS at 925-254-1353, or stop by when the society is open from 3-5 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

## New Orinda Development Unlikely to be a Boon for Schools, City

**By Chris Lavin**  
Two major housing developments in Orinda - possibly the city's last -- are well under way, with 369 multiple family dwellings likely to have for-sale signs out front by the end of 2008. So two major questions impact the city's future: Why will the additional property taxes fail to swell the city's coffers, and why is the school district still predicting declining enrollment over the next decade?

Like other schools throughout the Bay Area, both the Acalanes and Orinda Union school districts are expecting enrollment to steadily decline over the next 10 years, which means fewer state funds coming their way from the state.

"Officials have been watching it," said OUSD School Board President Pat Rudebusch. "It's not that drastic."

In the early 1970s Orinda's school enrollment was around 3,000. In the mid-80's, that had dropped to the low point of about 1,600. Now the schools have been hovering around 2,400 for several years, but they expect a steady decline.

Yet the declining enrollment and its corresponding budget reductions come at a time when 245 high-end homes are under construction in a city with one of the best reputations for its public schools in the state. Houses at Wilder - known over the two decades in the approval process first as Gateway Valley, then as Montanera - are expected to be sold in the \$2 million range, producing almost \$25,000 in property taxes per house per year - from families many of whom are expected to have young children.

"You have to remember that only 7 cents on every dollar paid in property taxes comes back to the city of Orinda," said City Councilmember Amy Worth. Instead, property taxes throughout California go straight to the state, which controls the purse strings - a hotly debated subject between cities and counties throughout the state since Proposition 13 made the change in 1978.

That means that even if every home in the new developments sells for an average \$2 million, only about \$500,000 will be added to the city's annual budget.

In fact, opponents of the recently defeated Measure E, which would have raised \$59 million through bonds to fix Orinda's crumbling roads and water pipes, claimed in numerous letters to the editor and public forums that additional taxes from the city's new homes could pay not only to fix the roads, but for a plethora of other wish-list items as well.

**"That's just not going to happen," Mayor Steve Glazer has said.**

Besides the 200-plus homes in Wilder, the Pine Grove development will add another 80 homes to Orinda's real estate lists. But that many homes won't produce a significant change in Orinda's school population, city officials believe.

And while the new homes will certainly help contribute some money to the city, they will likely be the last. The city's general plan calls for limited development, and the prime spots marked for new homes have already been consumed.



Photo by Rick Konlon

### Concerts-in-the-Park

Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm (except for Wed., July 4, 11:30am), at the Orinda Community Center Park. Bring a picnic and enjoy the free music in the park!

- June 19 Spirit of 29 (Dixieland Jazz)
- June 26 Stone Soup (Oldies Rock)
- July 4 (Wed., 11:30am-1:30pm) Silver Spurs (Country)
- July 10 Spazmatics (80s Rock)
- July 17 Pladdohg (Celtic Rock)
- July 24 Lady Kaye & the Kings of Swing (Swing & Jazz)
- July 31 Cal Alumni Big Band (Big Band Jazz)
- Aug. 7 Mixed Nuts (Oldies Rock, Disco, Blues)



## Imagine yourself healthy, fit & energetic

- Personalized Nutrition Programs
- Lasting weight loss
- Lower Cholesterol

Call today to schedule your Fitness & Body Composition Analysis

**254-1080**

[www.lamorindanutrition.com](http://www.lamorindanutrition.com)

**Lamorinda NUTRITION**  
Theresa Tsingis, D.C., M.S.  
89 Davis Rd. #180, Orinda



## Kensington Place... Luxury. Quality. Value. Service.

**1 BR's NOW Available!**

### Amenities for the lifestyle you deserve:

- Affordable Monthly Rentals
- Newly Remodeled
- Private Patio/Balcony
- Gracious Restaurant Style Dining
- Weekly Housekeeping
- Scheduled Transportation
- Enrichment Programs
- Computer Center
- Library with Cozy Fireplace
- Outdoor Sitting Areas
- Covered Parking Available
- Pet Friendly Community

Ask us how we can assist you with a stress free move!



1580 Geary Road  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597  
(925) 943-1121



# Life in LAMORINDA



Robert with Lauren 8 and Michael 5



News exchange in the morning cold



Swimmers at Orinda Country Club



from left to right: Courtney Nelson, Hanna Schoenberger, Julia Giovanni and Claire Giovanni



## Surviving Swim Team

...continued from page 1

Driving into the parking lot of Miramonte Swim Club, Zeidenberg was surprised by how much "stuff" people were unloading from their cars: gym bags, blankets, awnings, coolers, chairs, and even sleeping bags. She soon learned how valuable those sleeping bags would become at the 3-hour meets on Wednesday nights. "Those are cold nights," she said. "It's freezing, it's late; I just wanted to go home."

She started packing a swim

team survival pack to help her get through it: swim parkas, sleeping bags, extra clothes. "If it's really hot, I pack lots of sunscreen, water, big hats, a mister bottle," Zeidenberg said. She bought long, fleece-lined swim parkas, goggles, and practice suits that she found half-price online at www.thefinals.com. "As a parent on a budget, you breathe and realize you can do this."

Lafayette resident Marti Kohen has been a swimmer most

of her life, so when she signed up her son, Evan, when he was 8-years-old, she thought she knew what to expect. But even for this veteran swimmer, the "parent involvement was a bit of a surprise," she said.

Kohen, whose two children have now been involved with a swim team for the past 10 years, says you have to prioritize and let your kids decide what they want to participate in. "It's important for parents to recognize you can

participate as much as you want. If your child doesn't want to compete, you can sign them out."

And parents can volunteer in different ways. "You can volunteer your time at Pizza Days, or do the communication, updating the website," said Kohen. Subs are available so if you have little kids, you can pay them to work the meet for you. "There's a lot going on, but it's a community and you ask other parents for help."

The most challenging aspect for new parents, says Orinda resident Amy Meckfessel, is learning the ins and outs of swim team. "The basic aspects of how a meet is run, what jobs are involved, what heat and lane your child is in for each race, and all the swim language is challenging for parents." It takes nearly a full season to get comfortable with it, she said.

Meckfessel's four children fall into different age brackets at

Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club in Orinda, with four different practices each day, so she understands the demands of swim team, yet she remains a true believer in the sport. "There are daily opportunities for success, and the sport of swimming teaches valuable life lessons."

Kohen and Zeidenberg could not agree more. "Once you adapt, and just see it as part of your summer experience," Zeidenberg said, "you can make it fun."

## No Pain, No Game

### Thirty years and still swinging

By Cathy Tyson



Go Daddies

"I'm lamenting throwing the ball because my arm is so sore, but I'm here despite the pain because of friendship and camaraderie," reports Paul Coupin of Orinda. Lafayette resident Chris Caldwell is sporting not one, but two knee braces this season. "Yep, got 'em sliding into home a couple of years ago, I live in pain," he says half-jokingly.

What compels a 12-year old girl to forgo having a birthday party and instead plan to attend the Opening Night of the "Go Daddies?" It's because for as long as she can remember she has tagged along with her daddy on Tuesday evenings.

Way back in 1977, the original members of what is now known as the "Go Daddies" got together for a friendly local adult-league game of softball at

Wagner Ranch. Then the team was known as "Vintage House," because that's where many of the founding members worked: Ignacio Vega, Josh Nichol, Bruno Walker, Eric Schroter, John Campagna, Jimmy Roux. Little did they know, these pals started what has become 30-year summer ritual.

Back in the day, when the guys were single, the tradition was to play the game, then have the whole team head to the Moraga Barn for hotdogs and beer. Sometimes, remember they were younger then, even go bowling at the Rheem Bowl, post game. These guys may have a little gray hair, but they've outlasted the Barn, the bowling alley and the Vintage House.

"As the team grew, it morphed into our summer family, and has grown to embrace our



Captain Ignacio Vega

children," says Team Captain/Owner, Ignacio Vega. He generously pays the fee and keeps track of the post-game parties at members' houses. "The

first question my kids ask on a summer Tuesday is, 'where's the party at tonight?'" Because of the number of players, wives and children the after-party has moved to players' backyards.

Taking the mound for season thirty, Vega, President/CEO of Village Associates Real Estate is still smoking his trademark cigar and wearing his signature "Nantucket Red" shorts while he pitches. When it's the Daddies turn at bat he retrieves the cigar when he's safe on first. Greg "Oogie" Miller is always good for a number of inspired howls/barks. Jim "the Norse God" Larsen heckles the peanut gallery, and Paul Coupin is showing off his new goatee - its all part of the "Go Daddies" experience. The easy, laid back bond these men share is one of the reasons they keep coming back year after year. Priceless.

You'd hardly know the average age of the players was fifty. Brun-dog Walker scored the first run of the game and was only slightly winded. Time marches on and this season, David Banister, college graduate and son of one-time member John Banister, is playing.

"What it boils down to is men playing as boys for a few hours a week. We greet each other warmly, needle each other endlessly and laugh all game long. The recurring collective experience is what keeps this ball rolling along," sums up Tom "Franko" Tyson.

In the last inning, Matt "Bye-Bye" Rei hits a stunning homer. When asked the final score, Bart "Bartatola" Penfold says, "A lot to a little." Actually it was 16-8, good guys. They'll be ready to take the field next week, after some Advil.

**Hardware, Software & Internet**  
Home & Office Visits  
24 Hour Emergency Service  
Over 30 Years Experience  
Windows • Mac  
Linux • Unix

**DiabloLink Communications**  
www.DiabloLink.net  
located in Moraga  
925-465-9567

**FREE Computer Repair or Service**  
Buy 1st 1/2 hr at \$49  
Get 2nd 1/2 hr free!

**Did You Know That Your Eyelashes Age?**

**Age Intervention® Eyelash Conditioner**  
A stunning new eyelash technology from Jan Marini Skin Research gives you the lashes of your dreams. Fuller, thicker and noticeably lusher-looking lashes. Lashes like never before from the company that delivers amazing looking skin.  
Now get amazing eyelashes.

**Remarkable Products . . . Amazing Results**

Jan Marini Skin Research

One of the hottest products of the year!  
For information contact:  
**Shelby Sexton Salon**  
33 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette  
(925) 962-1900

The Shelby Sexton Salon would like to thank the Acalanes Cheerleaders for their continued support.

**Exclusive homes deserve exclusive loans.**

Let me put my experience in high-end loans to work for you today.

**Tim Floyd**  
Senior Loan Consultant

925.287.7327 office  
925.348.4194 mobile  
3390 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Suite 200  
Lafayette, CA 94549

- Top Sr. Loan Consultant in Lamorinda - 15 years experience
- Award winning service - all loans close on time, everytime
- Exclusive homes deserve exclusive service, I will provide an in-home review

**Washington Mutual HOME LOANS**

Certain restrictions and conditions apply. Programs subject to change. Some programs may not be combined with others. Low Doc: We reserve the right to request additional documentation. Reduced points/fees: Interest rate/APR may be higher than when these costs are paid by borrower. Washington Mutual has loan offices and accepts loan applications in Washington Mutual Bank - many states; Washington Mutual Bank, doing business as Washington Mutual Bank, FA - many states; and Washington Mutual Bank fsb - ID, MT, UT.



## ◆ Not to be missed ◆

**Small Business Book Fair - Thursday, June 28, 7pm**  
The Lafayette Book Store and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce are teaming up to bring together a wide selection of books of interest to small business owners. Guest authors Steven Hilferty and Tom Leal will be available to discuss their book, *8 Simple Secrets For Small Business Owners*, and sign copies. A portion of the proceeds will go to Project Second Chance, Contra Costa's Adult Literacy Program. The event will be held at Bank of the West, 2583 Mt. Diablo Blvd in Lafayette. Admission is free.

**Performing Live at The Orinda House, Holly Penfield - June 30th**  
Call 258-4445 for more information

**Rose Care Seminar by the East Bay Rose Society**  
McDonnell Nursery, July 7 at 10:00 am  
Call or email to reserve a seat 254-3713 or info@mcdonnellnursery.com

**"Overstock Book Sale"**  
Saturday, July 14th 9AM - 12noon  
Held by The Friends of the Moraga Library on the Moraga Library porch at 1500 St. Mary's Road. All funds raised are used to benefit library programs and purchase materials. Bring your friends and take advantage of greatly reduced prices.

**FACT VS FICTION at the Orinda Library**  
Monday, July 9, 7PM - 8PM  
Terrance Wong, a criminologist from the Contra Costa County Forensic Services Division shares the reality behind the CSI shows and books and discusses how real crimes are investigated by real forensic teams here in Contra Costa County. The Garden Room, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way. Visit the website at www.cclib.org or call 925-254-2184.

**"My Three Angels"**  
Sponsored by Orinda Starlight Village Player's July 13th thru August 4th  
Fridays & Saturdays, at 8:30PM;  
Sunday, July 29th at 4PM  
Thursday, August 2nd at 8PM  
26 Orinda Way, at the Orinda Community Center Outside Amphitheater  
Adult \$15, senior/student \$7.50, group rates available  
No Reservations needed. (925)253-1191

**California Shakespeare Theater Presents "Man and Superman" by George Bernard Shaw**  
Brns Amphitheater, Orinda, July 4th - 29th  
At once a charming romantic comedy and an unflinching examination of the war between the sexes, *Man and Superman* is one of Shaw's most celebrated and devilishly witty plays. Directed by Jonathan Moscone. Tue-Wed-Thurs 7:30pm (except for preview nights which are at 8:00pm the first Wednesday and Thursday of each show)  
Fri-Sat 8:00 pm, Sunday 4:00 pm  
For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510.548.9666 or visit www.calshakes.org

**"IS ENNYBODY HOME?"**  
A one-woman, comic, cosmic musical comedy theater exploration of the nine personality types of the Enneagram, Featuring Sheilah Glover  
Two performances: Friday, July 20 and

Saturday, July 21 - 8 PM  
Unity Center of Walnut Creek, 1871 Geary Road, WC, Tickets - \$20  
For further information. Contact Richard Miles, (925) 890-4347 or RMilesHFPN@aol.com

**"Capturing the Light"**  
Photography Show  
Through August 11, 2007  
Wenda Pyman, the featured artist in this group show, specializes in landscape, scenic and travel photography, with special emphasis on local East Bay and Diablo scenes. Her vast body of work reflects her all-consuming passion to capture nature's diverse patterns and imagery through the use of natural light.  
Moraga Art Gallery (Rheem Valley Shopping Center)  
570 Center St., Moraga, CA 94556. Free.

**"Some Like it Hot"**  
Presented by the Lafayette Gallery - through August 4th.  
An exhibit that features Lafayette Gallery artists presenting works in a variety of media including acrylics, collage, photography, jewelry, oils, ceramics, and much more - 50 Lafayette Circle open Tuesday - Saturday from 11am - 5pm - for more information contact 284-2788 or www.lafayettegallery.net.

**The Glover Groups to Exhibit Paintings at Orinda Library**  
Some 30 painters, who have studied under Pam and Ann-Marie Glover, will exhibit and sell their works at the Orinda Community Library through July 12, 2007. A reception with the artists is planned at the exhibit on June 22 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

**Rockridge Library Gallery presents a Group Show of all media:** paintings, drawings, photography, collage, monographs, etchings and woodcuts created by Bay Area local artists at the Rockridge Library in Oakland.  
The show will be judged by Beth Pewther, a prominent Bay Area artist who has shown her work in New York City, where she lived in the 60's, and in San Francisco venues. She is on the Art Committee for the Kings Gallery in Oakland, reviewing art and hanging shows.  
Oakland Art Association Group Show  
2nd Floor Community Gallery  
5366 College Avenue, Oakland 94618  
July 1-July 31, 2007, M-Sat, varied hours (510) 597-5017

**Ruth Faison Shaw, First Lady of Finger Painting**  
A talk by Moraga resident Darwin Marable, PhD, Tuesday, July 17 at 7:00 pm, Moraga Library. Educator, art therapist, writer, and lecturer, Shaw accidentally rediscovered the ancient art of finger painting in 1926 at the Shaw School in Rome, Italy which she founded. She first used finger painting as a creative tool in the education of her own students; however, Shaw later expanded its use with delinquents, veterans, the mentally ill, the physically handicapped and the aged. Darwin Marable, PhD is a photo/art historian, critic, lecturer and independent curator.

**San Francisco Museums of Fine Arts docent Lectures**  
Moraga Library, Wednesday, July 18 at 2:00 p.m.

From the New Look to Nan: Haute Couture and Nan Kempner  
Legendary Vogue editor Diana Vreeland once said "There are no chic women in America. The one exception is Nan Kempner." Nan Kempner, San Francisco born New York socialite, used her innate taste and intelligence to form a collection which she not only wore to high society functions, but which has become a museum quality exhibition. The lecture will survey the elegant and daring fashions from Dior, Balenciaga, St. Laurent, Balmain, and others.

**Tea Dancing**  
Enjoy afternoon Tea Dancing and light refreshments every Wednesday in the spacious Live Oak room. Every Wednesday 12:30 - 3:00 PM  
Lafayette Community Center, Saint Mary's Rd, Live Oak Room, \$2 fee covers refreshments. Call 284-5050

**Lafayette Senior Services Book Club every 2nd Monday of the Month.**  
Read a wide variety of books and have lively discussions. Monday, July 9th, 10:30 AM-Noon, Lafayette Community Center, Alder Room.  
Call for more information or a list of upcoming books - 284-5050

**FREE SAT/ACT Kaplan Test Prep SAT Essay Seminar (Code: SKBK7053)**  
Tuesday, July 24, 2007 7-8:15pm  
This workshop is designed to give students the experience of writing a 25 min essay under timed conditions, teach students to recognize what essay graders are looking for, and introduce students to effective SAT writing strategies.  
www.kaptest.com/college or call 1-800-KAPTEST to register  
Space is limited, so sign up today!  
Moraga Library 1500 St. Mary's Rd. 376-6852 cclib.org

### Campus Happenings



Photo by Ken C. Young, Moraga; www.kcyoungfineartimages.com

**Art Exhibitions/Lectures:**  
ART TALK SUMMER 2007  
*"Investigating Landscape"*  
by Town and Country exhibition catalog essayist Meredith Tromble.  
Tromble is a visiting faculty member at San Francisco Art Institute and co-coordinator of the interdisciplinary Center for Art+Science. Her writing has appeared in the Flintridge Foundation Awards catalogue, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: Women Artists in California, and many other publications. She has served as the Editor-in-Chief of Artweek and NextMonet.com, and co-founded the Bay Area art website, Stretcher.org.  
Sunday, July 1 at 2 p.m.  
Art Center Lecture Hall  
Saint Mary's College  
\$5 donation in conjunction with the Biennial Contemporary landscape Exhibition - "Town and Country: Jessica Dunne and Louis LaBrie" on view through Aug. 12.

*"William Keith: The 1880s Paintings"*  
Works from the 1880s, which marked a decade of great changes in William Keith's life.  
On view in the William Keith Room

**Hearst Art Gallery**  
Gallery hours: Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. \$2 admission (free with Art Talk admission July 1)

For more information about upcoming events at Saint Mary's College, visit the college website at www.stmarysca.edu/news\_events

## Ægis of Moraga Invites Everyone to Join in the Fun



Kitty Kersten dances to tunes by the LaSalle Street Band

Who says there's never anything fun to do in Moraga? Ægis of Moraga held its annual Antique Car Show on Saturday, June 9th. The car show was open to the public and held in the front parking lot. The variety of antique cars on display was provided by the California Region of the Antique Car Club of America.

Paul Bittner, President of the Antique Car Club, arranged an assortment of vintage cars to come to Ægis of Moraga and "talk shop" to the resi-

dents, family and friends of the assisted living community. Residents of Ægis reminisced and shared stories of their own experiences in similar cars. The "first date in the rumble seat" was a popular story shared by more than a few of the residents!

Ægis resident Gordon Bang included his 1962 Red Convertible Classic Corvette in the car show. Gordon brings his car to the show each year and lovingly polishes it to a shine while sharing stories of his favorite car.



Gordon Bang and his little red Corvette

**Letters to the Editor**  
We're a community newspaper, and we welcome your input. Please share your thoughts, news, ideas, suggestions, and photos here in the pages of the Lamorinda Weekly. Max. 200 words for a letters. email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Regular mail:  
Letters to the Editor  
Lamorinda Weekly  
P.O.Box 6133  
Moraga, CA 94556

We received no Letters for this issue.

Lively jazz music was provided by The LaSalle Street Band, much to the enjoyment of the Ægis residents and guests. Kitty Kersten, another resident, danced up a storm to the music of the band while her audience sipped pink lemonade and ate freshly popped popcorn and chocolate chip cookies.

**Coming up:**  
Ægis of Moraga will host an event for the Moraga Historical Society on Thursday, June 28th from 7:30 pm to 9:00pm. California native John Keibel will speak on the history and human story of the Concord Naval Weapons Station, which he has been documenting for ten years. Keibel will be citing extensive research, relating firsthand accounts and sharing documentary photography. He will begin to unwrap an intricate web of life and loss, patriotism and protest, and scientific advance.

Information for this article was submitted by Candice Moses.

### Got E-Waste?

Electronic Waste Management, a state-approved Bay Area e-waste recycling company, invites you to celebrate our country's birthday by recycling your old, unwanted TV, computer, monitor and other electronic equipment at a FREE e-waste recycling event.

Why recycle? Toxic substances such as lead and mercury are used in the manufacture of electronic equipment and can pollute the ground, our waterways and the air if not disposed of properly. All eligible e-waste items collected at this event will be recycled and broken down to their primary components, such as metals, plastic, glass, etc. These components are then reused into making products such as cars and other electronic equipment.

The event will take place at Diablo Valley College, in Pleasant Hill, on Fri-

day, July 6th from 12PM to 5PM, and Saturday and Sunday, July 7th and July 8th from 9AM to 3PM. Drop off is FREE and all of the following items can be recycled: TV's, computers, monitors, computer components, power supplies, telephone equipment, scrap metal, wire, and more. Please do not bring household appliances, microwaves, smoke detectors, furniture, or household or car batteries. Visit www.noewaste.com for event info and to view a list of eligible items, or call toll free (866) 335-3373.



Now in Walnut Creek

## Jumpstart Your Weight Loss

Jumpstart Medicine offers a medically-supervised weight loss program individually designed for men and women looking to lose weight safely and quickly. On average, our patients lose 2 to 5 pounds per week over the course of 12 weeks. Most patients feel great, have no cravings, and stay highly motivated due to quick results which they can see and feel.

How much do you want to lose?

# jumpstart

MEDICINE

Walnut Creek • San Ramon  
925-277-1123 • www.jumpstartmedicine.com

## UPHOLSTERY SPECIALIST

### REFINISHING AND RESTORATION

- Slipcovers • Pillows • Window Cushions
- Custom Upholstery • Design Consulting

Marine - Commercial - Residential  
Pickup & Delivery Available • Free Estimates By Phone

# M.R.S.

Fine Old World Craftsmanship  
Family Owned And Operated For Over 55 yrs.  
3418 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

Mon.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-2  
**(925) 962-0579**

**Pacific National Bank**

Great People —  
Great Service —  
And Even Better Products!

Ashrita Prasad  
Branch Manager  
Moraga

## 9-Month CD

# 5.20% APY\*

Stop in at your favorite neighborhood location.

<b>Moraga</b> 1470 Moraga Road Moraga, CA 94556 (925) 376-2120	<b>Lafayette</b> 3528 Mount Diablo Boulevard Lafayette, CA 94549 (925) 284-9054	<b>Walnut Creek — Rossmoor</b> 1910 Tice Valley Boulevard Walnut Creek, CA 94595 (925) 407-0001
---	--	--

(877) PNB-1887 | www.pacificnational.com

\* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective as of 6/5/07 and is subject to change daily. Minimum deposit to open and earn Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is \$1000. Funds must be new money to Pacific National Bank. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. Member FDIC



# Life in LAMORINDA

## Farming in Lamorinda: Will There Still Be Cows?

By Sophie Braccini



Ann Holding selling grass-fed beef at the Orinda farmers market

Photo by Sophie Braccini

From the early 19th century to today's global market place, ranching in Lamorinda has undergone a complete transformation. As housing and commercial development increased, the size of ranches declined. Some say there's no future for farming in Lamorinda. Yet one local ranch has been very successful at selling its product at a local farmers' market. It has been a long time since the heyday of the Lamorinda ranches owned by the Wagners, Carrs, Sanders, Nunes and Domingo's, among many others. Despite years of decline, ranchers continue to rent pastures from East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), and are working hard to bring sustainability back to our hills.

Our story starts in 1835, fifteen years before California's admission to the Union, when the Mexican government granted large pieces of land to families who had been of service. Joaquin Moraga and his cousin, Juan Bernal, got some 13,000 acres from Mexico; Victor Castro got a 22,000 acre grant in 1841 (where the present day Wagner Ranch School and Nature Area are located). In the late 19th century, these large land grants were subdivided into smaller family ranches. For example, Joseph Domingos, who came from the Azores, bought 495 acres from the original Moraga family. Theodore Wagner received his 241 acres through marriage. In 1913, the Carr and Sanders families came to the Moraga Valley to purchase land for dairy farming. It was the time of family farming, when children would go to their one room school houses on their horses and cows were milked twice a day. When the price of milk fell with the Great Depression, those dairy farmers had no choice but to convert to cattle ranching.

The Depression, stagnation of beef prices, and the occurrence of hoof and mouth disease conspired to hurt ranchers during the 1930s. After the beginning of the century, large farms began to disappear and

the People Water Company (EBMUD's predecessor) stepped in to purchase their land. According to Steve Abbors, Operating Principal for EBMUD, "When you own a reservoir, you need to hold the entire water basin that feeds it." Abbors believes that EBMUD should have purchased the entire town of Orinda.

Today, EBMUD owns about 22,000 thousand acres in the Lamorinda area, of which 10,000 is grass land. Grazing is the most cost effective tool to effectively manage the land and control fire hazard. The use of specific pastures and the scheduled rotation of cattle among these pastures help control pollution from the cows. Cow waste contains pathogens that nobody wants to find in the reservoirs.

Nowadays, twelve ranchers rent their grazing land from EBMUD and some, like the Carrs of Moraga, are direct descendants of the original farming families. As they adapt to ranching in the early 21st century, most ranchers both own and rent land from public agencies. According to Adriana Marya Sulak, a UC Berkeley post-doctoral scholar and expert on public land grazing, public land use is crucial to the maintenance of cows on our hills. "Private land is being threatened by rising taxes and developers. If the ranchers were to lose their public lease," explains Sulak, "56% of Alameda and Contra Costa landowners would likely have to sell at least some of their land to compensate."

Ranchers on our hills each choose different ways of conducting their business. Some of them raise grass-fed beef and sell it to Niman Ranch, one of the better known local brands of traditionally and humanely raised livestock, while others sell their cattle to feed-farms in the Central Valley for quick weight gain. But however farmers manage their operation, it is hard to become rich on farming. According to Sulak, most farmers and ranchers have a second job to sustain their

operations. Agriculture is a way of life, a passion that requires a lot of hard work and sacrifice. EBMUD Ranger Supervisor Rodney Tripp, who has been managing land for EBMUD for 20 years, notes that the number of farmers is slowly decreasing. "The cost of living is such around here that it's very difficult for them to turn a profit," Tripp says. "Most of the ranchers are cash poor and land rich."

Hunter Holding, a relatively small rancher in Lafayette, explains that ranchers get only a fraction of the money we pay for beef in stores. "Farmers are cut out of their profits," he says. "80% of the cost of the beef you buy does not go to the farmer." That's why Holding and his wife Ann have adopted a vertically integrated business model: they raise about 40 Angus beef on 250 acres mostly leased from EBMUD, and manage the entire operation from raising the cattle to selling their meat at the Orinda Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings.

Finally, for a few among us, cows are low maintenance pets that help with managing the land. With his wife Rhonda, Peter Cacioppo owns Eagle Hill Ranch, a 33 acre property in Bolinger Canyon. The Cacioppo's have 3 to 5 cows at a given time; some Galloways, (nicknamed Oreo cookie cows for their alternate black and white coloring), and a Wagyu, known for the quality of their meat. According to Rhonda, "Cows are very beautiful and tough animals. They spend all their time outside, but consistently come back to the coral when called for a treat."

No one knows what the future of farming will be in our area but one can't help but be concerned. Fortunately, forces are in place to stabilize and maintain our grass lands so we can enjoy the melancholy mooing of the cows across the hills in the evening and see their calm strides as they roam our hills. For now, EBMUD is keeping a strong hold on its watershed and is maintaining grazing on our public lands at a reasonable cost.

## Lafayette, Moraga – Monte Veda??

By Jennifer Wake



Author Jessica Barksdale Inclán

If you pick up one of Jessica Barksdale Inclán's novels, you not only become engrossed in her characters, but recognize the area, whether it is Nation's down from the Orinda Theatre or the Lafayette Cemetery. Initially setting her first novel in the Seattle area – a place she says she knew nothing about – Inclán's agent told her the setting was weak. So in 2001, Inclán, at age 39, published Her Daughter's Eyes, the first of nine novels she has published since – and one of many set in Orinda.

"I gave [the town] the name Monte Veda (a street in Orinda off of Moraga Way)," said Inclán, who lived in Orinda all her life until she graduated from Miramonte in 1980 (and later returned to raise her family in 1999). "I felt like I had to protect the area for some reason, but I realized I didn't need to do that fully. I didn't do it for the reader, but really for the story. I was able to give a lot of texture to the tale because of knowing so much about the area."

Despite the local connection, it is Inclán's ability to develop the complex, often flawed and truly believable characters

that draw you into each of her stories. As her characters face daunting circumstances including overcoming the shame of teenage motherhood, the lies surrounding anorexia, or the complexities of child abandonment, you find yourself immersed in her character's lives.

Building on the success of her novels, Inclán was ready to write more, but her agent told her that publishing houses would only accept one book a year of contemporary fiction.

"He suggested I write a romance, but I hadn't even read a romance since my last Danielle Steel in high school," said Inclán, who teaches composition, creative writing, mythology and women's literature at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill. She also teaches online courses for UCLA extension and regularly facilitates workshops at writer's conferences throughout the country.

Not one to refuse a challenge, Inclán began to research the genre, reading one hundred romance novels before beginning one of her own. She decided to write a trilogy of unique romance novels; she included the paranormal in the plot so there could be an alternate world she could write about.

"Just because it's romance doesn't mean it can't be fun," she said. "It's like Harry Potter for adults – with sex." But she says she is not into elaborate sex scenes, adding, "I don't want to write erotica."

Much like her earlier contemporary fiction, Inclán's books continue to focus on the story, the characters and the emotional romance – what people want, what they feel. In her recent novel, Believe in Me, the third in her trilogy about the magical world of the Croyant de Trois – a world of sorcerers, evil and intrigue – Inclán continues to develop characters

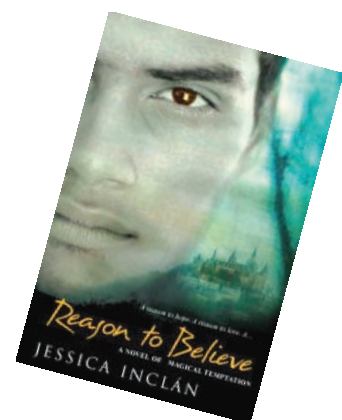
that draw you in.

"I like to pull from life, where it starts as a germ of truth. I pull from emotional truth, and then the characters start doing stuff that takes me somewhere else," she said. "If I get the characters going, they'll pretty much tell the story. With romance, I'm anticipating the tension and I sort of let it happen."

But her success does not go without reproach. After her first romance novel was published, one of Inclán's long-time fans in Georgia wrote her a pleading letter. "She hoped I would hurry up and get back to my 'normal' writing," Inclán said.

"There is a stigma with romance book writers, but genre writing is genre writing," Inclán explained. "The other books I wrote didn't sell as well as the romances are selling. Mystery writing follows a format, same as romance, but there aren't multiple bookshelves dedicated to romance. Yet I see people leaving bookstores, their baskets filled with romance novels."

For now, Inclán is enjoying this new genre and – her Georgia



fan aside – the public is backing her up. She recently created a class entitled, "Writing and Selling a Romance Novel."

"It's already filled," she said.

For information about Inclán, her books, workshops offered or to sign up for her quarterly newsletter, visit her website at [www.jessicabarksdaleinclan.com](http://www.jessicabarksdaleinclan.com)

**Skin Enhancements**  
Professional Skin Care By Myrna Taiariol

**Myrna Taiariol**  
Licensed Esthetician

1040 Brown Avenue  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
Hours: Tuesday-Saturday  
By Appointment  
**925.212.3150**  
[www.skinenhancements.com](http://www.skinenhancements.com)

- Facials
- Peels/ultradermabrasion
- Waxing
- Tinting
- Ear Piercing
- Skin Tag Removal

**THE SUREST WAY TO STOP WORRYING ABOUT YOUR 1031 EXCHANGE IS TO START LOOKING FOR ONE**

- Diversification
- Tax Deferral
- Tax Depreciation
- Single Tenant Triple Net

**David Waal, Principal**  
(925) 407-4747  
2950 Buskirk Avenue, Suite 300  
Walnut Creek, California 94597

We help 1031 Exchange Investors and Private Clients acquire Net Leased and Tenant-in-common properties.

**PRESIDIO**  
EXCHANGE ADVISORS  
1031 Replacement Property Solutions

Lamorinda Resident for 31 Years  
Securities offered through OMNI Brokerage, Inc. • Member/NASD SIPC

OMNI Brokerage

**Sharp Bicycle**

Road Racing • Road Touring  
Comfort Road • City Bikes  
Bike Path • Cruisers  
Womens Specific Designs  
Mtn. Cross-Country  
All Mountain  
Kids Mountain  
Kids Road  
Little Kids

Over 250 Bikes on Display

Save BIG  
All Current Trek Road Bikes on Sale

Full Service Bike Shop:  
• Repairs, Tune-ups  
• Cycling Apparel  
• Shoes, Accessories

Major and Minor Brand's from:  
- Santa Cruz - Orbea - Look  
- Independent Fabrications  
- Moots - Calfee - Parlee  
- Lemond - Gary Fisher  
- Trek Womens Specific  
- Ellsworth - Co-Motion

969 Moraga Rd. Lafayette in La Fiesta Square  
284-9616 • M-F 10-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 12-5  
[www.sharpbicycle.com](http://www.sharpbicycle.com)

**PILATES, YOGA, RECONDITIONING**

CLASSES	WORKSHOPS	SERVICES
Pilates F.I.T. Yoga	Pilates Innovation Intro to Yoga Teen Yoga	One-on-One Training Postural Assessment Pro Shop

Our approach to reconditioning is based on helping clients achieve their goals by integrating Resistance Training, Pilates, and Yoga. Our studio offers a personal and professional environment, perfect for those seeking the knowledge to help themselves understand and implement their full potential.

[www.absolutecenter.net](http://www.absolutecenter.net)

**ABSOLUTE CENTER**  
"The Source of Intelligent Fitness"

3658 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Ste 101 Lafayette, CA 94549 [925] 299.9642



**"I JUST WANT MY REALTOR TO TAKE CARE OF IT!"**



**YOUR Lafayette Prudential California REALTOR®**

**Selling your home for more money and less inconvenience to you**

**We handle it all!**



**999 Oak Road Lafayette, CA 94549 925-283-7000**

**We use the best:**  
 Handymen, Inspectors, Painters and Roofing Contractors  
 Professional Home Stagers, Traditional and Feng-Shui Housekeeping Services  
 Moving Services  
 Mortgage Brokers & Title Companies  
 Full Service Strategic Marketing Plan tailored to sell your home quickly for the best price and terms!  
*And much more!*

<p><b>535 GABRIEL CT. WALNUT CREEK</b></p>  <p><b>Pending</b></p> <p>Offered at \$899,900</p> <p>PENDING IN 12 DAYS! Only 6 years old. 2198sf. Model perfect, Great location, great schools. Kitchen has granite counter tops, maple cabinets. Master bath with tub/sep. shower. 4 BD, 2.5 BA plus office area.</p> <p>Call: (925) 283-7000</p>	<p><b>1973 ASCOT DRIVE #B MORAGA</b></p>  <p>Offered at \$377,500</p> <p>Moraga Investment Opportunity. Great price for a 2 bedroom, 2 bath condominium. Ground floor location with covered parking, swimming pool, storage locker and comfortable deck. Call Jim Colhoun for more information.</p> <p>Call: (925) 283-7000</p>	<p><b>1228 CONEJO WAY WALNUT CREEK</b></p>  <p>Offered at \$749,000</p> <p>Lovely updated 3 bedroom 2 bath home on .25 acres of land. Granite kitchen, dual pane windows, fireplace and large master bedroom. See v-tour www.prurealty.com/jamescollins.</p> <p>Call: (925) 283-7000</p>
<p><b>1480 SHULGIN ROAD LAFAYETTE - COMING SOON</b></p>  <p>Offered at \$3,000,000</p> <p>Over 3 ACRES among lush, majestic oak trees and Monterey pines on a private road. Panoramic views of Mt. Diablo. A Spanish "hacienda" with two custom, view homes. Horse property potential and more. Call Frith Wiggins for more information.</p> <p>Call: (925) 283-7000</p>	<p><b>1701 E. 38TH STREET OAKLAND (GLENVIEW DISTRICT)</b></p>  <p>Offered at \$839,500</p> <p>Mediterranean style craftsman home in the desirable Glenview District. Over 2,500sf, 3bd, 3ba, gorgeous hardwood floors, plus huge downstairs living area, 2car tandem garage. Open Sun July 1st, 1-4pm.</p> <p>Call: (925) 283-7000</p>	<p><b>31 BURNHAM COURT PLEASANT HILL</b></p>  <p>Offered at \$865,000</p> <p>Almost 2,500sf, 4bd, 2.5 baths in a FANTASTIC NEIGHBORHOOD. Dramatic entry with curved staircase, oversized master suite with tub and shower, beautifully landscaped front and rear yards.</p> <p>Call: (925) 283-7000</p>

**Moraga Barn: On its Way to Platinum**  
 By Sophie Bracinni



Historical picture of the Moraga Barn

Just like his father and grandfather before him, Chris Avant could have become a National Park Ranger. Instead, Chris became a builder who incorporates his love of nature and beautiful craftsmanship into the structures he builds. Today, as the owner of Canyon Construction, he and his team are putting the finishing touches to their new office building, the Moraga Barn. In doing so, they are bringing the historic landmark to a new level of construction sustainability.

Every third grader in Moraga will tell you that the Barn never harbored any cattle. The building standing at the corner of Viader and Country Club Drive started its life as a hotel in 1914. In 1915 it became "Moraga Mercantile," where one could buy hay, groceries or collect their mail. A bar was added in the 1930's but a State law prohibiting the use of the term "bar" forced the owners to add the infamous "n." The Barn stayed in operation as a bar until it closed in 1997 and the building started to decay. When Avant went looking to buy an office for Canyon

Construction, he contacted the owner, John Pentara, who agreed to sell it to him. In February of last year the remodel started, with the objective of conserving the original look of the property while creating a state of the art, sustainable building.

The optimum in green building is achieved by Platinum LEED certification. LEED is a rating system developed by the US Green Building Council to evaluate a building's level of sustainability. There are 5 levels of performance with the majority of recipients being simply LEED certified or Bronze, hundreds being silver or gold certified, and only about 30 reaching platinum. To be granted Platinum, all aspects of the construction are evaluated, from its location, the materials used, its energy efficiency, water usage and so on. Canyon is innovative in all these areas. The roof is made of solar tiles. The 1 square foot slates manufactured by Atlantis Energy incorporate photovoltaic circuits. The result is both an efficient and beautiful roof. Three 5000 gallon cement

tanks are buried in the courtyard and collect the rain water that will irrigate the property. Buried around the tanks are three layers of geothermic piping that supports a radiant heat and cooling system for the building. Walls and roofs are insulated to R30 level (twice today's norm) while a carbon dioxide sensor allows fresh air to enter when needed. Natural ventilation and lighting has been optimized throughout the building. Bruckner Windows from Austria offer the best possible insulation and UV protection while maximizing natural lighting. All windows can be opened, including the top cupola, to allow natural night cooling. All lights are LED or fluorescent and programmed to turn on and off depending on movement and darkness.

It was hard for Canyon Construction to conserve a lot of the original materials since modern codes are more demanding. Otherwise, all the material used for construction was either salvaged or locally and sustainably produced. For example, the ground floor is made of salvaged Sierra white granite from San Francisco's Union Square. All the finishes and furniture required the same creativity and focus. For Jeremy Fisher, a young project manager at Canyon, this has been an incredible learning experience, interacting with people from all over the world and collaborating with firms like Rumsey Engineering, an Oakland group that already had LEED platinum experience. Chris Avant concurs, "Having a building LEED certified can be done at normal cost, but achieving platinum certification costs about 30% more. The learning, experience and exposure gained from this project are well worth it."

Stay tuned for the inauguration, scheduled for late fall.



Jim Kirkworl Superintendent Canyon Construction



**Lamorinda Home Sales continued**



<b>LAFAYETTE</b>	Last reported: 12
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$729,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$2,250,500
<b>MORAGA</b>	Last reported: 8
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$500,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,275,000
<b>ORINDA</b>	Last reported: 6
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$950,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$2,750,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither CalREsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

**LAFAYETTE**

- 977 4th Street, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 1992 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-31-07
- 32 Cabernet Court, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2371 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 5-25-07
- 1435 Edwards Court, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 2115 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 5-30-07
- 3439 Little Lane, \$830,000, 3 Bdrms, 1321 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-25-07
- 15 Middle Road, \$1,025,000, 3 Bdrms, 2111 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 5-30-07
- 1215 Monticello Road, \$945,500, 2 Bdrms, 1415 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 6-1-07
- 1270 Panorama Drive, \$2,250,500, 3 Bdrms, 3626 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-31-07
- 4 Roxanne Lane, \$1,005,000, 3 Bdrms, 2050 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 5-25-07
- 3749 Sundale Road, \$729,000, 3 Bdrms, 1295 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 5-30-07
- 3090 Sweetbrier Circle, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1649 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-25-07
- 1105 Via Roble, \$1,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 2096 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 5-30-07
- 109 Villa Court, \$949,000, 4 Bdrms, 2121 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-30-07

**MORAGA**

- 943 Augusta Drive, \$1,275,000, 4 Bdrms, 2349 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 6-1-07
- 1677 Del Monte Way, \$989,000, 4 Bdrms, 2071 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 5-31-07
- 12 Josefa Place, \$695,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 5-25-07
- 7 Ketelsen Court, \$1,160,000, 3 Bdrms, 1929 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-31-07
- 198 Miramonte Drive, \$500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1798 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-1-07
- 1144 Sanders Drive, \$1,026,000, 3 Bdrms, 2034 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-25-07
- 165 Selborne Way, \$1,150,000, 5 Bdrms, 1913 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 5-24-07
- 40 Woodford Drive, \$955,000, 4 Bdrms, 1907 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 6-5-07

**ORINDA**

- 95 Coral Drive, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1911 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 5-30-07
- 38 Donald Drive, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 3498 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-31-07
- 39 Donald Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2599 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-25-07
- 14 Hacienda Circle, \$1,220,000, 4 Bdrms, 2016 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-31-07
- 1 Lomas Cantadas, \$1,129,500, 4 Bdrms, 2411 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 5-31-07
- 48 Robert Road, \$2,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 3332 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-24-07

**GET CLEAN.**

**TOTAL CLEAN 376-1004**

MVCRemodeling.com



**MICHAEL VERBRUGGE CONSTRUCTION INC.**

"RESIDING AND SERVING LAMORINDA"

**RESIDENTIAL REMODELING**

- ✓ Baths
- ✓ Kitchens
- ✓ Room Additions
- ✓ Finish Carpentry
- ✓ Repairs - dry rot, water and fire damage



**925.631.1055** Lic# 681593

A 1:1 copy of the printed edition is online available to print, download or send as an email. Each story is also available online, just as it appears in print.  
 Go to: <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html/read.html>  
 (a pdf reader is required to view the pages.)



**BIG OAK** (925) **210-7400**

**WINDOW WASHING & RAINGUTTER CLEANING SERVICE**

- 15 Years Experience
- Free Estimates
- Senior Discount
- Insured
- Prompt Service
- Honest, Quality Work
- Joseph Ryan / Owner



# School is out - yeah!

# Have fun, kids! Lamorinda Weekly team

## Teen Summer Jobs

By Cathy Tyson



### Connor Perkins

*I work for:* Moraga Country Club  
*Job Title:* Lifeguard Professional  
*Best Thing:* Chicks in bikinis  
*Money?:* Saving for a trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos



### Haley Hall

*I work for:* Loard's Ice Cream  
*Job Title:* Ice Cream Specialist  
*Best Thing:* Eating ice cream, the job is fun  
*Money?:* Spend it on clothes



### Nick Valverde

*I work for:* Rheem Theater  
*Job Title:* Ticket Guy  
*Best Thing:* Working for my boss, John Penski  
*Money?:* I buy presents for John Penski  
 \*My little brother Gabriel wanted to be in the picture



### Jessica Barbagallo

*I work for:* Tennis Club  
*Job Title:* Counter Night Staff  
*Best Thing:* Interact with people from the community  
*Money?:* I spend it on clothes, food and hopefully a car



### Joey Powell

*I work for:* Just for Kids Day Camp  
*Job Title:* Recreation Leader  
*Best Thing:* The joy the kids bring me every day  
*Money?:* I'm saving to buy a car



### Saphia Guergah

*I work for:* Moraga Garden Center  
*Job Title:* Cashier and odd job girl, weeding  
*Best Thing:* The lush garden ambiance  
*Money?:* Saving for a Vespa

## Susan Sperry – A Moraga Life

By Becky Kim

Back in the day when trains were running through Moraga and horse back riding over the barren hills was a mode of transportation, a young girl roamed the ranch on the property of her father. An active member of the community since she was a mere child, Susan Sperry has settled her roots deeply in Moraga.

Following in the footsteps of her older sister Joan, Sperry attended school in Lafayette and graduated from Acalanes High School in 1962. Unlike today, where students sip their Starbucks and cruise around town, life in Moraga back in the 1960s included attending dances in the Old Veteran's hall, helping out on the farm, and riding horses.

The 1966 Cal graduate had her heart set on Berkeley from the beginning, and pursued a degree in design and art history. During her senior year of college, she met her first love, Jay Johnson, a native of Colorado. The two sweethearts shared a passion for ranching and moved back to Moraga where Sperry bore two children, both of whom grew up in the same tight-knit community.

Even though Sperry did not actively use the degrees she earned in college, she began to teach for the Moraga school district in 1969. "My roots are firmly planted in Moraga having been raised here. Therefore, I felt I understood this community, its students and parents, demands and resources. Here is where I wanted to raise my own family and sink my energy and resources," added Sperry.

Inevitably the teacher salary was not the plus side of the job, but nevertheless, it was the dream of impacting children and the passion for teaching that led Sperry to teach fifth graders at Los Perales for 14 years before transferring to Joaquin Moraga when Los Perales closed in 1983. She bounced around in

different subjects, teaching Special Ed for 10 years, and branching out to teach classes of all grades in English, Journalism, Yearbook, and Drama.

Many students and parents are familiar with the program "Skills for Success", started by Sperry after she noticed many students were struggling in school because of the lack of organization and knowledge in how to study. Sperry would leave her doors open at lunch and after school for those students who took a particular interest in organizing themselves.



Susan Sperry

Sooner or later, she was titled as "communication facilitator" for the young girls at JM who were in need of talking to an older figure. Whether it was about finding their identity or questions about the female body, the girls appreciated Sperry because of her willingness to listen with an open ear.

Finding completion in her life after teaching for 37 years in the Moraga District and after successfully raising a close family, Sperry decided to retire. Living in her rural utopia with her

second husband, Sam Sperry (after her first husband fell ill to cancer in 1986), she was able to attend to other tasks that were left behind with a working schedule.

Sperry continued, "In retirement, I have the freedom from the demands of the school schedule which allows me the time and energy for my 93-year-old father, 16-month-old grandson, daughters, husband, and the community organizations which I value. I now have the leisure time to pursue my passion for gardening."

Those in retirement can relate that life after work is still a busy task. Sperry continues to give back to the community by attending town meetings, being the president of the Moraga Historical Society, and occasionally substituting at local schools. She has influenced the lives of many students throughout her teaching and will continue to be heavily involved in the community of Moraga.

Becky Kim is a feature writer and a member of the Campo Class of 2007.

**College Choices for Lamorinda Seniors**, an article in our last edition, incorrectly stated the number of Campolindo students accepted into the University of California.



The numbers stated were not represented as a percentage of all seniors planning to attend a 4-year college. In 2006, 33% of those going to a 4-year college planned to attend a UC, while in 2007 only 22% did. This figure does not represent the number accepted into UC, just those planning to attend. Many more Campolindo students were admitted to a UC, but some chose to enroll elsewhere. We regret the error.

## GET A CLUE @ YOUR LIBRARY

Summer Reading Program 2007! June 11-August 20 Pick up your reading records at the library. Read for fun and win great prizes. Kid's reading program for kids age 2 - 5th grade. New! Baby Reading Program for children birth through 2 years.

## Got Summer?

Since school's out, we have room for summer on these pages! Now that the heat is on, we'd love to receive photos of your favorite summer activity! Tell us about your cool camp, swimming/tennis/basketball fun, or whatever else you're doing to make this the best summer ever! Email [schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com)!

## My Housing Guide

EDUCATE & EMPOWER YOURSELF



Linnette Edwards  
 My Housing Guide founder & Assoc. Broker with Prudential Orinda. Top Producer featured in Wall St Journal.

### Sellers, did you know???

...73% of homebuyers used the Internet as an information source  
 ...74% of homebuyers viewed a home they saw online

Give yourself the selling edge at [MyHousingGuide.com](http://MyHousingGuide.com)  
 925-580-8801

## Paul Caccamo's Postcard

(From the Pacific Coast Trail)

Sunday, June 17: Greetings from Bishop, CA. I am again taking a nice day off here in town, enjoying all the fruits that civilization has to offer, mostly food. In fact, food has become an obsession for us hikers. Yesterday I sat on Kearsarge Pass at 12,000 feet with a group of friends and for all the beauty surrounding us, we went around to each person and fantasized about the food we would order for breakfast today. Mmmmm.....coffee....biscuits and gravy.....avocado and jack cheese omelet.....I could go on but you get the picture.

We are now deep into the High Sierra, having finally put the desert behind us for good. We have gone from worrying about where the next water will be and baking in the heat to a whole different list of concerns...snow and ice, freezing temperatures, mosquitoes, and the eternal battle of keeping the black bears from eating our food.

It is not possible for me to put into words the incredible beauty we are now experiencing on a daily basis. I have gone from taking one picture a day to forty. But these pictures are only a pale representation of the incredible grandeur of these mountains. It is a very simple place of rock, ice, lakes and streams, trees and blue sky. It hardly seems real at times, it is like we are looking out at something from the Lord of the Rings; jagged 13 and 14000 ft. peaks stretching out as far as the eye can see, towering cumulus clouds which on several occasions have turned into incredibly violent thunderstorms dumping rain and hail and lightning all over the place only to clear up and be sunny a half hour later. There

have been moments where it is overwhelming to all five senses, yes including taste, as we no longer have to treat our water we sometimes drink from a stream that has a flavor of sage and flowers to it.

I have traveled this section of trail before but the experience seems much deeper this time, perhaps because I have been immersed in the outdoors for almost two months now. Time has stretched itself out to the point that these two months seem like years. A very good new friend of mine by the name of Fester (I don't know his real name) put it

very well when he said that out in the wilderness the physical comforts of civilization are denied to us, but at the same time the mind is given the freedom to wander unburdened by the worries of daily life. Out here our only worries are food, water, sleep and physical well-being. It is an incredibly simple existence that I have come to cherish.

The next 400 miles will be through much the same territory as we make our way toward Lake Tahoe. More to come as Internet availability allows. Best wishes to you all, Paul C.

## Give your graduate the gift of cooking

An Interactive DVD Cookbook for any beginning cook!

**COOKIN' UP the basics**  
 a new interactive dvd that can teach anyone the basics of cooking

**FAST, CHEAP, HEALTHY**  
 meals in minutes

**www.cookinup.com**  
 Phone: 510.537.1282

## Get outstanding low prices on quality products

**GreenThumbz 16<sup>99</sup>**  
 5/8" x 75' NeverKink Garden Hose  
 Guaranteed not to kink, twist or tangle. Features Microshield protection against mold and mildew. Lifetime warranty. L 784 678 B3 While supplies last.

**Holmes 14<sup>99</sup>**  
 16" Oscillating Stand Fan  
 3-speed motor, rotary dial speed control, adjustable tilt head and height settings. W 250 969 1 While supplies last.

**19<sup>99</sup>**  
 12" Electric String Trimmer  
 3.8-amp motor, 180-degree rotating handle, telescoping shaft and an edging guide wheel. T 744 146 1 While supplies last.

# JUNE BARGAINS of the month

Find the right tools and supplies for your projects, plus expert, local advice.

**Orinda Hardware and Rentals**  
 56 Orinda Way; Orinda, CA 94563  
 Tel: (925) 254-5429  
 Internet: [www.truevalue.com/orindahardware](http://www.truevalue.com/orindahardware)  
**Sale ends 06/30/07**  
© 2007 by True Value® Company, Chicago, IL 60631

**True Value**  
 START RIGHT. START HERE.™



# School is out - yeah!

# Have fun, kids! Lamorinda Weekly team

## Retiring Acalanes Teachers Reflect

By Anna Eames, Intern

Janet and Ramsey Thomas have been teachers in the Acalanes High School Union District for twenty-three years each. Combined, they have contributed fifty-six years towards education, and while they are not retiring from teaching, both are now retiring from this district.

They began working at Campolindo in 1984, Ramsey teaching chemistry at first, and Janet teaching math. Nineteen years ago, Ramsey moved to Acalanes, and Janet, after teaching at UC Berkeley for a time, was asked to start an AP Chemistry course at Acalanes.

Janet eventually undertook biology, as well, and then decided to introduce high school students to the science of a world outside of biology and chemistry: our world. She instituted the now district-wide science course, Environmental Science, which she taught for the past five years.

"It's a class where we look at man's impact on the environment and analyze some of the problems that are present and look at what some of the strategies are to solve those problems," said Janet. "I see those issues as really important, especially to young people who are inheriting a lot of global problems."

The couple seemed to have a thing for adding to the evolution of academics, because Ramsey, who eventually left chemistry behind to become a history teacher, was also able to play a leading role in reintroducing and pioneering curriculum.

"We were able to bring back AP European History. That was not in the district ten years ago. We [also] started AP Gov-



Janet and Ramsey Thomas, both teachers

ernment. It was a big addition, because now everyone in the district has those, but we started them at Acalanes," said Ramsey, who taught these two classes in addition to AP U.S. History.

Ramsey also coached Cross Country and Track & Field during almost every year of his teaching career, as well as leading the Acalanes Model UN team to quite a few championships during his ten years as an advisor of the team.

Both of these teachers left their mark on literally thousands of students, many of whom have entered the adult world by now. Furthermore, they have claimed a role in the life of every future Environmental Science student in Lamorinda and many future history students.

"I have found teaching very rewarding," said Ramsey. "Certainly, at some level, it has been a passionate interest in learning, which I suppose is one of the main reasons I was inter-

ested in teaching; because learning is one of the most important things that I enjoy doing, so I think that some of that has gotten transferred in the classroom.

Janet shared this notion. "I always loved school myself...I've always enjoyed the process of learning. I love adolescents," she said. "I saw it as a career where I could serve, challenge, be creative and do something that I felt had a real effect on those around me...I love that you can always do something better and more creative to enhance your teaching practice. I've loved many of the colleagues I've worked with, as well."

While they are leaving us for now, this is not retirement. Janet is going to take at least a year off to focus on the many organizations and projects that she is a part of, leaving open the possibility of returning to teaching, and Ramsey has decided to teach chemistry and AP U.S. History at Pittsburg High School next year.

The Thomas' agreed that their students were a wonderful focal point for their careers. "What I've gotten to take [from teaching] is a positive feeling about kids. Twenty years ago, I wouldn't have said that," said Ramsey. "But the past twenty years, it's been very fulfilling living in the Lamorinda community."

"I wouldn't say that there are [favorite] moments, but just feelings at the end of the day that I have enjoyed my work - days where being with the students is just wonderful...It's really felt like an extension of who I am in my own community," said Janet.

Welcome to the Teen Scene column! This space is open to middle and high school students as a forum to express opinions and ideas or just something that's on your mind. You may write on any topic that interests you, but please use appropriate language.

Send columns to: Schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com. We'll need your name, school/grade, and your home phone number. If your column is selected for publication, we will ask for parent permission and a picture of you!

## Teen Scene column

### Teen Scene: An Editorial on Gun Control

By Taro Takigawa, JM graduate

On Monday April 16, 2007, University of Virginia Tech student, Korean Cho Seung-Hui, killed 33 people, including himself, in the worst school massacre in the history of the United States. Because of Virginia's overly lax gun control laws, Cho was able to purchase two semiautomatic guns near the Virginia Tech campus. Unfortunately, it takes a tragedy like this to demonstrate our need for stricter gun control laws in all 50 states.

Unrestricted gun laws in Virginia allow citizens to purchase unlicensed handguns with no collapsible stock or an unthreaded barrel once a month. This law should be abolished and a stricter, revised gun control policy should be implemented.

In 2005, 14,860 homicides occurred in America. Out of those 14,860, 10,104 were killed by firearms. Gun-related homicides are tragic and to prevent them, many states should attempt to pass California gun-control laws like Kasler vs. Lockyer and Harrott vs. County of Kings to make purchasing firearms more difficult. Policies and laws such as these would effectively limit gun violence around the country.

To reduce illegal gun selling, former President Bill Clinton signed the Brady Bill into law in 1997. It requires that any person or persons buying a firearm receive a background check and prevents criminals and minors from legally purchasing firearms. However, in spite of constant amendments and changes to the Bill which have limited its effectiveness, the Brady Bill is a step toward reducing gun violence.

To stop gun violence in the United States, we should have an effective program that commits additional police to crime-populated areas. Operation Ceasefire is a mission to stop teenage crime and gun violence in Boston. Today, Operation Ceasefire is incredibly effective, preventing much crime in the Boston area. According to a Harvard University Kennedy School of Government study on Operation Ceasefire, "...For the second full year of operation, through May 31, 1998, there was a 71% decrease in homicides by persons ages 24 and under and a 70-percent reduction in gun assaults (for all ages)." Therefore, programs similar to Operation Ceasefire should be implemented where crime is a huge issue, like Los Angeles, California.

To prevent future tragedies, people should fight for harsher gun control laws that ban the selling of firearms to underage children and irresponsible adults. By taking actions and enforcing laws in the United States, we can stop the majority of senseless gun homicides like the massacre at Virginia Tech.



Taro Takigawa

### Law Office of Radcliffe & Radcliffe

455 Moraga Road, Suite A  
Moraga, California 94556  
925.376.2325 - 925.376.2328 (fax)



Serving Lamorinda for over 30 years.

Martha C. Radcliffe - Estate planning  
Lisa J. Radcliffe - Family Law, custody, support and visitation

**Orinda Optometry Group**  
Dr. Kristine M. Eng • Dr. Weylin G. Eng • Dr. Kelly S. Shintani

Newly remodeled office & expanded frame selection  
Total eyecare for infants to adults • Glaucoma, cataract & diabetic eye evaluations  
• Urgent eyecare available • Contact lenses including Bifocals  
Laser surgery consultation • Most insurance accepted

20 Orinda Way • Orinda • 925.253.1320

### Del Rey Takes a New Approach to Fundraising

By Lee Borrowman

What's a Parents Club to do when nobody has time to put on an auction? At Orinda's Del Rey Elementary this year, the answer was to find another way to raise money. The first Del Rey Annual Fund campaign raised \$229,950 by the end of the school year, nearly \$100K more than the school's annual auctions had averaged over the past four years.

"Our plan was to form a small committee and approach each family in the school to ask for their support," said Bob Dureault, the campaign's co-chair. "It was simple and direct, and best of all it gave everyone in the school a chance to participate." Committee members scheduled twenty minute visits to each family's home to explain to parents why the school needed their support.

According to campaign co-chair Alec Binnie, the Parent Club contributes \$800 per student to the school. "25% of the school's budget comes from voluntary parent contributions," explained Binnie.

Parents Club co-President Carolyn Parodi said, "Not only did we surpass our fundraising goals, we were also able to better educate parents on how critical these funds are to directly delivering educational programs to their kids."

75% of Del Rey families contributed to the campaign. The ten-member campaign committee found that an Annual Fund has many advantages that an auction does not. Parents were able to leverage over \$20,000 in corporate matching gifts, including generous contributions of software and hardware. A substantial contribution from a family foundation sent the numbers soaring. Because all of the donations went directly to the school, rather than in exchange for something with monetary value, the parents' contributions are 100% tax deductible. The Annual Fund campaign had virtually no overhead, so all donations can be used to fund school programs.

Due to the campaign's unprecedented success, the Parents Club can eliminate

several other fund-raisers next year; just imagine...no gift wrap to sell! It has also been much easier to fill vacancies on next year's Board because no one suffered from auction fatigue: "Rather than folks being burnt out or currently involved with planning the auction, we had people calling us and stepping forward to volunteer," said Parodi.

The Parents Club has established a long-range planning committee to determine how best to spend the unexpected windfall. The committee is talking to parents, teachers and administrators. High on the teachers' wish list is funding for classroom assistants and other programs which provide opportunities for more individual attention to students.

It appears likely that this success can be repeated. "The participation rate among our kindergarten through second grade families reached nearly 90% and generated more than 60% of our donations," said Binnie. "We are going to do just fine next year."

## ORINDA ACADEMY summer school 2007



Session 1: June 18 - July 10  
Session 2: July 12 - August 3  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- Earn High School Credit
- Algebra 1 & 2, Geometry
- English, U.S. History
- Basic Skills Review for Middle School
- College Prep Requirements
- Yoga Focusing Class
- One-on-One Interaction with Teacher
- Small Class Size

**Limited Openings for Fall '07**

College Preparatory • Grades 7-12  
Fully Accredited  
Music, Art, Sports, Drama, Computers

**Celebrating 25 years in Orinda**

### GOLDEN GATE BOYS CHOIR AND BELLRINGERS



**Summer Music Camp**

**Resident and Day Camp Programs July 29 - August 11, 2007**

Diocesan Youth Retreat Center  
1977 Reliez Valley Road, Lafayette 94549

- Choral music
- Orff instruments, handbells, chimes

Full afternoon swimming & sports program, arts and crafts

For a camp packet, call the GGBC at (510) 887-4311 or view web site www.ggbc.org

**ORINDA ACADEMY**  
19 Altarinda Road, Orinda (925) 254-7553 x305  
www.orindaacademy.org



# In the Back Yard

## The D-Word

By Suzan Ormandy

McDonnell Nursery, Orinda

The D-word doesn't have to be a dirty word. There are many steps we can take in the short and long run to reduce the impact of this summer's and future drought conditions. With the winter of 2007 one of the driest on record, conserving water is not optional; water restrictions, however, are voluntary at present. A little conservation now means we may not face such emergency measures later.

EBMUD offers a wealth of very do-able approaches to water conservation at [www.ebmud.com](http://www.ebmud.com): click on More Water Tips. The following 5 suggestions are gleaned primarily from that website and from discussion with Susan Handjian, one of the key contributors to EBMUD's exquisitely beautiful and informative book *Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates* of the San Francisco Bay Region (\$34.95 retail).

1. Water less frequently but more deeply, which real gardeners have always known is best for encouraging strong, efficient roots. Specific irrigation depth/time ratios are on the EBMUD website, but three times a week for 15 minutes is the general rule, with a fourth watering added when temps exceed 95\* (but still only 15 minutes).

2. Prevent wasteful run-off by setting your system's timer to repeat cycling: 3-5 minute run times with 20-30 minutes between to allow precious water to soak in rather than run off.



Suzan Ormandy is explaining how to water the Godetia

3. Water before sunrise.

4. Mulch beds with a minimum of 3" of material; any less doesn't really help, according to Ms. Handjian. Mulching also keeps clay soils from crusting over, modulates soil temperature and prevents weeds – so you can hardly go wrong with adding a healthy layer of mulch to your garden. Our nursery, for example, offers five varieties of attractive bark mulches; there are also other types of mulch too, like looser amendments and even pebbles.

5. For lawns, should you really feel the need for them, follow the irrigation guidelines mentioned above and raise your mower 1 1/2" - 2" higher than usual, i.e., the maximum height.

Then the taller grass blades will shade the root bed, necessitating less water. And, gulp, refrain from fertilizing in summer. If you absolutely must, then use organic fertilizers like E.B. Stone's or Bradfield Organics'. The slower, more natural growth these organics promote are more consistent with water conservation principles.

Also, certain high-use EBMUD residential customers are eligible for weather-based irrigation-controller rebates should they decide to install these systems along with certain hardscaping. Call 1-866-403-2683 or email [custsv@ebmud.com](mailto:custsv@ebmud.com) for details. EBMUD also offers free, on-site sur-

veys of indoor and landscape water use to all single and multi-family customers in the District. Significant water savings often result. Call or email the numbers above.

As hinted at already, perhaps it's time to fall out of love with your lawn, especially if you don't have young kids at home anymore. Just take a look at the June issue of *Sunset Magazine*: the cover article on landscaping with gravel may sound unappealing, but you'll be pleasantly surprised at the aesthetics of this very environmental approach. Done right, gravel paths and terraces give a "hard-yet-soft" look, work well with all home styles, and of course greatly reduce water needs. This is true too of pavers, flagstones and decking. In fact, just leaf through this same *Sunset's* ads to appreciate how attractive, versatile and practical decking has become (pp. 2, 76, 101, 109). You just might reconsider that lawn – or at least some of it – after all.

Water-wise gardening includes choosing plants appropriate to this region. We live in a Mediterranean climate and should use plants native to summer-dry climates like southern Australia, South Africa, the Mediterranean countries and of course our own California. The same current issue of *Sunset* happens to have an excellent article, "Water-wise gardens," that not only shows how pretty and dramatic xeriscape gardening can be but also how many

other unexpected advantages it has, like attracting butterflies and birds as well as saving on fertilizer.

Visit [www.xeriscape.org](http://www.xeriscape.org) to see some stunning water-wise demo gardens. Mediterranean-climate natives like dramatic phormiums (New Zealand Flax), euphorbias and aconitums, for example, as well as a host of colorful salvias, ceanothus and lavenders, all readily available at local nurseries. There are also special native nurseries, plant sales and demo gardens in our area, notably the renowned Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek. It is both a showcase of low-water landscaping as well as a rich educational resource on xeriscaping. If you visit their website, I guarantee you'll visit the Garden itself next week, even if it means playing hookey. And while it's not until November 10, the Bancroft and EBMUD will present *How to Remove a Lawn and Create a Water-Wise Garden*. Sooner, on July 14, there is a *Designing with Succulents* workshop. Call 925-210-9663 for information.

For container gardening, consider using a product like Soil Moist – polymer gel granules that reduce watering needs by up to 50% – in your potting soil (before or after planting).

Finally, adding organic material (compost) to all plant beds is a wonderful way to promote healthy,



Godetia



Penstemon



Salviagreggii



Kangaroo Paws (center)



Aenium (center) Euphorbia martinii

less thirsty plants. Compost can be worked into the soil at any point; though before planting is easiest, you can always work it in or even just add a layer and let nature take its course. Compost and fertilizer with beneficial mycorrhizal fungi result in especially drought-resistant plant roots. And making your own compost is gratifying: Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Management offers workshops at local nurseries throughout the year and gives discounts on composters too. Call 925-096-1806 or go to [www.wastediversion.org](http://www.wastediversion.org).

An even more efficient and complementary approach is using SoilSoup on beds, lawns and even in pots. This worm-casting compost tea-plus enriches, reinvigorates and makes soil much more moisture retentive. Available at our nursery for \$8.00/gallon, it's a real bargain, especially as that gallon can be greatly diluted in a hose-end sprayer or watering can.

Clearly, it's time we opened our minds to a different and more responsible approach to gardening and landscaping. But that doesn't mean dry and dull. As the Bancroft Garden's mission states, we can "find... beauty and excitement possible in water-conserving landscaping" and practices.

## The Brown Recluse Spider – Guilt by Reputation

By Dana Ludwig, M.S. Entomologist

In recent years the public has become concerned about the brown recluse spider, *Loxocelos reclusa*. The notoriety associated with this spider results from the bite, which is usually painless but may become swollen, red, and tender. In some cases, the wound may develop into a large necrotic ulcer which can leave a disfiguring scar. In fact, this potentially dangerous arachnid may be falsely accused of being the culprit in many of the spider bite cases reported in Northern California. The absence of brown recluse spider in this geographic region, the lack of actual specimens associated with specifically reported bites, the potential misidentification of the arachnid, and the possible medical misdiagnosis of the developing wound suggest that the brown recluse spider may be incorrectly blamed as the cause.

The brown recluse spider occurs throughout the south central and Midwestern United States. Other species of *Loxocelos* (recluse spiders) are found in the southwestern U.S. and southern California. Most of the reports of brown recluse spider bites in California are from the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento, which are far removed from its known area of distribution. Richard Vetter, a staff research associate from UC Riverside and internationally recognized spider expert, has reviewed more than 40 years of records and found fewer than ten verified identifications of the brown recluse spider in California. Most of these identified specimens were found in facilities which housed goods imported into the state. To date, no known populations of brown recluse spiders occur in California.

The spider varies in size, but a typical adult including leg span is about the size of a quarter. The body ranges from tan to brown in color and the legs and abdomen are always solid and do not have any patterns, mottling, stripes or bands. The legs are covered with fine hairs and never with stout spines found in other types of spiders. A frequently used diagnostic characteristic is the violin-shaped marking on the cephalothorax (head area) with the base of the violin near the front of the spider and the neck of the violin pointing backward. According to Vetter, the problem with the violin pattern is that other markings can be mistaken for this pattern by non-arachnologists. The most reliable diagnostic characteristic is the presence of only six eyes arranged in three pairs, in contrast to most spiders that typically have eight eyes arranged in various configurations. The eye pattern can only be reliably observed under magnification. Physicians, public health personnel and even entomologists have been known to misidentify this species. Up through 2004, Vetter had received almost 1,700 suspected brown recluse spider specimens for identification, and it turned out that they actually belonged to 36 different spider families.



Brown Recluse Spider

The natural habitat of the brown recluse is outdoors beneath logs, woodpiles, rocks and debris. The spider is also found indoors in garages, sheds and living areas with humans. Its occur in corners and crevices, behind furniture, in clothing hanging in a closet, shoes, stacks of newspapers or magazines, and bedding. The arachnid can withstand extreme temperature variations of winter cold and summer heat and can survive for months without food or water. The spider is nocturnal, hunting for live and dead insects. It does not use webs to catch food, so webbing found indoors or on vegetation outdoors is most likely from other types of spiders. Typically, the brown recluse spider hides in dark, secluded places during the day. The spider may line its hiding places with webbing to use for egg sacs. Although adult females stay close to these locations, the more mobile males and older immature spiders may wander further away and seek refuge in shoes, bedding or clothing during the night hours.

The brown recluse spider is not aggressive. Most bites are the result of the spider being accidentally pressed up against when someone puts on an article of clothing or a shoe where the spider is hiding, or when one rolls onto a spider in the bedding. Initially, the bite is painless but it may become swollen, red or tender three to eight hours later. In the majority of cases, the bite is localized and heals on its own within three weeks. In some cases, the wound may develop a necrotic lesion, with discoloration, irregular edges, and a pale center surrounded by a red area like a bull's eye. The venom kills the tissue in the surrounding area, causing a necrotic ulcer up to several inches across. This wound can last for several months and leave a deep, disfiguring scar. In rare cases, bites can cause fever, chills, dizziness, vomiting and a rash. The most severe reactions occur in young children, the elderly and those with compromised immune systems. If one is bitten by a brown recluse spider, apply ice, elevate the affected limb or area and get medical treatment immediately.

Even if brown recluse spiders are present, they rarely bite humans. A UC Riverside study showed that no brown recluse spiders have ever been caught in cases where they were suspected of biting humans in

regions outside their known distribution area. When a habitat is conducive to brown recluse spiders, they tend to occur in the dozens, not individually. In a study of a Kansas family of four, over a six month period the mother caught and submitted 2,055 suspected brown recluse spiders to Vetter for identification. Yet even in the presence of such large numbers of this potentially dangerous spider, not one family member or pet had been bitten in the eight years that they had occupied the house.

Brown recluse spider bites can result in a necrotic wound, however, Vetter believes that many of the suspected wounds are actually misdiagnosed and can be attributed to other arthropods or pathogens. It is difficult even for doctors to diagnose a brown recluse spider bite just based on the wound. Lesions which look similar can be caused by several arthropods that feed on mammal blood including fleas, assassin bugs, bedbugs, and ticks. Also, the bites of other spider species can cause necrosis of the tissue. Although toxins in spider venom can cause wounds, these can also be the result of secondary infection when the victim scratches the affected area. In addition, bacterial and fungal infections, gangrene, and ulcers from diabetes or bed sores can appear similar to necrotic wounds from recluse spider bites. Of particular concern is Lyme disease which is transmitted by ticks. The bite results in a bull's eye shaped wound which is also diagnostic of the brown recluse spider bite. Since the course of treatment for a brown recluse bite is antibiotics and is different from that of Lyme disease, misdiagnosis and incorrect treatment could result in irreversible complications of the nervous system and heart.

Vetter makes a compelling argument that medical personnel in California may be over diagnosing necrotic wounds due to brown recluse spider bites. Because the occurrence of the brown recluse spider in California is extremely rare and there are no established populations, they need to consider other causal agents including other blood feeding arthropods, bacteria, viruses, and fungi. As Vetter states, "...It comes down to the simple premise that in order to have brown recluse spider bites, you must first have lots of brown recluse spiders."

The Moraga Garden Club invites you to join us at our monthly meetings on the third Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. September through May at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Our organization stimulates the knowledge and love of gardening among its members, holds gardening workshops, raises funds for community beautification and reaches out to the schools and other communities. If you are interested in membership, please contact Mardi Potts 376-2004.

**Nurture your garden at**

## McDonnell Nursery

- Shrubs
- Garden Accessories
- Flowers
- Personalized Service

**196 Moraga Way**  
**Orinda**  
**254-3713**  
- Open Daily -

[www.mcdonnellnursery.com](http://www.mcdonnellnursery.com)

## Garden Lights landscape & pool development inc.

**Garden Lights is an Award Winning Landscape Design-Build Firm Offering Services in . . .**

- Landscape Design & Installation
- Planting - Masonry - Concrete - Carpentry*
- Low-voltage Landscape Lighting
- Pool / Spa Design, Installation & Remodels
- Water Gardens, Ponds & Waterfalls

Design & Install with just one call.  
**925-254-4797**  
Free Consultations

Serving the Lamorinda Area for 17 years. Bonded - Licensed & Insured



# Metro Lafayette a Welcome Addition

By Lee Borrowman

One of my favorite summer pleasures is dining al fresco. Lafayette, rapidly becoming Lamorinda's own "gourmet ghetto," is now home to the new Metro Lafayette; another perfect spot at which to indulge in culinary delights on a balmy summer evening. Owner Jack Moore and Chef Mark Lusardi both come with impressive credentials, and their experience is evident in every aspect of their newest venture.

The location at 3524 Mt. Diablo Blvd. has housed other restaurants in the past, and boasts a wonderful patio. What was I thinking bringing three children with me on my first visit to this potential summer home away from home? Well, to be totally honest, it was, "If I bring them all, I can taste more things!" And besides, if I'm going to write about it I should find out if it's kid-friendly; after all, families do occasionally need to eat at restaurants that don't have Play Places. We went early, shortly after 5:00 on a Friday night.

The interior, designed by Sheahan + Quandt of Berkeley, is simple and beautiful. It is far too elegant for me to be comfortable with the kids; another reason to head towards the patio. Casting a somewhat wistful glance at the well-stocked bars, both beverage and raw, I herded my entourage outside to a table that was as out of the way as possible. The sturdy wooden table was large enough to accommodate all of us with our place settings, beverages and shared appetizers and not risk glasses careening over the edge, and tables are set far enough apart so that each group has a modicum of privacy and you don't have to squeeze between other diners just to reach your chair. Large umbrellas



Happy al fresco diners

and heaters provide additional comfort when needed. At 5:30, there was one other family dining nearby but most of the guests were of the adult variety and the venue filled up as the evening wore on.



Our server, Whitney, did not flinch at the sight of a lone mom clearly outnumbered by the shorter set. She was friendly, knowledgeable and efficient, laughed at our jokes, and gave us just the right amount of attention. Much to our delight, Moore came over and chatted with us briefly, acknowledging his own status as a local parent of school-aged children and offering my kids and their friend a lesson on the appropriate use of a butter knife.

Service was attentive and non-intrusive.

It would not be fair or professional for anyone to review a restaurant after only one visit, but I can't resist a few words about the food. We began our meal with a sublime oyster sampler from the raw bar, which was beautifully iced and presented, a Caesar salad and a pair of Peekytoe crab cakes; the crab cakes in particular had a lovely fresh flavor and texture. Moving on to the entrees, the Misoyaki Black Cod with scallion rice cake, tempura mushrooms and living cress with ponzu, one of Lusardi's signature dishes, was very well executed. The black cod had the anticipated sweet crust on the outside and melted in the mouth. The kids devoured a Niman Ranch burger, Croque Monsieur and Niman Ranch dry-aged New York steak without complaint. I was allowed tastes of the steak and the smoky, salty open-faced sandwich and found both satisfactory; the burger disappeared from its plate before I could even reach for it. All three were served with a generous portion of crisp, nicely cut skin-on French fries. Although not on the menu, plain pasta is also available for the youngest crowd.

If you're unsure which wine to select from the interesting list, don't hesitate to ask. Moore, a master sommelier candidate, is happy to make a recommendation. The Sylvaner he sent over paired exquisitely with the black cod, and he paid us a return visit to make sure all was well. Finally, when you go, don't skip dessert. A Meyer lemon cheesecake with to-die-for lemon curd, a not-too-sweet peach-apricot-almond crisp with vanilla gelato and a cornmeal cake with fresh berries all graced our table and the subsequent sighs of delight postponed the inevitable ice cube fight until we were nearly ready to depart.

For more information: <http://www.metrolafayette.com/> or 925-284-4422.

# Pork Ribs on the grill – The Advanced Class

By Dan Leff

Every summer, plenty of people cook pork ribs on the grill. And at the end of each summer, an undetermined number of people walk away from their grills thinking, "Those ribs came out dry and tough. Next time I'll just go to the local BBQ joint!" Rest easy, there is a way to cook pork ribs on the grill and have them come out tender and juicy.

Please note that this recipe does NOT feature precise, scientific quantities and measurements. Your eyes and instincts will serve as the best judges here.

## Smoke-braised pork ribs

### Ingredients:

- 1 rack of pork ribs
- Orange Juice
- Soy Sauce
- Chicken Stock
- Good quality hardwood charcoal (Lazzari's is the best)
- Wood chips for smoking

### Equipment:

- A large (kettle-type) barbecue grill (that little "Smoky Joe" won't work)
- A 2"-3" deep aluminum half-pan (the kind used for small roasts – don't use the long pans)
- A long, heavy-duty grill spatula
- A long, sturdy pair of metal tongs
- An oven mitt

### To prepare:

1. Place the wood chips in a large bowl. Cover with the liquid of your choice; water's fine, but apple cider mixed with Calvados will give you the best flavor to your ribs, in the end.
2. Put the ribs in a large bowl. Cover them with a mixture of Orange Juice, Soy Sauce and Chicken stock. For more interesting and complex flavor, put in 1-2 cloves of Star Anise, 3-4 dried chilies or some garlic cloves. Let the ribs marinate for about 1 hour (at room temperature) or 2-4 hours under refrigeration.
3. Start the coals on the outdoor grill. This recipe does require a medium-large amount of charcoal. Starting the coals by using a chimney-type lighter is preferable to dousing them with lighter fluid. The coals will be ready to use when they are almost all white.
4. When the coals are ready, drain off the liquid from the smoking chips. Keep the smoking chips handy and ready-to-go for the next couple of steps.
5. Remove the pork ribs from the marinade to a plate



### About Chef Dan Leff...

After graduating from the California Culinary Academy in 1995, I've worked in venues around the Bay Area. Having worked with Bradley Ogden at the Lark Creek Inn, I specialize in Classic American cuisine, using seasonal ingredients, with a fine dining emphasis. Chef Dan Leff Catering focuses on intimate, elegant sit-down dinners and small corporate events. <http://www.chefdanleff.com>



or other vessel. Keep the marinade handy, you'll need to use it fast in the step below...

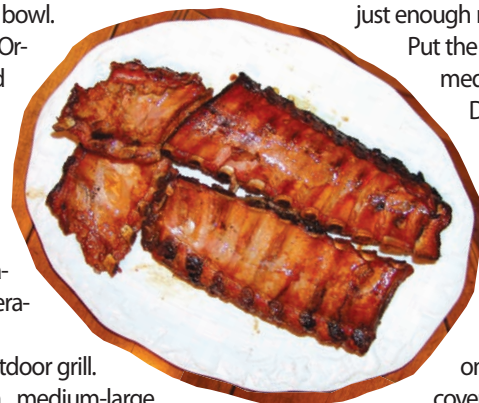
6. WORKING QUICKLY AND CAREFULLY put on that oven mitt and divide the hot coals into 2 equal piles pushed to the sides of the grill bottom. There should be just enough room for that aluminum half pan.

Put the half pan into that space, and immediately pour in the marinade.

DON'T POUR IN THE MARINADE ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP – leave about 1" of space. Put the ribs into the pan with the marinade, immediately.

7. Have the lid to the grill handy. Sprinkle the soaked/drained smoking chips onto the hot coals. Immediately cover the grill with the lid. Have ALL the air vents (on the bottom of the grill, and in the lid) WIDE OPEN.

8. The ribs will braise in the marinating liquid and absorb the smoky flavor of the wood chips. Add more marinade to the pan as it evaporates. The ribs will take about 1 to 1-1/2 hours to cook. When they are done, they will be very tender and have an amazing taste! Remove them carefully with the long tongs when they are ready.



This recipe is available on our web site. Go to: <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html/read.html>

## THE PATIO

Tapas & Restaurant

South American Food

(925)  
299  
6885

OPEN Daily  
5pm-10pm

Full Bar

**960 MORAÑA ROAD, LAFAYETTE**  
[www.thepatiotapas.com](http://www.thepatiotapas.com)

Summer Special Shrimp Cocktail!

\$3.95

Must present coupon!

\*through September in Petar's lounge or patio only. Not good with any other coupons, discounts or promotional offers.

**Petar's Restaurant** is located in the heart of Lafayette at 32 Lafayette Circle.

Petar's is open for lunch Monday through Saturday from 11:30 to 4:00 and open for dinner nightly.



**925-284-7117**

## Authentic Chinese Food

Shanghai Cuisine

Free Appetizer with \$30 meal

Banquets & Parties Available

Open 11:30am, 7 Days

3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

Food To Go • Free Delivery

**(925) 284-7569**

狀元樓

Lily's House

Restaurant

## LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Lamorinda Weekly is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda, California

Address: Lamorinda Weekly  
P.O. Box 6133  
Moraga, CA 94570-6133  
Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136;  
email: [info@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com)

Publisher: Andy Scheck; [andy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:andy@lamorindaweekly.com), phone 925-330-7196  
Associate Publisher: Wendy Wuerth-Scheck; [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Editor:  
Lee Borrowman, Schools, Life and Towns; [lee@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:lee@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Staff Writers:  
Jennifer Wake, Saint Mary's and Life; [jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Zack Former, Sports Editor; [zack@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:zack@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Kevin Shallat, Sports Reporter; [kevin@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:kevin@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Sophie Braccini, Life and Towns; [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Chris Lavin, Life and Towns; [chris@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:chris@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Cathy Tyson, Life and Towns; [cathy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:cathy@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Steve Angelides, Towns and Life; [steve@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:steve@lamorindaweekly.com)  
From our Intern Army, the following Students contributed stories or photos this week:  
Becky Kim, Anna Eames, Jordan Fong  
Advertising:  
Wendy Wuerth-Scheck; 925-330-1983, [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)

LAMORINDA's Restaurants			
<b>American</b>			
Bistro	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108	
Chow Restaurant	53 Lafayette Cir, Laf	962-2469	
Hungry Hunter	3201 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	938-3938	
Joe's of Lafayette	3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8807	
Quiznos	3651 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0200	
Ranch House	1012 School St, Mor	376-5127	
Terzetto Cuisine	1419 Moraga Way, Mor	376-3832	
The Cheese Steak Shop	3455 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-1234	
<b>BBQ</b>			
Bo's Barbecue	3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7133	
<b>Burger Joint</b>			
Flippers	960 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-1567	
Nation's Giant Hamburgers	400 Park, Mor	376-8888	
Nation's Giant Hamburgers	76 Moraga Way, Ori	254-8888	
<b>Café</b>			
Express Cafe	3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd # 170, Laf	283-7170	
Ferrari- Lucca Delicatessens	23 Lafayette Cir, Laf	299-8040	
Geppetto's coffee	87 Orinda Way, Ori	253-9894	
<b>California Cuisine</b>			
Metro Lafayette	3524 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-4422	
<b>Caribbean</b>			
Calypto Bar & Grill	2 Theatre Sq, Suite 153, Ori	258-9686	
<b>Chinese</b>			
Chef Chao Restaurant	343 Rheem Blvd, Mor	376-1740	
China Moon Restaurant	380 Park St, Mor	376-1828	
The Great Wall Restaurant	3500 Golden Gate Way, Laf	284-3500	
Hsiangs Mandarin Cuisine	1 Orinda Way # 1, Ori	253-9852	
Lily's House	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd #A, Laf	284-7569	
Mandarin Flower	581 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-7839	
Panda Express	3608 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0288	
Szechwan Chinese Restaurant	79 Orinda Way, Ori	254-2020	
Uncle Yu's Szechuan	999 Oak Hill Rd, Laf	283-1688	
Yan's Restaurant	3444 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-2228	
<b>Coffee Shop</b>			
Millie's Kitchen	1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Laf	283-2397	
Squirrel's Coffee Shop	998 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-7830	
Village Inn Café	290 Village Square, Ori	254-6080	
<b>Continental</b>			
Petar's Restaurant	32 Lafayette Cir, Laf	284-7117	
Shelby's	2 Theatre Sq, Ori	254-9687	
Vino Restaurant	3531 Plaza Way, Laf	284-1330	
Duck Club Restaurant	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108	
<b>Hawaiian Grill</b>			
Lava Pit	2 Theatre Square, St. 142, Ori	253-1338	
<b>Indian</b>			
India Palace	3740 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5700	
Swad Indian Cuisine	3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9575	
<b>Italian</b>			
Giardino	3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-3869	
La Finestra Ristorante	100 Lafayette Cir, St. 101, Laf	284-5282	
La Piazza	15 Moraga Way, Ori	253-9191	
Mangia Ristorante Pizzeria	975 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-3081	
Michael's	1375 Moraga Way, Mor	376-4300	
Mondello's	337 Rheem Blvd, Mor	376-2533	
Pizza Antica	3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0500	
Postino	3565 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8700	
Ristorante Amoroma	360 Park St, Mor	377-7662	
<b>Japanese</b>			
Blue Ginko	3518 A Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9020	
Kane Sushi	3474 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-9709	
Niwa Restaurant	1 Camino Sobrante # 6, Ori	254-1606	
Serika Restaurant	2 Theatre Sq # 118, Ori	254-7088	
Tamami's Japanese Restaurant	356 Park St, Mor	376-2872	
Yu Sushi	19 Moraga Way, Ori	253-8399	
<b>Jazz Dinner Club</b>			
Joe's of Lafayette	3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Laf	299-8807	
The Orinda House	65 Moraga Way, Ori	258-4445	
<b>Mediterranean</b>			
Alekos	2 Theatre Sq # 105, Ori	254-5290	
Oasis Café	3594 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8822	
Per Tutti Ristorante	3576 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5225	
<b>Mexican</b>			
360 Gourmet Burrito	3655 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1270	
El Charro Mexican Dining	3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-2345	
El Jaro Mexican Cafe	3563 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-6639	
La Cocina Mexicana	23 Orinda Way, Ori	258-9987	
Mucho wraps	1375-B Moraga Way, Mor	377-1203	
Baja Fresh Mexican Grill	3596 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8740	
Celia's Restaurant	3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8288	
El Balazo	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-8700	
Maya	74 Moraga Way, Ori	258-9049	
Taqueria El Balazo	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-8700	
Numero Uno Taqueria	3616 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1333	
<b>Pizza</b>			
Aladino's Pizza	3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-6363	
Mountain Mike's Pizza	504 Center St, Mor	377-6453	
Pennini's	1375 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-1515	
Round Table Pizza	"361 Rheem Blvd.", Mor	376-1411	
Round Table Pizza	3637 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-0404	
Village Pizza	19 Orinda Way # Ab, Ori	254-1200	
Zamboni's Pizza	1 Camino Sobrante # 4, Ori	254-2800	
<b>Sandwiches/Deli</b>			
Bianca's Deli	1480 Moraga Rd # A, Mor	376-4400	
Europa Hofbrau Deli & Pub	64 Moraga Way, Ori	254-7202	
Gourmet Bistro Café	484 Center St, Mor	376-1551	
Kasper's Hot Dogs	99 Brookwood Rd, Ori	254-2908	
Noah's Bagels	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0716	
Orinda Deli	19 F Orinda Way, Ori	254-1990	
<b>South American</b>			
The Patio Tapas and restaurant	960 Moraga Road, Laf	299-6885	
<b>Steak</b>			
Casa Orinda	20 Bryant Way, Ori	254-2981	
<b>Tea</b>			
Patisserie Lafayette	71 Lafayette Cir, Laf	283-2226	
<b>Thai</b>			
Amarin Thai Cuisine	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd # B, Laf	283-8883	
Baan Thai	99 Orinda Way, Ori	253-0989	
Royal Siam	512 Center St, Mor	377-0420	
Siam Orchid	23 Orinda Way # F, Ori	253-1975	

The Lamorinda Weekly (LW) Restaurant Guide is not paid advertising; our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. We hope that we have included all Lamorinda restaurants on this page, except those that told us they did not wish to be listed. LW is not liable for errors or omissions. In the event that we have inadvertently printed misinformation or excluded a restaurant please let us know ([info@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com)) so that we may correct our list for the next issue.



# Life in LAMORINDA

## The Changing Face of Travel Agencies

By Jennifer Wake



With the introduction of online companies like Expedia and Orbitz.com, as well as the drastic reduction in travel agent commissions offered by airlines, today's successful travel agents must embrace technology in order to find their clients the best accommodations and the best deals.

The biggest myth, says Moraga Travel owner Doyle Litchfield, is that people can find cheaper tickets on the Internet. "We have had clients call us with a fare they've found on the Internet, and we very often can beat that price, and get them better times and connections," he said. "People have a huge number of choices on the Internet, but if they want valuable advice to try to sort out all of their various travel options, then they really need to talk with a qualified travel agent."

During the past 13 years, the number of accredited travel agencies has dropped from about 34,000 in 1994 to approximately 19,000 agencies today. Most of the surviv-

ing agencies now charge nominal fees for services, with many utilizing technology or acquiring other agencies as a way to expand their operations, says Orinda Travel president Alan Reader.



Last April, Anderson Travel merged with Orinda Travel, increasing its staff to include Anderson's five travel consultants as well as several independent contractors, some in different states, who each bring in their own clients away from the local area. Orinda Travel consultants can pose travel questions to more than 5,000 travel experts through an Internet chat room offered through their consortium,

Signature Travel Network, to find answers to tough questions when customizing a trip. "We have access to resources unavailable to the general public," Reader said.

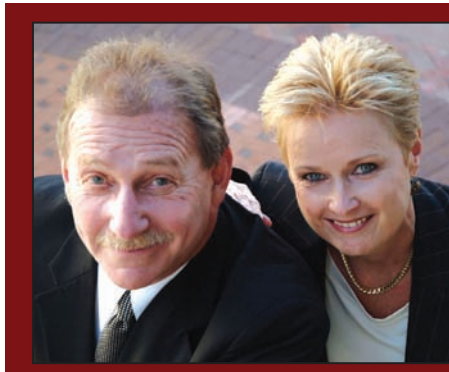
Both Reader and Litchfield agree that the Internet has been beneficial.

"We have so much information now at our fingertips and can access it over the Internet immediately, where in the past it was all in books or on paper," Litchfield said. "We can share the information on our website with our clients in order to help them to better understand what they want."

Clients can do in-depth research at agency Web sites such as [www.orindatravel.com](http://www.orindatravel.com) or [www.moragatravel.com](http://www.moragatravel.com), or visit travel supplier sites to identifying things like golf accommodations, or tropical island locations before speaking with a consultant.

Reader describes travel agencies as consultative. "Having an understanding of the client, the travel counselor can make recommendations to customize a trip to meet your needs," he said. "Our consultants know what they are talking about because they've been there in most cases; there's nothing better than a personal recommendation."

"After clients give us a try and actually use our services," added Litchfield, "they completely understand the value."



**Margot & Hal Kaufman**  
Real Estate. Real People.

Margot 925.260.4787  
Hal 925.260.4799



[www.TheKaufmans.com](http://www.TheKaufmans.com)

## High Tech Treasure Hunting in Lamorinda

By Jennifer Wake



Jefferson, 6, and Jonny, 4, race to find the 'treasure' hidden at the corner of Lafayette park.

If you see people in Lamorinda wandering aimlessly in parks, digging through foliage on hiking trails, or perhaps on hands and knees under a park bench or near a lamp post, they may be on a new type of adventure: geocaching.

This new breed of high-tech treasure seekers, called geocachers (pronounced geo-cashers), use the technology of hand-held global positioning systems (GPS), which offer coordinates for the hunt, to find "caches" containing anything from paper log sheets stuffed in tiny 35 millimeter film canisters, to maps, toys and trinkets stashed in larger camouflage containers hidden throughout the world.

My family and I joined the geocaching community last summer on a trip to San Diego. It was on an exciting hike to a ridge in La Jolla overlooking the ocean where we found our first cache deep in some brush. Along with some small items, the black container had a map of Paris inside with a note asking to bring it to Oregon.

Some people use trackable tags (called travel bugs) on items in the cache that can be tracked online as it moves from cache to cache. Since geocache etiquette dictates that you can only remove something from the cache if you replace it with something else, we removed a toy whistle and replaced it with a tiny toy, leaving the map for others to find.

Last weekend, we headed out with our trusty GPS device in hand – a modest \$150 model – and some small trinkets in our pockets for the

caches, intent on finding caches in three separate locations throughout Lafayette: the BART parking lot, at the little park in front of the Squirrels Coffee Shop, and near the creek behind Chow.

Not long after starting our journey at the parking lot, we checked our longitude and latitude coordinates on our GPS and began walking east, up Deer Hill Road toward the target coordinates of the cache. Across the street from the Iraq War memorial crosses, we began searching through ivy near a tall tree (one of the hints about this specific cache which we found online on the geocaching Web site).

After about five minutes of searching, my 6-year-old son, Jeff, asked my husband, Dan, if the GPS was stuck, while my 4-year-old son, Jonny, began playing in the dirt. To Jonny, the treasure was found.

Another five minutes passed before we realized that either we stunk at geocaching, or the crack team of BART parking lot attendants had deposited our "cache" into the trash before we got there.

I was undaunted, however, and suggested we set off for the second cache, located in the southeast corner of the little park on Mt. Diablo Boulevard near the Squirrels Coffee Shop. The only thing we found was a 4-inch-long earthworm under the star jasmine.

"It's the treasure!" Jonny cried out, smiling up at me. I had to agree. It was an incredible worm.

We left the worm for future cachers to find and set out for cache number three, at the parking lot be-

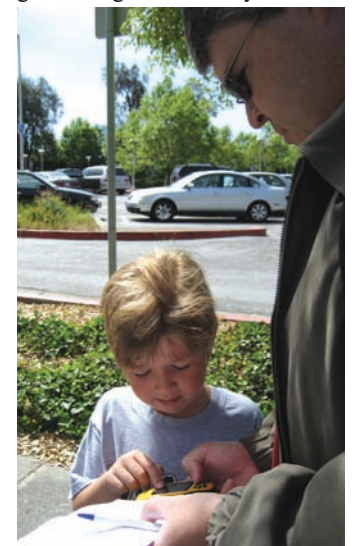
hind Chow restaurant. Crisscrossing back and forth, we came to realize that the specific coordinates for the cache would put us in the middle of the creek – and I had not brought my waders.

"What are we looking for again?" I asked Dan.

"It's a little black box . . . maybe. I didn't write it down," he said.

Realizing that our GPS coordinates only brought us within 20 feet of the cache, and we did not know what we were looking for anyway, we gave up on that hunt as well and headed to the Squirrels for some lunch.

We have not given up on geocaching, however, and plan more adventures this summer. The geocaching Web site says there is



Jefferson checks coordinates on hand-held GPS.

"an easy find" at the Moraga Commons and a "quick one" at Moraga Ridge, as well as three small caches near the theatres in Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette.

Although we are not the best geocachers, we learned that the fun is truly in the hunt and in being together. Besides, wherever we go, I am confident there will be dirt – and maybe even another worm for Jonny to find.

For more information about geocaching, how to hide and seek, and where to find a hand-held global positioning system, visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).

## It's Happening at Aegis of Moraga!

Seminar:  
**CARING IS NOT ENOUGH**

**Tuesday, July 10th  
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

Author and Consultant  
**Terry Ann Black, R.N.**

### Caring is Not Enough

My last wishes and personal records.  
Discussion on how to document records  
and personal wishes.

**Aegis Living** Assisted  
of Moraga

950 Country Club Drive  
Moraga, CA 94556  
RCFE 075600394

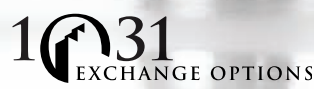
For Further  
Information Call:  
**925-377-7900**

**Free Copy of  
"Caring is Not Enough"**

•• R.S.V.P. 377-7900 ••

## READY FOR A NEW INVESTMENT PROPERTY?

At 1031 Exchange Options, we help clients acquire tenant-in-common properties through a 1031 exchange or direct investment.



Jeff Graumlich

Replacement Property Specialist®

national: 800.675.2424 | local: 925.942.1031 x238

[jgraumlich@1031tic.com](mailto:jgraumlich@1031tic.com)

[www.1031exchangeoptions.com](http://www.1031exchangeoptions.com)



(Corporate Office) 1031 Exchange Options – The Gateway Centre, 1850 Mt. Diablo Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 | This is neither an offer to sell nor an offer to buy real estate or securities. There are material risks associated with the ownership of real estate. Securities offered through Sigma Financial Corporation. Member NASD/SIPC.

## Small Business of the Year 2006

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

computer technical support  
repairs • training • websites



Computer Consulting & Training

**925.283.5666**

**Nerd4Rent.com**

3503 Mt Diablo Blvd, Suite 4  
Lafayette, California 94549



# SPORTS

## LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



### Disc Golf: More Than Just A Sport

By Kevin D. Shallat



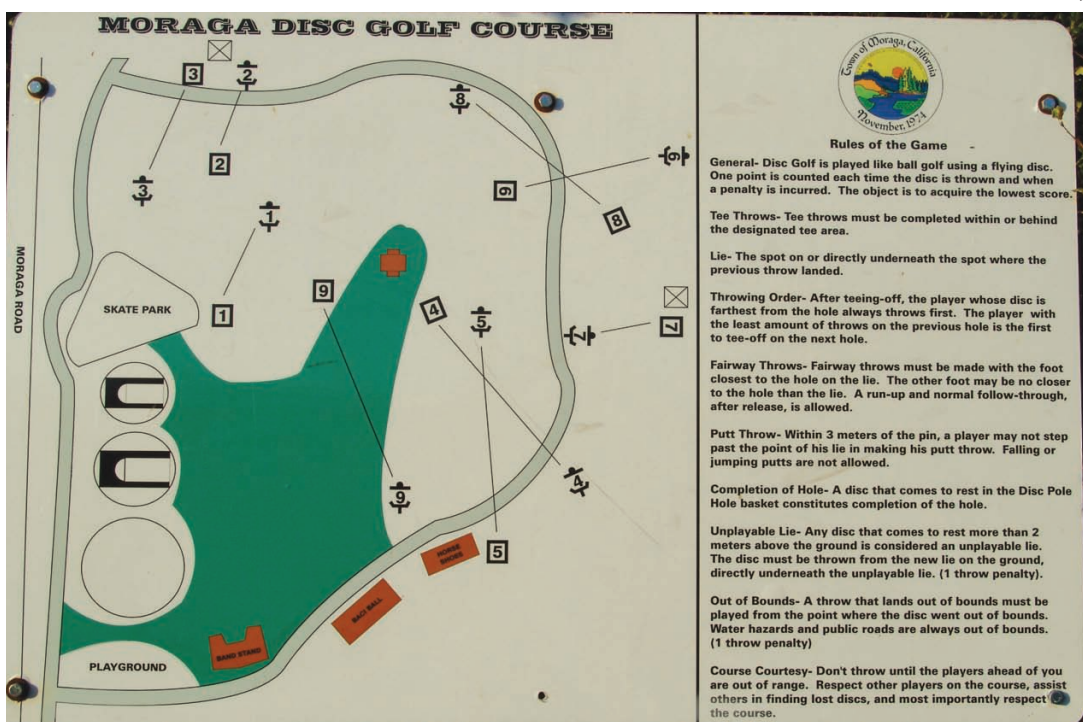
Dan showing his form

Disc golf, or frof, is a combination of equipment and form borrowed from Frisbee, and rules and objectives from golf. Using a Frisbee like disc, one throws a disc into an elevated chain link basket in as few

were held in 1985. In 1998 the U.S. held its inaugural United States Disc Golf Championship in Rock Hill, S.C.. Ken Climo was the first to be crowned U.S. champion.

The closest 18-hole

ner can show up and expect to be invited to play. It's the fun, the experience, and the respect for the game and the environment that make this game special. Schott said, "It's a great excuse to get out of the house for a few hours,



The rules of game are on a sign next to the skate park

throws as possible. Scoring is similar to that of golf, and you can play most courses for free. Anybody who can walk and throw a Frisbee can play disc golf.

Historically there have been a number of sports that have evolved from two separate games. Table tennis, or ping pong, is no longer being compared to tennis. In addition, football has stopped being compared to the sports that it evolved from, soccer and rugby. For well over thirty years disc golf has been compared to the game of golf and Frisbee. Finally the popularity of disc golf has grown so that it no longer appears as a combination of sports, it is a sport of its own.

With over 1800 courses in the world, and over 1100 courses in the U.S. alone, the sport of frof continues to grow. The sport started from the introduction of the Frisbee in the 1950's, and evolved into its present form. In 1964 George Sappingfield organized several Frisbee golf events in Southern California. In 1975 the Professional Disc Golf Association was born. The world's first disc golf championships

course to Lamorinda is in the Berkeley Aquatic Park. We do, however, have a hidden gem right in our own backyard, a nine-hole course in the Moraga Commons Park. It is here on weeknights where you might run into local amateur disc golfer Craig Schott. Schott is an avid disc golfer and willing spokesperson for the game.

Schott plays with nine different discs, three of them for putting. He shoots around two under par and has compiled five hole-in-one shots in his fifteen plus years of playing the game. Schott downplays his expertise and talks more about cleaning up the garbage on the course and setting up new tees. "That's our home, so we clean up the mess and keep it nice," said Schott. He also mentions how playing the sport is great exercise. The more you hike and throw the disc, the more you are able to build up your arm strength and improve your distance.

This is truly one of only a few sports where you can enjoy it at any level, regardless of your age, skill level, or financial means. Even without equipment, a begin-

ner can show up and expect to be invited to play. It's the fun, the adrenaline going, and go home." Check out <http://www.moragadiscgolf.org>



Heads Up,  
Lamorinda Players,  
Coaches, and Fans  
We want your game  
scores, highlights, and  
photos.  
Please send your game  
reports, including player  
names and digital photos  
to  
[sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com).

### Orinda's Incredi-Ball Wraps Its Season

By Chris Lavin

Incredi-Ball, a baseball program sponsored by the Orinda Youth Association, wrapped up its season earlier this month with 142 first and second graders stomping over home plate for the last time.

The game, one step up from T-ball but one step below keeping score and making outs, fielded 12 teams this year. It's coach-pitched. The OYA has been hosting the program for more than 20 years.

"Our focus is always on fun first," said recreation supervisor Jerry Johnston. "Yes, the kids might start to learn some basics, but we're mainly focusing on team-building, and showing the kids what it's like to be on a team."

Parents, armed with digital cameras to capture broad grins on their batters' and runners' faces, all seem to endorse the program.

"I wanted something physical," said Marla

Williams, whose 7-year-old daughter McKenna participated. "We've done Girl Scouts and piano, but we wanted to try something like this, too. It's great to get out and be a part of something."

Williams began playing softball as a child, and continues to actively play to this day. She wants to McKenna to be exposed to sports, as well. "This is a great stepping stone for that," Williams said.

Ashwini Oak, whose 6-year-old daughter Apurva played for the Mariners, liked that her daughter got her first experience with baseball. "She has really liked it," Oak said.

Second grader Stephen Tse rounded the bases while his father, Frank, watched from the sidelines.

"We like the approach this league takes," Tse said. "We all come out here for the kids and just want them to have a good time. If they learn some basics, that's good, too."

Johnston actively works with the Positive Coaching Alliance to attract coaches who will focus on team-building and not get too serious about the game itself.

"These kids are just learning how to function as a team," Johnston said. "If it so happens that, by the way, a coach might say here is how to throw a ball and how to hit it, well that's good, too. But that's not our priority at this stage."



First-grade slugger Quinn Rochette of the Mariners in

### Oakland Strokes Championships/Summer Camp

By Zack Farmer



In boat: front to back: Andrew Ramos (Alameda High), Will Provost (Albany High), Billy Deskin (Campo), Michael Schier (Miramonte) and Leslie Chou (Miramonte) in coxswain seat.



Standing: left to right: Michael Schier, Billy Deskin, Andrew Ramos, Will Provost, Coach Ivan Smiljanic and Leslie Chou in front.

Oakland Strokes Men's Novice Lightweight's Row like Champions

For the first time ever, a team of four novice rowers competed in a varsity event at the US Rowing Youth National Championships in Cincinnati, Ohio and came to within tenths of a second of bringing home a medal with a final time of 7:12:09.

The Oakland Strokes Men's Novice Lightweights, which is comprised of three Lamorinda rowers, stunned the competition on June 10 with their gutsy performance on the 2,000-meter course and realized after their first heat of competition, that they could dream for more that just getting into the finals, they were solid contenders for a medal.

In Sunday's final, the team raced what one parent described as "the most inspirational race" he had ever witnessed in three years at Nationals. Marina Aquatic Center had a decisive lead on the pack and secured a gold medal finish with a time of 7:02:11. After that it appeared to be anyone's race. Oakland Strokes came in fifth behind local Berkeley High and Mercer, but the times were so close that the crowd had to wait to hear the official scores to know for sure how they had all placed.

Leslie Chou (Miramonte HS junior) was in the coxswain seat as she commanded her crew

through three remarkable races. Andrew Ramos (Alameda HS sophomore) was in the fourth seat followed by Will Provost (Albany HS sophomore), Billy Deskin (Campolindo HS freshman) and Michael Schier (Miramonte junior). Men's Novice Head Coach Ivan Smiljanic admitted that the Strokes organization questioned the logic in sending a group of novice rowers into a competition against experienced varsity teams, but they rowed with a fearlessness that amazed Smiljanic, himself a former team captain for the highly successful Cal Men's rowing team.

Smiljanic was a member of the Serbian National Rowing Team that competed in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia. He received two gold medals in the World Championships in 2000 and 2001 as well as three silver medals in international competition.

To qualify for finals the Lightweight Four's had to compete in a preliminary heat on Friday afternoon where they placed second behind the team of Wayland Weston. On the morning of June 9, they astonished the crowd with a first place finish in the elimination round known as the Repechage. They finished with a time of 7:09:50, well ahead of the second place team from Cincinnati at 7:14:82.

The crew from Marina Aquatics, all seniors, let the Strokes novice men know how relieved they were to know they wouldn't be facing them again next year.

The Oakland Strokes Junior Rowing Club is a nationally recognized club that has serviced the Bay Area for 33 years and has had rowers earn scholarships to Harvard University, Univer-

sity of California Berkeley, Yale University, and many others. With close to 50 Lamorinda young men and women rowing on novice and varsity teams, the Strokes have a long and proud history. Both the men and women's teams have won gold, silver and bronze in competition and the women have won the Peabody Cup for two years running at the historic Henley regatta in England. Last year, five of the Strokes women's varsity team were selected for the U.S. national junior women's crew.

#### Final Results:

1. Marina Aquatics 7:02:11
2. Wayland Weston 7:08:94
3. Berkeley High 7:10:11
4. Mercer 7:11:99
5. Oakland 7:12:09
6. Cincinnati 7:23:57

#### Summer Rowing Camps

Held at the Jack London Aquatic center (JLAC) along the Oakland estuary just south of Jack London Square, the Oakland Strokes will be offering expanded summer camps this year. Two camps for beginners will be held July 9-13 and August 13-17, an intermediate rowers' camp will be held August 20-24, and a conditioning camp is offered for all levels August 27-31.

Morning and afternoon sessions are offered from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. (Campers must be able to swim and should not be afraid of deep water.) The registration fee per session is \$250. For more information and a camp application, visit the Oakland Strokes website [www.oaklandstrokes.org](http://www.oaklandstrokes.org), e-mail [summercamp@oaklandstrokes.org](mailto:summercamp@oaklandstrokes.org), or call camp registrar Marilyn Weber at (510) 652-6445.

**Lafayette Health Club**

"Indoor Conditioning for your Outdoor Lifestyle"

**3 Month Summer Special**

**\$174** (new members only)

Owned and Operated by Debbie Swigert for the last 26 years.

Mon-Th: 5am-9:30pm • Fri: 5am-8:30pm  
Sat/Sun: 7am-7pm

85 Lafayette Circle • Lafayette • 284-7732  
Down from Chow Restaurant  
[www.lafayettehealthclub.com](http://www.lafayettehealthclub.com)

**Sherman Swim School** skills for life Since 1961

Available to rent for parties!

swimming: infants thru adults private & semi-private classes in 90° water

diving: beginning thru advanced

sessions begin every 3 weeks M-W-F or T-Th • day and evening classes

Voted "Family Favorite" by the Bay Area Parent Magazine

925-283-2100 1075 Carol Lane • Lafayette (off Mt. Diablo) [www.shermanswim.com](http://www.shermanswim.com)





# SPORTS

## LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### LMYA Dolphins Take On East County Stingrays

By Kevin D. Shallat



Swimmers kick off meet at Acalanes

Photo by Jordan Fong

The LMYA Dolphins had a home meet against the East County Stingrays at Acalanes Saturday, June 16. The weather started out cold and windy, but that didn't prevent the swimmers from having a fun and rewarding day. Some swimmers walked away with ribbons, but nearly all the swimmers went home with smiles on their faces.

The first boys event of the day was the six and under 100-yard medley relay. LMYA won this impressive relay by almost two minutes, finishing with a time of 2:35.63. This relay team consisted of Christopher Vanhoven, Nicholas Catalanello, Christopher Rogers, and Alec Baker.

Alec Baker had a fantastic day for the LMYA Dolphins, as he went on to record five first place finishes. After the relay, Baker's next win came in the 25-yard freestyle, as he recorded a time of 25.07. His next conquest was the 25-yard backstroke, recording a time of 33.20. His last two events were perhaps his most impressive. He won the 25-yard butterfly by almost eleven seconds, finishing with a time of 30.45. His final event would put a cap on a stellar day, as Baker went on to help his 100-yard freestyle relay team finish in first place. His team won with a time of 2:16.66.

The LMYA seven- and

eight-year-old girls won the third event of the day by capturing the 100-yard medley relay. The team finished with a time of 1:24.48. Each swimmer on this relay team would go on to record at least one individual first place finish Saturday.

Melissa Elliott was one of the integral parts of the aforementioned relay team. She would take home three first place ribbons Saturday. She won the 25-yard backstroke with a time of 22.45. Elliott finished the day by capturing first place in the 25-yard butterfly as well, posting a score of 20.54.



LMYA Dolphin pushes forward

Photo by Jordan Fong

The other three swimmers of the relay team took home two first place ribbons a piece. Kaitlin Zarembinski took first place in the 100-yard IM, with a time of 1:46.15. Becca Buck posted a time of 24.74 in winning the 25-yard backstroke. The final swimmer in the girls relay team was Ally Taga-Anderson. She took

first place in the 25-yard freestyle, with her time of 17.41.

A few other swimmers stood out with their impressive times Saturday. Reider Martinsen coasted to a first place finish in the six and under boys 25-yard backstroke. He won this race by almost ten seconds, finishing with a time of 31.51. Eight-year-old Mathew Renfro also posted an impressive time with his 31.68 blue ribbon finish in the 25-yard breaststroke.

Head LMYA Coach Kristen Sissener was very impressed with the improvement of this team from last year. Sissener said

that what makes LMYA special this year is that if the kids want a super competitive environment, they can have it. Or, if they just want to have fun, they can come and do that as well. "With the kids who want to compete, we are teaching them not just to swim, but to race," Sissener said.

### World Class Soccer in Lamorinda

By Kevin D. Shallat

For those of you who haven't heard, there is a women's amateur soccer team in Lamorinda and they are called the Lamorinda East Bay Power. The team played Sunday, June 17 against the Sonoma County Sol at Acalanes High School. The Power lost this game 3-2, but the fans were entertained with excellent soccer by both teams.

They have been around since 1988, but few people know about them. The team consists of players who have graduated high school to the post college graduate age.

The Power controlled the game throughout much of the first half. With the defenders being so active on the offensive end, they were able to keep the ball in the Sol's zone for much of the half. It didn't take long for midfielder Sarah Churchill to record a goal for the Power. Churchill's shot deflected off the Sol's goalkeeper and sailed into the net for 1-0 lead.

Defender Mimi Yuh kept the pressure on the Sol during the first half by taking a number of good shots at the goal. One of her shots bounced off the right bar of the goal. The Sol fought back and scored before the end of the half to tie the game at one goal apiece.

The Power didn't take long to get the lead back after half. Fullback Stephanie Wieger lofted a beautiful pass to the other fullback Lauren Smith. Smith timed her kick perfectly and booted the ball into the right side of the goal, untouched.

The control and the lead would soon disappear, as the Sol came back with a vengeance. Power fullback Venus Williams had a nice rolling shot that just missed the left side of the goal. Unfortunately, the Power would not have many more opportunities to score the rest of the match, as their defense lacked the aggressiveness it had in the first half.



Long-time women's amateur soccer league takes on Sonoma County Sol at Acalanes

Photos by Andy Scheck



"We played well, but we had too many individual defensive mistakes in the second half," said goalkeeper and Club Manager Katie Pittman.

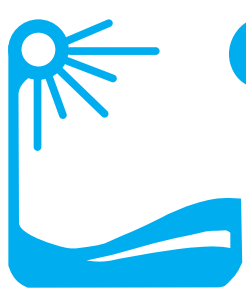
The star for the Sol in this game was Annie Mablivio. She scored two times in the second half to give the Sol the lead for good.

Power Head Coach Ernesto Silva is very proud of the talent, not only on the Power, but in the entire league. "It would be nice to get the local community to realize that they have a chance to watch and sup-

port the best women's soccer program in the country, right in their backyard," said Silva.

Despite the increase in talent, there has been a decrease in financial support for the Lamorinda team. Silva goes on to say that this is the first year the women have had to pay their own way to play on the team. Without some financial backing, he is not sure whether the team can survive. Silva and the rest of the Lamorinda East Bay Power are asking for donations and your support.

LOCALLY OWNED & FAMILY OPERATED SINCE 1960



## CORAL POOL

SERVICE INC.

- POOL REPAIRS & REMODELING
- COMPLETE RETAIL STORE & SUPPLIES
- WEEKLY & VACATION SERVICE

We Service What We Sell

### July Special

10% off Algaecide with coupon or mention this ad

... COUPON ... exp. 7/31/07

Open: Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm; Sat 9am-5pm

3463 Golden Gate Wy; Lafayette (Just Off Mt. Diablo Blvd.)

Buy on-line at [www.swimmingpool.com](http://www.swimmingpool.com)

SERVING LAFAYETTE • MORAGA • ORINDA CONTRACTORS LICENSE: #C53-292571

283-0300

## Baja California, Mexico

Custom Homesites from the mid \$40,000s

visit our web site: [www.mybajaranch.com](http://www.mybajaranch.com)

call Mike Shumate

925-330-2213

email: [shu@rmac.com](mailto:shu@rmac.com)

- Retirement
- Second Home

Discover El Dorado Ranch • Beautiful Baja Properties (1/4 acre +/-)

Own with confidence • Title insurance in Baja's Premier

Masterplanned Community • American Developer

- not a timeshare -

RMAC and Assoc., Inc.

PRICE, TERMS AND AVAILABILITY SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. EQUAL HOUSING AND CREDIT OPPORTUNITY. THIS PROMOTIONAL PIECE IS NOT INTENDED TO CONSTITUTE AN OFFERING IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW IN ANY JURISDICTION. COMPLETE OFFER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. MODELS DO NOT REFLECT RACIAL PREFERENCE. THE CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF REAL ESTATE DOES NOT REGULATE INTERNATIONAL OFFERINGS. WARNING: THE CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF REAL ESTATE HAS NOT QUALIFIED, INSPECTED, OR EXAMINED THIS OFFERING, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE CONDITION OF TITLE, THE STATUS OF BLANKET LENS (S) ON THE PROJECT (IF ANY), ARRANGEMENTS TO ASSURE PROJECT COMPLETION, ESCROW PRACTICES, CONTROL OVER THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT, RACIALLY DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES (IF ANY), TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND PRICE OF THE OFFER, CONTROL OVER ASSESSMENTS (IF ANY), OR THE AVAILABILITY OF WATER, SERVICES, UTILITIES, OR IMPROVEMENTS. IT MAY BE ADVISABLE FOR YOU TO CONSULT AN ATTORNEY OR OTHER KNOWLEDGEABLE PROFESSIONAL WHO IS FAMILIAR WITH REAL ESTATE AND DEVELOPMENT LAW IN THE COUNTRY WHERE THIS SUBDIVISION IS SITUATED.

## Lamorinda's Leading Independent Real Estate Firm



93 Moraga Road, Suite #103  
Orinda, CA 94563  
925•254•0505

To learn more about Village Associates or to preview our listings please visit:

[www.villageassociates.com](http://www.villageassociates.com)



• Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified •

**Vacation Rentals**



**Martha's Vineyard Beach House**; www.wuerthminnow.com  
Katama Bay-Edgartown  
July-Aug; \$8,000 per week  
sleeps 12; 925-330-1983

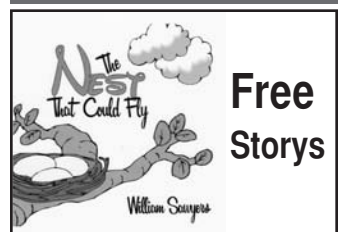
**Classes Offered**

**Contra Costa Adventure Boot Camp**  
Get fit in these Fun, Fast Paced, One hour, Outdoor Classes for Adults. All fitness levels. Early morning classes available. You know you want it! 925-457-4587, www.ContraCostaBootCamp.com

**For Sale**

**Various Kid's Bikes**  
Girl's Giant Purple Bike  
Giant- One Twenty Five  
Tektro Brakes; Like New-\$125  
Purple Schwinn Bike; Training  
Wheels; Good condition \$30  
925-377-5776

**Free**



**Children's Story-Free**  
Age's 5 on up  
Go To <http://home.com-cast.net/~william.sawyers/>

**Services**

**Need computer help?**  
Proficient with Mac/PC  
Services ranging from:  
• Virus Removal • Consulting  
• Improving Speed  
• Networking • Tutoring  
Contact Brett (925)899-8879  
brett@orindatech.com

**510-228-7366**  
www.feraru.us

**FERARU & ASSOCIATES**

**KITCHEN AND BATH REMODELING ADDITIONS**

EARTHQUAKE RETROFITTING, DECKS, ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, FENCES, INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR PAINTING

Affordable  
Classified ads.  
Submit  
online:

<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html/classified.htm>

or Fax to  
800-690-8136

# SHOP MORAGA FIRST

Shop Moraga First Organizers hope to encourage residents to ask themselves, "Can I buy it in Moraga?" If you can, why wouldn't you? By shopping in Moraga for the things you can get here, before going outside, tax dollars will be kept in town. If everyone spent just 10%

more a year in Moraga, that would make a big difference. We would be supporting our town, supporting the businesses who in turn give back to our community, and even reduce traffic, air pollution and wear and tear on our cars if we did a bit more of our shopping closer to home.

Watch for  
**Love Lafayette**  
July 11  
Call for Advertising  
925.330.1983

*J. Rockcliff*

REALTORS

mobile: 510.734.7329  
smeily@rockcliff.com  
www.rockcliff.com

89 Davis Road, Suite 100  
Orinda, CA 94563

SANDRA MELLY  
REALTOR®

Integrity and Perseverance...  
My offer to you. Let me help you find your perfect sanctuary.

**MORAGA GARDEN CENTER**

Trees & Shrubs  
Flowers & Vegetables  
Soil Products & Fertilizers  
Organic Products & Seeds

located at the  
Moraga Shopping Center  
925-376-1810

across the way...  
a unique lifestyle store

Moraga Shopping Center  
1408G Moraga Road  
925-376-3600  
(across from Moraga Hardware & Lumber)

Tue-Fri 11-6  
Sat 10-6  
Sun 11-5

**SHARON**  
Formerly from **SIXTO'S**

**925-286-2023**

508 Center Street now at  
next door to Mountain Mike Pizza **Reflexion Salon**

**GOURMET BISTRO CAFE**  
Established 1989  
DELICATESSE & CATERING, CO.

HOME OF GOURMET GLAZED HAMS

- Fresh Cold Cuts
- Home made Soups & Pasta
- Full Service Catering

www.wecaterit.com  
484 Center Street Moraga **376-1551**

**MORAGA ART GALLERY**  
presents: *Capturing the Light*

Enjoy the work of local artists!

June 5- August 11, 2007

Featuring photography by **Wenda Pyman**  
with emphasis on landscapes

**Camp Saklan**

Engage your child's mind, stimulate your child's imagination, activate your child's body: Camp Saklan offers it all in one fun summertime package on our country day campus in beautiful Moraga Valley!

Agas 3 to 10  
Preschool to 5th Grade  
June 11<sup>th</sup> to August 17<sup>th</sup>

New Elementary Camp (Grades 1 to 5)  
**Visit saklan.org to register!**

**ST. MARY'S GIFT & FLORIST**  
www.stmarysflorist.net

Flowers - Plants - Home Staging - Unique Gifts  
Wedding - Sympathy - Gift Baskets

1480 Moraga Rd. Ste C (across Moraga Hardware) - Moraga  
925-376-5558

**Moraga's Personal Bankers**

**WELLS FARGO**

1399 Moraga Way  
925-376-5182

Russell Molly Chris

*Rheem Valley Pet Shoppe*

Full Line of Pet Food Supplies

Small Animals, Rabbits, Fresh Water Fish and Boarding

376-8399

15 years in Moraga

Corner Rheem Blvd. & Moraga Rd.  
Mon-Fri 10AM-7PM • Sat 10AM-5:30PM • Sun 12PM-5PM

**Salon Casa Bella**

"I'm not just a stylist, I'm an artist"

Cozy - family educated - quality service.

1460-J Moraga Rd.  
Moraga, 925-376-4373  
lisamartyo6@aol.com

925 - 377 - 1908

*Si Si Caffe*

910 Country Club Dr.  
Moraga

Now FREE WiFi - Internet!

**Camp Lisa**

Dogsitting in my home

Lisa Gillett  
1260 Bollinger Canyon Rd.  
Moraga, CA 94556

(925)631-1063

*Growing Light Montessori Schools*

Toddler 18 to 30 month  
Preschool 2.5 to 4 years  
Pre-K/Kindergarten 4 to 6 years

Mon-Fri 8:00-6:00 • part time schedule available

925.377.0407 1450 Moraga Rd, Moraga  
www.growinglight.net Oakland • Moraga • Kensington

**King Florist and gifts**

586 Center Street  
Moraga, CA 94556

925-376-5974

**GET CLEAN.**

TOTAL CLEAN 376-1004

**CUSTOMERS FIRST**  
SERVICE IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US

BILL SNIDER, OWNER

MON-FRI: 7:30AM-6PM  
SAT: 8AM-6PM  
SUN: 9AM-5PM

1409 MORAGA WAY  
MORAGA SHOPPING CENTER  
PHONE: (925) 376-3600

**MORAGA HARDWARE AND LUMBER**

**MORAGA MOTORS**  
since 1981 in Moraga  
located on Moraga Road, Rheem Valley Shopping Center

Professional Automotive Service and Repair  
Foreign and Domestic

530 Moraga Rd. • 925-376-0692  
www.moragamotors.com

**The UPS Store**

New hours:  
Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30  
Sat 9-4, Sun closed

Our location:  
1480 Moraga Rd, Ste 1  
Moraga, CA 94556-2005

- ✓ Shipping
- ✓ Copying, Finishing
- ✓ Printing Services
- ✓ Notary Services
- ✓ Postal Services
- ✓ Business Services

www.theupsstore.com

**CANYON CONSTRUCTION**

professional remodeling & custom homes

925 country club drive moraga ca 94556  
t 925.376.3486 | f 925.376.3503  
www.canyonconstruction.com

Don't forget to bring in Coupons! • Don't forget to bring in Coupons! • Don't forget to bring in Coupons! • Don't forget to bring in Coupons!

**Reflexion**  
SKIN CARE & HAIR SALON

**\$15 OFF**  
Summer Facial Treatment

925.376.7222  
508 Center Street, Moraga  
(in Rheem Valley Shopping Center)  
Moraga's Premier Salon

HERE COMES THE SUN  
with melon and fresh green mint. Indulge in a stimulating and complexion invigorating facial!

You Deserve a Little Indulgence

Imelda "Meng" Ward  
Licensed Esthetician

**20% OFF**  
FOR FIRST TIME CLIENTS

(925) 451-5779  
mengward@sbcglobal.net  
354 Park Street ~ Moraga

most cars

**Rheem Valley Automotive**

Super Smog Special:  
**\$29.95**  
+8.25 cert. +2.95trans. fee  
coupon required

455 Center Street in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center  
Complete Repair Shop  
**925.377.6020**

**LORI'S PERFECT TAN**

SWIMWEAR • SANDALS • SWIM ACCESSORIES  
Mens • Womens • Missy • Childrens

**25% OFF**  
SPEEDO CAPS & SUITS

**\$10.99**  
MYSTIC TAN PREMIUM SOLUTION.  
LAST UP TO 10 DAYS

552 Center St., Moraga  
376-4433  
www.LPTAN.com

Low-pressure Tanning

summer cleaning special

**\$3.50**  
Pants, Sweaters, Polo Shirts  
with coupon, exp. 7/31/07

**Rheem Valley CLEANERS**

568 Center Street, Moraga  
Telephone: 925-631-0560

Business Hours:  
Mon-Wed: 7AM - 7PM  
Thu-Fri: 7AM - 6:30PM  
Saturday 8AM - 5:30PM

Hallmark  
KEEPSAKE

Join us for  
**Keepsake Ornament Premiere**  
July 14, 2007

Free Gift with \$100 Ornament purchase

H & A Hallmark Shop • Moraga  
1460-H Moraga Road • 925-376-7580