

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Volume 01; Issue 16

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Wednesday, September 19, 2007



Campo juniors Carly Reifsteck and Molly Crowder

Miramonte Mascot

Photos Gavin Schlissel

## Big Time Football

See page 15

By Kevin D. Shallat

### Volunteerism Keeps Lamorinda Humming

By Jennifer Wake

Volunteers can be the lifeblood of a community. From service clubs, to religious groups, to non-profit organizations and foundations, countless hours are logged by tireless Lamorinda volunteers every day. And the help does not go unnoticed.

Head librarian, Susan Weaver, says she wouldn't be able to do what she does without the help at the Lafayette Library. "We couldn't do any of our programs or could not function without our volunteers," she said. "The Friends of the Library underwrite all of our programming costs, if we have a paid performer, flyers, and big programs like Lamorinda Reads. And we have hundreds of volunteers who route books, re-shelve, and clean. They say it takes a village to raise a child. I guess it takes a village to run a library."

According to Friends of the Lafayette Library coordinator Sally Bellenger, the group of 35-40 volunteers who work in the book room in various capacities raise an average of \$50,000 a year. Through their efforts since its inception in 1967, the Friends have been able to donate \$750,000 to the new library building.

Yet it can be back-breaking work. Each week, approximately 2,000 books are dropped off in donations, and volunteers must carry the books from the curb to the book room at the Lafayette Community Center.

"At the moment, we have over 40,000 books for sale in the book room," said Bellenger.

Why do they do it? It's simple: "We love libraries and love books," she said.

This type of passion seems to be the catalyst that drives many volunteers.

Moraga resident Bill Durkin began volunteering at age 14, teaching swimming lessons. "I guess that stuck, since I've been doing volunteer work ever since," he said.

Currently Durkin is a docent at Bedford Gallery. He has served as president of Sustainable Moraga for two years, is a member of the California Emergency Response Team (CERT), and works in the Community Garden.

"I find volunteering rewarding in many ways," he said. "It's a way of taking the edges out of thinking you are so different from others, and I

learn a lot about myself when volunteering for groups like a suicide and crisis center."

A former teacher, Durkin believes that "if you work at something a little each day (or week), you can get things accomplished, and then get a sense of achieving your goals."

For others, just finding how their skills fit a need is a fulfilling experience.

Lafayette resident Bruce Veenstra knows lighting. When his church decided to upgrade their lighting system to be more eco-friendly, he calculated the costs and benefits of a lighting efficiency upgrade, and plans to use a week of his own vacation time to install more than 200 energy efficient devices such as T8 fluorescent tubes, electric ballasts, fixtures, CFL, motion sensors and their control units, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette.

... continued on page 11



Boy Scout Troup 200 members Joshua Koenigsberg, Ramez Jweinat, and Zack Lewis of Lafayette hand fliers out promoting e-waste collection to patrons of the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival Photo by Jennifer Wake

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### Planned Roadwork May Challenge Lamorinda Drivers

By Sophie Braccini; Wendy Scheck contributed to this article

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) plans to replace three miles of aging water pipeline that runs under Moraga Road between the Lafayette Water Treatment Plant and Moraga's Draeger Drive. Work is scheduled to begin in June of 2008, and conclude in the summer of 2009. The project will necessitate the complete closure of Moraga Rd between Old Jonas Hill Road and Sky Hy Drive for 6-8 weeks next summer.

In related news, the City of Orinda has planned improvements to Moraga Way from Ivy Drive to downtown Orinda, which will also take place next summer. EBMUD is working with the City of Orinda on the timing of road closures. Moraga Orinda Fire District Chief Pete Nowicki said at a meeting in Moraga last Friday that the district's ability to respond to emergencies would not be negatively

impacted by the overlapping roadwork.

#### The Pipeline Project :

The replacement of the current 24" wide pipes, which were installed in the 1930's and 1950's, is a project of the EBMUD's Water Treatment and Transmission Improvements Program. EBMUD held an informational meeting at the Lafayette Recreation Center on September 13, during which EBMUD Senior Civil Engineer John Hurlburt presented the plan and took questions from concerned residents.

The first phase of the project will be Old Jonas Hill to Sky Hy. Because Moraga Rd is very narrow and windy in that section, it will have to be completely closed to through traffic during work hours. This will happen during the summer of 2008 when schools are closed. Traffic will be diverted to St. Mary's Road.

Subsequently, trench work will take place from Sky Hy to Draeger Drive; Moraga Rd is wider there and only a partial closure of the road will be required. Residents voiced fears that even a partial closure was likely to create havoc, especially when occurring near schools.

As it stands now, the contractor will be authorized to work weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. An exception to this schedule will occur when trenches will have to be dug at Moraga Rd and Rheem Blvd. In order to minimize the interruption of traffic at this major intersection, the contractors may work up to 24 hours per day with the objective of completing the work within two days.

When asked why all the work wasn't done at night, Hurlbut replied that although EBMUD would love to be able to do that, the noise level would make nighttime work impossible.

Mailed to 23,000 homes and businesses in Lamorinda.



#### LAMORINDA WEEKLY this week

|                   |       |                       |   |                         |    |                         |    |                          |       |
|-------------------|-------|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|----|--------------------------|-------|
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# Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

# Lafayette

| Calendar  |  |
|---|--|
| City Council  | 7pm<br>Community Center, Manzanita Room<br>500 St Mary's Road<br>Monday, Sept 24   |
| Planning Comm.  | 7pm<br>Community Center, Manzanita Room<br>500 St Mary's Road<br>Thursday, Sept 20 |
| Design Review   | 7pm<br>Community Center, Manzanita Room<br>500 St Mary's Road<br>Tuesday, Sept 25  |
| Park, Trails, Rec.  | 7pm<br>Community Center<br>500 St Mary's Road<br>Wednesday, Oct 10                 |
| Circulation   | 7pm<br>Community Center, Manzanita Room<br>500 St Mary's Road<br>Monday, Oct 1     |
| Emergency Prep.   | 9:15am<br>City Offices<br>3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 265<br>Wednesday, Oct 10     |
| Senior Services   | 3:30pm<br>Community Center, Alder Room<br>500 St Mary's Road<br>Thursday, Sept 27  |
| check online:<br>Town of Lafayette:<br><a href="http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us">http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us</a><br>for:<br>• all meeting notes<br>• calendar updates<br>Chamber of Commerce:<br><a href="http://www.lafayettechamber.org">http://www.lafayettechamber.org</a><br>for:<br>• local businesses<br>• upcoming events |  |

## To Be or Not To Be City Wrestles With Condominium Project

By Cathy Tyson



View of the site for the proposed "Lafayette Park Terrace" from Pleasant Hill Rd

Concerns ruled the day at last week's City Council meeting regarding the proposed 28 unit condominium project, Lafayette Park Terrace, located on Mt. Diablo Court, near Blodgett's Abbey Carpet. Lafayette Properties, the applicant and owner was looking for final approval of this much-contested project. Greg Wolff, Senior Planner with the City, got the public hearing started with a review of the many, many hoops this far, over a dozen hearings spread over a year's time, 154 public comment letters, and more.

The project has changed considerably already due to citizen and city concerns. Originally it was 40 units, the current plan is 28 units on two levels with parking underneath. The overall size has shrunk, from 52,000 square feet to 36,000 square feet. Accord-

ing to architect Joseph Bologna, it is as small as possible, the building is compact and low on the site, and the average height was adjusted to 35 feet. Landscaping calls for planting 82 new trees and keeping as much of the mature vegetation as possible around the periphery of the site.

Public comment at the meeting ran two to one against the project. Concerns included unhappiness with changing the General Plan to accommodate the necessary re-zoning and grading 28,000 cubic yards of earth. Many neighbors living in adjacent single-family homes and multi-unit buildings didn't want a large building in their backyard, blocking their views. Randall Castro said, among other things, the project was too large and gave a petition with 100 signatures to the Council. Those in favor cited ad-

ditional relatively affordable housing the city sorely needs, a smaller footprint than twelve single-family homes, and a senior-friendly project.

Because the Planning Commission was deadlocked three to three at their last meeting, the matter was sent to the City Council to decide. The Planning Commission found that they couldn't fully support it, but couldn't deny it either. Size, bulk and mass were their main concerns. They were in agreement in their support to change the zoning from Medium Density Single-Family Residential (up to six units per acre) to Low Density Multi-Family Residential (up to 17 units per acre). For this two-acre parcel, that means a developer could have built 12 single-family homes, but if approved would be able to build a maximum of 34 condominium units. This came up later in the evening when neighbors complained about the size and mass of the project, but were asked if they preferred having 12 separate homes instead.

In the end, after hearing from Wolff, Bologna, numerous concerned citizens, and a land use lawyer, the City Council still had reservations. Vice Mayor Mike Anderson suggested sending the matter back to the Design Review Commission to see if concerns of height, bulk and mass had been remedied in the current version of the plan. Council Member Brandt Andersson was concerned about increases in density and height; in addition he was also hesitant to change the General Plan. Council Member Carl Anduri preferred a much smaller project, around twelve units. Mayor Carol Federighi was, "still not entirely comfortable with the project... I'm not ready tonight to endorse it or cut it off. My recommendation is to send it back to the Planning Commission." Council Member Don Tatzin was not in attendance.

The City Council voted to send the project back to the Planning Commission and directed the developer to revise its plans to reduce the size of the project.

In related news, The Woodbury, an 80-unit luxury condominium project, on the other end of town near the Veterans Building, was unanimously approved, according to Niroop Srivatsa, Planning and Building Manager.

## The Rink comes to Lafayette



Connor Edmunds (kneeling), back row left to right: Kyle Gagnon, Jaime Kenward, Dylan Edmunds and Michelle Hernandez  
Photo provided

The Lafayette Recreation Department will hold a grand opening celebration from 10:30-2:30 on September 29th for the new outdoor roller hockey rink and sports facility. There will be music, games, food, prizes and free skating.

Fifteen years ago, former Program Coordinator Brian McCooey built a roller hockey rink out of hay bail wrapped in plastic on the community center parking lot. This month Jonathan Katayanagi, the current Program Coordinator, looks forward to opening the doors of the unique new outdoor rink to a variety of sports. He explains, "The surface of The Rink is what really sets the facility apart from anywhere else in the bay area. The new outdoor Sportcourt tiles make skating at this rink feel just the same as skating at other bay area indoor rinks."

With The Rink, several new recreational opportunities will open up. Kids can learn the basics of lacrosse in the little LAX league and the whole family can join in the fun on Friday Skate Nights. For both

youth and adults there will be the new Lafayette Remix Basketball league; along with Dodge Ball and the ever popular Roller Hockey League.

### Event Schedule:

- 10:30 Ribbon cutting ceremony
- 10:45 Bay Area Team Mascots (Warriors Thunder, UC Berkeley - Oski, Campolindo High Cougar, San Francisco Dragons Lacrosse - Scorch, Lafayette Roller Hockey - Viking)
- 11:00 Free Throw Competition
- 11:30 Future class Demonstrations (RC Cars, Roller Figure Skating)
- 11:45 All Skate and Games
- 12:15 Roller Hockey Demonstrations and Competition
- 12:45 Soccer and Dodgeball Games
- 1:15 Broom Ball Game
- 1:45 All Skate and Games



**Home Burglary, 9/07/07** An unknown male suspect entered through an unlocked door to a Carol Lane home. The homeowner was sleeping in the living room, when the suspect entered and accidentally woke him up. Suspect said, "oh, I'm sorry," and fled the scene. The only thing missing from the home was a pair of sunglasses taken from an unlocked car in the garage.

**Home Burglary, 9/06/07** A Buchanan Drive home was broken into via a door kicked in. Officers searched residence and didn't find a suspect. Rear bedroom door was also kicked in. Officer contacted homeowner, who was away on vacation. Public Works Dept. arrived to board up the broken door. No fingerprints were found.

**Home Burglary, 9/05/07** The rear wood-framed door to an attached garage of a Read Road home was kicked in. An unknown suspect stole an undetermined amount of jewelry from master bedroom. No leads or suspects at this time. Although there are similarities to the Buchan Drive burglary, police would not speculate about a suspect.

**Broken Car Window, 9/2/07** A car was parked in the parking lot on St. Mary's Road just south of Lucille. The vehicle owner walked across the street to play Petanque. When she came back, she noticed one of the windows was smashed in. Estimated damage of about \$350.00

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## Birthday Bash

By Sophie Braccini



From right to left: Mayor Federighi with Pierre-Francois Mourier, General Consul of France in San Francisco and his wife Rachel Lautherier-Mourier  
Photo Sophie Braccini

The Lafayette Park Hotel had never witnessed such an historic event: General George Washington and the Marquis de La Fayette, both celebrating the Marquis' 250th birthday in the courtyard. The attending audience, about 300 French and American residents of the San Francisco Bay Area, didn't seem the least bit alarmed by the arrival of the General and Marquis and all cheered in

honor of the French-American reunion.

The two young performers portraying General Washington and Marquis de La Fayette were part of the event jointly planned by the City of Lafayette and the San Francisco French Consulate and hosted by the Lafayette Park Hotel to honor the birthday of the French hero in the city that bears his name. ... Continued on page 10

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# Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

# Moraga

## Calendar

- City Council 7:30pm**  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School  
1010 Camino Pablo  
Wednesday, Sept 26
  - Planning Comm. 7:30pm**  
Hacienda, La Sala Room  
2100 Donald Drive  
Monday, Oct 1
  - Design Review 7:30pm**  
Hacienda, La Sala Room  
2100 Donald Drive  
Monday, Sept 24
  - Park & Rec 7:30pm**  
Hacienda, Mosaic Room  
2100 Donald Drive  
Tuesday, Oct 16
  - Liaison 8:00am**  
Fire Station  
1280 Moraga Way  
Friday, Oct 12
  - Chamber of Commerce 8am**  
Terzetto's Cuisine  
Moraga Shopping Center  
Friday, Sept 28
- check online:  
Town of Moraga:  
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for:  
• all meeting notes  
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**Suicide Threat 9/09/07** Officers were dispatched to a Warfield Drive residence to check on a 21-year old male subject with an extensive history of mental illness. He had threatened to kill himself with a gun and fled. After about 45 minutes the subject returned home, and acknowledged that he put a replica handgun to his head, but he insisted that he was only angry and trying to hurt his mother by scaring her. The situation was discussed; and it was determined that the subject would stay home. Police took the fake handgun.

**Unlicensed Driver, 9/08/07** A large Freightliner Box Truck with a brush chipper in tow was stopped for speeding, 51 m.p.h. in a 35m.p.h. zone on St. Mary's Road. The driver was unlicensed despite being employed by a bay area tree service company. The business owner was asked to respond to the scene, he also was determined to be an unlicensed driver. Both the driver and his boss were cited. The truck was impounded.

**Petty Theft, 9/07/07** Two juvenile suspects walked into the Moraga Safeway and took several bottles of alcohol from the store without paying for them. The suspect's vehicle was stopped and the suspects were identified by the store employees. Value of the booze was \$99.49. The juveniles were referred to juvenile probation.

## Citizen's Land Use Academy

A frequent complaint of Moragans to Town staff and community leaders has been, "It is so hard to know what is going on in Moraga." Of course, for the last few months your friendly neighborhood newspaper has attempted to remedy this situation. Now Moraga's Planning Director, Lori Salamack, is stepping up to the plate by offering a Citizen's Land Use Academy (CLUA) to better inform Moragans of the rules and regulations governing land use and planning in the Town of Moraga. The Academy will be presented once a week, immediately prior to a regularly scheduled Planning meeting, from September 24 - October 15. The CLUA is intended to give residents a better understanding how Moraga works and what is required if someone wants to change something in town.

ducted from 5:45 to 7:15 pm at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive. Participants who attend all 4 sessions will receive a certificate of completion. The format for each session is intended to be interactive, and Salamack will be responding to questions from the audience. When asked what prompted her to create the program, Salamack said, "I know that our residents are interested in the planning process, but often feel frustrated by the formality of a public hearing process where there is no opportunity for interaction between the residents and the decision makers. My purpose in doing this is to create a forum so residents can get the information that they need in order to contribute to the planning process and create and maintain the kind of community and quality of life that the community envisions."

All sessions will be con-

## Citizen's Land Use Academy Schedule:

- **9/24:** The Design Guidelines and Design Review Process (precedes a Special Joint Meeting of the Planning Commission and Design Review Board on the topic of Green Building)
- **10/1:** The California Environmental Quality Act (precedes a Planning Commission meeting on the Draft Hillside Ordinance)
- **10/09:** The Moraga Municipal Code with special emphasis on the Sign Ordinance (precedes a Special Joint Meeting of the Design Review Board and the Economic Development Advisory Committee on the Draft Sign Ordinance)
- **10/15:** The General Plan, with special emphasis on the Housing Element (precedes a Planning Commission meeting, topic TBD).

## 9th Annual Pear Festival



Pear Festival at the Commons 2006

Photo provided

The Moraga Park and Recreation Foundation and the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department invite you to attend the 9th Annual Moraga Pear Festival on Saturday, September 29, from 11:00-4:00 at the Moraga Commons.

Inflatables, arts and crafts, live music (littledog2, 11am-12:45pm and City Rocks Revue, 1:30-3:30pm), coloring and pear recipe

contests and of course those irresistible pear pies, will ensure lots of great fun for everyone.

The event starts at 11am and wraps-up at 4pm. The pear recipe and coloring contest winners will be announced at 1:00pm.

### PEAR HISTORY

The majority of pear trees growing in the Moraga Valley are Bartletts, planted by the Moraga

Company, of James Irvine, around 1913, and still going strong in spite of neglect. In May of 1929, the Manager of the Moraga Company, Mr. E.M. Price, wrote several letters to the University of California College of Agriculture and to the California Pear Growers Association, asking how long their trees, by then about 16 years old, would continue producing abundantly. The responses, on file in our History Center, replied that pear trees are some of the hardiest and most long-lived of deciduous trees, and that there were, at the time, pear trees producing after 100 years. The writers indicated that "if managed properly, (the pears) should be better the second hundred years, than the first hundred." By 1923, Bartlett pears shipped out of the Moraga Valley were sent either to the East Coast, or to the Oakland Canneries and were reputed to be "as fine in quality as any food within the state."

## Council Smooths Bumps to Soothe Feelings

By Steve Angelides

After hearing an outpouring of views about three large road bumps on Camino Pablo—and the process that created them—the Town Council unanimously voted to smooth the bumps to ease traffic and soothe the feelings of a divided community.

The action was taken in a five hour special meeting attended by nearly 200 residents who were evenly divided between supporters and opponents of the bumps. "You either love them or you hate them," said Town Engineer Jill Mercurio, who spearheaded the repaving of Camino Pablo during which the bumps were installed last month.

The Town's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) recommended that three "slightly raised" crosswalks be placed in front of the schools on Camino Pablo. The Town mailed the required notice to residents within 300 feet of the paving project and one resident attended the TSAC meeting.

The road designer translated TSAC's recommendation into the three bumps, which technically are

called speed tables, which are six inches high with six foot ramps. Mercurio said that according to engineering standards the highest speed table is six inches with six foot ramps, and the lowest is three inches with six foot ramps. She said the crosswalks were raised the maximum of six inches to make the small pedestrians who would be using them more visible.

Since relatively few of the residents who use Camino Pablo were notified of the bumps, and the Council never discussed or approved them, most residents and even some council members were surprised when the bumps suddenly appeared in the road the week before school started. The outcry that followed led to the special meeting.

At the meeting Mercurio recommended lengthening the ramps on the bumps from six to twelve feet, which would make the six inch bumps with twelve foot ramps equivalent to three inch bumps with six foot ramps.

... continued on page 8

You can contact reporter Steve Angelides at [steve@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:steve@lamorindaweekly.com)

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# Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

# Orinda

| Calendar   |        |
|--|--------|
| City Council   | 7pm    |
| Auditorium, Orinda Library<br>26 Orinda Way<br>Tuesday, Oct 2  |        |
| Planning Comm.   | 7pm    |
| Sarge Littlehale Conf. Room City Hall,<br>22 Orinda Way<br>Tuesday, Sept 25  |        |
| Park & Rec Comm.   | 7pm    |
| Community Center Room 7<br>28 Orinda Way<br>Wednesday, Oct 10  |        |
| Hist. Landmark Comm.   | 3pm    |
| Gallery Room, Upper Level<br>26 Orinda Way<br>Tuesday, Sept 25   |        |
| Liaison  | 8:30am |
| Community Room at City Hall<br>22 Orinda Way<br>Monday, Oct 1  |        |
| check online:<br>Town of Orinda:<br><a href="http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/">http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/</a><br>for:<br>• all meeting notes<br>• calendar updates |        |
| Chamber of Commerce:<br><a href="http://www.orindachamber.org/">http://www.orindachamber.org/</a><br>• local businesses<br>• upcoming events                   |        |



**Vandalism, 9/12/07** Officers responded to vandalism in progress at 2:15 a.m. at Miramonte High School. Two white males were allegedly breaking windows and throwing garbage cans around. Officers gave chase and caught them approximately ten hours later. The 18 year old was charged with felony vandalism and resisting arrest. Because the other suspect was a juvenile, he was released to the custody of his mother. Seventeen windows were broken.

**Travelers Check Scam, 9/10/07** Suspect entered the Orinda Safeway and attempted to buy over \$200.00 worth of groceries, by cashing a fraudulent American Express Travelers Check. When the Manager contacted Am Ex to get authorization, the suspect fled the store. The suspect was apprehended in the parking lot.

**Burglary, 9/08/07** An unknown suspect entered an older woman's home on Las Vegas Road and took a large amount of jewelry. The homeowner believes the house cleaners did it because they have a key to the home. No fingerprints were found; police are following up on alleged suspects.

**Vehicle Theft, 9/07/07** The manager of Orinda Motors noticed one of the vehicles he rents was missing from his parking lot. The keys were gone as well. Be on the lookout for a 2001 4-door, silver Mitsubishi Mirage.

## Coming Soon, The Festival of Trees

By Cathy Tyson

The Orinda Women's Club will be putting on its annual benefit, "The Festival Of Trees," on November eighth at the San Ramon Marriott. This function, now in its 21st year, features a professional fashion show, luncheon and raffle that raises money to primarily support two worthy causes. The lucky winners are, Holden High School, an alternative high school in Orinda designed to meet the needs of teenagers who don't thrive in traditional economic settings and Opportunity Junction, an organization that fights poverty by helping low income Contra Costa County

residents gain technology and literacy skills to become more self-sufficient.

The event, originally named after the member-decorated artificial holiday trees that were sold for worthy causes, has grown and flourished over the years. The wonderful fashions by Helen Lyall Clothes for Women and Patrick James of Blackhawk Plaza along with raffles for a wide variety of themed gift baskets, trees and wreaths and a silent auction make this a unique event.

Professional models along with some Orinda



Last year's Festival of Trees

Photo provided



Women's Club members and local celebrities will show off the clothes. Entourage Spa and Salon of Orinda is providing hair styling and make up for the catwalkers.

The event is expected to sell out. Tickets available in advance by calling (925) 254-4900.

## Idols Play to a Full House



3rd from the left Jocelyn Purcell - a happy winner!

Photo Andy Schreck

The Orinda Theater was nearly filled to its 750 seat capacity on Sunday, September 9, as the contenders for the coveted title of Orinda Idol, dressed to kill and ready to wow the audience, appeared for the final competition. Four Orinda Idols would be named at the end of the day, in

four different age groups:

- Kindergarten to 2 grade:**  
Jocelyn Purcell
- Grade 3 to Grade 5:**  
Amrita Newton
- Middle School:**  
Neris Newton
- High School:**  
Ben Freeman

Orinda Idol is a project of the Orinda Arts Council, designed to showcase local young vocal talent in support of the performing arts. Program Chair Susan Garell said, "It was a great experience for the community. The children showed great talent and poise, highlighting what a positive experience the performing arts can be for youngsters."

"The event itself could not have been so successful," continued Garell, "without the contributions of Orinda Arts Council members, our technical team, the judges, the emcees, the parents, and Mayor Steve Glazer (and many others), all of whom graciously volunteered their time."

For more information go to: <http://orindaartscouncil.org>

## Pine Grove EIR: Comments Welcome

By Lee Borrowman

The Pine Grove project Environmental Impact Report is available for your reading pleasure on the City of Orinda's website, <http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/>. Public comment is welcome through Monday, October 22, 2007.

Pine Grove is the Altarinda Road area proposed housing development of seventy-three units, sixty-five of which would be single-family detached homes, with eight duplex units in four buildings. Related to the project are the relocation of city-owned ball fields and the building of a new home for the Orinda Union School District administrative offices on the western portion of the site.

Previous concerns surrounding the proposed development included the loss of views from surrounding properties, increased traffic and safety is-

sues due to the speed of drivers and limited sight distance on Altarinda Road, the loss of on-street parking, emergency vehicle access, utility and storm drainage inadequacies, and construction related issues such as access, noise and pollution.

The EIR identifies potentially significant impacts and mitigation measures in the following areas: Transportation, Circulation and Parking; Air Quality; Noise; Geology, Soils, and Seismicity; Hydrology and Water Quality; Hazardous Materials and Public Health and Safety; Biological Resources; Public Services and Facilities; and, Cultural and Paleontological Resources.

The full report weighs in at over 270 pages; novice EIR readers may want to start with the more digestible 20-page Summary.

## Are You Prepared, Orinda....for FIRE?

### Fire Safety Mini-Fair September 29th

Submitted by Bruce Macler

#### Orinda Public Safety Advisory Commission



Orinda and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, it will be held next to the south end of the Orinda Farmers Market from 9am to 1pm.

As part of Orinda's response for National Emergency Preparedness Month, there will be booths with information on improving defensible space, making your house fire safe, planning for emergencies, and getting additional training. MOFD and the Orinda Public Safety Advisory Commission will have people there to answer your questions and help you get started. Learn how to use a fire extinguisher and practice your aim with the help of MOFD fire fighters. Find out the wildfire risk to your neighborhood and house. Know what to do when you smell smoke in the air. Buy an emergency bag for your home and cars. Get step-by-step directions for a wildfire emergency. We need you to be able to say "Yes, I'm ready."

We all know how dry this summer has been and that September and October are the prime fire months. The fog goes away. The winds shift to the northeast. The fire danger signs change from "high" to "Red Flag". Are you prepared? Is your house as safe as it can be? Do you know what to do if a wildfire strikes? If you answered "no" to any of these, come to the Orinda Fire Safety Mini-Fair on September 29th. Sponsored by the City of

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# Life in LAMORINDA

## Making an Environmental Impact and Choosing Green

By Jennifer Wake



Members of the Holy Planet Task Force at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette (from left to right), Council Member Greg Wikler, Council Member and Vice President Bruce Veenstra, E-Waste Team Member Dick Enger, Council Member Joanne Tan, Church's Treasurer Bill Klapproth, and the Green Bag Task Leader, Roberta Klapproth  
Photo Jennifer Wake

Each year before the holidays, Lafayette resident Joanne Tan goes through her two sons' toys to see which can be donated and which can be discarded. At the end of her venture last year, she was alarmed at the size of the pile of toys she had amassed.

Intent on making a difference, she wrote an article about our culture's excessive consumption, as well as ways to avoid it, and gave a copy to her pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette. After reading the article, Pastor Dan Senter suggested that Tan start a "green" organization within the church to try to save energy, reduce waste, moderate consumption, and advocate a green lifestyle.

"We started simply, like using only ceramic mugs instead of paper coffee cups at church functions," Tan said. Since its inception in February, the group (which includes Bruce Veenstra, Greg Wikler and Bill Klapproth) has, among many other things, started an extensive process of installing motion sensors and compact fluorescent bulbs throughout the church, has distributed a monthly list of simple ideas that make an environmental difference, and is planning an e-waste

collection for the entire Lamorinda community on Saturday, Oct. 6.

Theirs is just one of many religious organizations within Lamorinda promoting green initiatives in order to make an environmental impact.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Orinda started a group called "Caring for Creation," which sponsors speaking events, conducts energy audits of facilities, and has a goal of installing solar power.

The Orinda Community Church initiated a green committee that meets every other weekend to prioritize a list of initiatives and publish tips on living green. Members even rode scooters and walked with a green banner during the 4th of July Parade, and the church sewing circle is making eco-friendly bags that are sold to raise money for the committee.

"Every little step we take is truly related to the world," Tan said. "We want to educate and inspire. We're leading people into this lifestyle, and asking them to take the responsibility to do this for themselves."

Many of the local churches and synagogues that have organized these types of committees are

part of the California Interfaith Power & Light, an organization promoting green initiatives through religious organizations around the world.

But you don't need to be part of a house of worship to get involved. Organizations such as Sustainable Moraga and the newly formed Sustainable Lafayette have been actively involved in reducing the area's carbon footprint.

Last year, Marie Kahn, Myrto Petreas and Leslie Engler of Sustainable Moraga started a battery collection campaign and have since collected tons of batteries that require disposal at hazardous waste sites. Lafayette resident Kana Ryan decided to help her children "learn more about environmental efforts" by starting a battery collection community service project, collecting batteries from neighbors, friends, and their preschool.

The main thing, says Tan, is "to start individually with baby steps. Instead of forcing this on people, we offer a list of six suggestions (such as buying local organic food at the farmer's market, or using a toaster oven instead of the regular oven to cook smaller items) and suggest they try just three of them." Involvement is snowballing, with church members bringing green project suggestions to the group. "Roberta Klapproth sold 'green' bags to members," said Tan, "and Dick Enger brought the e-waste project to the task force."

For ideas on ways you can make a difference, and for hazardous waste site locations, visit the Sustainable Moraga and Lafayette Web sites ([www.sustainablemoraga.org](http://www.sustainablemoraga.org)) or ([www.sustainablelafayette.net](http://www.sustainablelafayette.net)).



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## Art Show to Benefit Open Space Preservation

By Sophie Braccini

On the morning of September 8th, a group of eight artists met on the side of Saint Mary's Road in Moraga. There were oil painters, watercolor painters and photographers, all striving to create an original piece of art encompassing the beautiful view of Bollinger Canyon and the adjacent Saint Mary's College. An additional twenty-two artists will join the group from 10am-5pm on September 30th for the "Preserve Lamorinda Open Space" Art Show on the St. Mary's campus, in the courtyard near the Hearst Gallery. The exhibition is a fundraiser for the non-profit organization that seeks to protect Moraga's undeveloped areas and ridgelines.

About seven years ago, Lamorindans concerned with the environmental impacts of the Palos Colorados Development Project got together to form Preserve Lamorinda Open Space. The group focused on preserving local wild areas and the application of more stringent environmental controls for projects like Palos Colorados. Suzanne Jones, a member of the original steering committee, needed to raise funds for the new organization. Moraga painter Teresa Onoda contacted Jones and told her, "I know exactly what to do." Onoda had been active in the Martinez Carquinez Regional Environmental Education Center (CREEC) and had helped raise money to restore the Carquinez Strait. She knew that motivated and concerned artists can be effective in raising money for worthy causes. Saving open space for Lamorinda was a perfect rallying point for artists concerned with preserving open space for current



Left to right, Suzanne D'Arcy (painting); Sophie Braccini and Teresa Onoda talking to Suzanne Jones  
Photo William Hinshaw

and future generations. Thus, the idea of an art exhibit was born.

The first art exhibition took place in Campolindo's multi-use room on a rainy day nearly five years ago. "It was quite an ordeal," remembers Onoda, "but my kids, who were students at Campo at the time, engaged their friends to help and they learned how one person can make a difference." Since those early days the art show gained considerable recognition and has moved to the Saint Mary's campus where the number of visi-

tors has increased year after year. "People come for the beautiful paintings, photography, and jewelry that local artists have created through the inspiration of our beautiful surroundings," says Jones, "most know that 40% of the sales go to our non-profit. We use the funds to support the protection of Lamorinda's remaining open space and we use the services of experts such as lawyers, engineers and environmentalists to prepare our recommendations."

... continued on page 11

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#### Donate E-Waste at One-Day Event

Residents and local businesses can bring electronic waste to Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Carol Lane in Lafayette on Saturday, Oct. 6 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. as part of a fundraiser to support the church's "green" program. The public is welcome to bring items such as TVs, monitors and laptops, flatscreens, cell phones, and ink jet cartridges for free recycling. There will be a \$5 fee (each) for CPUs, keyboards, printers, copiers, DVD players, fax machines, VCRs, stereos and video games. For more information, call Terry Cotteleer at C & T Recycling: (925) 549-1776.

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# Life in LAMORINDA

## Ukrainians in Moraga?

By Cathy Tyson



The Ukrainian delegates and their Moraga host families

Moraga residents welcomed a delegation of eight prominent Ukrainian officials for a week's home stay. Most spoke little or no English and had never been to the United States before. They were in town to meet with local California officials to discuss economic development. The Center For Safe Energy in Berkeley hosted the group and arranged all of the meetings and transportation. On their agenda were visits to see the Mayor of Berkeley, Tom Bates, Berkeley Energy and Sustainable Development Officer Neal De Snoo, Berkeley Director of Economic Development Michael Caplan and representatives from Oakland's Housing and Economic Development Department.

It wasn't all work and no play for these visitors, one of the highlights of their trip was going to Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland to tour the facility. The delegates were surprised to see sports fields as part of the campus. In Ukraine, sports facilities are never located on school grounds. They

politely asked if they could borrow some bats and balls and try to play baseball. A good time was had by all.

The group was impressed with the semi-rural nature of Moraga. Miroslava Svistovich, Mayor of Irpin in the Kiev region, was surprised to see deer, she imagined more concrete and skyscrapers like she had seen on television and in movies.

Another highlight according to Oleg Ivanovich Vitvitsky, Deputy Director of the Ternopil District Council, was getting souvenirs from Alcatraz. He thought that would be funny bringing back T-shirts and lighters for his friends from, "the Rock." Vitvitsky mentioned his top three impressions of the U.S. are, "hospitality, punctuality, and fog." Ukraine was part of the former Soviet Union and has only been a democracy for 16 years.

How did they get here? It all started with Moraga resident, American Association of University Women (AAUW) member and community activist, Ellen Beans' association

with Fran Macy and Enid Schreiberman, Co-Directors of the Center For Safe Energy. Beans' job was to rustle up host families willing to take a total stranger, or two, who speak little or no English, into their homes.

She had to make quite a few phone calls this year, because the delegates visited over the Labor Day Holiday. Many of her AAUW friends volunteered. She and her husband hosted Igor Rachinsky, the Mayor of Novodnistrovsk. "It worked amazingly well, even though Igor has the least ability to speak. Igor is quite a stamp collector and so is my husband Larry," says Beans. She has a little Russian dictionary and had made up some flash cards, which helped.

Sandy Read hosted two people, and one of them was a translator. Veronica Zhuravlov, a facilitator and one of the group's translators, works for a public relations firm in Kiev, and Elena Solovyova a strategic planner of an association of 12 cities stayed with her. "It wasn't much of a burden at all," recalls Read. "We mostly just saw them for breakfast, then they were out all day with the group. It was fun." Read and her guests made an early morning trip to Safeway with two other delegates to get ingredients to make Borscht, a famous vegetable soup from Eastern Europe. They barely had time to prepare the labor-intensive soup, before heading out for the day. It was later served at their farewell dinner, to rave reviews all around.

## Moraga Movers Party with Lafayette Seniors

Submitted by George Fisher

On Monday, Sept 10 the Moraga Movers hosted the Lafayette Seniors at a sumptuous barbecue catered by Back 40. The setting was the beautiful grounds of the historic Hacienda de las Flores under picture perfect skies. Chairperson Dottie Baker made all the arrangements, including the music and raffle prizes, and was aided by enthusiastic volunteers from both organizations.

The fast-growing Moraga Movers is kicking off its 2008 membership drive on October 1. Applications are available now at the Hacienda Park Office and La Sala. Those applying from October 1 on will have their memberships valid immediately through 2008. For more information call the Moraga Movers at 376-6622.



Over 100 guests enjoyed the event

Photo provided

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## Recipe for a Happy Book Club

Submitted by Jennifer Becker



L-R: Jennifer Becker, Sophie Braccini, Anita Wood, Betty Chen (in hiding) and Nancy Resnick

As anyone who has been in a book club knows, its success or failure depends on the interest of the membership.

Three years ago I invited a group of nine women to form a book club in Moraga. I had been invited to join book clubs in Berkeley and San Francisco over the years, but my interest never lasted after the first few meetings, no matter how interesting the book or lively the discussion. After a day of working inside or outside the home, venturing outside the

neighborhood on a weeknight is not an attractive option. Moraga is full of readers whose interest in discussion is high, but whose time is short.

The rules of the club are fluid by design: books are chosen more or less by consensus not vote; future dates are set at the meetings to accommodate as many people as possible; and no "book-club-killer" books allowed (we will not be reading Moby Dick under any circumstances.)

... continued on page 11

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**Lamorinda Home Sales continued**



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|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>LAFAYETTE</b>            | Last reported: 14 |
| LOWEST AMOUNT: \$735,000    |                   |
| HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,805,000 |                   |
| <b>MORAGA</b>               | Last reported: 5  |
| LOWEST AMOUNT: \$869,000    |                   |
| HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,300,000 |                   |
| <b>ORINDA</b>               | Last reported: 8  |
| LOWEST AMOUNT: \$252,500    |                   |
| HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$2,000,000 |                   |

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

**LAFAYETTE**

- 18 Amanda Lane, \$1,125,000, 8-17-07
- 1166 Crescenta Court, \$735,000, 3 Bdrms, 1542 SqFt, 1957 YrBl, 8-28-07
- 1845 Del Rey Street, \$997,000, 4 Bdrms, 2414 SqFt, 1961 YrBl, 8-29-07
- 15 Grove Creek Court, \$995,000, 4 Bdrms, 3101 SqFt, 1989 YrBl, 8-31-07
- 3518 Hamlin Road, \$940,000, 4 Bdrms, 2983 SqFt, 1946 YrBl, 8-17-07
- 3397 La Caminita, \$1,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 3260 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 8-22-07
- 1181 Pleasant Hill Circle, \$935,000, 3 Bdrms, 1831 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 8-24-07
- 1269 Redwood Lane, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 2873 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 8-21-07
- 1065 Serrano Court, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1393 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 8-28-07
- 560 Silverado Drive, \$1,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 1931 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 8-23-07
- 3344 St. Marys Road, \$1,805,000, 4 Bdrms, 2925 SqFt, 2006 YrBl, 8-16-07
- 3362 Stage Coach Drive, \$1,695,000, 3 Bdrms, 3289 SqFt, 1989 YrBl, 8-24-07
- 1031 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,579,000, 4 Bdrms, 3422 SqFt, 1998 YrBl, 8-30-07
- 1021 Walnut Drive, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1535 SqFt, 1942 YrBl, 8-17-07

**MORAGA**

- 627 Augusta Drive, \$837,500, 2 Bdrms, 2238 SqFt, 1976 YrBl, 8-30-07
- 142 Cypress Point Way, \$905,000, 2 Bdrms, 1444 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 8-30-07
- 5 Fleuti Drive, \$1,045,500, 4 Bdrms, 2371 SqFt, 1969 YrBl, 8-22-07
- 3764 Via Granada, \$1,300,000, 6 Bdrms, 2882 SqFt, 1969 YrBl, 8-24-07
- 161 Westchester Street, \$869,000, 3 Bdrms, 2148 SqFt, 1979 YrBl, 8-21-07

**ORINDA**

- 42 Camino Lenada, \$869,000, 2 Bdrms, 1319 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 8-24-07
- 17 Francisco Court, \$795,000, 3 Bdrms, 1335 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 8-30-07
- 144 Ivy Drive, \$903,000, 3 Bdrms, 1362 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 8-28-07
- 89 La Espiral, \$1,097,000, 3 Bdrms, 2370 SqFt, 1980 YrBl, 8-30-07
- 3 Las Mesas Path, \$252,500, 8-31-07
- 6 Northwood Court, \$999,000, 3 Bdrms, 1835 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 8-24-07
- 93 Tarry Lane, \$1,422,000, 3 Bdrms, 1835 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 8-22-07
- 79 Yarrow Valley Lane, \$2,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 3589 SqFt, 1992 YrBl, 8-22-07

Read online at:  
<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html/read.html>

(a pdf reader is required to view the pages.)

**Regular Home Inspections and Maintenance Are Key to Keeping Up the Value of Your No. 1 Investment**  
**By Val Cook-Watkins**

Each month, most Lamorinda residents invest three, four, five thousand dollars or more in an asset that we are counting on to grow over time and provide financial security for ourselves and our family for years to come. I'm talking, of course, about our home. But despite this big investment, we often don't think about regular maintenance on our property until it comes time to sell. And by then, we could be surprised with enormous repair bills that will lower our property's value - bills that could have been avoided with simple maintenance each year.

It always surprises me that people put off regular upkeep on their homes. We would never consider doing that with other big investments, say our new car or boat. One of the things I advise homeowners is to act like you're selling your home even if you aren't. Do regular inspections of key areas on your property and make the necessary repairs and maintenance before small problems become big ones. Here are a few areas to pay attention to:

**Termite and pest inspections:** You should have pest inspections done on your home every two to three years. We all know how much damage termites and other pests can do to your foundation. By having regular inspections and preventative pest control work done now you can avoid serious damage later.

**Inside water damage:** Moisture intrusion can be your home's worst enemy. Moisture can attack a home from any location imaginable and cause damage to wood structural members, masonry, flooring, wall coverings, stucco, and other areas. Water damage can

be extremely costly so make sure to inspect for leaks wherever water piping is located. Regular caulking and sealing can go a long ways to prevent trouble.

**Outside drainage:** While water can do serious damage inside your home, it can be equally dangerous outside. It's important to make sure that water is draining away from your home in order to avoid cracking of your foundation and sidewalks, as well as pest and mold problems under your home.

**Maintain decking:** Decks are wonderful additions to your yard, but they can result in major repair bills if not maintained properly. Care for your deck with regular water sealing to prevent water damage, termite infestation and fungus decay. You may also consider installing wood deck alternatives made out of composite and plastic lumber, which are beautiful low maintenance options for homeowners.

**Roof and rain gutters:** Another potential water hazard comes from your roof and rain gutters. New roofs are not inexpensive, of course, but the damage that leaks can cause can be far more costly to your home. Make sure that all your rain gutters and spouts are clear of debris and working properly, and consider having a roof inspection if you haven't done so in recent years.

**Yards and landscaping:** We always talk about a home's "curb appeal" when it comes time to sell the property. Well-landscaped and maintained yards are a big part of a home's appeal, and beautiful yards help increase the value of a property. It's just as important to maintain the outside of your home as it is the inside even if you aren't



Val Cook-Watkins, Manager of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's Orinda office, provides the above tips. A 25-year real estate veteran, Watkins oversees a talented team of 78 real estate professionals in the East Bay. Her office is located at 5 Moraga Way in Orinda, and she can be reached at 925-253-4660 or by e-mail at [vcookwatkins@cbtnorcal.com](mailto:vcookwatkins@cbtnorcal.com).

listing your property.  
**Make your home fire safe:** The recent wildfires in the Tahoe area serve as a reminder to all of us how quickly fire can spread and consume a home. Flammable wildland vegetation too close to your home will make it almost impossible for firefighters to save your home in the event of a brush fire. If you haven't already done so, make sure you clear at least a 30-foot firebreak around your home.

Your home is your number one asset and just like any other asset you own, it is crucial to invest some time and money maintaining to maintain its value. Set aside a fixed amount of money each month for repairs and maintenance. A small investment in your home's wellbeing today could prevent tens of thousands of dollars in damage tomorrow.

**Council Smooths Bumps to Soothe Feelings**

Battalion Chief Brian Collins of the Moraga Orinda Fire District said the District had not been consulted before the bumps were installed and that asking for his opinion afterwards was "a little bit difficult." Moraga School Superintendent Rick Schafer spoke in favor of the bumps. Three dozen residents spoke, alternately praising and criticizing the bumps. Supporters, who tended to have school-age children, said the bumps made the road safer. Opponents, many of

whom live in Sanders Ranch and do not have children in the schools, said the bumps were safety hazards and increased traffic on Larch Avenue and Rimer Drive which motorists were using to avoid the bumps. Council member Ken Chew took the lead in crafting the Council action which he hoped would "end the debate" on the issue. The Council unanimously voted to lengthen the ramps on the bumps from six to twelve feet, enhance the signage and

**... continued from page 3**

advance warning devices, and direct the staff to study the situation, spending up to \$5000 to consult with a traffic engineer, and report back to the Council in three to four months. In a separate meeting last Friday, Metcalf said one of the speed tables will be modified right away. If it's acceptable, the other two tables will be changed. If not, Metcalf said he expects the Town to return to the drawing board.



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# Lamorinda Schools

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## Shopping For SAT Test Help

By Cathy Tyson

It's that time of year, when high school juniors start to feel the pressure of the looming SAT Reasoning Test. While no one looks forward to this marathon four-hour exam, nearly every college and university in the country requires it for admission. It's possible to pay your \$43.00 registration fee and just show up with your sharpened #2 pencil in hand, but many students choose to take advantage of some kind of test preparation prior to taking the exam. Go to www.collegeboard.com for specific test registration information.

In a nutshell, the registration deadline is generally a month before the test date. Tests for this school year will be offered on 10/6, 11/3, 12/1, 1/26, 3/1, 5/3 and 6/7. There is no penalty for taking it more than one, so it's quite common for students to take it in March, check their results, and perhaps take it again in June.

Two SAT Subject tests are required for UC system and a variety of other universities. Subject Tests are offered on all of the dates above, except for 3/1. According to College Board, "students take the Subject Tests to demonstrate to colleges their mastery of specific subjects like English, history, mathematics, science and language." If your son or daughter is planning on taking both the SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject Tests, it's not too early to get started.

To help out confused parents and their equally confused students, here are some of the local test prep options worth considering.

sidering.

The Moraga Library is partnering with Kaplan Test Prep to offer a series of free workshops to help students prepare for the SAT. Students who attend the full-length practice test on November 10 or Test Secrets Seminar on November 14 are eligible for Kaplan class discounts and for free SAT prep online. Call 1-800-KAPTEST to register.

Free classes by the People's Test Preparation Service are open to all high school students, classes are held at UC Berkeley, the downtown Berkeley YMCA and at other east bay locations. Call (510) 642-4951 for more information.

College Board, the maker of the exam, offers study guides for tenacious students who are self-motivated. "The Official SAT Online Course" for \$69.95 has 18 critical reading, writing and math lessons, along with six practice tests. For \$19.95 "The Official SAT Study Guide" has 900 pages chock-full of sample exams, math, critical reading and writing sections, and practice essay questions. While \$20 is a bargain, not very many teenagers have the diligence to go this route. But for busy students who play a sport, and are involved in lots of extracurricular activities, this could be an option.

Private tutoring is another alternative. Nancy Molay of TestPrep has specialized for five years in tutoring students one-on-one in her Happy Valley home. She just recently stopped working in the Career Center at Acalanes High School; this position

|  | # Of Sessions   | Students Per Class                            | Location   | Cost   | Point Guarantee  | Different others?  |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Ivy West<br>1-800-Ivy-West   | 15-15 hour sessions   | 1   | Your home  | \$2700<br>Sign up before end of Sept \$2160                          | No. 200 point average gain   | They customize according to student need   |
| Kaplan Classroom<br>1-800-Kap-Test<br>www.kaptest.com                    | 12 sessions, 8 instruction 4 exam   | 5-20 depending                                | Campolindo Berkeley Kaplan Center, Jewish Comm. Center | \$999 financial aid available  | No, but they have a satisfaction guarantee, can retake class gratis                      | Their teachers scored in the 90% or better on SAT                                  |
| Lafayette Academy<br>925-284-1644 Laf.<br>925-376-0747 Mor.              | 9-3hr. classes, 3-4 hour practice exams and 3 hours of free tutoring            | Max of 11<br>Classes divided by ability level | Lafayette Moraga Danville                              | \$999  | No, but if you're not happy - get money back, can retake gratis                          | Ability level grouping, and have private tutoring as part of their prep package    |
| Live Oak<br>925-944-9455<br>www.liveoaklearningcenter.com                | 8-2x/week for 4 weeks   | Around 10                                     | Acalanes Saint Mary's                                  | \$595  | No, satisfaction guarantee, can retake gratis  | Small classes, professional teachers, very personal approach                       |
| Princeton Review<br>1-800-2-Review<br>www.PrincetonReview.com            | 12 total - 8 instruction, 4 practice exams                                      | Maximum of 12                                 | Orinda, Walnut Creek Berkeley                          | \$999  | No, but you can retake class for free or if scores don't improve at all - get money back | Class size, great average score improvement  |
| Revolution Prep<br>1-877-Rev-Prep<br>www.revolutionprep.com              | 6 weeks - 6 classes and 5 practice exams  | Average 15                                    | Miramonte, Acalanes                                    | \$499 financial aid available  | Yes, if score doesn't improve by 200 pts, retake for free                                | 1 of 108 test prep firms chosen by Calif. to help with high school exit exam       |
| Ames Seminars<br>925-937-2280 or 1-800-799-0700<br>www.amesseminars.com  | 12-2.25 hour classes plus reading, writing and math refresher classes available | 15  | Lafayette  | \$855  | No, but they will help students, "to the end of time," says Bill Ames                    | Quality of teachers, truly care about the students, small local business           |
| Huntington Learning Center<br>925-377-0737<br>www.huntingtonlearning.com | # of sessions depends on colleges student prefers usually 10-16 2 hr sessions   | 1   | Moraga Rheem Shopping Center                           | \$195 for diagnostic SAT and conference with parents. \$75/each hour | No   | Individually tailored to student's needs, very flexible scheduling of appointments |

gave her unique insight into teenagers. She currently tutors freshman and junior students in writing at the school. "I work seven days a week (tutoring), so I can be incredibly flexible. I recommend that juniors who have completed algebra 2/trig start prep now and avoid spring stress," says Molay. She suggests 9 - 90 minutes sessions to prepare for the exam and charges considerably less than either Ivy West or Kaplan's private tutoring. Call for information, 925-708-4501. In addition, Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte parent club websites all have test prep tutors listed in their classified sections.

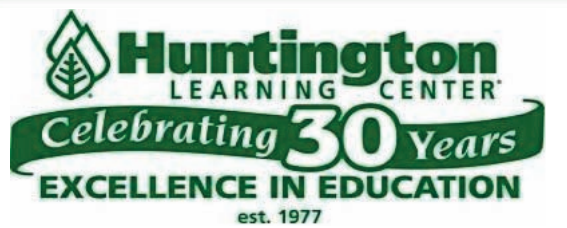
For students that do well in a classroom situation, there is no shortage of test preparation companies in the area that would be more than happy to

help your student and take your money. See chart below for specifics. At this point in the school year many companies still haven't finalized their spring schedules, but because that is the busiest time of the year, they expect to have many classes available. Prices range from \$499 for Revolution Prep to \$999 for both Kaplan and Princeton Review. Kaplan also offers private tutoring as noted above and an on-line course. Revolution Prep has a Hybrid version that includes four hours of private tutoring in addition to their classroom course. Call or check respective websites for information.

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## Parents and Educators Reflect on Ethics

By Sophie Braccini



Panelists Paul Mack and Ian Farr with moderator Gwenly Carrel

Photo by Sophie Braccini

The Campolindo High School Parents' Club couldn't have planned a more timely and pertinent Parent Education Night: "Academic Stress, Cheating and Ethical Behavior." Recent newspaper articles have been highlighting what the Educational Testing Service (ETS) has been studying for years: The as many as 80% of high school children participate in some form of cheating, and the growing acceptance of this behavior by the public.

To address parent concerns, Campolindo assembled a panel of educators, teachers and teen behavior specialists.

School psychologist Bonnie Willax started the presentation by discussing the reasons that lead students to cheat. Some of the most motivated students do it, she says, "These students are choosing extremely rigorous curriculum, adding as

many AP classes as possible, yet still knowing this might not be enough to get into Stanford, Berkeley or MIT and they panic." Willax believes that the student that cheats is not the average student who want to avoid an F, but the over-achiever that cannot afford anything below an A.

The teachers on the panel stressed the necessity for students to talk to them when problems arise. They too see extreme stress as a factor leading students to compromise their integrity, and they would rather students come to them and negotiate a later date to turn an assignment than receive unoriginal work. "We can almost always see when the voice of the student changes and when the piece they turn has been re-written by a parent or taken from the Internet," commented English teacher Dan Doyle.

Associate Principal Paul

Mack explained, "When cheating occurs, the school enforces a very precise policy with gradual consequences." All stressed that when a student is caught, learning can take place and re-occurrences seldom happen. "It is important that parents speak in the same voice as the faculty," stressed counselors Jeannie Ballard and Ian Farr, "consequences for cheating in college can be way more dramatic, with students expelled from a whole university system. If parents try to fight the school's decision, or contradict the teacher, the message sent to the child is wrong and confusing."

As the end of the evening, the most lingering concern of parents started to surface: how the way colleges structure their admission process induces the competition frenzy that can lead to valuing results at all costs over character building. Campo college advisor Gwenly Carrel told the audience that a glimmer of change was on the horizon. She invited parents to come back to Campolindo on September 20th to hear Dr. Robert Massa, vice president of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, talk about ways to find the colleges where the best learning happens - which are not necessarily the most selective ones - and strategies for gaining admission.

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## Miramonte Breathalyzes All Students Attending Dances

By Cathy Tyson

In the past, school administrators always had the option of breathalyzing students attending school functions if they had, "reasonable suspicion" of alcohol use or suspect a student has alcohol in a purse or backpack. The current policy for Miramonte is to screen all attendees of dances, including Junior Prom and the Senior Ball. The school wants to help students make healthy choices, so providing a safe environment where they can have fun is a priority.

Acalanes and Las Lomas already screen every student. Campolindo didn't at their recent dance, but according to Associate Principal Paul Mack they're going to give it a try and see how it goes at the next dance on December seventh.

"We try to be open and transparent in our decisions," says Miramonte Associate Principal Sharon Bartlett. Admission to the Fall Dance went, "very quickly. We had four lines - three administrators and one teacher." Students were required to speak normally into the unit for a count of seven.

"No one complained. This is clearly the way schools are going." Although a breathalyzer test wouldn't indicate use of marijuana, administrators are able to look in student's eyes, exchange a few pleasantries and look for signs of impairment.

No one was found to be under the influence at the dance; everyone appeared to have a wonderful time. The penalty for being under the influence of any kind of substance on school property is a mandatory five-day suspension; the school also informs the police.

"This is not a district policy, but the district is very supportive in helping students make better choices," continues Bartlett. Football games at all of the schools are open to the community, so the schools don't check everyone, but they have breathalyzer units available, if needed.

At Acalanes, Associate Principal Jan Carlson notes, "we check every single student. It's part of the culture of the school. We have an alcohol free environment."



Raised crosswalk on Camino Pablo, Moraga

## CP Students Walk to School!

By Lee Borrowman

Those subjects of much recent controversy, often referred to as The Bumps on Camino Pablo, arrived just in time for local students as Camino Pablo Elementary School kicks off its new "Walk/Ride to School Day" on September 19. The program, coordinated by CP parents Kirsten Buckley, Lauren Woolsey and Shelley Neustrom, encourages students to wear red and walk or ride to school once a month.

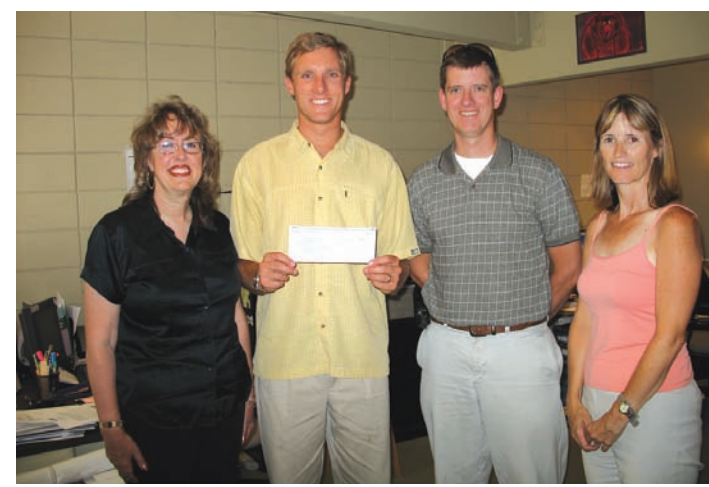
Buckley describes how the idea arose: "A couple of my friends and I were talking about ideas to drum up some school/community spirit. One friend who had lived in San Diego said they had a walk to school day that was a big hit."

Organizers hope to incorporate Life Skills and ideas such as healthy living, safety and concern for the environment into a regular event that will build community and strengthen school spirit. "We thought once a month was a realistic goal and a good place to start," said Buckley, continuing, "We'd love it if it turned into once a week."

The Moraga Police Department was invited to come the morning of the first walk and talk to students about safety. Buckley says, "For the most part, a walk/ride to CP is safe. We have new raised crosswalks at the school and new bike paths along Camino Pablo."

National Walk to School Day is coming up on October 3.

## Bike Race Benefits Local Education



Anne Granlund, Ryan Nickelson, Vaughn Van Note, Darci Chan

Not only was a good time had by all at the 3rd Annual Lafayette Criterium Bike Race, which took place last July, but the event raised funds for the Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation (LASF) as well.

LASF President Anne Granlund and Vice President Darci Chan accepted donations on behalf of LASF from Ryan Nickelson, Lafayette Criterium

Race Director, and Vaughn Van Note, Treasurer of the Contra Costa Cycling Club, the organization that coordinates the Criterium.

Donations included \$2,000 from sponsors Mt. Diablo National Bank and Greater Bay Bancorp Foundation and as well as proceeds from the Contra Costa Cycling Club's popular benefit raffle.

## "I Can Make a Difference By..."

By Sophie Braccini

How about encouraging our children to thrive in the arts and create just for the pleasure of creation? This is the purpose of the "Reflections" program, sponsored by the National Parent Teacher Association for students in grades K-12th at schools represented by a PTA branch.

Each year, children are given a theme and a choice of 6 different categories in which to illustrate it: visual art (2 dimensions only), literature (maximum 2000 words), photography, music, film/video (5 minutes max) and choreography. The program is in fact a competition, structured by age group, and from School to Council to District to County to State; your child's art could end up in Washington, D.C.

Every year hundreds of entries are submitted. They are recognized at each school, in a non-competitive way, and all works are displayed and recognized. The number of participants depends heavily on each school's staff support. For the 2006/2007 school year, student work from JM Intermediate, Burton Valley Elementary and Rheem Elementary ended up on display at the California PTA Convention in San Diego.

This year's theme is "I can make a difference by..." Children have until mid-October to submit a piece. Participating in Lamorinda schools are: Burton Valley, Stanley Middle School, Camino Pablo, Rheem, Los Perales and JM Intermediate. Information can be found on the schools' web sites or by contacting the PTA. The program's general web site is: www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm

## Quality Family Time

By Margie Ryerson

Kevin, age 12, sat in my office expressing hurt and resentment that his father didn't spend more time with him. But when I met with Kevin's dad, he insisted that he did spend a great deal of time with Kevin. Needless to say, this was confusing.

In fact, Kevin's father devoted many hours each week assisting with Kevin's soccer team and attending every game. The team traveled, so he also went away with them several times a year. However, Kevin wasn't yearning for this type of interaction; rather he wanted time alone with his dad.

Families are busier than ever nowadays with so many tempting activities to fill their time. Parents want the best for their children, and this often means enrolling them in many programs - sports, music, tutoring, Scouts, church groups, drama, art, etc.

Friends and social activities are important. School is increasingly demanding. We all know the feeling of trying to juggle our family's schedules and still find time to be together.

With parents and children being pulled in so many directions, it is important to prioritize. This may mean that each child picks only one or two activities at a time. And perhaps each parent limits volunteer efforts for school, sports, and community, as well. While it is important to do our fair share, it is also crucial to safeguard sig-

nificant family time.

Family meals are extremely important. Ideally, eating dinner together can be the norm and not the exception. Mealtimes are wonderful opportunities to relax together and enjoy each other's company. It helps if complaints and criticisms are kept to a minimum; for example, this is not the time to discuss homework, grades, or disciplinary matters.

Other than vacations, many people tell me that their family recreational time often consists of attending children's events, or sharing pizza and a video, or socializing with other families. These activities are fine, of course, but adding more interactive times as a family, such as a bike ride, an ice-cream outing, a ferry ride across the Bay, or playing a board game at home can create meaningful experiences for everyone. Sometimes the most lasting memories can be these simple shared times together.

Of course, as your children grow older their schedules and desires may conflict with family plans. If your teen helps plan family activities and also has permission to opt out occasionally, you will have a better chance of eliciting positive participation.

Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a marriage and family therapist with offices in Orinda and Walnut Creek. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com



Annaluna (3 1/2) playing with her parents Roberto and Jennifer at the Orinda Community Park

## Birthday Bash

Mayor Carol Federighi read a letter from Governor Schwarzenegger honoring the memory of the French hero who came to the side of the new nation to fight for freedom and human values. The mayor spoke of the brave life of the young French aristocrat who at age 19 armed a ship at his own expense to join the American Revolution. A life-long friend of George Washington, La Fayette advocated the American cause to Louis the XVI of France and eventually convinced the French King to send warships, ammunition and supplies to support the Americans.

Monsieur Pierre-Francois Mourier, the new French General Consul of San Francisco, reminded guests that France was

...continued from page 2

the first ally of the United States and that the two countries share many of same values and democratic principles. "We are allies but not aligned," stressed the Consul, who assured the audience that the new French President, Nicolas Sarkozy, is not hesitant to be labeled "pro-American." Mourier also presented two documents to the City of Lafayette further commemorating the bond between the two nations. The first was a letter from the French Historical archive that was sent by the early US Congress to Louis the XVI, praising Generals Rochambault and La Fayette. The other was a recent resolution of the US House of Representative honoring the memory of the Marquis de La Fayette.



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

\*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is based on the Prime Rate published in The Wall Street Journal. APR is subject to change monthly. For lines of credit with a maximum combined loan to value of 80% or less, the rate will be prime minus .75%. For lines of credit with a maximum combined loan to value of 80.1% to 90%, the rate will be prime plus .25%. As of June 13, 2007, the Prime Rate is 8.25% and the following rates would apply: 7.50% APR for credit lines of 80% or less maximum combined loan to value and 8.50% APR for credit lines 80.1% to 90% maximum combined loan to value. The maximum APR is 18%. The minimum line amount is \$5,000. There is no annual fee. An early termination charge of \$495, is assessed if paid off and closed within 24 months of loan date. Subject to credit approval and property valuation. Program terms and conditions are subject to change any time without notice. Property insurance is required and flood insurance may be required. Available to owner occupied 1-4 family residential or condominium properties. Offer is for new HELOC customers of Pacific National Bank.

# business briefs

## New Businesses and Ribbon Cuttings:

### Orinda Taxi; 482-7112

Julian Juricevic started a local taxi service on September 1st. Orinda Taxi serves primarily customers in the Lamorinda area. The company can be called 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The first car of the new company is a Ford Escape Hybrid.

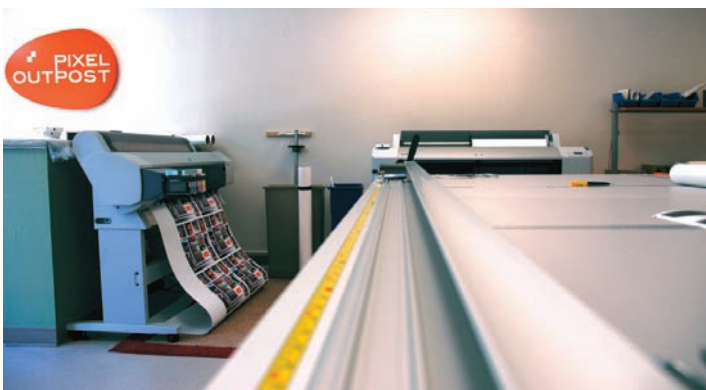
### Diverse Business News:

#### The Home Loan Group, 999 Oak Hill Road, Lafayette 866) 465-8588 x701 [www.tammycryer.com](http://www.tammycryer.com)

Tammy Cryer, with The Home Loan Group, has earned the Certified Mortgage Planning Specialist (CMPS) designation at CMPS Live. CMPS Live is presented by the CMPS Institute of Ann Arbor, Michigan, a training, certifying and ongoing membership organization created to help mortgage professionals integrate financial planning concepts into the mortgage process.

#### Pixel Outpost 331 Rheem Blvd., Moraga 925-376-7216; <http://www.pixeloutpost.com>

In May, Steve Kozel, President, moved Pixel Outpost into the old firehouse on Rheem Blvd. Designed for both novice and expert digital photographers, Pixel Outpost creates an experience where consumers can create beautiful BIG prints for personal art and portraits. Kozel is dedicated to ensuring Pixel Outpost is the easiest place on the web to get BIG prints from digital photography as well as traditional photos & 35mm slides. Using their secure website, Pixel Outpost processes photos for output on canvas, fine art paper, and photo paper.



### Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Orinda; 275.3085

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage today unveiled a sweeping redesign of all of its marketing materials to incorporate "green" printing practices into its marketing materials. All of the marketing materials are being printed on Forest Stewardship Council (or FSC) certified paper from Mohawk Paper, which uses 100 percent wind power produced electricity. As a result, in the coming year more than 129 trees will be saved, 375 pounds of water-borne waste will not be generated, 55,050 gallons of wastewater flow will be eliminated, 6,090 pounds of solid waste will not be generated, nearly 12,000 pounds of greenhouse gases will not be generated, 91.8 million BTUs of energy will not be used, nearly 20,772 pounds of air emissions will not be generated, and enough crude oil will be saved to drive the average car for 22,500 miles.

### New from the Three Chambers of Commerce:

#### Lafayette Chamber of Commerce - [www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org):

• Entrepreneur's Club, Thursday, September 20 - 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Chamber Conference Room.

Guest speaker: Gary Summers, Lewis Summers, Public Relations. Mr. Summer will discuss "what is public relations? And how can it help you tell your story?"

• Business Issues/Governmental Affairs, Committee Open Meeting. Thursday, September 27 - 8:00 a.m. Chamber Conference Room.

#### Chamber of Commerce of Moraga - [www.moragabiz.com](http://www.moragabiz.com):

Chamber meeting on September 28th, at 8:00 a.m. at Terzetto Cuisine, 1419 Moraga Way in the Moraga Center. Everyone is welcome.

#### Orinda Chamber of Commerce - [www.orindachamber.org](http://www.orindachamber.org):

Chamber Luncheon: Friday, September 28th, 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. (arrive early to network). Location: Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda; Keynote Speaker: Riley Etheridge, Certified Financial Planner, Certified Financial Analyst, Merrill Lynch Northern California Director; Topic: "Six Scintillating Steps to Retirement." Cost: \$30.00 per person (everyone is welcome). R.S.V.P. by Wednesday the 26th.

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.

## Art Show to Benefit Open Space Preservation ... continued from 5

Jones and Onoda expect a big turnout at the art show again this year. Works by recognized local artists such as John Finger, Bob Chapla, Silvio Silvestri, Suzanne D'Arcy, Douglas Morgan, Chris Newhard, Onoda and many others will be there. This will

be a great opportunity to check out their latest works, acquire interesting pieces of art and contribute to the protection of our local natural beauty. Children are welcome and admission is free. For more information call 925-878-9682.



George Ehrenhalf painting

Photo William Hinshaw

## "Orinda Taxi" Puts Customers and the Environment First

By Sophie Braccini



Barbara Ochota is taken home by Julian Juricevic of "Orinda Taxi" Photo by Sophie Braccini

Julian Juricevic has been an Orinda resident for many years. So when he had to give up his career as a contractor for health reasons, he decided to create a new business in the community he calls home. Juricevic loves to drive and enjoys people's company. Since there was no taxi company in Orinda, he decided to fill that void.

After getting all the licensing and permits that are required for this profession, Juricevic opened "Orinda Taxi" just two weeks ago. This entailed driving his taxi to the Orinda or Lafayette BART station, turning on his cell phone and waiting for customers to show up.

It was at the Orinda station that Barbara Ochota first spotted him. An environmentalist at heart, Barbara asked the man for his card when she saw he was driving a Ford Escape Hybrid. She knew she would some day need a taxi. Unfortunately the opportunity arose sooner than she had anticipated when she sprained her ankle on the morning of September 14th, getting off the bus that was taking her to BART. The pain was so intense that she immediately went to see a doctor in Orinda. She hadn't forgotten Orinda Taxi and called to be driven from the doctor's office to her Moraga home. It cost her only \$13.

Barbara is not the only one thrilled to see a local taxi company operate in Lamorinda. Beverly, who works for BART, thinks it's a great idea. "It enhances the whole public transportation experience," explain

the BART Agent, "it was much needed."

When asked why he decided to buy a new hybrid car for his trade rather than a much less expensive used regular car, Juricevic explains, "I love nature and I respect it. I know it will take me longer to become profitable, but I wanted to pollute as little as possible and, when I drive at night in the quiet streets of our towns and my taxi glides by without any noise, I love it!"

At this time, Orinda Taxi has only the one vehicle but Juricevic answers calls 24 hours a day and will be delighted to pick you up at home and take you to the airport even at 4:00am. He believes that being local gives him an edge over other providers: his response time is fast and he is a neighbor people can trust. He says he is already getting repeat business. If everything goes as planned, Juricevic will soon hire a second local driver and he hopes to purchase more vehicles in the years to come.

## Volunteerism Keeps Lamorinda Humming ... continued from page 1

Volunteers at the Orinda Arts Council also bring their professional skills to the table by organizing exhibits in the Orinda Library Art Gallery, supporting special arts programs in Orinda schools, and lobbying for additional arts programs in the community.

John Spahr, a Scout Master in Lafayette, simply wanted to help with his church's e-waste collection day. He volunteered to give up two weekends (along with boys from Cub Scouts Pack 200 and Boy Scouts Troop 200) to distribute flyers for the event at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival

and at the Walnut Festival in Walnut Creek.

For Durkin, volunteering is a way to give back. "I once purchased a ceramic bowl that read around the outer rim, 'tickle the earth with a hoe and it will laugh with a harvest.' Volunteering is somewhat along the same thought," he said. "To help something (an idea, cause or solution) grow."

At the library, Weaver is amazed by her volunteers. "They don't ask for recognition and expect nothing in return. They give and give and give," she said. "We just love them to pieces."



Friends of the Lafayette Library volunteers Doris Duncan, Sally Bellenger, and Pat Boyer prepare for another book sale in the Book Room at the Lafayette Community Center Photo by Jennifer Wake

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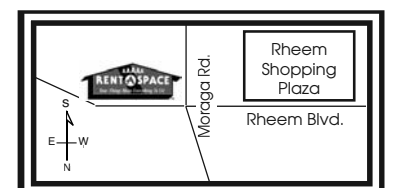


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Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

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Fish Tacos - Shrimp Burritos - Fajitas - Tostadas  
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**Fall Special**  
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**Petar's Restaurant**  
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Petar's is open for lunch Monday through Saturday from 11:30 to 4:00 and open for dinner nightly.



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**Mondello's Cucina Italiana**  
 Fabulous Italian Fare & Vino served Tue. thru Sun. from 5pm

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| Lasagna Della Casa <b>\$25.95</b>    | Chicken Parmigiana <b>\$30.95</b>  |

each comes with:  
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 Lunch Wed-Fri 11-2  
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### Last of the Summer Produce

#### Hearty and distinctive one-pot cooking

**By Chef Dan Leff**

Late summer produce can be disappointing. Corn and squash are tougher, woodier. Tomatoes are blander (and more expensive). But there are ways of using these vegetables to satisfying effect ... and incorporate autumn treasures (like mushrooms and chilies), as well.

This is a twist on traditional lamb stew. It uses a technique, commonly found in Indian cuisine, of cooking onions and tomatoes into a paste as a thickener for the stew. This stew has a bit of a kick to it from the jalapenos, which makes it good for crisp late Summer/early Fall evenings. It goes well with fresh artisan bread. I like to leave the potatoes unpeeled for extra nutrients, but that's a personal choice.

The best type of pan in which to make this stew will be about 2" deep, with a width of at least 8". Optionally, you can brown the lamb in a skillet, then transfer the fully cooked paste from Step 4 to a pot before continuing with Step 5. The important thing is to use a pan that's shallow enough for the lamb to really brown (in Step 2) and not steam in it's own juices.

**End-of-Summer Lamb Stew (serves 6-8)**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1-1/2# Lamb stew meat, cut into 1" chunks  | Seasoning for the lamb:<br>1 TB. ground cumin seed<br>1/2 tp. cayenne pepper<br>1/2 tp. black pepper<br>1 TB. salt |
| 3 TB. vegetable oil  |  |
| 2 medium yellow onions, small diced  |  |
| 3-4 cloves of garlic, fine chopped   |  |
| 6 roma tomatoes, small diced   |  |
| 2 jalapenos, seeded and fine chopped   |  |
| 12 ounces chicken stock  |  |
| 4 ounces red cooking wine  |  |
| 1/2# small, fresh button mushrooms, washed and left whole (if small mushrooms are not available, cut larger mushrooms into halves or quarters) |  |
| 2 medium russet potatoes cut into 1" chunks  |  |
| 2 zucchini squash, cut into 1/2" rounds  |  |
| 1/4# fresh spinach, thoroughly cleaned   |  |
| Salt and pepper  |  |



1. Before preparing the vegetables, mix lamb chunks in a bowl with seasonings (above). Allow to sit. Prepare all vegetables.
2. Heat oil in pan over high-heat. When oil is hot, add seasoned lamb. Cook until lamb is browned on all sides. Remove lamb (+ any juices) to a bowl.
3. Reduce heat to medium-high and add the diced onions to the pan. Cook the onions, stirring constantly to pick up all the browned juices left from the lamb. Cook until the onions have become translucent (about 5-6 minutes).
4. Add the garlic, tomatoes, and jalapenos. Stir constantly until the mixture becomes dry and paste-like -- this will take at least 8-10 minutes. Don't let the mixture scorch! Reduce heat to medium if the cooking seems like it's going too fast.
5. Add the chicken stock and wine to the paste. Stir to even out the mixture. Add the lamb chunks and mushrooms and bring to a boil.
6. Simmer the lamb and mushrooms over low heat, with the pan (or pot) mostly covered, for 30 minutes. Stir occasionally.
7. Add the potatoes. Stir to mix in thoroughly. Turn up the heat to bring the mixture to a boil again, then lower the heat to a simmer, and cook, mostly covered, for 20 minutes. Stir occasionally.
8. Add the zucchini and spinach. Stir just to mix in. Cook 5 minutes, uncovered. If the stew is too soupy, turn heat to high and cook uncovered for 5-6 minutes to reduce the liquids. Adjust taste for salt and pepper only at the very end. Serve in shallow soup bowls with bread on the side.

### And the Winners Are ...

**By Jennifer Wake**

Thousands converged on Mt. Diablo Boulevard and La Fiesta Square in Lafayette last weekend, enjoying some of the areas finest wines, food and artwork as they meandered amongst lines of booths at the annual Lafayette Art and Wine Festival. Budding artists put crayon and colored pencil to paper in our booth, as part of Lamorinda Weekly's Kids Art Contest, with the winners featured in this issue. Thanks to all the participants! Your talents made announcing a winner for each age category a difficult one.



Sisters Annalise, Isabel, Sophie and Colette Kimora drawing at Lamorinda Weekly Booth

### Winners



**Pre-K: Annalise Kimora**



**2nd Grade: Siena Marchiano**



**5th Grade: Taylor Howe**



**7th Grade: Gabriella**

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| LAMORINDA's Restaurants         |                                  |          |  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|--|
| •• updated September 5, 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>       |                                  |          |  |
| Gigi's                          | 1005 Brown St., Laf              | 962-0882 |  |
| Metro Lafayette                 | 3524 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf        | 284-4422 |  |
| Shelby's                        | 2 Theatre Sq, Ori                | 254-9687 |  |
| <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>                   |                                  |          |  |
| India Palace                    | 3740 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf        | 284-5700 |  |
| Swad Indian Cuisine             | 3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf        | 962-9575 |  |
| <b>Italian</b>                  |                                  |          |  |
| Giardino                        | 3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf        | 283-3869 |  |
| La Finestra Ristorante          | 100 Lafayette Cir, St. 101, Laf  | 284-5282 |  |
| La Piazza                       | 15 Moraga Way, Ori               | 253-9191 |  |
| Mangia Ristorante Pizzeria      | 975 Moraga Rd, Laf               | 284-3081 |  |
| Michael's                       | 1375 Moraga Way, Mor             | 376-4300 |  |
| Mondello's                      | 337 Rheem Blvd, Mor              | 376-2533 |  |
| Nino's Bay                      | #2 Theater Square, Ste. 153, Ori | 253-1327 |  |
| Pizza Antica                    | 3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf        | 299-0500 |  |
| Postino                         | 3565 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf        | 299-8700 |  |
| Ristorante Amorama              | 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>            |                                  |          |  |
| Alex's                          | 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           | 376-1515 |  |
| Baja Fresh Mexican Grill        | 3596 Mt. Diabole Blvd, Laf       | 283-8740 |  |
| Celia's Restaurant              | 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf        | 283-8288 |  |
| El Balazo                       | 3518D Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf       | 284-8700 |  |
| Maya Mexican Grill              | 74 Moraga Way, Ori               | 258-9049 |  |
| Número 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.

# In the Back Yard

## Local Garden Clubs: Focus on Moraga

Suzan Ormandy  
McDonnell Nursery



Members of the Moraga Garden Club in front of the Moraga Library  
Left to right: Barbara White, Moraga Commons; Anna Lum, President;  
Nell Sellers, John Muir Atrium; Rena Munson, Library Exterior  
Photo Andy Scheck

There's nothing common about the Moraga Commons. It's as special as the Moraga Garden Club members who maintain the flag-pole planting area there as well as the library garden and urns just down the road. This organization, active since 1970, embodies the community spirit that – along with the fine schools and bucolic setting – draws more and more people to Moraga every year.

As with other local garden clubs, the MGC begins its year this month, with the first meeting on Sept 20th and regularly on the third Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street. Meetings are open to the general public. For more information, call membership chair Mardi Potts at 376-2004 or president Anna Lum at 376-5679.

After business matters are discussed and light refreshments enjoyed, the 9/20 program will feature Mr. Robin Stockwell from Succulent Gardens on container gardening with succulents, a timely subject in this water-conscious time.

In fact, the MGC members are involved in furthering ecologically-sound planting methods as well as aiding in the protection of native trees, plants and birds. Their main goal is to stimulate knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs – so don't be at all shy if you're unsure, say, on the difference between annuals and perennials. The friendly ladies of the MGC are there to help new members.

They also help the larger community with ongoing projects like the Moraga Commons, the "Rheem Triangle" at Rheem and Moraga Roads, the lovely John Muir Hospital atrium, and the perennial garden at the Hacienda.

In addition to maintaining the outdoor plants at the library, the Club decorates an indoor tree with natural "critters"

at Christmas, decorates holiday wreaths and plants daffodils throughout Moraga for cheerful Spring color. They also do seasonal plantings at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center; the Pear Festival and "Moraga Beautiful Day" benefit from MGC presence as well.

Other activities this year include a holiday luncheon at the Diablo Country Club. No member wants to miss the January pot-luck salad luncheon featuring a floral designer. The MGC's major fund-raiser, a Spring Tea, will be held in 2009. Currently, members are selling the revised edition of Growing in Lamorinda, a guide for newcomers to help ensure successful gardening in the area. The book can be purchased at the Moraga Garden Center and at McDonnell Nursery in Orinda

Next month's column will feature another local garden club. The following is a brief guide to most of the clubs in the Lamorinda area. Most have websites that provide more detailed information and most have membership of between 125-150 people.



At the Moraga Commons



Hanging baskets Orinda Village

### Lafayette Garden Club

First meeting: 9/13. Regular meetings on 2nd Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., Our Saviours Lutheran Church, Carol Lane, Lafayette.

Membership is \$35 and open to a maximum of 150 people. Note: the LGC usually has to stop taking new members by winter, so don't delay if you want to join.

Contact Liz Schwark at 930-0985. President: Carolyn Bybee.

Projects include:

- Garden therapy at a convalescent home
- The Gazebo on Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Work with youth home residents on their garden
- Booth at the Wine Fair [9/15-16]

### Montelindo Garden Club

First meeting: 9/21. Regular meetings on 3rd Fridays at 9 a.m. Orinda Community Church, 26 Orinda Way [note: this is a new site] Membership is \$25 and new members are welcome. President: Lani Shepp

Projects include:

- The Crossroads Garden at Moraga Way and Brookwood
- Mini garden tours and a major Spring tour

Note: Visit their excellent website,

[www.montelindogarden.com](http://www.montelindogarden.com), for a list of guest speakers scheduled for the nine monthly meetings.

### Orinda Junior Garden Club

First meeting: 9/13. Regular meetings on 2nd Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Held in members' homes.

Membership is \$125. If interested in joining this 40-member club, contact Laura Sawczuk at 254-9510 to see if you have common interests with the club. Co-Presidents:

Pam Seifert and Diana Treter

Projects include:

- Hanging baskets around the Village
- The Circle at Theatre Square

### Orinda Garden Club

Go to [www.orindagardenclub.org](http://www.orindagardenclub.org) for information.

Membership is by invitation to this garden club with a 70-year history

President: Gina Fields

Projects include:

- The Triangle across from Orinda Motors
- The Rose Gardens at Heather Farms Park

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

## Got the Bike and the Helmet . . . Now What?

By Christopher Kolm



Chris and friends last Sunday on the Lamorinda Loop, returning from an 80-mile ride  
Left to right: Micky Bloom, German Serrano, Bart Borland, Christopher Kolm, Ted Brooks

So you want to ride your bike but don't know where to go? Allow me to introduce you to the Lamorinda Loop. It's safe and can take between one and two hours to ride depending on your speed and how often you stop at any of the great coffee shops along the way.

The key to cycling in suburban areas is to know the secrets that experienced cyclists know. There is an entire network of paths and special streets that link one community to the next and avoid congested roads that are unfriendly to cyclists.

The Lamorinda Loop is about 15 miles long. You can start anywhere along the route but I'll start you out at the corner of Moraga Road and Moraga Way. From this intersection, head out Moraga Way towards Orinda. You will begin to downshift at 1.5 miles from the start; pick a gear you are comfortable with and pace yourself up the 1-mile hill. Watch for broken pavement, debris and overgrown oleander bushes as you crest the hill and roll down through the Glorietta Road intersection.

At about 4.5 miles, you'll approach the Orinda Crossroads; stay right at the light and head towards Theater Square. On the weekend a constant stream of cyclists stop by Starbucks for a quick break; there's lots of room for your bike outside.

Finished that latte? Okay, head across the traffic circle and

turn right onto Davis Road. Go to the first stop sign and look left. This is the hidden entrance of the bicycle path that will connect you to Lafayette.

Follow the bike path, watching for walkers and joggers, kids and dog leashes. The path ends at St. Stephen's Drive. Ride straight across the intersection and down the little hill that looks like it is going to take you onto Highway 24 East. Turn right onto Happy Valley Road and enjoy the long hill down and the smooth pavement. Follow the road to the intersection with Acalanes Road Left on Acalanes Road and onto the marked bike lane. At the light, turn right onto Mt. Diablo Blvd. A short climb uphill earns you a nice coast down in the wide bike lane and past the entrance to Lafayette Reservoir.

At Mountain View Drive the bike lane ends abruptly so watch for traffic, car doors opening and vehicles entering the street. Make your way down the boulevard to Lafayette Circle, turn right and proceed to Fiesta Square.

You've traveled about 9.5 miles now and may need a refresher. Papillion's a great place to take that next break, and again there is plenty of room to store your bike and sit outside. If your bike needs attention or you want to upgrade your outfit, right across the parking lot is the back of Sharp's Cycles, one of only a handful of great bike shops in the

Christopher Kolm is a Moraga dad and a member of the Lamorinda Cycling Club/Synergy Racing Team. We will forward questions or comments to him; just email [letter@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letter@lamorindaweekly.com).

East Bay.

From Lafayette, there are several options to get back to Moraga but only one route is recommended for the recreational cyclist. Don't go straight up Moraga Road as it is steep and has no shoulder. A less steep but also somewhat dangerous route is to go left on St. Mary's Road but this too has no shoulder at times and cars tend to go faster than the recommended speed limit.

A much better route is to go up Moraga Road to School Street. Left on School Street and about a half mile down past Stanley Middle School is an entrance to the Lafayette-Moraga Bicycle Path. Take a right turn onto the path and discover one of the treasures of living in Lamorinda. It can get a little crowded on the weekends as it is well-used by the young, the old and a vast array of pets and strollers so take your time and enjoy yourself as you make your way slightly uphill on the well-kept trail.

After crossing many small roads, at about 12 miles, the path crosses St. Mary's Road. Motorists are usually friendly here and let you cross. After this intersection, the path cuts through a steep pasture up to your right where cows are often seen grazing. There is a steep bit farther on but it is thankfully short; at the top, the path crosses Rheem Blvd.

Continue slightly uphill past Saint Mary's College on your left and coast down into the Moraga Commons. There are restrooms and water here. You can relax in the park and end your ride now, sitting under a shade tree and appreciating your accomplishment, or take a left at the light onto Moraga Road and cruise back to your starting point at the corner of Moraga Road and Moraga Way.

Some prefer to ride the Loop in the opposite direction; try it both ways and see what suits you!

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# SPORTS

## LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



On the Earthquakes (right) Josh Dathe, on the Typhoon (left) Matt Stewart  
Photo Gavin Schlissel

### LMYA/OYA Soccer Kicks In

By Jennifer Wake

The Lafayette-Moraga Youth Association (LMYA) in conjunction with the Orinda Youth Association (OYA) kicked off its 2007 soccer season Sept. 8, with teams ranging in age from Kindergarten through 8th grade competing for top position. According to the LMYA president, soccer is the largest sport in the LMYA, with an estimated 3,000 children registered and more than 200 teams in the program.

Pictured are the 7-8th grade boys – the OYA Earthquakes (black) Josh Dathe and the Typhoon (blue) Matt Stewart – bat-

ting it out, as well as the 7-8th grade girls No.-5 ranked Madrid against No.-9 ranked Orinda 4 at the Orinda Sports Center last Saturday, where Madrid trounced Orinda 4 with a score of 6-0.

The Lafayette-Moraga Youth Association is a non-profit organization providing year-round athletic programs for all school age youth in the Lafayette and Moraga communities. For information about game times and standings, visit the LMYA Web site at [www.lmyasports.com/soccer/index.html](http://www.lmyasports.com/soccer/index.html).



Left to right: Adrienne Bengtsson, Alison Snider (Moraga), Ashley See (Orinda)  
Photo Gavin Schlissel



Charlie Ross of the Earthquakes  
Photo Gavin Schlissel



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### Saint Mary's Hosts Vermont in Fall Soccer Classic

By Kevin D. Shallat

The Saint Mary's women began their own tournament by taking on the Vermont Catamounts in the Fall Soccer Classic on Friday, Sept. 7, finishing tied, 1-1. Teams from Cal Berkeley and Cal State Bakersfield also participated in the event.

Forward Allie Wiener continued to be a big part of the Gaels offensive attack, netting the only goal for the Gaels in the 39th minute of play. Wiener scored on a beautiful pass by midfielder Marina Baham to give the Gaels a 1-0 edge heading into the half. "It was a good ball in by Marina, it was right on my foot and I just got lucky," Wiener said. But it was more than luck on the play. Although Vermont's goalie took a good leap at the ball, and was fully extended, it sailed untouched up into the far right hand corner of the goal.

Midfielder Jessica Menzhuber had another terrific game for the Gaels, taking the ball away from the offensive players with ease during the course of the game. Menzhuber also lofted beautiful touch passes to the wing throughout

the game.

As Menzhuber continues to lead and control the games for the Gaels, Wiener is stepping up as a fast scorer who can penetrate the defense near the goal. With their contrasting styles, Menzhuber and Wiener are becoming an exciting one-two punch for the Gaels.

Midfielder Stefani Rocco also made a number of good defensive stops around the Saint Mary's goal to prevent Vermont from scoring the go ahead goal. Midfielder Ashley Nied had a few nice shots as well: One of her shots was on its way into the top part of the goal before Vermont forward Alison Hemphill made a spectacular play to head the ball up and over their own goal to prevent the Gaels from taking a 2-1 advantage.

Goalkeeper Tara Larson was very active Friday night, with a number of good blocks. The most spectacular play of the game came on a succession of shots in the second half. Larson blocked one shot after another in the span of only a few seconds.



Allie Wiener (5) net the only Gaels goal  
Photo Jordan Fong



Mercede Koning (9)  
Photo Jordan Fong

The Catamounts came into the second half with renewed energy and were able to score on a shot that lofted up and over Larson to even up the score at 1-1. There were many more opportunities for

both teams to score, but after two over-times the game ended in a 1-1 tie.

Catch the next Gaels game by checking the schedule online at: [www.SMCGaels.com](http://www.SMCGaels.com)

### Cougars Claw Their Way to Victory

Submitted by Alex Crook

The Campolindo Cougars varsity football team kicked off the 2007 season on Sept. 7 against Piedmont with everything a quality football team should look like.

Senior quarterback, Scott Scharff completed 7-13 passes for 119 yards and two touchdowns in the 31-2 pounding of the visiting Highlanders Friday night. On the ground, Campo was backed up with 13 carries for 79 yards from junior running back Cookie Kazzaz, including 10 carries for 43 yards from Anthony Rodriguez.

This was and probably

will be a very talented Cougar football squad who knows exactly what they're doing at all times, getting the job done up and down the field, while Piedmont was either just plain sloppy or tired, having not much accuracy from their quarterback.

Starting the scoring was Kazzaz, who easily ran five yards for the score with 1:03 gone in the second quarter. After the PAT from Giorgio Tavecchio, Campolindo then led 7-0 and would not look back, eventually leading 28-0 at the half. Also in the 2nd

quarter, Piedmont cornerback Cliff Harrison would be injured on Scharff's run, stopping the game for a mere 10 minutes before being driven off the field on a John Deere to the Piedmont bench.

As for the rest of the Highlanders, their only points came in the 4th quarter after a holding penalty backed the Cougars into the end zone, resulting in a safety. At that point, Campolindo led 31-2 and would not do any more damage, taking the season opener from Piedmont once again.

Last year, the Cougars es-

caped Piedmont on the leg of kicker Jimmy Adranly, who nailed a 23-yard field goal as time expired to give visiting Campolindo a 23-22 win. The Cougars finished 7-5 under Coach Macy and 5-4 in DFAL, including a 21-20 win over rival Miramonte at Cougar Stadium as Scott Scharff connected with Luke Crossley for the touchdown. But it was Adranly's PAT that put the final nail in Miramonte's coffin, giving Campo their second win over the Mats since 1991. As for Piedmont, they finished 5-6 and 4-1 in BSAL in 2006.

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# SPORTS

## LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### Big Time Football Rivalry under the Friday Night Lights

By Kevin D. Shallat



Anthony Rodriguez (20)

Photo Jordan Fong

The Campolindo Cougars came to Orinda last Friday night to take on the Miramonte Matadors in a classic football rivalry that has spanned over fifty years. Coming into this match-up as the favorite, Miramonte lost, with the Cougars beating the Matadors on their home turf, 30-7.

The start of the game played out like many thought it would. Junior James King scored a touchdown for the

Matadors on a 17 yard pass from quarterback Trevor Boswell. Wide receivers James Giles and AJ Taylor had seven and five catches respectively for the Mats.

The Matadors played inspired defense throughout the first two quarters, keeping a close score in the energized atmosphere, with the game tied 7-7 heading into the half. Then Campolindo wide receiver Luke Crossley scored a touch-

down with ten seconds before the half on a beautifully lofted seven yard pass from quarterback Scott Scharff.

Halfback Alex Gole-sorkhi did what he could for the Mats Friday night, as he recorded 42 yards on 11 rushes. However, the second half was clearly dominated by the Cougars. Scharff, the Cougars senior quarterback was a big reason the Cougars were able to win this game decisively, as he was able to get the ball to so many different players on the Campo team. "We knew Nick (Mascheroni) was going to be double or triple teamed, so we had to find a way to get the ball to our four great backs," Scharff said.

The third quarter was decisive for the Cougars as it had the most dazzling and important scores of the night. A mishandle punt by Miramonte led to a Cougar safety. Campo also used the flea flicker play in this

quarter that caught the Matadors off guard. Scharff connected with senior wide receiver Luke Crossley for a huge gain, and moments later Scharff launched another great pass to senior wide receiver Mascheroni for a touchdown.

With 16-7 score in favor of Campolindo at the start of the fourth quarter, there was still time for Miramonte to come back, but the Mats could not generate enough first downs to get the offense going. The biggest play of the game for the Cougars came on a third down pass to senior tight end Nathan Kinney, who caught for a first down, allowing the Cougars to use up time on the clock.

Minutes later, Crossley caught another pass for a first down that appeared to seal the Matadors fate. As good as the Cougars offense was, the defense deserves much of the credit, as junior cornerback Fern Fadelli and the rest of the defense did well to keep a powerful Matadors offense to seven points on the night. Junior running back Kawa Kazzaz put the finishing touches on the game as he rushed for two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, finishing the game with nine carries for 66 yards.

Campolindo may have pulled out an upset Friday night, but the Cougars didn't prepare for the game thinking they were the underdogs. "We kept telling ourselves that we were better than them," Scharff said. "We hit the weight room every day and prepared nine months for this game."

### Don's Lose after Halftime Lead in Bulldogs Upset

The Alhambra Bulldogs earned a 38-28 victory over the Acalanes Dons in Friday night prep football action. Despite jumping out to a 21-13 halftime lead, on the strength of two long throws from Robbie Pestal to

Brooks Baker, the Bulldogs took the win. A fumble recovery in the end zone was all the Dons could muster in the second half, against four Alhambra scores.



Anthony Fadelli (7), Mike Trumbo (4)

Photo Jordan Fong



Brian Maxson (55), Scott Scharff (6)

Photo Jordan Fong

### Scoreboard a Much Needed Addition at Soda Center

By Jennifer Wake

Although home to many prestigious programs in Northern California – including Orinda Aquatics, the NCS swimming championships, DFAL league championships, and even the 2002 U.S. Water Polo National Junior Olympics – the Soda Aquatic Center in Moraga has no scoreboard and timing system. After its opening in 1999, following a grant from The Soda Foundation to the Acalanes School District, a scoreboard was never in-

stalled, although posts for it were put into place after the pool was built.

For the past two years, a handful of parents involved in the community and in aquatics have mounted a campaign to raise funds for the board, working with the Acalanes School District to raise funds for a matrix scoreboard and complete timing system.

"The system will show names of competitors and teams, times and events, and

there is also the capability to advertise upcoming events and exhibitions," said Robyn Varellas, who is chairing the fundraising efforts. "The timing system will include touch pads, a start system, water polo shot clocks and swim pace clocks."

To date, Varellas and the other parents have raised about one half of the funds needed for the scoreboard, but still need an additional \$40,000 to complete the timing system,

installation, and storage portions of this project.

"Our goal is to complete it by this spring," Veralles said.

For questions or to make a donation, contact Robyn Veralles at (925)631-1214 or Heather Gevertz, Lyndel Melton at (925)437-4110.

### Saint Mary's Women Lose Heartbreaker to UCSB

By Kevin D. Shallat

In a spirited match, Saint Mary's women's volleyball took on the U.C. Santa Barbara Gouchos in its home opener on Sept. 13 in McKeeon Pavilion, but lost the contest 3-2 in the fifth game of a best-out-of-five format.

The Gaels won the first two games of the match, recording a 30-26 score in each game. In the first two games, Saint Mary's had 38 kills, to Santa Barbara's 21, with Gaels outside hitters Megan York and Taylor Groess at 12 and seven kills respectively in those games.

It seemed as if Saint Mary's was well on their way towards beating the Gouchos. At the break, Santa Barbara knew the match was on the line. Down 2-0, they would

have to pick up their play, or the match would be over.

They returned looking like a new and improved team.

Even with the inspired play by the Gouchos, Saint Mary's hung tough and led for a good portion of the game. At one point in the third game, the Gaels took a three point lead to make it 16-13.

The Gaels, however, could not maintain their stellar play, despite the fact that they had no glaring mistakes, and the Gouchos had a number of unforced serving errors. The Gaels dropped the next three games to lose the match.

Freshman sensation York, however, continued to impress, leading the team in a career high with 26 kills. She

also had 17 digs while recording her sixth double-double of the season. Setter Kapua Kamana'o led the team with 17 assists. Middle blocker Megan Burton was very active, and had a solid game with 13 kills. Libero Alita Fisher also played a gritty match, recording 25 digs on the night.

Junior outside hitter Groess was a real catalyst for the Gaels in this game, with many timely kills. As one of the elder players on this young Gaels team, Groess brings energy, confidence, and fun to the games.

Catch the next Gaels game by checking the schedule online at: [www.SMCGaels.com](http://www.SMCGaels.com)



### Go Gaels!

#### Upcoming Sports Events at Saint Mary's College

Women's Soccer vs. Sacramento State  
Friday, Sept. 21 at 4 p.m.  
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Women's Volleyball vs. Cornell  
Friday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m.  
McKeon Pavilion

Women's Volleyball vs. Cal State Bakersfield  
Saturday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m.  
McKeon Pavilion

Men's Soccer vs. San Jose State  
Sunday, Sept. 23 at 2:30 p.m.  
Saint Mary's Stadium

Women's Soccer vs. Valparaiso  
Sunday, Sept. 23 at noon  
Saint Mary's Stadium

Women's Volleyball vs. Gonzaga  
Thursday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m.  
McKeon Pavilion

Women's Volleyball vs. Portland  
Saturday, Sept. 29 at 1 p.m.  
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For information about upcoming season schedules, visit the official Saint Mary's athletics website at [www.SMCGaels.com](http://www.SMCGaels.com).

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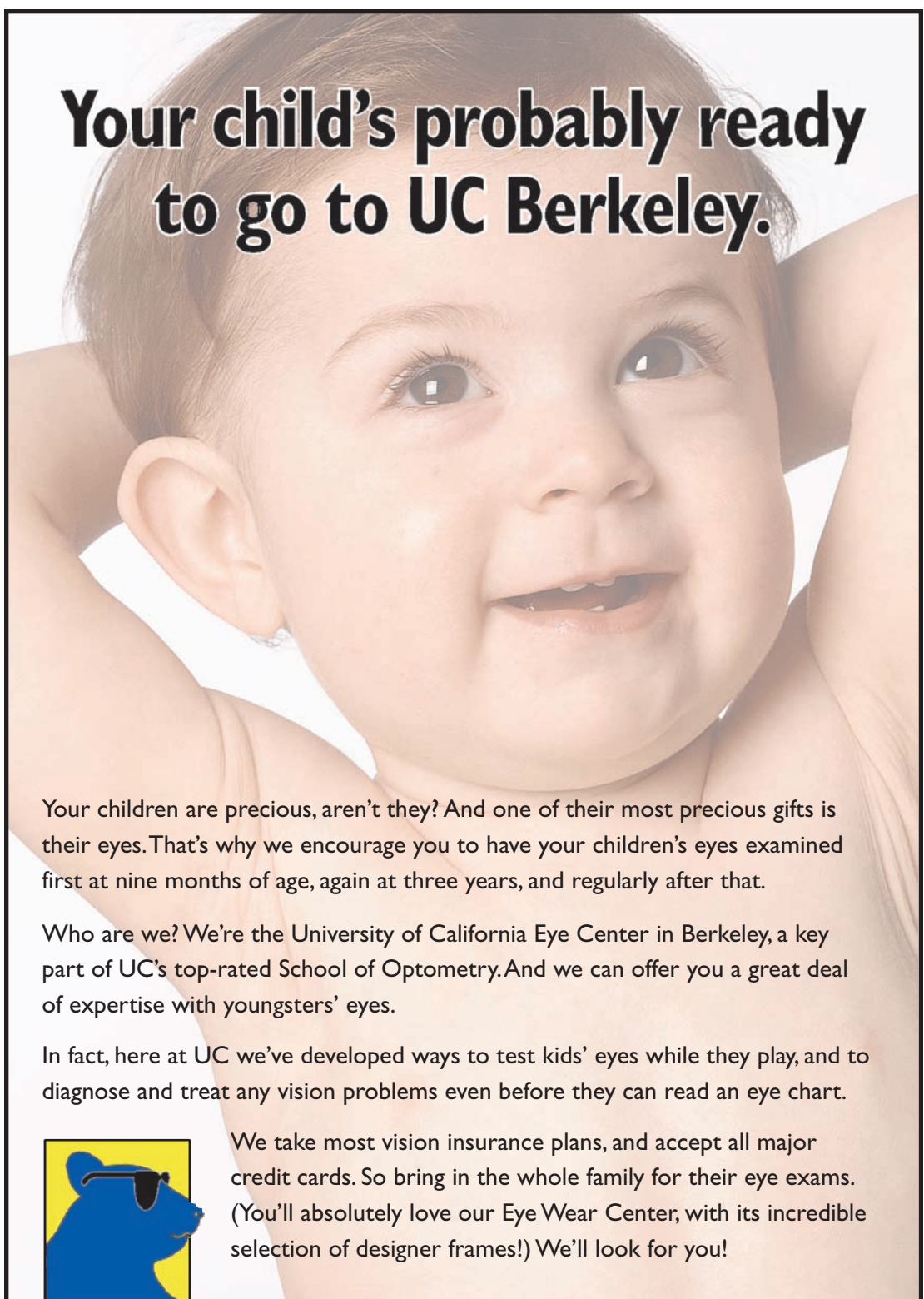
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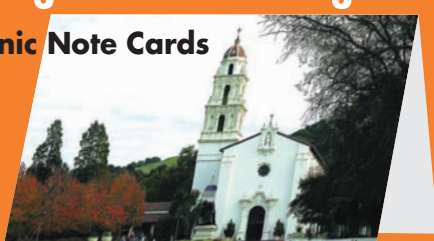
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