

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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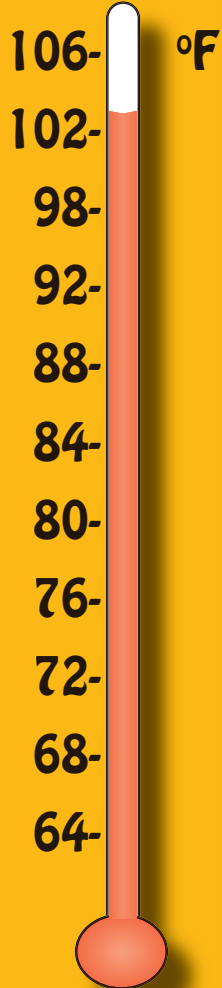
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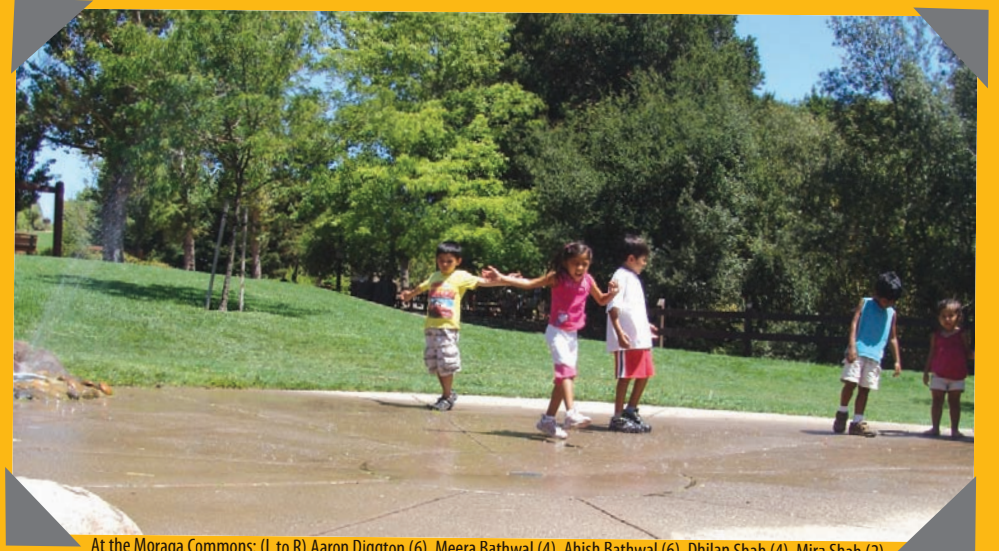
Volume 01; Issue 13

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Wednesday, August 8, 2007



At the Orinda Library Fountain: Ava Tajbakhsh (9), Ben Westphal (10), Amanda Young (4)



At the Moraga Commons: (L to R) Aaron Diggton (6), Meera Bathwal (4), Ahish Bathwal (6), Dhilan Shah (4), Mira Shah (2)

## A Hot Day - Summer 2007



At his Moraga home: Tommy Richards has some watery fun

# Keeping Cool in Lamorinda

...see story on page 7

## Burns Takes the Helm at JM

By Lee Borrowman

The Moraga School District announced late last month that Los Perales Elementary School Principal Bruce Burns will succeed Catherine Mikes as principal of Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. Mikes resigned the post earlier this summer for medical reasons. Superintendent Rick Shafer has also recommended to the Governing Board that it approve at its next meeting the appointment of Bill Walters, who has served as Assistant Principal and Principal of JM in the past, as the interim principal of Los Perales.

In announcing Burns' move to JM, Superintendent Rick Shafer stated, "The combination of his experience working within the Moraga School District, his outstanding management and administrative skills and his knowledge of our unique and wonderful community make Bruce ideally suited for this important leadership role." On the pending interim appointment of Walters to LP, Shafer says, "We are extremely lucky to have him."

Although Shafer had originally planned to recruit a new principal for JM from outside the district, after careful consideration he recommended to the Board that an internal candidate be sought and encouraged Moraga's three elementary school principals to consider the position. He explained, "We needed

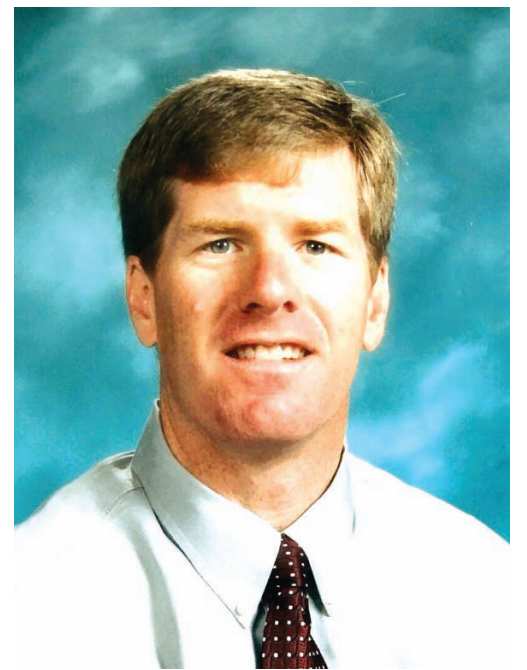
someone who was already familiar with the way the district works and who could successfully implement the positive changes initiated by Catherine Mikes. Bruce is a proven leader with prior middle school experience. Why would I turn down an internal candidate with tremendous skills and go looking for someone else? The Board and I were delighted that Bruce was willing to accept this challenge."

JM PTA President Erin Bydalek, who had children at Los Perales since it first reopened in 1996 and now at JM, is pleased that Burns will be leading the team. "I worked closely with Bruce on LP's site council, and more recently, I served with him on two district Coordinating Council committees. I found him to be engaged, thoughtful, and

very committed to what is best for students. His experience as a principal and knowledge of the district will make him a great addition to JM," said Bydalek.

Burns is excited about the change: "I had not considered the JM job specifically; however, I was ready for new challenges and had been looking for some new opportunities." The decision to make the move to JM was not easy, he continued, "I've been at LP since August 15, 1996 and every day have worked with staff and parents to provide the best for LP kids. I truly enjoyed my work. As each day approaches toward my transition I find myself excited about working at JM, yet full of sadness as I leave wonderful students, staff and parents."

... continued on page 9



Bruce Burns

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## OMPA Championships Provides Largest Field of Competitors

By Zack Farmer

With the largest field in the Championships' history, the Orinda Moraga Pools Association (OMPA) held its 51st annual swim event last weekend at Campolindo High School's Soda Aquatic Center.

The OMPA Championships drew 1,789 swimmers, ranging from age 6 to 18, to this year's event and had over 2,000 people in at-

tendance for the finals. Meet Director Charlie Luecker said he believes the OMPA is "one of the largest recreational swimming leagues in the country." Along with the extremely large field of swimmers came the most competitive meet in recent history with medals being won by as little as hundredths of a second. ... continued on page 13



## Celebrating A Life Well-Lived

By Cathy Tyson

On Saturday August 4, family and friends gathered at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints to pay their respects to James Gordon Holmes, MD. Dr. Holmes was remembered for his drive, boundless energy, can-do attitude and pursuit of learning according to his son Jeffrey Taggart Holmes. He was a physician, businessman, professor, husband, father and grandfather, brother, traveler and quiet philanthropist. He is survived by his widow, Ernestine Holmes, remaining five children; James Gordon Holmes, Jr.

of Danville, Dr. Jeff Holmes of Monte Sereno, John Holmes, Attorney of Encinitas, Dr. Alexander Holmes of Salinas and Elizabeth Holmes Talley of Danville, and 12 grandchildren. His two brothers, Samuel and Richard (Dick) both live in Lafayette.

He grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah, attending West High School, where he was student body president. He graduated from the University of Utah, and Stanford University Medical School.

... continued on page 2

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY this week			
Towns news	2, 3, 4	Swim Team, Community Helps ...	5
No to Assessment = No ...	2	Calendar	6
Moraga Prepares for ...	3	SMC Campus Happenings	6
City Officials Set Up Shop ...	4	How to contact us	6
Lamorinda Businesses Catch ...	7	Lamorinda Home Sales	8
Orinda Academy Celebrates 25 Years	10	Lafayette Summer Music Jazz ...	9
Neighbors React to Allegations ...	10	A New Face at Stanley Middle ...	10
Business Briefs ...	11		
Lamorinda Restaurants	12		
OMPA Championship	13		
Sports	13-15		
Classified	14		
Shop Moraga Special	16		

# Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

# Lafayette

Calendar	
<b>City Council</b> 7pm	Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Aug 13
<b>Planning Comm.</b> 7pm	Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Aug 16
<b>Design Review</b> 7pm	Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, Aug 21
<b>Park, Trails, Rec.</b> 7pm	Community Center 500 St Mary's Road Wednesday, Aug 8 Wednesday, Sept 12
<b>Circulation</b> 7pm	Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Aug 20
<b>Emergency Prep.</b> 9:15am	City Offices 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 265 Wednesday, Sept 12
<b>Senior Services</b> 3:30pm	Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Aug 23

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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



**Open house theft, 7/22/07**  
An area realty representative held an open house on Woodview Drive. A total of four people viewed the home, three of which signed the sign-in sheet. When the owner returned, some property was missing. Unfortunately, no fingerprints, leads or suspects at this time.

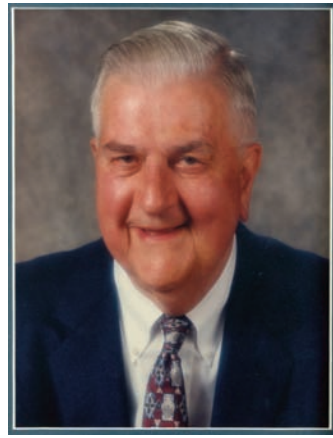
**Pot for sale, 7/20/07**  
Two white males ages 20 and 22 were arrested at Olympic Boulevard and Pleasant Hill Road with \$750. cash and 58 grams of marijuana.

**Bank Robbery, 7/19/07**  
Bank of the West on Mt. Diablo Boulevard was robbed at 4:50 p.m. A white male approached the teller window and gave the teller a note demanding money. He allegedly had a handgun. The robber took approximately \$500. and walked out. The FBI is investigating.

Read online at:  
<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html/read.html>  
(a pdf reader is required to view the pages.)

## Celebrating A Life Well-Lived

... continued from page 1



At Stanford, the government paid for his tuition and books and even gave him \$50 a month in exchange for his ROTC commitment. After graduation he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Air Corp.

Dr. Holmes raised his family in Lafayette, then a very small, semi-rural community. Unhappy with the way the county was running then unincorporated Lafayette; he was elected to first City Council in 1968. His brother Dick Holmes joked that Gordon lost a drawing among the broth-

ers, so he was the one to run for Mayor. He won, becoming the second mayor of Lafayette. Keep in mind he was a practicing surgeon at Alta Bates Hospital with five young children at home at the time.

His interests were many and clearly wide-ranging. In the late 1970's he volunteered to help at United Nations High Commission for Refugee Relief in Thailand, at Ban Nam Yao and Maejorim camps. For more than a decade, Dr. Holmes was a Professor of Human Anatomy at UC Berkeley. Later in life he developed two commercial real estate ventures and one condominium project in Lafayette.

At the service his son spoke of his generosity. He had recently funded a clinic that will serve the desperately poor of twenty rural villages in the mountains near Machu Pichu, Peru. He anonymously paid for a wood floor of the church gymnasium. These were just a few of his many acts

of charity.

Dr. Holmes' widow, Ernestine Workman Holmes, tearfully recalled, "he was the love of my life," at the service.

Two charming granddaughters remembered Grandpa as a kind-hearted soul who took time for them individually, selecting special birthday presents and attending countless sports and school events. He invited the grandkids to come to his Happy Valley home pick apples and make applesauce. He even went so far as to take all of his girl grandkids on a special trip.

Son James Gordon Holmes, Jr., recalled at the service that his Dad could be considered a successful man. "You come into this world naked and go out naked, the measure of a life is how you treat people, your relationships." By that measure, and in looking around the capacity crowd at church, Dr. Holmes was truly a successful man.

## No to Assessment = No Twinkle Lights?

By Cathy Tyson

Recently Lafayette business owners voted on an assessment to increase the fees payable to the City for upkeep of medians, tree trimming, sidewalk repair, colorful downtown banners and twinkle lights at Christmas-time. Sadly the assessment, officially the, "Core area landscape and lighting assessment district" only garnered a 30% yes vote. This assessment was last increased in 1984; costs for the City have significantly increased since then. In the intervening years the fees for property owners have remained the same with the City of Lafayette picking up the increasingly large difference.

Right now the budget for Core Area Landscape and Lighting is \$500,000; business owners pay \$158,000.

The City proposed a 50/50

split of the costs, including up to a 3% annual increase for inflation, if necessary. While the assessment covers specific costs, what residents and businesses gain is overall ambiance, which helps keep Lafayette a vibrant upscale place; which in turn, helps bring in shoppers and restaurant patrons.

Going forward the City of Lafayette will start discussions with the City Council at its scheduled meeting in September. The plan is to start with a budget of zero and start adding from there. Its Economics 101 - allocating resources in an environment of scarcity. Residents recently voted 60% in favor of re-paving roads. The question becomes, what is more important to residents, roads or twinkle lights?

## Rock the Plaza



Stage Frite

All shows start at 6:00pm at Lafayette Plaza Park and are presented free of charge. Here is this year's line-up:

August 10th: Stone Soup August 24th: Stage Frite  
August 17th: Total Eclipse

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## Use Permit Request for Private K-8 Education

By Andy Scheck



Sanctuary and Temple Isaiah Classroom Building from Reservoir Parking Lot

The Planning Commission heard an initial proposal last week from the Contra Costa Jewish Day School, a K-8 parochial school, which is requesting a land use permit and development permit to expand its existing facility at 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

The site is owned by the Temple Isaiah, has an access driveway from Risa Rd. and has been the home of the Contra Costa Jewish Day School for several years.

Phase 1 of the proposed project calls for an 18,838 square foot classroom. Phases 2 and 3, which are contingent upon the availability of sufficient funding, would include the construction of an 8,530 square foot multi-use building (Gymnasium) for recreation and school events and another classroom building.

The decision to site the project at the proposed location is the result of extensive input from, and discussions between, the Day

School and Temple Isaiah leadership. The existing Sanctuary and Temple Isaiah classroom building (see photo, taken from the Reservoir parking lot) would be accompanied by three more buildings on the southwest site of the property. At least 26 trees would be removed to develop the Phase 1 building with additional parking.

Following the initial presentation by Peter Stackmole, Loving & Campos Architects Inc., and a questionnaire and discussion session, the Commission is now awaiting a feasibility study. A photo simulation and story posts at the site will help to identify the size and location of the new buildings.

For the coming school year the facility will host 90 students at the K-8 day school, about 18 children per class. With the projected new classrooms, the day school will hold 140-150 students.

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# Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

# Moraga

**Calendar**

**City Council 7:30pm**  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School  
1010 Camino Pablo  
Monday, Aug 22

**Planning Comm. 7:30pm**  
Hacienda, La Sala Room  
2100 Donald Drive  
Monday, Aug 20

**Design Review 7:30pm**  
Hacienda, La Sala Room  
2100 Donald Drive  
Monday, Aug 13

**Park & Rec 7:30pm**  
Hacienda, Mosaic Room  
2100 Donald Drive  
Tuesday, Aug 21

**Liaison 8:00am**  
Fire Station  
1280 Moraga Way

no meeting in August

**Chamber of Commerce 5pm**  
BBQ  
Commons, Moraga  
Friday, Aug 31

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



**Designated driver trouble, 7/28/07**  
A vehicle was stopped at Moraga Way and Hardie Drive for driving in a bicycle lane. The five underage passengers all admitted drinking alcohol. The parents of each of these kids were called to come pick up their child. The underage front seat passenger said of the two bottles of alcohol found in her handbag, that one was a gift and one was stolen from her parents liquor cabinet. Driver was cited for driving in a bike lane, driver under 21 in possession of alcohol, and driving in violation of license restriction.

**Riding a bike while drunk, 7/21/07**  
Two juveniles were riding on one bike near the intersection of Moraga Road and the Rheem Shopping Center. Neither youth was wearing a helmet, and the passenger was riding on the rear pegs of the bike. The juvenile driving the bike was found to be intoxicated. Bike driver was arrested, but released to his parents after signing a promise to appear.

**Campo Vandalized, 7/20/07**  
Officers reported to the stadium area of Campolindo High School, unknown suspects used spray paint to extensively deface several areas, including storage building, scoring booth, the track, and the football field. No evidence of empty spray cans was found.

## Town Takes Over This Summer's Concerts from Foundation Future of Next Year's Concerts Remains Uncertain

By Steve Angelides



Concert at the Moraga Commons

Photo by Andy Scheck

The Town Council unanimously agreed that the Town of Moraga would take over the supervision of the popular summer concerts for the rest of this season from the Moraga Park & Recreation Foundation. The Foundation requested the Council action because of liability concerns. "The last thing in the world the Foundation wants to do is take the money it has in the bank and spend it on defending another lawsuit," the Foundation's attorney, George Juarez, explained to the Council. Town resident Joyce Beachem had previously sued both the Town and the Foundation claiming that the concerts were a nuisance. Beachem dis-

missed her suit last year "because the town agreed to actively work on a resolution to the noise transfer issue," she explained later in a letter to the Council. During this summer's concerts the Town has required all sound to go through a single sound board and has been monitoring sound. In April the Town began the process of revising its noise ordinance to exempt the concerts and other town-authorized events from nuisance claims. But the nuisance exemption was sidetracked after Beachem's attorney claimed it would require a full environmental impact report, and Town Manager Phil Vince told the

Council the Town would hire a consultant to prepare an environmental analysis. After several months without a consultant's report, Vince told the Council the Town's Planning Department was working on an environmental "negative declaration" which would be finished by September. Vince told the Lamorinda Weekly he decided to address the environmental issue in-house to save money. Foundation sources cited other factors which may also have been involved, including differences of opinion regarding the environmental issue and the difficulty of finding a consultant to do the work. ...continued on page 7

## Moraga Prepares for Anticipated Development

By Steve Angelides

In anticipation of future development, the Town of Moraga is preparing to impose development impact fees, and has applied for Priority Development Area status for the Moraga Center Specific Plan Area. Last month the Town Council received a consultant's study on the development fees and heard countervailing arguments from developers. The study is a prerequisite to the imposition of the fees. The study covers public safety, storm drainage and traffic fees, plus the Lamorinda regional transportation fee that is already imposed on new development in Moraga. Considering all four fees, the study recommends residential development fees ranging from approximately \$5,000 for a unit of senior housing to \$14,000 for a detached single family home. The recom-

mended non-residential fees average approximately \$39,000 per acre of land plus \$3,000 per 1000 square feet of construction. Public Works Director and Town Engineer Jill Mercurio said she expects that the public safety and storm drainage fees will be brought back to the Council for action soon, but that the traffic fees will require further study based on the comments at the meeting. Mercurio said the Town is also considering public building and park facilities fees, but the studies for those fees are still pending. None of the new fees will apply to the Palos Colorados development, which has already committed \$17 million to cover the impact of the development on Moraga. At least as interesting as the technicalities of the fee calculations are the assumptions regarding future devel-

opment upon which those calculations are based. Mercurio said the Town staff spent six months last year developing those assumptions, by "taking a snapshot while looking into our crystal ball." That "snapshot" is the source of the information on the map which accompanies this story. ...continued on page 8

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Moraga Parks and Recreation Foundation presents:

**2007 Free Summer Concert Series**  
Thursdays at the Moraga Commons Park  
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Thursday, August 9: Juke Joint; Blues  
 Thursday, August 16: Ventana; Latin  
 Thursday, August 23: Celtic Heart; Irish

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# Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

# Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Wednesday, Aug 21	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Sarge Littlehale Conf. Room City Hall, 22 Orinda Way Tuesday, Aug 14	
Public Safety Comm.	7pm
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Thursday, Aug 9	
Hist. Landmark Comm.	3pm
Gallery Room, Upper Level 26 Orinda Way Monday, Aug 28	
Liaison	8:30am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way No Meeting in August	
check online: Town of Orinda: <a href="http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/">http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/</a> for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates	

Chamber of Commerce:  
<http://www.orinda-chamber.org/>  
• local businesses  
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D.U.I./Drugs, 7/25/07  
Should have called a cab. A white female in her twenties was stopped for speeding on Moraga Way near Ardor, showing signs of intoxication. Blood alcohol level above the legal limit.

Tool gone, 7/20/07 An air compressor was stolen from a property on Donald Drive. Estimated cost \$400. An unknown person forced open an exterior door and found it hidden away. No suspects at this time.

Identity Theft, 7/19/07 Mail was stolen from a Miner Road mailbox recently. Two Walnut Creek individuals are now in custody, they were caught attempting to use the Orinda resident's financial information to create a fraudulent account.

## Orinda Books Leads the Way for Book Clubs

By Cathy Tyson and Wendy Scheck



Book Club selection at Orinda Books Photo by Andy Scheck

Lamorinda bookstores make a real effort to support book clubs. Not only is it good for business, but it's a great way to connect with the community. Merchants know that with amazon.com, Costco, Barnes & Noble and the like, it's getting increasingly difficult for an independent book seller to stay in business. What sets our bookstores apart is their wonderful customer service and loyal patrons. One of the first local bookstores to encourage the development of book clubs as we know them today was Orinda Books.

**Orinda Books**  
276 Village Square, Orinda  
254-7606

Located in the village side of Orinda near McCaulou's, Orinda Books has a very spacious store that lends itself well to author and book club events. The long running Orinda Owls along with the World Affairs Group, Literary Chapter II and the Page Turners meet monthly at the shop. Janet Boreta, owner and one of the original founders of Orinda books in 1976, has been an enthusiastic proponent of reading and book clubs since graduating from Stanford and the early days in her marriage when she moved with her husband to Venezuela with an oil company. There they lived in a thatched roof community with the other oil worker families where the only entertainment was a thatched roof bar. She had an infant and was

suffered from boredom until she found out that the company offered each family the opportunity to order 25 books. Soon, Boreta established an informal library for the group where books were shared, discussed, and many brain cells were saved. One night when she was playing bridge, she made a wager with her oil company opponent: should Janet win the game, the company would build a real library for them. The newly erected library became the finest building in the compound. Once back in the States and settled in Orinda, Boreta found herself disenchanted with the book club scene where women all read the same book, but instead of open discussion they would instead attend a lecture to hear an "expert's" opinion about the book. Taking the initiative, Boreta met up with one of her Stanford friends and started a modern day book club where ordinary people chose books to read and meet in each others homes or other convenient location for discussion and friendship. According to Boreta, there are currently around 200 book clubs registered at Orinda Books.

... continued on page 5

## City Officials Set Up Shop at the Orinda Farmers' Market

By Sophie Braccini



Council Member Worth and Mayor Pro Tem Smith answer questions from Orinda citizen Woody Karp Photo by Sophie Braccini

A new table made its appearance at the Orinda Farmers Market on Saturday August 4th. It wasn't a local farmer selling fruit and vegetables or a baker selling bread and pastries. There was nothing to be purchased at this new table, but rather information to be gathered and shared. This was the table of the Orinda City Council and Administration, who came to the market to meet and discuss issues with their constituency.

Victoria Smith, Orinda's Mayor Pro Tem, wanted to find another way to reach out to Orindans. She was struck by how many people come to the Farmer's Market every Saturday morning. So rather than waiting for members of the community to show up at Town Council Meetings, she proposed to meet them at the Market.

At the south end of the market (closest to the library), keeping cool under a green canopy, Victoria Smith and Council Member Amy Worth staffed the booth. The table was covered with documents provided by Town Clerk Michele

Olsen: A big map of the Wilder Development (formally called Gateway Development), safety information of all types, local maps, local environmental programs such as food scrap recycling, and "Grow It," a Contra Costa Clean Water Program booklet providing information about safe pest management.

Local residents stopped by to meet their representatives and ask questions. Many of them wanted to know the date of the new City Hall Open House (August 21st from 4 to 6PM). A resident who wished to stay anonymous inquired about a new senior housing development in the planning stage. Mayor Pro Tem Smith explained: "\$2.5 million has been provided by Wilder Development as part of Orinda's Affordable Housing ordinance. We are going to be able to develop senior housing units where the old library used to be, close to shopping and the new library. That will be a great alternative for our senior citizens when they have to leave their homes in the hills."

Another hot topic for resi-

dents in Orinda is the condition of the roads. After the failure of measures Q and E, residents are wondering what will be done to fix a problem that will not go away on its own. Responding to a resident who asked her why she thought the measures failed, Council Member Worth said: "Reaching the 2/3 threshold of a positive vote is pretty hard." She also added that an ad hoc commission is working on proposing alternative financing options.

Maggie Reeves, an Orinda resident for many years, commented: "It's great to be able to meet our representatives face to face, and it is helpful too!" She left with a map of the bike trails of the area.

Victoria Smith is confident that this outreach will be beneficial to the open communication between elected officials and their electorate. As far as staffing the table for the rest of the Farmers Market season, she is not worried: Council Members and senior City Staff are all looking forward to "getting out" and meeting the residents.

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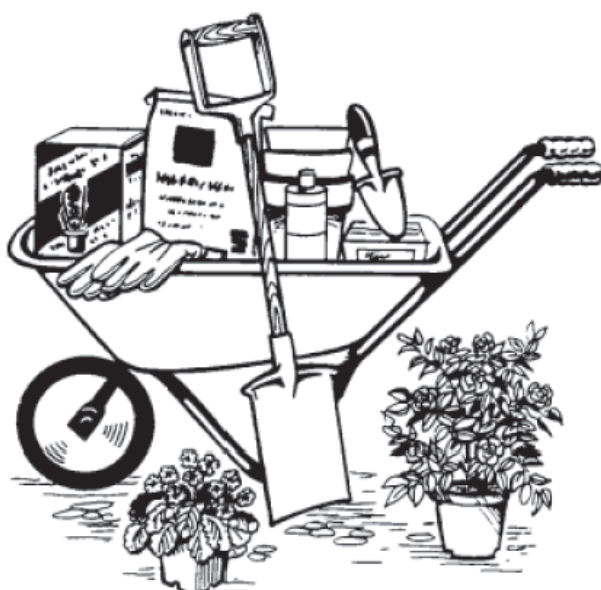
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# Life in LAMORINDA

## Swim Team, Community Helps Moraga Family

By Jennifer Wake

Difficult times often reveal the true nature of a community.



Luca, 3, and CJ, 5, take a break from the swim-a-thon for a quick hug with baby brother, Grayson  
Photo by Jennifer Wake

Five months ago, Chris and Tanya Rago's son, Grayson, was born with extensive medical and physical difficulties and was given a clinical diagnosis of CHARGE syndrome – an extremely complex syndrome which occurs in about one in every 9-10,000 births worldwide.

Because of Grayson's extensive medical problems – including a congenital heart defect (requiring open heart surgery), abnormal inner ear structures,

which cause Grayson to be completely deaf in his left ear and will likely affect his equilibrium, and with many additional anomalies – he will require lifelong care.

The Ragos received support from friends and family, and since Tanya has been a teacher at Camino Pablo Elementary School for several years, they hoped the teachers, district staff, and parents would be understanding.

They never expected this.

Facing uninsured medical expenses – including mounting co-pays, transportation fees, and numerous fees associated with Grayson's long hospital stays – and the need to care for their son during recoveries from his life threatening surgeries, the Ragos have seen an outpouring of support from coworkers, friends, and neighbors from Moraga and neighboring towns.

In addition to a flood of dinners, flowers, and well-wishes, on July 20 more than 130 swimmers took to the pool at Moraga Ranch, raising more than \$24,000 for Grayson at their annual swim-a-thon.

"It's so close to home; people just wanted to be able to do something," said Anne Robles, one of the swim-a-thon coordinators.

The Rago's older sons, CJ, age 5, and Luca, age 3, who belong to the Moraga Ranch swim team, also participated in the event. Luca, who is still learning to swim, used a kick board to finish his laps in the pool. "They were just so excited to be swimming for their brother, Grayson," Tanya said.

Hillary Thomas, 16, who has been a swimmer for Moraga Ranch since she was 2 1/2, said this year's swim-a-thon was especially great. "All the little kids have seen Grayson here and really wanted to help," she said. "It

was a team-oriented way to come together."

Moneys raised from the swim-a-thon will be put into a trust for Grayson to offset future medical bills, but support for Tanya and her family reached beyond the pool.

When Moraga Tennis and Swim Club coach Payam Saljoughian heard about the Moraga Ranch swim-a-thon, he and other members quickly organized a car wash held on July 30 at the Club to raise money for Grayson and the Ragos. Pastries and coffee were delivered on trays to people waiting in their cars as they lined to help during the three-hour-long event.

Additionally, Moraga School District Superintendent Rick Schafer said teachers and staff from Camino Pablo Elementary have donated their sick leave to Tanya so she can continue her coverage while she stays home with Grayson.

Tanya said the outpouring of support is overwhelming. "It's indescribable. You can't even thank people enough," she said. "I'm amazed by the community and how supportive they've been. I never imagined the community would be this supportive."

Schafer sees it differently. "We're supporting Tanya because we see ourselves as an extended family," Schafer said. "It's not a big deal because it's just what you



Younger swimmers completed the swim-a-thon using kick boards  
Photo by Jennifer Wake

do: You support family."

Grayson's father, Chris, said they never would have dreamed that the support would be like this.

"It's a roller coaster of ups and downs, but you do it. We've found strength we never even thought we had," he said. "I have to give my son what he needs to be the best he can be."

During the next month, Grayson will need to undergo another life-threatening surgery to fix a condition called laryngomalacia, where the soft, immature cartilage of the upper larynx begins to collapse inward during in-

halation, causing airway obstruction. "We're trying to get surgery scheduled as soon as we can," Tanya said. "It just takes so long. We're waiting . . . waiting."

"You start to appreciate the simple things," Tanya added. "Grayson's here with us, which is huge."

Those interested in making a contribution to the trust for Grayson can send checks to Bank of America, c/o the Grayson Medical Fund, 1400 Moraga Way, Moraga, CA 94556.

## Orinda Books Leads the Way for Book Clubs

...continued from page 4

The 80 active clubs call in to list their latest picks on a well worn spiral notebook or post them on the website and all registered book group members receive a 10% discount on their book of the month. See their website [www.orindabooks.com](http://www.orindabooks.com) for the latest recommendations and coming events.

**Lafayette Book Store**  
3579 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette  
284-1233

Lafayette Books started Book Culture as of March 1 of

this year. Instead of offering book clubs a discount on one particular book, this is a whole new way to save money on all books. It's a unique community membership club that gives regular book buyers a deep discount. After paying a family membership fee per year, members are given 40% off every book they buy. In addition to the usual excellent customer service provided by owner Dave Simpson and staff, the store hosts book groups. After getting a sense of the type of books a club enjoys,

they develop a list and talk about books that would be interesting to the group. Even at times encouraging the reading of an easily accessible classic or book of poetry. Because they read so many books, staff prides itself on giving accurate recommendations and trying to steer customers to a book that's a good fit. For more information, [www.lafayettebookstore.com](http://www.lafayettebookstore.com).

**The Storyteller**  
30 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette  
284-3480

The Storyteller has approximately twenty clubs, mostly mother-daughter groups, with the option of having one meeting per year in the store. Owner Linda Higham doesn't impose any kind of structure on the groups. She and her staff are happy to make age appropriate recommendations for book groups and regular customers as well. Book clubs members receive a 10% discount on the club selection of the month. They also host author events.

## Orinda Book Clubs' August Picks:

Anne Glarner's Bk Group Under the Banner of Heaven by Jon Krakauer  
Book by Book Red & the Black by Stendhal  
Bookies Luncheon of the Boating Party by Susan Vreeland  
Great Classics Sometimes a Great Notion by Ken Kesey  
Elegant Gathering Inside the Kingdom by Carmen Bin Laden  
Lamorinda Womens Book Group Sarum by Edward Rutherfurd  
Ola Literati Birds in Fall by Brad Kessler  
OPAL Justine by Laurence Durrell  
Orinda Books--3rd Wed. Waiting for the Barbarians by J.M. Coetzee  
Orinda Owls White Ghost Girls by Alice Greenway  
Page by Page Suite Francaise by Irene Nemorovsky  
Sol Sisters Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini  
South Side Readers Eat Love Pray by Elizabeth Gilbert  
Stanford Women-3rd Thursday All the Little Live Things by Wallace Stegner  
Straw Hat Ladies Rise & Shine by Anna Quindlen  
Thursday AM Teach Man by Frank McCourt  
Title 10 Beneath a Marble Sky by John Shors  
Whine Before Books When the Elephants Dance by Tess Uriza Holthe

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## ◆ Not to be missed ◆

**Moraga Movers Monthly Dinner.**  
Monday, August 13  
All Lamorinda residents age 55+ are invited to attend the monthly dinner in the Soda Center at St. Mary's College. Gordon Nathan, President of the Rescue One Foundation and coordinator for the Community Emergency Response Network will speak to the group about emergency preparedness. To make a reservation, please call 376-6622. For more information about other upcoming Moraga Movers events, call Dan Rego at 377-8702.

**SOLAR 101 FOR HOMEOWNERS**  
The Orinda Library is hosting a seminar by Jay Herman from NorCal Solar Energy Association on Wednesday, August 15 from 7 to 8 p.m. This informational program is a can't miss for homeowners considering residential solar power and solar thermal heating. The 45-minute presentation answers questions about how solar works and whether it is suitable for your home. Herman will also offer a review for solar electricity and how to choose a solar electricity contractor. Free. Gallery Room of the Orinda Library at 26 Orinda Way. Visit the website at www.cclib.org or call 925-254-2184.

**California Shakespeare Theater Presents**  
"The Triumph of Love" by Pierre Marivaux, adapted and directed by Lillian Groag. Through - September 2  
A sharply drawn and elegantly composed comedy, The Triumph of Love explores the entire nature of love, in all its romantic glory and painful cruelty. Lillian Groag, director of 2005's The Tempest, returns to mount her own adaptation of this work by one of France's most influential 18th century playwrights. 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, Bruns Amphitheater, Orinda. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510.548.9666 or visit www.calshakes.org

**The California Theater Arts Young Performers Theater presents**  
Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" directed by John Butterfield. August 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 at the CTA Crossroads Theater, 1277 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek. For tickets call 925-944-0597

**Town Hall Theatre Company Presents "Bleacher Bums."**  
August 18 - October 14, 2007  
This hysterical comedy tells the story of eight devout Chicago fans at Wrigley Field, who spend afternoons in the sun watching the Chicago Cubs, cheering the action on the field while getting some gambling action in the seats. Beer and ballgame fare will be served in the seats at Town Hall Theatre. Not recommended for children under 12 (strong language) Thursday, Friday, Saturday, evenings 8:00 p.m. Sundays 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Contact the Town Hall Theatre Company Box Office for exact dates and times. 90 minutes, no intermission, one Seventh Inning Stretch. Tickets: Adults - \$28-\$32, Seniors (62 and older) - \$24-\$29 Youths (13-18) - \$23-\$25. Student Rush - 15 minutes before the curtain, \$12 per ticket for any show IN CASH with student ID. Group pricing available. Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street at Moraga Road, Lafayette, 925-283-1557 or www.thtc.org

**Orinda Starlight Village Players Presents "See How They Run" by Philip King**  
Fridays and Saturdays, August 24, 25, and September 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, and 22 at 8:30 pm Sunday, Sept. 16th at 4PM; and Thursday, Sept. 20th 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

**Playing Live at the Orinda House**  
Thursday, 08-09-07, Sonny Fitman, vocals and guitar.  
Saturday, 08-11-07, Water Sign, wonderful Jazz, R&B, and Originals Octet.

**Mid-Summer Music Concert**  
**Friday, August 24th 1:30 - 3:00**  
Featuring Mark Shaw on Backwoods Fiddle and Ray Carpenter on Guitar and Vocals. Join us for a summer musical bash creek side under the oaks. The concert of old time folk music from Ireland, Scotland plus some French Canadian airs and good old 19th century American tunes will be performed by Mark Shaw on fiddle and vocalist Ray Carpenter on guitar. We will be serving cool ice tea and lemonade and other light refreshments. As space is very limited, it's best to sign up early! Please call (925)284-5050 to register. Lafayette Senior Services, 500 Saint Mary's Rd, Lafayette

**Voices of Musica Sacra, a chorus directed by John Kendal Bailey,**  
Announces auditions for all voice parts on Sunday, August 26, 2007, 1:00 to 6:00 pm in Walnut Creek. Call 925-930-0516 for more info and to schedule an audition. www.voicesofmusicasacra.org.

**Golden Gate Boy's Choir Parents Day Concert**  
Free and open to the public  
Saturday, August 11, 2007 at 2:00 pm. Diocesan Youth Retreat Center 977 Reliez Valley Road. Family friendly program of choral music, handbell ringing and Orff instrumentation. We especially invite families with boys, age 7 - 12 interested in GGBC membership.

**New Moraga Art Gallery Show "Life on Earth" August 14-October 27**  
Includes local Bay Area and Lamorinda artists showing watercolors, oil painting, collage, ceramics, photography, mixed media, jewelry and glass design. The Gallery is also featuring the work of Dorrie Bosley Langley, a Martinez artist whose murals and wall art may be seen in locations around the East Bay. The public is invited to the Opening Reception on Saturday, August 18, from 3-5 pm. The photography show "Capturing the Light" will still show through August 11. Moraga Art Gallery 570 Center St, Rheem Valley Shopping Center/next to Longs Drugs. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 12-5 pm. 925.376.5407

**Orinda Library Gallery- Group Show Through August 17, 2007**  
M-Friday, 10-6 pm, Sunday 1-5 pm. (925)254-2184. The Oakland Art Association presents a Group Show of all media: paintings, drawings, photography, collage, monoprnts, etchings, small sculpture and woodcuts created by Bay Area local artists at the Orinda Library Gallery in Orinda, from July 13-August 17th. Opening Reception, Sunday, July 22, 2:30-4:30 pm. 24 Orinda Way, Gallery Room, Upper Level. The show will be judged by Charlotte Huntley, an avid watercolor artist who has proven to be a popular Demonstrator, knowledgeable Juror, inspiring Workshop Instructor and award winning author.

**Moraga Chamber's Luau on Saturday, August 25, from 5 to 10 PM**  
Diners will be treated to an authentic Hawaiian buffet. Guests will enjoy two hours of live Hawaiian and Tahitian entertainment. Learn how to make an authentic flower lei and enter a raffle to win a trip for two to Hawaii. The Luau will be held on the field of the Old Moraga Ranch, across from Safeway on School Street. Information and tickets online at www.moragalaua.com or at the UPS store in the Moraga Center. Advanced tickets are \$45 for adults and

\$10 for children 6-12 years old, and respectively \$50 and \$15 at the door. Children 5 and under are free.

**FREE SAT/ACT Kaplan Test Prep at the Moraga Library**  
Practice SAT/ACT Combo Test (Code: SKBK7052) Sat, August 11, 2007 8:30am-1:30pm SAT and ACT Test Strategies 101 (CODE: SKBK7054) Tues, August 21, 2007 7-8pm 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

**Anne Randolph Workshop: Opposing Osteoporosis**  
Fri, August 17th 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Learn how to maintain or possibly increase your bone mass. What are the risk factors for developing osteoporosis; what are some treatments? Get tips on how you can take control and keep your bones in the best shape possible. Free. Please call (925)284-5050 to register. Lafayette Senior Services, 500 Saint Mary's Rd, Lafayette

**Total Lunar Eclipse - view at Chabot**  
August 27-28 (10 p.m. - 4:30 a.m.) Take a long nap on Monday, Aug. 27 and then stay up all night as Chabot Space & Science Center celebrates the Total Lunar Eclipse. Take a special Full Moon hike; enjoy a planetarium presentation on eclipses; engage in make-and-take lunar activities; and look through Chabot's research-level telescopes. There's no better way to enjoy this stunning astronomical phenomenon in which the moon will actually appear red - a result of light emanating from sunrises and sunsets around the Earth! Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for youth, students and seniors on or before Aug. 15 - \$13/\$9 if purchased later (or at the door). To purchase advance tickets, call (510) 336-7373 or click on www.chabotspace.org 10000 Skyline Blvd. • Oakland,

**DELTA DOOMED?**  
The Commonwealth Club of California, in association with The Pacific Institute hosts a Panel of Experts, Thursday August 16th on the sustainability of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the peripheral canal. 6:00 p.m Wine and cheese reception | 6:30 p.m., Program | Bentley School, 1000 Upper Happy Valley Rd., Lafayette | \$15 for Members, \$30 for Non-Members | Tel: (415) 597-6738 or www.commonwealthclub.org

**Join the Orinda Owls Book Club Tuesday, August 21 7:00 PM**  
Read and discuss White Ghost Girls by Alice Greenway. The Orinda Owls meet monthly at Orinda Books and welcome new members. 276 Village Square, Orinda, 925-254-7606 orindabooks@thegrid.net

**Live Music in Orinda's Theatre Square. 5:30 - 8:30 every Thursday night**  
August 9th - The Final Four- Retro Beatles Style August 16th - Shan Kenner- Spanish, Flamenco Guitar August 23rd - Michael Robinson Band- Roadhouse Blues August 30th - The Black Diamond Band-Blues & R/B

**Free Summer Concert- Moraga**  
Thursday, August 9th, Juke Joint, Blues Thursday, August 16th, Ventana, Latin Moraga Commons Park 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Rock the Plaza**  
Free Concerts in Lafayette's Plaza - Mt Diablo Blvd/Moraga Rd 6:00 p.m. Friday Evening August 10th: Stone Soup August 17th: Total Eclipse

## Acting Teens Wow Audience

**By Cathy Tyson**  
Before the curtain rose on a recent performance of "Harvey" at the Town Hall Theatre there was a distinct buzz in the audience. Neighbors, grandmas, friends and family were here in support of these young actors who had worked so hard honing their performances. This was the culmination of the summer acting class for the Ovation group of Town Hall Kids. Teens 14 - 18, many of whom had been in earlier productions, had the opportunity to work in a small ensemble with guidance from director Joel Roster. He says of the close-knit group, "I couldn't be prouder of the cast. Not only do students put on a full scale production, but they develop an appreciation of the theater."

Soon to be a senior at Campolindo, Alex Dixon Hall, who plays one of the main characters, Elwood P. Dowd, says of the experience, "It was fantastic! Unlike anything I've done before, a huge adventure, more exciting than I expected it to be. It changed me, as a person. I rediscovered parts of myself. It's easy to become stressed out." Like the character he portrays, he realized its better to relax and look on the



from left to right: Kiera Peacock, Molly Simon, Haley Leitman, Donish Cushing, Hannah Sharafian, Katie Rich, Alex Dixon Hall, Maggie Manzano-Mallison, Zach Sturgeon, Jack Caine, Claire Rossi- de Vries

bright side. Alex and the entire 11 member cast did a wonderful job from start to finish.

Located at the corner of Moraga Way and School Street, the historic Town Hall Theatre is the oldest continuously active theater company in the County. Perhaps more important to thirsty attendees, it's the only community theater where patrons are encouraged to enjoy a snack or ice cold beer, purchased at the street level lobby to enjoy from the comfort of your plush red seat while watching the performance.

Full classes for Town Hall Kids Theater start September 7 and registration is now open.

### Campus Happenings



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

### Art Exhibitions/Lectures:

**Biennial Contemporary Landscape Exhibition - "Town and Country: Jessica Dunne and Louis LaBrie"**

On view through Aug. 12  
Hearst Art Gallery  
**"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. Admission: \$2 adults; youth 12 and under free; members free; SMC community free. The exhibition space is ADA accessible. Free parking is available adjacent to and across the road from the building.

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



**Go Gaels!**  
Upcoming Sports Events at Saint Mary's College

Women's Soccer vs. Pacific Friday, Aug. 24 at 5 p.m. Saint Mary's Stadium

For information about upcoming season schedules, visit the official Saint Mary's athletics website at www.SM-CGaels.com.

**Lamorinda Weekly is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda, CA**  
Address: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133  
Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com

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Publisher: Andy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, phone 925-330-7916  
Associate Publisher: Wendy Wuertth-Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com  
Editor: Lee Borrowman; lee@lamorindaweekly.com  
Staff Writers: Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com Steve Angelides; steve@lamorindaweekly.com  
Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com Kevin Shallat, Sports Reporter; kevin@lamorindaweekly.com  
Chris Lavin; chris@lamorindaweekly.com Zack Farmer, Sports Reporter; zack@lamorindaweekly.com  
Cathy Tyson; cathy@lamorindaweekly.com

From our Interns, the following Students contributed stories or photos this week: Gavin Schlissel

Advertising: Wendy Wuertth-Scheck; 925-330-1983, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

25,000 printed copies; 23,300 mailed to homes and businesses in Lamorinda. 1,200 delivered to pick up locations. Layout Andy Scheck, Moraga. Printed in California.

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# Life in LAMORINDA

## Lamorinda Businesses Catch the WiFi Wave

By Jennifer Wake



Ruben (19), searches the Internet at SiSi's Caffé, Moraga



Wi-Fi sign at MacDonld's in Lafayette



Panache Café in Lafayette offers free Wi-Fi

With the explosion of wireless Internet use, local restaurants and businesses have been expanding operations into the Ether, adding WiFi networks – which provide wireless, high speed connectivity for computer users – to their businesses to attract new customers.

When the owner of SiSi's Caffé, Cathy Corsi, decided to upgrade the computer system at her Moraga café two months ago, the technician suggested she add the WiFi component.

"I thought, 'Why not?'" she said. "We have been wanting to do it for a long time, but never got it done." Corsi now sees patrons conducting business meetings or doing homework on their computers both inside her café and outside on her patio tables.

The difference with SiSi's Caffé, however, is that the connection is free. Although there are many establishments in the Lamorinda area that offer WiFi connection, such as the Starbuck's in Orinda's Theatre Square, many of them charge for the service.

Panache Café in Lafayette, which also offers free WiFi access, installed the system to attract customers to their shop near Trader Joe's. "We hoped people would come in to use the Internet and stay to buy some coffee," said one employee.

The idea is working.

On a quiet Wednesday morning, Training Coordinator Laura Duede sat at a corner table, files surrounding her open laptop, a steaming cup of coffee close within reach.

"I was in the area and looking for an Internet café," Duede said. "My friend from Lafayette told me to come here. When I do work remotely, it's better than working at home. I get a lot more done at coffee shops."

And it's not just cafés that are catching on. In the past few years, WiFi connections have been popping up at locations throughout the United States, including bus and airport terminals, local McDonalds restaurants, and even campgrounds in obscure locations like Columbia Falls, Montana. Cities like Pleasanton and parts of the Silicon Valley have installed WiFi transmitters to provide free network access for outdoor seating at downtown businesses.

Saint Mary's College has WiFi systems in their library as well many classrooms and other areas on campus. They intend to include WiFi in all of its dorms by next year.

For SiSi's Caffé employee Ali Drury, who attends UC Davis, having WiFi as a college student is vital. "I can bring my laptop to campus and get work done between classes," she said. "We had to have wireless in our apartment. We have six people, and

that's six computers." The trick is making sure the connection is strong enough for the demand. Some business owners in cities offering the free service complain about spotty access to the Internet from sidewalk cafes and in dining rooms, and Jet Blue has had complaints by passengers who were unable to log on to the airline's free service because of an overloaded system. For now, Lamorinda cities are taking a wait-and-see approach before installing the service on a broad scale, relying on individual business owners to take the lead. For Corsi, it's all about stepping into the 21st century. "I'm so excited about doing this," she said.

For a partial list of WiFi locations in the Lamorinda area, visit [www.wi-fihotspotlist.com](http://www.wi-fihotspotlist.com).



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## Keeping Cool in Lamorinda, from page 1

By Sophie Braccini

Lamorinda is usually blessed with mild weather; it's rarely too hot to move or too cold to even consider leaving the warmth of our homes. But on those several days that seem to come each summer when the mercury rises above our comfort level, a cool splash in the water is a welcome relief.

It can be hard to find a public place in Lamorinda to frolic in the water. Our area is strewn with private clubs, from the low key "Cabana" of the Campolindo Homeowners Association to the posh Orinda

Country Club. But for those who do not own a pool and are not "members," splashes are scarce.

For the kids, Moraga Commons, at the corner of Moraga Rd and St Mary's Blvd, offers a fun sprinkler-like experience where your little ones can delight themselves for hours. Kids have also been seen splashing gleefully in public fountains, but this is not really the purpose for which these decorative structures were intended.

For public swimming, your only option is the Soda

Aquatic Center, behind Campolindo High School on Moraga Rd; a lap swim can be purchased a ticket at a time. Hours until August 17 are Monday to Friday 7:00-9:30am 12:00- 2:30pm and 11:30 to 2:30 on weekends. There is no recreational swimming at this time, but... stay tuned!

And don't forget the old Slip 'N Slide that can refresh children of all ages, including parents who don't mind the added benefit of providing a source of endless amusement for their neighbors.

## Town Takes Over This Summer's Concerts from Foundation

... continued from page 3

With the nuisance exemption stalled and the concerts continuing, the Foundation brought the issue to a head by requesting that the Town agree to defend the Foundation and hold it harmless from any future lawsuits. The Town's liability attorney rejected that proposal on the theory that the Foundation, not the Town, controlled the concerts. The Foundation responded by offering to assign the band contracts, the sound equipment, and the supervision of the concerts for the rest of

the season to the Town, except that the Foundation would continue to operate the snack bar.

The Council unanimously accepted the Foundation's assignment agreement with several amendments proposed by Councilmember Dave Trotter, including requiring the Foundation to pay the Town \$5,000 for the assignment. Trotter said the money would cover the remaining payments due to the bands plus \$750 for additional costs the Town would incur to supervise the

concerts.

Foundation President Howard Harpham said after the meeting that he was happy with the outcome and that the Foundation would accept the amendments, including the \$5,000 payment. Foundation representatives told the Council that the Foundation would be happy to resume supervising the concerts if the nuisance exemption is adopted. Without that exemption, however, the future of next year's concerts remains uncertain.

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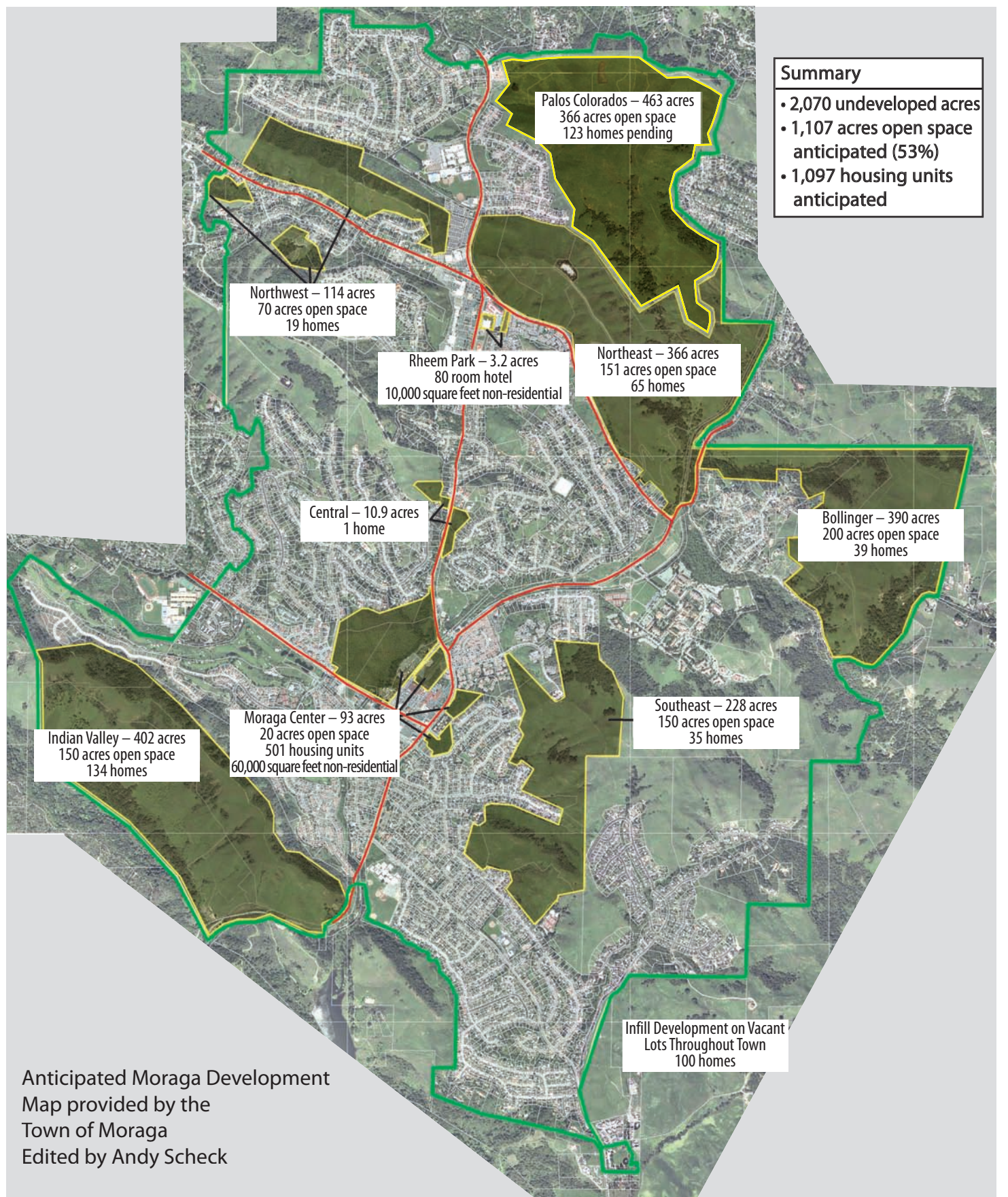
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**Moraga Prepares for Anticipated Development ...continued from page 3**



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**Lamorinda Home Sales continued**



<b>LAFAYETTE</b>	Last reported: 12
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$650,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$2,325,000
<b>MORAGA</b>	Last reported: 5
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$849,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,400,000
<b>ORINDA</b>	Last reported: 12
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$836,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$2,715,000

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 dose 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 Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

- LAFAYETTE**
- 1080 Brown Avenue, \$890,000, 3 Bdrms, 2120 SqFt, 1948 YrBlT, 7-12-07
  - 3302 Glenside Drive, \$1,570,000, 5 Bdrms, 3041 SqFt, 1942 YrBlT, 7-11-07
  - 3209 Greenhills Drive, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 3300 SqFt, 1985 YrBlT, 7-13-07
  - 3702 Highland Court, \$950,000, 4 Bdrms, 2091 SqFt, 1948 YrBlT, 7-11-07
  - 3641 Madrone Drive, \$650,000, 2 Bdrms, 1099 SqFt, 1936 YrBlT, 7-12-07
  - 1316 Masterson Lane, \$1,995,000, 4 Bdrms, 3336 SqFt, 1945 YrBlT, 7-6-07
  - 1212 Monticello Road, \$2,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 3074 SqFt, 1951 YrBlT, 7-10-07
  - 3354 Reliez Highland Road, \$990,000, 3 Bdrms, 1545 SqFt, 1941 YrBlT, 7-13-07
  - 3427 St. Marys Road, \$1,299,000, 3 Bdrms, 2787 SqFt, 1941 YrBlT, 7-10-07
  - 3123 Stanley Boulevard, \$900,000, 5 Bdrms, 2021 SqFt, 1952 YrBlT, 7-10-07
  - 1215 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 2738 SqFt, 1959 YrBlT, 7-6-07
  - 3315 Walnut Lane, \$789,000, 3 Bdrms, 1163 SqFt, 1950 YrBlT, 7-18-07
- MORAGA**
- 10 Berkshire Street, \$849,000, 2 Bdrms, 2142 SqFt, 1978 YrBlT, 7-17-07
  - 4 Glen Eagle, \$890,500, 2 Bdrms, 1918 SqFt, 1985 YrBlT, 7-19-07
  - 16 Irvine Drive, \$902,000, 3 Bdrms, 2235 SqFt, 1985 YrBlT, 7-16-07
  - 1832 Joseph Drive, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2419 SqFt, 1971 YrBlT, 7-10-07
  - 112 La Quinta Street, \$1,380,000, 3 Bdrms, 2349 SqFt, 1981 YrBlT, 7-12-07

**...continued from page 3**

Mercurio said some of those assumptions are already outdated. For example, last year Town staff anticipated 501 new housing units and 60,000 square feet of non-residential development in the Moraga Center Specific Plan Area. But the specific plan project description adopted by the Town Council this year includes up to 720 new housing units and 140,000 square feet of non-residential development.

Because of the size of that area, the amount of infill housing anticipated there, and the presence of public transit, Town staff filed an application with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to have the Moraga Center Specific Plan Area designated as a Priority Development Area. Such a designation would make Moraga eligible to apply for future grants for the area.

The Town Council ratified the application by a 3 to 1 vote, with Councilmember Ken Chew absent. Vice Mayor Lynda Deschambault, who dissented, said she supported the specific plan, but opposed the application because "to ask ABAG to be put on a transportation corridor is ludicrous."

Deschambault and other councilmembers asked the Town staff to consider applying for designation of specified areas in Moraga as Priority Conservation Areas. The deadline for such applications is August 17.

- ORINDA**
- 30 Canyon View Drive, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2419 SqFt, 1959 YrBlT, 7-6-07
  - 6 Eastwood Drive, \$962,500, 4 Bdrms, 1862 SqFt, 1961 YrBlT, 7-9-07
  - 65 Hacienda Circle, \$903,000, 4 Bdrms, 2304 SqFt, 1950 YrBlT, 7-16-07
  - 2 Hidden Lane, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 3507 SqFt, 1953 YrBlT, 7-6-07
  - 109 La Espiral, \$1,895,000, 4 Bdrms, 3470 SqFt, 1992 YrBlT, 7-17-07
  - 26 Parklane Drive, \$1,075,000, 3 Bdrms, 1806 SqFt, 1946 YrBlT, 7-6-07
  - 2 Sol Brae Way, \$870,000, 7-11-07
  - 4 Sol Brae Way, \$1,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 3036 SqFt, 1959 YrBlT, 7-9-07
  - 1 Sunset Terrace, \$1,725,000, 4 Bdrms, 2798 SqFt, 1960 YrBlT, 7-6-07
  - 202 The Knoll, \$910,000, 2 Bdrms, 1210 SqFt, 1974 YrBlT, 7-18-07
  - 3 Valley View Lane, \$2,715,000, 6 Bdrms, 4915 SqFt, 1989 YrBlT, 7-18-07
  - 18 Woodland Road, \$836,000, 2 Bdrms, 1281 SqFt, 1940 YrBlT, 7-17-07
  - 56 Via Floreado, \$1,780,000, 5 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1989 YrBlT, 6-22-07



# School is out - yeah!

# Have fun, kids! Lamorinda Weekly team

## Burns Takes the Helm at JM

... continued from page 1

I have been blessed to work with so many fabulous educators, students and parents and I am grateful to them for their support to establish LP and maintain a quality educational program for all students."

His immediate goals for JM, Burns explains, "Are to plan for the opening (of the school year), implement the programs and activities that the JM staff began last year, and most importantly, take the time to listen to students, staff and parents to fully appreciate the school culture."

Burns is also preparing LP for the interim administrator, and is confident that the school will not suffer from the loss of its long-time principal. "Los Perales has a solid foundation, excellent operations in place and quite possibly the most talented and veteran staff ever. The PTA is incredibly well organized, productive and their impact at LP grows every year. Overall, LP is running very smoothly resulting in a high level of comfort for me in leaving to try something new."



Bruce "Grease" Burns gets into the Halloween spirit

Photo by Judy Rowland  
The District timeline calls for a permanent principal to be in place at LP by January, 2008.

## Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop Continues to Amaze

By Lee Borrowman



The Alex Murzyn Combo takes a turn on stage

Last Friday evening families and friends of students participating in Bob Athayde's Summer Music Jazz Workshop were treated to a closing concert featuring twenty three student combo bands led by Workshop instructors and culminating in instructor performances that brought the house down. The area surrounding the Multi-Purpose Room at Stanley Middle School was reminiscent of a major concert or jazz festival; catering trucks lined the parking lot and volunteer staffers scurried here and there in the flawless execution of a well-scripted production.

Finishing its ninth year, the Summer Music Jazz Workshop draws students and teachers not only from Lamorinda but from all over Northern California. The

venue, overflowing with performers and audience members, vibrated with youthful energy. Twelve year old trumpet player Molly Pines (pictured, center) spoke highly of the Music Theory and Masters trumpet classes, but says her favorite part of the Workshop was, "the free period jam sessions. Groups of students and instructors would just get together and play." When her turn to perform ended, Molly practically floated off the stage to receive hugs and congratulations from her family, including mom Randi Pines, a Generations in Jazz board member; the faces of mother and daughter were wreathed in smiles.

The instructors appeared to be having nearly as much fun as the students.

While listening from the sidelines, piano teachers Jon Palacio and Frank Sumares both said they are proud to be part of the program. Sumares enthused, "I've been teaching at the workshop since it began, and it's a real pleasure to watch the growth and improvement of the students. There's so much great positive energy here." A father of three girls, Sumares also appreciates the gender diversity in the program: "Who says girls can only play flute and violin? Here we've got lady saxophone teachers and girl drummers!" Palacio, teaching at the Workshop for his third year, says the small class sizes offer great opportunities for instructors to really focus on individual students, and the instructors enjoy being around each other. "We're all here for the same reason, and we're all on the same wavelength. I've taught at other music camps, and this is probably the best jazz camp there is."

The Summer Music Jazz Workshop would not be possible without the support of the community, including LASF, Generations in Jazz, the Julia Burke Foundation and too many more to list. For more information, go to [www.lafsmw.org](http://www.lafsmw.org).

## Paul Caccamo's Postcard

August 1: There have been many milestones on this long journey; 100 miles way back in April, 500 miles in the Mojave Desert, and 1000 miles in the deep canyons of northern Yosemite were all big ones. Perhaps the biggest so far came last week however: 1332.5 miles, the halfway point of the Pacific Crest Trail. A rather unassuming spot, but we celebrated later that night at a ridgeline campsite in Lassen National Park. A fellow by the name of Allegheny from northern Virginia happened to have a stash of cigars with him of which we availed ourselves to mark the occasion. It took Figaro and I only three months to make it this far, and it does not take a mathematician to realize we will have to pick up our pace if we are to make the Canadian

border by October 1. Accordingly, we have been hiking longer miles and taking fewer days off. 25 miles a day is now our goal, and it is surprisingly easy when one considers that three short months ago a 15-mile day was the norm. But time is not necessarily on our side. The days are getting noticeably shorter and the sun no longer automatically wakes us before 5:30 am. Yes, we have many miles to go (1,163 to be exact) but today is a rest day in the sprawling metropolis of Mt. Shasta City. As usual the day off has been eaten up by things like laundry, shopping for food, eating (a lot), and finding internet access. We are hoping to catch the Simpsons movie tonight, but we also have a bunch of microbrews to drink. What is a

poor thru-hiker to do? It is certainly too early to get all introspective about what this journey has meant to me, but I can say with complete certainty that the best thing about it has not been the incredible scenery, it has not been the constant diet of fresh air and water and sunshine, it has not been the physical shape that such a journey forces one's body into, nor has it been the ability to eat any and all junk food with no consequences whatsoever. No, it has clearly been the people I have met along the way. There is a camaraderie that comes with being crazy enough to think hiking 2650 miles is a good idea.

I have to leave this library computer, but here's a quick dose of reality: I don't enjoy hiking all the time. Very often I'm just looking forward to the next break when I can hang out with the people I'm with, drinking spring water straight out of a mountain-side. If I didn't think this was worth the effort I'd be home tomorrow, so as long as you keep hearing from me, it means the good outweighs the bad by a long-shot.

1506 miles in the bank, wish me luck, gotta go now!  
Paul C



Paul Caccamo

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## A New Face at Stanley Middle School

By Lee Borrowman

Students arriving at Stanley on the first day of school will be greeted by the smiling face of new principal David Schrag. When the Lamorinda Weekly caught up with Schrag in early August, he was already hard at work preparing for the all too rapidly approaching school year. Classroom assignment charts dot the walls of his office, and teachers and parents alike drop by to offer greetings.

"I'm just amazed at the quality of the programs that exist here at Stanley," says a delighted Schrag. "The administrative team is unbelievable, and the fact that Stanley has retained such outstanding teachers year after year speaks volumes about the caliber of the school."

Although kids of this age can be a challenge to parents and teachers alike, Schrag likes working with middle school students. "You don't work at a middle school unless you enjoy the age group," says Schrag, continuing, "I'm excited about working with

kids at this at transition age; it's an incredible opportunity for enrichment when you can set high goals for students and see them achieve; it's a golden time in their lives, when kids really come into their own."

Schrag brings to Stanley a collaborative approach to management coupled with emotional intelligence and the desire to build strong, respectful relationships with teachers, students and parents. "I have always been an accessible and visible presence, whether it's in the classroom or supervising the playground. To be effective, a principal needs to know the teachers' programs, know what's going on in the classrooms and be in touch with the pulse of the school."

In announcing Schrag's appointment, the Lafayette School District said, "David was an essential member of a school leadership team that focused on using data to improve student achievement." Schrag discussed this data



David Schrag

Photo by Lee Borrowman

management tool which he says, "Allows us to break down and disaggregate information about students' progress, strengths and weaknesses; in short, who's doing what well." Accessible from a workstation, a teacher can pull up data from this year and last. Its framework is STAR test-based, but other external data can be uploaded as well. "We are also developing collaborative assessment tools to measure students' progress in the areas of critical and creative thinking."

Schrag is a graduate of UC

Davis and Stanford, and was an Assistant Principal at Ralston Middle School in San Mateo County. He lives in Walnut Creek with his wife and two young children. And yes, the rumors are true – in addition to his many strengths as an academic administrator, Schrag is also an accomplished hip-hop dancer. The Stanley community will be looking forward to his first performance, and your friendly neighborhood newspaper hopes to be in attendance (camera at the ready).

## Orinda Academy Celebrates 25 Years

Submitted by Orinda Academy Staff

Orinda Academy, a fully accredited college preparatory school located in the heart of downtown Orinda, is celebrating its 25th year of helping students, 7th through 12th grade, discover a love of higher learning in a safe and nurturing environment. Orinda Academy challenges every student to reach their full potential, academically and individually. In celebrating its success, Orinda Academy is proud to announce the addition of several new faculty and staff members.

Robyn Lindner joins Orinda Academy after



Elaine Hester

Elaine Hester will be Orinda Academy's Computer Teacher/Technology Coordinator. Elaine's extensive computer background has supported her role as a digital artist in various projects including feature film animation in The Matrix Re-



Debbie Parish with daughter Emily

teaching for several years at Mt. Diablo and San Ramon High Schools. Robyn will be teaching dance, English I and II, and ESL. Robyn attended St. Mary's College and received a BA in Communications and Performing Arts, with an emphasis in dance. She also earned her single subject teaching credential in English and dance.

Elaine Chu comes to Orinda Academy from previously teaching at Galileo High School in San Francisco. She will be teaching Geography, Modern World History, and Women's Literature. Elaine has a B.A. in History from UC Berkeley and a social studies single subject credential from San Francisco State.

loaded. She earned a BFA in Computer Arts from the Academy of Art in San Francisco and an MS in Educational Technology Leadership, magna cum laude, from California State University East Bay.

Debbie Parish, a resident of Moraga, joins our staff as Director of Admissions. Debbie has previous experience in independent school admissions and has an extensive background in educational sales and marketing. Debbie received a BA in Marketing from Northeastern University.

Orinda Academy is excited to welcome these new additions to the school and is looking forward to another 25 years of success and growth.

## Neighbors React to Allegations of Coach's Bad Behavior

By Cathy Tyson

Recently Acalanes Varsity Basketball coach Russ Scheibley found himself the subject of two players' family's claims. John Clouse, one of the disgruntled parents, is quite open about what he wants to see happen. "I hope he gets fired. You don't need to abuse them every day to motivate the players. The school is condoning his behavior." Mr. and Mrs. Clouse along with Mr. and Mrs. Hampton allege coach Scheibley has a history of throwing basketballs at players and being verbally abusive.

Other players on the team signed a letter in support of the coach. Where does the truth lie? On August 15th, a third party investigator is scheduled to report to the school board with its findings. "This is a personnel issue, and employees have a right to privacy," says District Superintendent Jim Negri. "We are

currently working through our complaint policy." The Board will issue a response upon completion of the investigation. In addition to filing complaints, the two sets of parents also filed Tort claims. The District has taken no action on those, as it is still within the 45-day window to accept or reject the claims.

Coach Ken Nelson, who is currently the Campolindo Junior Varsity Coach, had worked with coach Scheibley in the past said, "He can be very loud at times. I never personally heard him use foul language. I never saw him cross the line. The problem is the parents don't see the kids during practice." Campo wrestling coach Bob McLaughlin states, "Why would you subject yourself to the long hours and low pay if you didn't love to work with kids and enjoy being a mentor? There's more to coaching

than helping with athletic skills, you teach right and wrong."

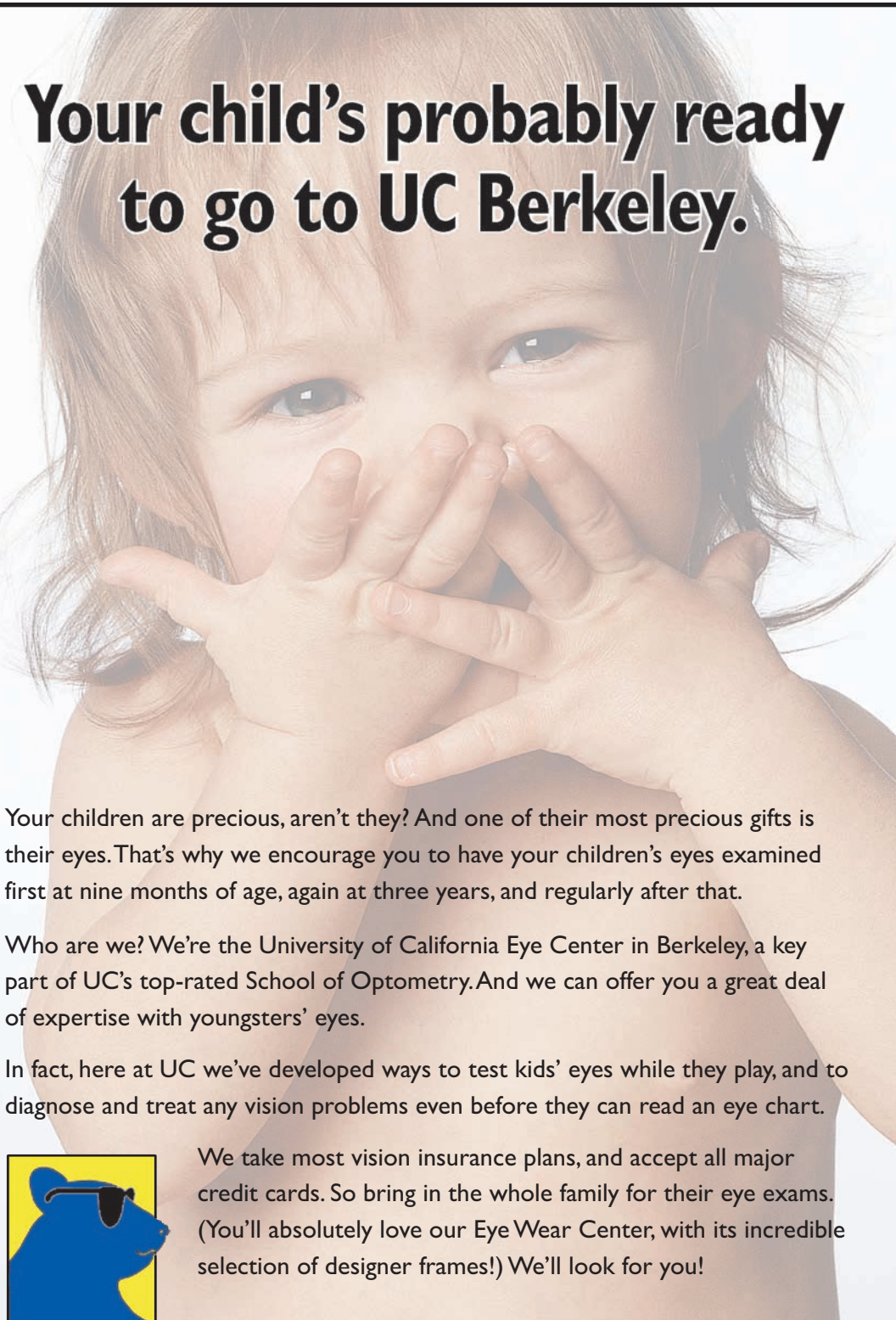
In the meantime, parents throughout Lamorinda have definite opinions about what's going on. In a very unscientific poll, Lamorinda parents I spoke with had comments that fell into two camps, coaches can definitely be abusive or parents are way too involved in their kids' teams. Of the many parents I spoke with most seemed to agree with parent micro-management. One parent and long time coach echoed these sentiments, "Coaches haven't changed much, it's the sensitivity from the parents that has changed. 'Can't be my kid, must be the coach.' Lamorinda parents are just more involved, there hasn't been one sport without controversy." He went on to name several high school coaches who have been the subject of parental

complaints.

In the alternative, a concerned mom stated, "My son couldn't stand to be the object of his anger. (This particular coach) turned him off to sports entirely. He certainly is abusive, at times choosing to humiliate players." Lately some students have quit high schools sports teams because they felt the coaches were mean or abusive or both. Mr. Clouse clearly falls into this school of thought, "As a father, I'm not going to sit back and let my son take that kind of abuse."

Where is the line between constructive criticism and abuse? How loud is too loud? No one seems quite sure at the moment. When the Acalanes Union High School Board holds their regular meeting on the 15th, perhaps at least Mr. Scheibley will find out.

# Your child's probably ready to go to UC Berkeley.



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# Food Scrap Recycling in Lamorinda!

Food recycling begins in Lamorinda on September 1!  
Residents are encouraged to use this new program to recycle food scraps with yard waste on a weekly basis.

- **Table Scraps**
- **Fruits**
- **Vegetables**
- **Meat Scraps**
- **Cheese/Dairy**
- **Much More**



Store scraps in the handy container you will receive in August.

Place food scraps in your yard waste cart beginning **September 1 st !**



Visit [www.wastediversion.org](http://www.wastediversion.org) or call 938-8900 for info.

Lamorinda residents only. Sponsored by the CCCSWA. Collection service provided by Valley Waste Management.

# business briefs

## New Businesses and Ribbon Cuttings:

**Lafayette Pet Shoppe** 3517 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette 925 284 5212

The new Pet Shoppe is opening on August 10th in the former location of Petco. Managed by business owner Jorge Quintero, who also manages the Rheem Valley Pet Shoppe in the Rheem Center, the store will feature the whole range of pet supplies as well as live small animals like rabbits, rats, fish etc. The Grand Opening will be held on August 18th and 19th; come for treats, samples and balloons. The store will be open from 9:30 to 7:30 Mon to Fri, Sat 9:00 to 7:00 and Sun 11:00 to 6:00. Quintero will keep the Rheem Shoppe open with additional staff.

## Diverse Business News:



Steve Lambert of Garden Lights Landscape Development

## Garden Lights Landscape Development Inc. 1 Northwood Dr., Orinda 925-254-4797

Steve Lambert of Garden Lights Landscape Development received seven top honors at this year's "Beautification Awards" presented June 8th at the Pleasanton Hotel by the California Landscape Contractor Association's East Bay Chapter Board Members.

Garden Lights Landscape Development received the following awards:

First Place, Small Residential Installation, Kelly Residence, Orinda

First Place, Large Residential Installation, Cella Residence, Orinda

First Place, Small Design/Build Installation, Lee Residence, Oakland

First Place, Large Design/Build Installation, Sninsky Residence, Orinda

Achievement Award, Large Design/Build Installation, Rios Residence, Pleasant Hill

First Place, Special Effects Lighting, Pisenti Residence, Danville

First Place, Large Residential Maintenance, Smith Residence, Danville

There are 15 award categories in this annual competition highlighting the wide scope of work in the field of landscape design, construction, and maintenance. All of the project entries must meet specific criteria to be submitted for consideration in this annual competition. East Bay Landscape Contractors and Designers send in their entries anonymously and their work is viewed and judged by industry experts from outside the area. "I submitted seven entries to be judged for this year's competition," said Lambert. "That's more than I've ever entered before but we installed so many great gardens this past year that I just couldn't narrow down my entries any further." Lambert has been designing and installing landscapes, pools, lighting, ponds and water features in the Lamorinda area for the past 17 years.

## Hilton House Consign & Design, Inc. 21 Orinda Way - Orinda 925-254-1113, www.hiltonhousedesign.com

Annual Customer Appreciation Day, Saturday August 11th 1 to 5:00 PM.

## News from the three Chambers of Commerce:

**Lafayette Chamber of Commerce- www.lafayettechamber.org**  
August 10th at 8 a.m. Coffee with the Mayor in the Lafayette Chamber Conference Room

August 16th at 8:30 a.m. Entrepreneur's Club meet in the Lafayette Chamber Conference Room.

Friday night at 6 p.m. "Rock the Plaza" free concerts series sponsored by the Lafayette Chamber, the City of Lafayette and Red House Studios, in Lafayette's Plaza Park (at the corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd and Moraga Rd). Groups featured are: Aug. 10th: Stone Soup; Aug. 17th: Total Eclipse; Aug. 24th: Stage Frite. Food available or bring a picnic.

## Chamber of Commerce of Moraga - www.moragabiz.com:

August 25th from 5 to 10 p.m., the Chamber of Commerce of Moraga invites the community to an authentic Hawaiian "Luau" with live entertainment and Hawaiian buffet. Advance tickets are \$45 for adults and \$10 for children 6-12 (children under 6 are free). For additional information go to www.moragaluau.com or call (925) 262-4277.

## Orinda Chamber of Commerce- www.orindachamber.org

If you have a business brief to share, please contact Sophie Braccini at [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com) or contact Lamorinda Weekly at 925-377-0977.



Lamorinda Weekly's Business Reporter Sophie Braccini

lives in Moraga with her husband and children. She joined the staff spontaneously the moment she heard about us. Reach her at: [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)



## David McCaulou - Dominating Local Retail

By Cathy Tyson

Harken back to 1963, "Petticoat Junction" made its television debut, John F. Kennedy was President and Jack Nicklaus won the Masters. Lafayette, California was the land of opportunity, anything was possible. That's the year a young David R. McCaulou opened the first McCaulou's department store in the main Lafayette shopping center along Mt. Diablo Boulevard. It did so well, he opened his second store in Moraga. He must be doing something right; it's been forty-four years since that first store opened, and his retail empire has grown and prospered.

Now in his seventh decade, Mr. Caulou is still hard at work. "People ask me how come you don't play golf? I tell them I play 'store.'" When asked about possible retirement, he says, "I

have too much to do, we're always expanding or remodeling."

Now he operates 17 stores, including 9 McCaulou's outlets; in addition to the three in Lamorinda, there are stores in Napa, Sonoma, Danville, Montclair, Walnut Creek and Concord. Rounding out his retail stores are Madison in Lafayette and Montclair Village and Hollyhock in Orinda and Sonoma along with two David M. Brian stores, one in Walnut Creek and one in Greenbrae. Finally, Bancroft Clothing Co. which has internet sales as well as a large retail space is run by son David B. McCaulou, who goes by 'Dave.' Daughter Nancy is the children's buyer for all the stores. Even the grandchildren help out occasionally in the summer.

The one thing you won't

find in any of the stores is Stanford merchandise. Founder David R. McCaulou went to high school in Oakland and college at U.C. Berkeley. In most McCaulou's there's a collection of Cal wear, along with a selection of clothing for the whole family - the original intent from the very first store on.

When asked to what he attributes his success, Mr. McCaulou replies, "...a spirit of teamwork, the ability to detect what the customer wants and a level of service that people expect."

The McCaulou family is an integral part of Lamorinda. David R. McCaulou still lives in the area, his kids, who are now all grown up, went to school at Sleepy Hollow, O.I.S and Miramonte. Daughter Nancy and son David B. still live in the area.



## Lafayette Entrepreneur's Club

### An Alliance of Independent Business Professionals

By Sophie Braccini



Jay Lifson, Executive Director Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

In the building of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, at 100 Circle Dr, on every third Thursday of the month, a group of local entrepreneurs meets at 8:30 AM. Prior to the July 19th meeting of the Lafayette Entrepreneur's Club, Jay Lifson, Master of Ceremony and Lafayette Chamber's Executive Director, warned: "This is summer, we might not have as much attendance as usual." But the room filled up quickly with men and women from all types of businesses. There was such a large turnout that late comers had to go in search of extra chairs.

The meeting started with new comers introducing themselves and their businesses. Business cards began to circulate as people identified potential opportu-

nities, common interests and synergies. The entrepreneurs present were diverse, among this crowd I met Bonny Weil, General Contractor, Luanne Stevenson, Pajaro Group, Chef Dan Leff, caterer, Gregory White of Nowville, AJ Nisen Bank of America Mortgage, Deborah Hoffman, Reliv International and Jacques Bernou, acupuncturist. After Jay Lifson spoke about upcoming events, Light Energy Systems gave a presentation on why solar investment makes sense today for businesses and home owners, sparking a lively discussion amongst the participants.

The group was started in 2002 as an effort to promote home-based businesses. At that time, about 20% of the 500 members of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce were home based businesses. For about a year, volunteers provided a good deal of the leadership and meetings were effective at keeping members "in the loop." Then, it seemed as if some of the enthusiasm and focus of the meetings dissipated. Involvement by members seemed to drop off from where it had been. When Jay Lifson began his job at the Chamber in April

of 2005, he saw the need to instill new life into the system and started a "Home Based Business Club." Soon thereafter, the club renamed itself the "Entrepreneurs Club" in order to avoid the negative connotations often associated with home-based business owners that run their business in their bathrobes. Michelle Billing and Keith Vaisnor are now the co-chairs of the Club, and have been the driving force to get the Club where it is today.

The group is funded by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. It is open to entrepreneurs who are not necessarily Chamber members. "After they've come to the Entrepreneur's meetings," notes Lifson, "about 50% end up becoming Chamber members." Being a member of the Club provides many benefits: participation in a business fair, learning to develop an "Elevator Speech", relevant business tips and training, and being

part of a caring business community.

The Club's best representatives are the members themselves. Karen Stein relates, "I've appreciated getting to know the folks in the E-Club because it is such a great way for those of us in service businesses who don't have the visible retail or restaurant storefronts on Mt. Diablo Blvd. to get connected to the larger Lafayette business community." Chef Dan Leff comments: "I find that the Lafayette Entrepreneur's Group is most useful because of its unique combination of being both friendly and serious. Attendees are there to learn and do business; networking occurs organically at these meetings. Some of the most productive times I've had have occurred AFTER the E-Club meeting when I'll sit down to discuss business on a one-on-one basis with another E-Club attendee."

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**ASIA PALACE RESTAURANT:**

**A Place Transformed**

By Cayo N. Marschner

For the past several years, many of us locals, including Saint Mary's staffers and students, have known this restaurant first as Shangrila, then as Fan's Chinese restaurant.

On May 2, after a month of remodeling, new owners Allan Lin and his wife, Jie Wang, have transformed the space into a warm, handsome interior with a marble sushi bar as the focal point. The walls are a pleasing combination of subtle burnt orange and burgundy decorated with understated pieces of modern art. There are four banquettes alongside and the tables of highly lacquered wood are complemented by black straight backed chairs. Soft jazz was playing in the background the night we ate there.

It was surprisingly busy for a weeknight, and my husband, Fred, was very pleased that his beer was served in a chilled glass. Being a wine connoisseur he noted that Asia Palace had an excellent wine list, very unusual for a smaller neighborhood Chinese restaurant.

There is a separate menu for the sushi selections and we began with very fresh California roll. We enjoyed their version of the standard sweet and sour chicken - made with fresh pineapple with sauce lighter than the thick goop often found. That was when we learned that Allan prepares all the sauces. The brown rice was surprisingly light and fluffy. The timing of the cooking of the lemongrass chicken was perfect, the morsels tender but we found the flavor lackluster or perhaps just too subtle for our palates. The best dish was the very flavorful al dente sautéed green beans and



From the Sushi Bar: Flying Dragon Roll. Inside: Tempura Shrimp & Crab Meat, Outside: Toppe w/white Tuna



Sushi Chef Xu Shi Sam

julienne beef - sensational! The complimentary fresh orange, traditionally segmented, was the perfect ending.

"We envisioned Asia Palace as a restaurant that features the harmony of Japanese and Chinese cuisines," explained Jie Wang. "Japanese food is healthful and very good to eat in warm weather. Chinese food tastes good, especially in cold weather, but it is too oily so we are offering more healthful versions of familiar dishes."

Allan, who is originally from Shanghai, lived in Japan for five years where he worked in the restaurant business. In addition to managing Asia Palace, he enjoys serving his customers and ensuring they are satisfied. He works with another Chinese chef and a Japanese sushi chef. Jie Wang comes in occasionally to help when she is not taking care of their three month old.

Lamorinda welcomes Allan Lin, Jie Wang and Asia Palace Restaurant!

**ASIA PALACE RESTAURANT WITH SUSHI BAR:**

1460 B Moraga Road, Moraga Center  
Telephone 925-376-0809  
Open Monday thru Friday:  
Lunch 11:00-2:30; Dinner 4:00 - 9:00  
Saturday: 12:00 - 9:00; Sunday Dinner: 4:00 - 9:00

*You are invited to join the Chamber of Commerce of Moraga For an Authentic Hawaiian Luau & Entertainment*

**Nani, u'i, maika'i Moraga ~ Beautiful Moraga ~**

**Saturday, August 25th 5:00 ~ 10:00pm**

*at the Old Moraga Ranch on School Street*

*Luau with authentic Hawaiian food, 2 hours of Hawaiian & Tahitian entertainment, live music and enjoyment for the entire family!*

**Advance Tickets: Adults \$45, Children 6-12 \$10**

**At The Door: Adults \$50, Children 6-12 \$15**

*Children under 5 will be free.*

*Tickets are available at The UPS Store in Moraga or on line at [www.moragalauu.com](http://www.moragalauu.com)*

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LAMORINDA's Restaurants		
• updated July 25, 2007 •		
<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
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
Shelby's	2 Theatre Sq, Ori	254-9687
<b>Caribbean</b>		
Calypso Bar & Grill	2 Theatre Sq, Suite 153, Ori	258-9686
<b>Chinese</b>		
Asia Palace Restaurant	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809
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 Cafe	290 Village Square, Ori	254-6080
<b>Continental</b>		
Petar's Restaurant	32 Lafayette Cir, Laf	284-7117
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>		
Asia 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>		
Asia Palace Sushi Bar	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809
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 Cafe	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	3518D 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 Cafe	484 Center St, Mor	376-1551
Kasper's Hot Dogs	103 Moraga Way, Ori	253-0766
Noah's Bagels	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0716
Orinda Deli	19 F Orinda Way, Ori	254-1990
<b>Singaporean/Malaysian</b>		
Kopitiam	3647 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1653
<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) so that we may correct our list for the next issue.

# OMPA Championships Provides Largest Field of Competitors

... continued from page 1

On Saturday afternoon, the crowd rose to its feet for the last individual race: the 15-18 50 Yard Breaststroke. It was the closest race of the afternoon, with the top three positions finishing with times within one second of each other. Moraga Country Club's (MCC) Kevin Brown, 18, took the gold with a time of 28.08 seconds. Campolindo Cabana Club's (CCC) Nick Wood, 18, finished second with a time of 28.34. Finishing with the bronze was Orinda Park's Baker Wenning, 15.

As part of winning two gold medals in the finals, 10-year-old Tyler Bartis of CCC set a course



Rachel Cleak (2nd left) dives in to win 50 yard Free Style

Photo by Gavin Schissel



Christina Schultz, 2nd in 100 yard Free Style, Orinda Park Pool

Photo by Gavin Schissel



Moraga Valley Pool cheering section

Photos by Gavin Schissel

record for the Boys 9-10 50 Yard Breaststroke with a time of 35.64. This broke a seven-year-old record of 35.78 held by Nick Mascheroni.

Along with Bartis, five other swimmers walked away with multiple medals in the finals. Eight-year-old Abigail Smudsky of Meadow Swim and Country Club swam her way to two gold medals, one in the 7-8 25 Yard Freestyle and the other in the 25 Yard Breaststroke. Representing MCC, nine-year-old Bridget Coleman walked away with a bronze and a gold medal in the 50 Yard Freestyle and the 50 Yard Breaststroke respectively.

Moraga Ranch's Annie Shurtz, 12, took home two medals, one bronze and one gold. Orinda Country Club's (OCC) Charlie Wiser, 12, also walked away with two medals - both gold - with times of 24.60 and 31.68 in the two events. Wiser's teammate Nicholas Zolintakis, 14, also walked away with two medals: one gold and one silver. Zolintakis was only millisecond away from another gold medal in the 50 Yard Breaststroke, losing it by .26 seconds.

Three swimmers took gold



Stefan Miller cheers his team

as they crushed long-time Backstroke records in three age categories. Moraga Country Club's Kevin Brown beat Bayani Flores' (MIRA) 1996 15-18 50 Yard Backstroke record with a time of 24.57; Meadow Swim & Tennis Club's Nicholas Deaver came in with a record time of 25.99 in the boys 13-14 50 Yard Backstroke; and Orinda Park Pool's Robbie Fluegge came in under Chris Dyer's (MR) 2004 record time of 28.97 with a time of 27.95 in the boys 11-12 50 Yard Backstroke event.

Other record breakers included Charlie Wiser (OCC) in the boys 11-12 100 Yard IM with a time of 1:00.94 and Nicholas Deaver (MSTC) in the boys 13-14 category.

The support for the swimmers was very visible in each team's persona. Luecker said, "These teams all picked themes to cheer their teams on."

Ten pools in the Lamorinda area were represented at the meet, including: Meadow, MCC, Moraga Ranch, CCC, Orinda Park, Miramonte, Sleepy Hollow, Moraga Valley Pool (MVP), Moraga Tennis and Swim Club, and OCC. The Championship Meet is the culmination of a full season of swim competition between the teams in the league.

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Orinda Country Club holds their 1st place trophy

Photo by Gavin Schissel

ORINDA/MORAGA POOLS ASSOCIATION 51st ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP MEET (2007)			
Team Rankings - Through Event 84			
Combined Team Scores			
Place	Team		Points
1	Orinda Country Club	OCC	2,299
2	Moraga Country Club	MCC	1,922
3	Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis	SH	1,877
4	Meadow Swim & Tennis Club	MEAD	1,543
5	Orinda Park Pool	PARK	1,410
6	Campolindo Cabana Club	CCC	1,332
7	Moraga Valley Pool Swim Team	MVP	1,259
8	Moraga Ranch Swim Team	MRSC	1,025
9	Moraga Tennis & Swim Club	MTSC	540
10	Miramonte Swim Club	MIRA	481
Total			13,690

2007 Individual High Point Awards					
Girls					
Age	Place	Name	Place/Stroke	Points	Team
6 & under	1	Megan Colpo	2/ Free	32	MVP
	2	Ashleen O'Brien	3/ Free	31	CCC
7-8	1	Abigail Smudsky	1/ Free	51	MEAD
	2	Nicole Jackson	1/ Breast	46	PARK
	3	Caroline King	4/ Free	45	MRSC
9-10	1	Megan Reid	1/ Back	51	MVP
	2	Emily Byrne	4/ Free	45	MEAD
	3	Bridget Coleman	3/ Free	43	MCC
11-12	1	Megan Howard	1/ Free	49	OCC
	2	Natalie Redig	2/ Breast	45	SH
13-14	1	Rachel Cleak	1/ Free	49	CCC
	2	Meredith White	2/ Free	47	SH
	3	Jenna Haufler	5/ IM	44	OCC
15-18	1	Katie Bilotti	1/ IM	49	SH
	2	Lindsey Jackson	4/ Breast	45	OCC
	3	Christina Schultz	2/ 100 Free	41	PARK

Boys					
Age	Place	Name	Place/Stroke	Points	Team
6 & under	1	Garrett Dunn	1/ Free	34	OCC
	2	Lucas Allen	3/ Free	31	MCC
	3	Leo Berkman	2/ Free	30	SH
7-8	1	Stephen Schmidt	1/ Breast	51	OCC
	2	Max Murphy	3/ IM	42	SH
9-10	1	Tyler Bartis	2/ Free	51	CCC
	2	Henry Baer	1/ IM	45	OCC
11-12	1	Charlie Wiser	1/ Free	51	OCC
	2	Robbie Fluegge	2/ IM	47	PARK
	3	Jason Lammert	2/ Breast	44	SH
13-14	1	Nicholas Deaver	1/ Back	51	MEAD
	2	Nicholas Zolintakis	2/ IM	47	OCC
	3	Aleck Ryner	2/ Free	45	MEAD
15-18	1	Kevin Brown	1/ Breast	51	MCC
	2	Dana Foster	1/ 50 Free	46	CCC
	3	Jackson Sharf	2/ 100 Free	43	PARK

Meet Records - OMPA 2007									
New Record					Old Record				
Swimmer Name	Team	Event	Time	Finals Time	Swimmer Name	Team	Year	Time	
Charlie Wiser	OCC	11-12 Boys 100 IM	1:00.94		Michael Sargent	MCC	1987	1:02.42	
Nicholas Deaver	MEAD	13-14 Boys 100 IM	55.89		Chris Dyer	MRSC	2004		
Tyler Bartis	CCC	9-10 Boys 50 Breast	35.64		Ian Fisher	MEAD	1994	57.12	
Robbie Fluegge	PARK	11-12 Boys 50 Back	28.83	27.95	Nick Mascheroni	MTSC	2000	28.97	
Nicholas Deaver	MEAD	13-14 Boys 50 Back	26.12	25.99	Ian Fisher	MEAD	1994	26.41	
Kevin Brown	MCC	15-18 Boys 50 Back	24.57		Bayani Flores	MIRA	1996	24.90	
Gabe Ostler	SH	11-12 Boys 200 Medley Relay	2:00.24		Michael Worthing	OCC	2005	2:00.84	

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# SPORTS

## LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



### OBA Pinto All Stars Win 4th of July Tournament in Fremont

Submitted by Sandra McGonigle

The OBA Titans won all six of their games at the FNYB 4th of July Tournament, four by lopsided scores, to bring home the 8 & Under title. The championship game was very exciting and tightly contested. The Fremont Cal Ripken team took an 8-7 lead with a grand slam in the top of the fifth. The Titans responded with six straight hits to open the bottom of the fifth, however, and ended up scoring six huge runs in that decisive frame en route to a thrilling 13-11 victory.



Team members and coaches with their trophies Photo by Mollie Ricksen

### Lamorinda Hockey Players Give Jr. Sharks Bite

Submitted by Christina Churchill



As the youngest member of the San Jose Jr. Sharks Major Novice hockey team, Ian Churchill, age 8, from Springhill Elementary School, took second place in the Whistler International All-Star Tournament in Whistler, British Columbia on July 2, 3, and 4. The Jr. Sharks beat the Jr. Eagles from Surrey, B.C., the California Cougars from Cupertino, and the B.C. Outback; an all-star team from upper British Columbia. Head coaches of this team include Randy Churchill and his father, Tom Churchill – both long time Lafayette residents.

Nathan Churchill, age 11, incoming Stanley Mid-



dle School 6th grader, joined the San Jose Jr. Sharks Minor Pee Wee hockey team

to win the gold medal at the Whistler International All-Star Tournament in Whistler, British Columbia on July 11, 12, and 13. As a goalie, Nathan earned MVP in the second game against The Storm; a Vancouver all-star team, a shut-out against West Coast Hockey Club from Nanaimo, B.C., and another MVP in the final gold medal game, again against The Storm. The Jr. Sharks won 2-1 in overtime.

For more information on the Jr. Sharks hockey program, go to [www.sjir-sharks.com](http://www.sjir-sharks.com)

### Sherman Divers Show Prowess at Nationals

Submitted by Steve Sherman



Left to right: Katie Copenhagen, Laura Winn, Steve Sherman, Codu Sunkel, Brianna Nicholson

Four divers from Sherman Swim School accomplished great success in six events at the 2007 AAU Diving Nationals in Orlando, Fla., July 24-29. Lafayette resident, Laura Winn, took 6th place in the 1 Meter Springboard finals (up from 12th place in the prelims) with a score of 317.65. A recent graduate from Acalanes, and a former "class 10" gymnast, Winn plans to continue diving when she attends UCLA in the fall.

Katherine Copenhagen, who is from Orinda and is also an accomplished viola player, finished 35th in the prelims with a score of 237.95. Other personal bests included Las Lomas student Cody Sunkel, who moved from 12th to 9th place in the 3 Meter Springboard finals with a score of 364.00, and Carondelet junior Brianna Nicholson who scored 238.80 in the 1 Meter Springboard, each for their respective age groups.



Laura Winn and Cody Sunkel

### Boys 18 and Under Water Polo Wins National Title

Submitted by Jackie Smith



From left to right (top row) Rob Barter, Kyle Smith, James Perry, Zak Dychtwald, Brendan Whitmore, Stephen Hobbs, Max Parrague, Eric Johnson, Terry Kezer, Boyd LaChance, Kirk Everist, (bottom row) Nick Ferrif, Jackson Sharf, Kevin Peat, Miles Gilhuly, Nick Hoversten, Charlie Steffens, Andrew Milcovich.

The Lamorinda Golden Bears Boys 18 and under water polo team captured the National Jr. Olympic championship Tuesday, July 31 in San Jose. Competing against 48 teams from across the nation who qualified for this competi-

tion, they were the only 18U team to go undefeated in the tournament, beating SoCal Water Polo of Tustin, CA in the Championship game 5-4. The team features players from Acalanes, Campolindo, De La Salle, Las Lomas, Miramonte and

Monte Vista High Schools and is coached by Boyd LaChance, Rob Barter and Kirk Everist. Lamorinda last won the title in 2000. Lamorinda's 16U team also won a bronze medal at the tournament.

### Lamorinda Girls Capture National Soccer Title

Submitted by Dennis Rowland, Edited by Jennifer Wake



The Lamorinda Soccer Club under-17 girls team captured the U.S. Club Soccer premier championship at the U.S. Soccer National Cup VI in Greensboro, N.C., July 28-31. Competing against teams from New Jersey, Minnesota and Maryland, the girls came away undefeated. In the championship game, they dropped Minnesota's Shattuck-St. Mary's 3-0 in a penalty kick shootout following a 2-2 tie in regulation and overtime play to win the Premier U16 Girls flight.

Goals by Marisa Rowland and Alex Salgado, successful penalty kicks by Marissa Crosetti, Corrine Collins and McKenna deBack, together with a spectacular penalty kick save by goalkeeper Laura Bannister helped seal the win.

This win moved the team ranking (according to

GotSoccer.com) to among the top 15 nationally ranked teams in their age group. Team members, who range in age from 15 to 16 years old, include Ashley Aczon, Laura Bannister, Kaelyn Capillo, Corrine Collins, Marissa Crosetti, Katherine Cuyler, McKenna deBack, Moira Heath, Adrienne Johnson, Alexandra McDonald, Kendall Pegan, Marisa Rowland, Alex Salgado, Katherine Sander, Caroline Scofield, Elaine Tanski, Bonnie Zeiger and Allegra Zoller. The team is coached by Mohamed Mohamed and Alasdair Heath.

Prior to the Finals, and for the second year in a row, the Lamorinda Soccer Club hosted players and coaches from Denmark's Skolunde Soccer Club, arranging host families for 40 players and coaches and planning several activities for the U16 and U17 girls from Denmark.

In addition to a club-wide welcome barbecue hosted by a Lamorinda family, other events included two friendly scrimmages against the LMSC U17 & U16 girls teams, sightseeing tours of San Francisco, Alcatraz, Stinson Beach and Muir Woods and of course lots of opportunities for the Danish girls to shop.

Although, their visit was brief, the Danish team had a very enjoyable stay in the Bay area. They are looking forward to hosting girls from the Lamorinda Soccer Club next summer in Denmark.

"This is a very special opportunity for LMSC families and players," said Mohammed Mohammed, Technical Director for LMSC.

For more information about the Lamorinda Soccer Club, visit [www.lamorindasoccer.com](http://www.lamorindasoccer.com).

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# SPORTS

## LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### Joaquin Moraga Student Takes Home U.S. High Jump Medal

By Kevin D. Shallat



Hadley Swanson at high jump

Joaquin Moraga Middle School student Hadley Swanson, age 12, seems like your typical seventh grader – with one big exception. She also happens to be one of the best track and field athletes in the nation for her age group. When Hadley was 10 years old she signed up for CYO track and field. Just two years later she finished first in the 400 meter dash at the East Bay Middle Schools Track and Field Championships, qualifying her for the U.S. Championships and earning her a trip to the U.S. Track and Field Association Youth Outdoor Championships in Lisle, Ill.

At the Championships, Swanson competed in three events, finishing 31st in the 400 meter dash, and 15th in the long jump. But her most

impressive event, which helped earn a national ranking, was the high jump. Standing just five-feet-one inches tall and competing against some girls a full foot taller than her, Swanson finished eighth in her age group for this event, winning a medal in the process.

Amazingly, she has never had any formal training in the high jump; she is self taught.

Yet even with all of her success at the high jump, it is not her favorite event. She still prefers the idea of direct head-to-head competition with the 400 meter dash.

When asked, Swanson said that before and during an event she not only focuses on beating the competition, but reminds herself to have fun.

"It's pointless if you

don't have fun doing this," she said.

As Swanson's success continues, she remains grounded, yet her goals for the future are simple: "I want to break a minute (in the 400 meter dash), and make it to the Olympics."



### Saint Mary's Athletics releases new logo

By Zack Farmer



Saint Mary's Athletic Director Mark Orr (center) introduces the new logo to the alumni and staff in attendance

Saint Mary's College, in collaboration with Osaki Creative, Inc., released the new athletic logo this recently as a part of Reunion Weekend. With over 140 people in attendance for the unveiling, Athletic Director Mark Orr introduced the new logo, which has been revamped to represent the true meaning of a Saint Mary's Gael.

"Our initial research showed that the SMC community associated the Gaels with family, unity, brotherhood, and pride," Orr said. "The implementation of Celtic knot work into the mark took these keywords and fused them with the rich tradition of our mascot's heritage." The new mark is affective immediately and has replaced all marks across

the campus.

A team of about 30 people decided on the final design. The team consisted of College administrators, faculty, alumni, students, and staff. According to this team, one of the first challenges was to define a "Gael." After further research, the words family, unity, pride, and brotherhood were discovered to parallel the definition of the Celtic people and warriors.

"The SMC logo is a reflection of the proud history of Saint Mary's College and Celtic art and culture," said Kurt Osaki, lead designer of Osaki Creative. "The knot work design of the logo creates a monogram that reflects unity and the family unit of Saint Mary's College. The



The new Saint Mary's athletic logo promotes the Gaelic tradition of the College shield is a symbol of Gaelic pride and protection."

The school colors will remain blue, red, and white.

Osaki Creative, Inc. is an Emeryville based company that has designed a number of professional teams logos, including the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the San Francisco 49ers.

Along with the logo, Saint Mary's Athletics is working on creating a new three-dimensional Gael mascot. They hope to release the mascot by January.

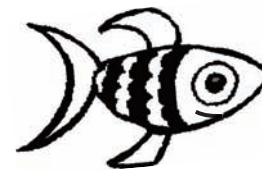
Saint Mary's has also signed a licensing agreement with Champ Sports to begin selling Gael merchandise on Aug. 15 – the first time in College history using an off-campus vendor.

#### 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) You can contact reporters Kevin D. Shallat at [kevin@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:kevin@lamorindaweekly.com) and Zack Farmer at [zack@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:zack@lamorindaweekly.com)

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### Lafayette City Meet Correction, Addendum

By Jennifer Wake

In our July 25 issue, we incorrectly reported that the Sun Valley Swim Team placed third in the Lafayette City Swim Meet on July 14-15, when Las Trampas was the actual third place overall winner of the meet with a combined team score of 629 – just two points above Sun Valley's 627.

Springbrook, which took first, had seven high point winners including: Shannon Pegnim (girls 15-18 with 33 points), Katie Berge (girls 13-14 with 33 points), Brett Usinger (boys 11-12 with 33 points), Brooke Aiello (girls 11-12 with 31 points), Nicholas Inserra (boys 9-10 with 33 points), Caroline Whelehan (girls 9-10 with 31 points), and Rachel Brickman (girls 6 and under with 31 points). Second place Rancho Colorado had high point winners in the boys 13-14 category (Chance Fowler with 31 points), and in the boys 6 and under category (Carter Lom with 31 points). Other high point winners of the day included Sun Valley Swim Team's Sean McKenna (with 30 points) and Caroline Wash (with 31 points), as well as LMYA's Nick Ferrif (with 33 points).

In addition to these stellar accomplishments, several swimmers broke long-standing records at the



Rancho Colorado's "Big/Little Buddies" Chance Fowler (left) and Carter Lom (right) each won high point trophies at the recent Lafayette City Meet. Photo by Judi Cooper

City Meet that were not mentioned in our previous article, including: Nicholas Inserra (Springbrook), who broke the boys 9-10 freestyle and backstroke records, with times of 27.64 and 32.57 respectively – records which had stood for more than 26 years; the Springbrook boys 9-10 200 yard medley relay (Brendan Foster, Connor Reid, Brett

Usinger, and Jacob Welcomer), who won and broke a record that has stood since 1971 with a final time of 2:07.19, and the Springbrook girls 11-12 200 yard medley relay (Nora Vance, Samantha Anderson, Brooke Aiello, and Megan Dietrich) that came in with a record time of 2:03.89.



High point trophy winners at the Lafayette City Swim Meet. Photo by Judi Cooper

### Lamorinda Teams Dominate Inaugural SMC Cup

By Zack Farmer

With five age divisions of play, four Lamorinda soccer teams walked away with championships at the inaugural SMC Cup. The Lamorinda FC 92 Boys, Lamorinda U12 Blue Team, Lamorinda U11 Gold Team, and the Lamorinda U9 Boys took home championships in their divisions.

The Lamorinda FC 92 Boys face the toughest challenge as they played against the largest field with eight teams.

Held at Saint Mary's College, the Tournament was split into five age divisions ranging from U9 (under nine) to U13-15 (under 13-15). Due to an insufficient amount of boy's teams competing in the Tournament (nine boys teams, 24 girls teams) both boys and girls teams competed against one another. The boy's teams played up one age level.

Coordinator of the Tournament and Saint Mary's assistant women's soccer coach Lindsay

Jones said, "We're going to look to do it every summer." Jones helped reinstate the program after there was no tournament last summer.

Jones said there was no tournament last summer because of coaching changes at Saint Mary's. Jones, as well as women's soccer head coach Kelly Lindsay, is going into their second year as the helm of the program.

Many of the Saint Mary's soccer players helped out by being referees. Most of the 35 teams competing in the tournament were from the Lamorinda

area. Teams from San Ramon and other East Bay cities participated as well.

The U9 San Ramon Stars were the only non-Lamorinda team to win their division and they did so against another Lamorinda team. They also played with the smallest pool of teams (four).

Jones hopes to expand the tournament next year and reach farther into the Bay Area. She was impressed with the turnout because of the late notice of the Tournament. "We're going to try to make it bigger and better every year," said Jones.

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