

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Wednesday, November 14, 2007



Season Starts with Sizzle!



See Story on Page 19

Photos Tod Fierner

Diamon Simpson (20); Omar Samhan (50); Tron Smith (23)

Ship's Bell Tolls for Veterans Lost

By Jennifer Wake

Lamorinda has garnered national attention for its Lafayette crosses and the area has an abundance of conflicting opinions from its residents regarding the Iraq War. But with more than 5,000 veterans living in the Lamorinda area, Veterans Day continues to be a time of remembrance for its residents – for all the wars fought, all the courageous efforts made, and all the tears shed.

Retired Rear Admiral Vince Anzilotti, of Orinda, served in the Navy from 1948 to 1988. A naval aviator, he flew five different aircraft, has served aboard four Essex class aircraft carriers, and was decorated with the Legion of Merit. For the past seven years, he has helped coordinate a joint Mass among three Catholic parishes in Lamorinda each Veterans Day to honor local veterans who have made sacrifices for our country.

Each year at the Mass, which was held this year at St. Monica's Catholic Church in Moraga, a ship's bell rings out after names of veterans who have died in the past year are read. This solemn reading is followed by Taps.

"We're losing a lot of World War II vets," said Anzilotti, who was a naval aviator in both the Korean War and Vietnam Conflict. "What we're trying to do is have a Mass to remember."

Unlike past years where the Veteran's Day Mass was held as a separate event, this year's Mass was combined with one for young teens. This led to changes in the program: The St. Monica's Mass of the Rock teen band played God Bless America and America the Beautiful; the bagpipe solo of Amazing Grace was swapped for a guitar. The Mass offered a wonderful opportunity for the teens to learn more about these often unsung heroes.

"I hope the teens get an understanding that in our society here, a lot of us served in the military," Anzilotti said. "We're here and we should be respected for what we've done."

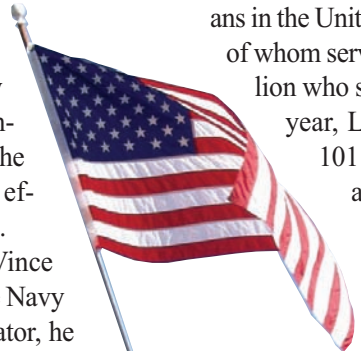
Bill Dick of Moraga – who was a Navy submariner during the Vietnam Conflict (and beyond) – has helped Anzilotti coordinate the Mass. "Vince has headed this thing up and brought so much to light," Dick said. "It's important to remember those that served their country gave us the rights and privileges we have

today – those same rights used by those who protest."

According to the Census Bureau, in 2000 there were more than 26 million veterans in the United States, (more than 8 million of whom served in Vietnam and over 4 million who served in Korea). In that same year, Lafayette had 2,152 male and 101 female resident civilian veterans, Moraga boasted 1,444 male and 43 female vets, and there were 1,846 males and 105 females living in Orinda who had served in the armed forces.

In the past, women veterans would collect the gifts at the Mass, but Anzilotti says they had trouble finding any who could do it this year. "They are just getting too old," he said.

For Dick, the Mass is an important way to remember those who served. "Between my dad, my uncles and myself, we had over 100 years of service in the Navy," he said. "I think many of those who were present served this country well over the years."



Retired Rear Admiral Vince Anzilotti holds ships bell at St. Monica's Photo Jennifer Wake

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Lamorinda Pow Wow

By Cathy Tyson

Was it excitement, or seismic activity that shook up attendees at the annual Tri-Cities Meeting where representatives of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda got together to summarize the highlights and lowlights of the past year? Civic leaders from City Council representatives, to Police Chiefs, to City Planners, to City Managers, gathered in Lafayette's new Veteran's Hall for the regional update. The expertise and devotion that these hard working civil servants have for their respective jobs and the community was apparent. All these people make it their jobs to enhance life in Lamorinda. Most residents aren't aware just how much effort goes into keeping Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda up and running.

The lengthy meeting covered a wide range of topics that affect the area. Emergency preparedness, an EBMUD road project and Lafayette planning were just a few of the many presentations that evening.

How appropriate was the first order of business on the agenda, Emergency Planning Progress Report? The Alum Rock temblor, literally rocked the meeting. No one panicked, although there was a parade of officials taking to the hallway with cell phone calls. The recently held tabletop exercises received excellent marks from outside consultants who remarked, "It was commendable the way they worked together."

It was apparent by the volume of concerned comments that EBMUD was in the hot seat, discussing the summer 2008 road closures for necessary water pipe replacements along Moraga Road. The fear was that when this project is coupled with the repaving of Moraga Way in Orinda, it could potentially be the mother of all traffic jams for area residents, especially those going into and out of Moraga. A consultant hired by EBMUD analyzed area traffic and projected less than 5% additional traffic on Moraga Way. Nora Harlow, Community Affairs Representative for EBMUD was reassuring, "we are building in flexibility, and will be able to adjust the project," just in case projected traffic scenarios are not what's anticipated.

"This has been an exciting year with projects in Lafayette," explained Niroop Srivatsa, Lafayette's Planning & Building Manager. The Woodbury, an 80-unit luxury condominium project will be build near the Veteran's Hall, a 20-unit project is slated to go up near the Lafayette Park Hotel on the other end of town, and the city is also partnering with an independent affordable senior housing company. Together the hope is to have 50-units of affordable senior housing. Whole Foods is coming to town and the Mercantile Building is almost complete.

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Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Nov 26	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Dec 6	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, Nov 20	
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road Wednesday, Dec 12	
Circulation	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Nov 19	
Emergency Prep.	9:15am
City Offices 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 265 Wednesday, Dec 12	
Senior Services	3:30pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Dec 6	

Good News, Bad News At The State Of The City Address

By Cathy Tyson
 One the one hand, there's plenty to be proud of; on the other hand the burden of an inherited \$24 million dollar accumulation of road repairs is overwhelming. According to Mayor Carol Federighi, "In a snapshot, the City is healthy and solvent with an increasingly vibrant downtown." The bad news is, "There is insufficient money to fix the roads, and not enough money for police staffing."
 The Mayor outlined the good, the bad and the ugly at last week's General Meeting of the Lafayette Homeowners Council. The Sequoia Room of the Lafayette Community Center was filled with concerned residents and a number of homeowner association representatives. It was a friendly meeting until the question and answer portion of the evening following the Mayor's "State of the City" talk.

The Good News
 A variety of projects are either being planned or in a range of stages of completion for the benefit the citizens of Lafayette. Construction is well under way at the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center, which is on track to open in 2009. The City approved an 80-unit luxury condominium project on the western edge of town near the Veteran's Hall. An important component of the project will tentatively be 18 units of off-site low-income housing. A 20-unit condominium project is nearing approval on the east side of town near the Lafayette Park Hotel. The site of Butler-Conti Dodge has been recommended for affordable senior housing. The Lafayette Mercantile Building is nearing completion, and Whole Foods is coming to town. The Petanque recreation area and the multi-sport rink also opened this year.

The Bad News
 "The goal is to develop a strategy to address our \$24 million dollar road repair backlog," said Federighi. "We simply don't have all the money that we need to do all the things we want to do." She went on to explain with the help of pie charts of where the money comes from and where the money goes, taking special care to explain how different pots of money have specific spending requirements.
The Ugly
 The intensity of the meeting was definitely kicked up a notch when it came time for questions and answers. In a nutshell, many attendees were concerned about the road situation. Questions included, how about having less money in reserves and more money available for police? If we (residents) can raise \$12 million dollars for the library, why can't we figure out road repair? There



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were suggestions to prioritize city issues, that nothing gets done until, say, the top two or three priorities are tackled. One disgruntled homeowner noted, the roads are a concern for residents, but didn't feel like it was a concern for the City Council.
 Current City Council Member and incoming Mayor Mike Anderson invited the crowd to be, "be part of the process. We need your participation." Compliment-

ing citizens for their expertise in a variety of fields, he suggested perhaps resident groups could help address the problem and look for unique solutions.
 With \$11.5 million dollars projected in the general fund for 2007 - 2008 and \$24 million dollar funding gap to fix the roads, the solution remains a mystery, at least for the time being.

City Mourns the Loss of Kathryn Petersen

Kathryn Petersen, passionate advocate for trails and open space, passed away on Nov. 7. The Community Park bridge was named after Ms Petersen last year, in appreciation for all her work on the preservation and creation of parks, trails and open space.
 In a letter to City staff, Parks, Trails and Rec Director Jennifer Russell wrote, "Kathryn looked at the City much as an architect or engineer, but instead of seeing buildings and roads, she saw trails crisscrossing the city through our beautiful hills, creeks and oak woodlands. Her unwavering vision of an interconnecting system of trails was a force to be reckoned with...We are so grateful to Kathryn for sharing her vision and passion with us and for showing us how one person can make a profound and lasting impression. Whenever we cross the Kathryn Petersen Bridge, we can marvel at the view of Las Tramps creek below, perhaps catch sight of a deer using the creek for safe passage, enjoy the buckeyes as their white blossoms turn to large brown seed pods, and visit the often magical oak woodland waiting for us on the other side."
 The Police Blotter will return to this space in the next issue.

Jewish Day School Group Project



By Cathy Tyson
 Review was a wonderful process," noted Head of School Dean Goldfein. "It made our building better, integrating it with the rest of the campus." Federighi acknowledged the requirements of the City, "It can be painful sometimes." This new building is just part of a master expansion plan that is slated to include a gymnasium with a rooftop play field and additional landscaped gathering areas adding to the overall campus feel.
 The current building, leased from Temple Isaiah since 2001, is bursting at the seams with students. Started with just 23 children, now 94 pupils are enrolled in grades K through 8. According to Goldfein, "Contra Costa County has the fastest growing Jewish community in the Bay Area." He continues, "private schools must serve a public purpose, providing something special and unique to the community."
 Mayor Carol Federighi recently toured the facility to get a first hand look at the existing school and the new building site. "Design

The CCJDS emphasizes its community-learning program through extensive service to the Contra Costa Food Bank, and student-centered fundraising for charity.
 Located off of Risa Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard, the 10-acre parcel offers ample parking, easy access, and a quiet woody atmosphere. Because the setting is so secluded, it's anticipated that construction equipment and noise will have minimal impacts on Mt. Diablo Boulevard traffic.
 Students come from all over the area, Lamorinda, Walnut Creek, Rockridge and beyond. The school accepts non-Jewish students, and has a number of students from households with just one Jewish parent, along with a range of beliefs from Reform to Orthodox.
 "This school is full of life, learning and excitement," says Dr. Colin Schlesinger, President of the Board of Trustees.

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Empty Nesters Unite

By Cathy Tyson
 One Lafayette mom, although sad that her youngest child has left the family nest, is doing something about it with a support group of acquaintances. Their group of eight empty nester moms got together recently to put together Halloween-themed care packages for their respective kids. "It's very comforting to be with other women in the same situation," says Elizabeth Kirkpatrick. They hope to get together again for a Christmas-themed care package party. Everyone brought eight of the same item for each of the college kid's packages, for example, Chapstick, granola bars, Halloween candy, Febreze.

Although there's plenty to do at work, she owns and manages the Hen House, right across from Starbucks, Kirkpatrick says, "I hate it, its very sad." Life without her two boys around the house meant big changes at the grocery store. "One of the hardest moments was at Safeway. I spent just \$62 for a week's worth of food. I just cracked up."
 Even tackling the clean-out of her pantry was painful. After putting it off for more than a year, she recently got around to it. "I found some plastic farm animals stashed in the back, the kind to put on cupcakes." Kirkpatrick notes that



Elizabeth Kirkpatrick at the Hen House in Lafayette
 Photo Cathy Tyson

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Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Moraga

Calendar	
City Council 7:30pm	Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo Wednesday, Nov 28
Planning Comm. 7:30pm	Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive Monday, Nov 19
Design Review 7:30pm	Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive Monday, Nov 26
Park & Rec 7:30pm	Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive Tuesday, Nov 20
Liaison 8:00am	Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way Friday, Dec 14
Beautification 5:15pm	Hacienda, Preschool Room 2100 Donald Drive Wednesday, Nov 28
check online: Town of Moraga: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates	

Mayor Gives "State of the Town" Address

By Sophie Braccini



Moraga Mayor Mike Metcalf

Photo Andy Scheck

On November 8th, Mayor Mike Metcalf presented the traditional "State of the Town" address in the bucolic setting of the Hacienda de las Flores. Speaking to the core val-

ues of the Town and its goals as laid out in the 2002 General Plan, Metcalf offered the audience both a summary and details of the year past and described the Town's short- and long-range plans for the future.

The hour-long Powerpoint presentation encompassed five general topics: Protection, development, public works, parks/recreation and finance.

Moraga's crime rate has remained consistent, although it is up slightly this year due in part to an increase in residential burglaries. Speeding and driving under the influence remain serious safety issues, and the Moraga Police Department recently dedicated a traffic officer and hired a Community Service Officer to focus on those of the lead-foot persuasion.

In light of two upcoming projects, the EBMUD scheduled replacement of aged water pipes along Moraga Road and the renovation of Moraga Way by the City of Orinda, Metcalf suggested this might be a good year

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to "take that long vacation," however discussions are underway to alleviate some of the anticipated traffic congestion.

Affordable housing is also becoming a major issue, and the Town has been working on preparing guidelines for the two downtown areas, which could become home to multiple-unit housing structures for "low-income" individuals such as students, some of the Town staff and teachers. There are no firm

development plans as yet for the Moraga Center or the Rheem Center.

This fall saw the Town resume management of its recreation program, and the first Parks and Rec Plan since 1980 is being finalized. Options are being considered for making the Hacienda de las Flores a self-sustaining resource; a business plan should be completed by March of 2008.

... continued on page 8

Professional Condos in Moraga: The 8 units that are all the rage

By Sophie Braccini



Exterior rendering of the professional condominium project

Image Colliers International

As the metal structure of the new building starts springing off the ground at 533 Moraga Road, across from the Rheem Center in Moraga, Colliers International has received the first reservation for a suite in the professional condominium office building developed by Dan Minkoff and Allen Sayles. Minkoff, a developer, and partner Sayles, an architect and member of the Moraga Planning Commission, began work on the concept in December of 2004. It took a little over a year to get final approval from the Design Review Board. "The town was a bit unfamiliar with this type of project at first," says Minkoff, "professional


condominiums had never been built in Moraga before. But they ended up being very supportive."

"There was little opportunity for professional ownership in Moraga," explains Sayles, "not much in term of quality office space either." Working close to home can save on commute time, but this is just the first benefit. Minkoff pinpoints the financial benefits of owning your professional space. "When you own it, you can use depreciation, you build up equity and you never have to face an increase in your rent again."

The ownership structure also has a positive impact on the quality of the building. "Pride of


ownership goes a long way, and this is why we decided to choose the best quality material for our building." The owners will make the final decision on carpet, paints and all the finishes. The electrical system has been networked to allow the installation of a photovoltaic system. But, as Sayles explains, "The tax rebates that cut in half the cost of a solar investment can only be obtained by the future business owners. Typically, it takes five to seven years for a business to recoup this investment. The decision will be in the hands of the owners' association." Other sustainable features include deep set windows and awnings for the south and west walls and recycled glass counter tops.

... continued on page 15



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D.U.I., 11/04/07 A black Infiniti was pulled over on Moraga Way, just east of Ivy drive for speeding, at approximately 1:20 in the morning. The 18-year old driver showed objective signs of alcohol intoxication. His blood alcohol level was tested, and found to be double the legal limit.

No Loud Noise, 11/04/07 Officers responded to a complaint of loud noise at a Thune Avenue home. Upon arrival at 2:30 in the morning, officers could not hear any noise or see any people in the area. The reporting person insisted there was a loud party at the location, but there was no evidence to support the claim.

Construction Site Theft, 11/03/07 At approximately 3:00 in the morning, officers were advised of suspicious circumstances at a construction shed on Augusta Drive. A small black pick-up truck was pulled over by officers on Moraga Way, which had burglary tools inside. The subjects were detained until the owner of the burglarized property could come. He identified approximately \$4300 worth of power tools and extension cords in the bed of the truck.

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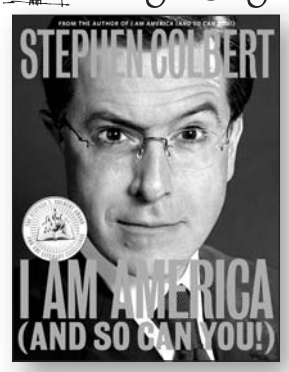

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Why the bags?

What better way to show your support of the local community than to shop locally with your own "Shop Orinda" reusable tote? And, they're eco-friendly, too. Starting in mid-November, the bags are available while they last at Chamber Member stores and shops displaying the "Shop Orinda" logo in their window.

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NOV 17

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Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar

City Council 7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way
Tuesday, Nov 27
(Tuesday, Nov 20 canceled)

Planning Comm. 7pm
Founder's Auditorium, Orinda
Community Center, 28 Orinda Way
Tuesday, Nov 27

Hist. Landmark Comm. 3pm
Gallery Room, Upper Level
26 Orinda Way
Tuesday, Nov 27

Liaison 8:30am
Community Room at City Hall
22 Orinda Way
Monday, Dec 3

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

Chamber of Commerce:
<http://www.orinda-chamber.org/>
• local businesses
• upcoming events

Scouts And A Big Check Come To The Orinda City Hall

By Cathy Tyson



Pictured are (left to right): Daniel Huston, Kyle Wallace, Phillip Hoxie, Jack Jorgensen, Jonathon Date-Chong, Max McCulloch, Mayor Glazer, Daniel Davis, Mitch Brooks, Kyle McKeen & Alex Smith

Submitted by Cathleen Huston
Cub Scout Co-den leaders Cathleen Huston and Jennifer Wallace had the distinct pleasure of leading fourth grade Webelos from Wagner Ranch El-

an overview of local government and answer questions.

"The City was very accommodating, letting us use one of their meeting rooms, and showing us the facility" according to Huston. "It was one of the best meetings of the year. Thank you to the City of Orinda for this terrific opportunity and learning experience." City Clerk Michele Olsen arranged everything. The tour was set up to satisfy part of the Webelos advancement requirements, gaining a citizenship pin to move up to the next level.

The Orinda City Council received something even more special than their citizenship pin at last Tuesday's City Council meeting. P G & E presented a rebate check for \$63,936.00 for meeting the requirements of their incentive program, Savings by Design. This program encourages energy-efficient building design and construction statewide



P G & E representatives present rebate check to Mayor Glazer and the City Council

for commercial, industrial and agricultural customers. The new building exceeds Title 24 standards by over 60%. Title 24, is a section of the California Code of Regulations, also known as the California Building Standards Code regarding energy efficient building standards.

"We are pleased the City of Orinda has been recognized and honored for our energy efficient project. This recognition under-

scores the importance of designing systems that integrate energy efficiency while maintaining a pleasant work environment. We hope this project will serve as a model for other companies or individuals who are considering new construction or remodeling plans in the community and throughout the region," said Glazer.

It's like Christmas in November.

Orinda Saves Old Bricks for New City Hall

By Andrea A. Firth



Todd Skinner and Ann O'Connell-Nye outside City hall where the new bricks will be installed

When Orinda incorporated as a city in 1985, the city offices were located in an annex to the Community Center (the former Orinda Union Elementary School site) with the main entrance just steps from Orinda Way. Todd Skinner, current Director of the Parks and Recreation Department for Orinda, was working in the city offices back then. He recalls that the entrance to the building was greatly en-

hanced through the efforts and generosity of a number of Orinda residents. "Individuals and families purchased engraved bricks to help fund the project. The bricks were then incorporated into the building of the steps, fountain, and landscaping of the entrance-way," explained Todd.

About eight years ago, when the building that housed the city offices was demolished in order to build the Orinda Library,

the bricks were on a path to the landfill. In stepped longtime Orinda resident Ann O'Connell-Nye. As a former member of the Historical Society and Chair of the Historic Landmarks Committee, Ann values the preservation of the city's past. "My family purchased one of those bricks over 20 years ago. So when I learned that the bricks were to be removed, I contacted the City Council with a proposal to salvage the bricks and to reuse them in the building of the new City Hall," said O'Connell-Nye, "And they agreed."

... continued on page 7

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Stranger Danger, 11/6/07 A young man had walked his sister to Glorietta Elementary and was walking home on Hillcrest when a white pick-up truck with a black lumber rack came nearby. The driver, allegedly a white male, with blond hair approximately 43 years old wearing a black baseball cap yelled, "kid, do you want a ride?" The boy yelled, "no!" and kept walking. The driver pulled up again and said, "Get in the truck now." The boy ran to the nearest house.

Pot Okay, 11/02/07 Police dog Chef knew something was amiss with a car parked in the Del Rey parking lot at 10:30 at night. The pooch sniffed out 2 ounces of marijuana and a large wad of bills. The 20-year old sitting in the driver's seat happened to have a medical marijuana card. The officer counseled and advised the young man before releasing him.

D.U.I., 11/02/07 A police officer stopped a car for various violations at Camino Pablo and Santa Maria, not all that far from the police department. The officer noticed a strong odor of alcohol. The driver tested poorly on field sobriety tests and had a blood alcohol level of .18. He was taken to Martinez and booked.

Who's Running This City, Anyway?

If you've got the time and the interest, the City of Orinda has the right volunteer position for you!

By Lee Borrowman

It takes more than dedicated elected officials and a competent and very busy city staff to make things happen in Orinda. Mayor Steve Glazer hopes Orindans will "look for an opportunity to participate so we can make our community an even better place to live, work and recreate." And there may never be a better time to look. Several City Commissions, Committees and even a Task Force will have positions to fill in 2008.

"The only way for our government 'of the people' to work is to have citizens volunteer to participate. These Orinda committees undertake critical matters affecting

the well being of our community," Glazer said.

Interested? Available Commission spots include two on the Planning Commission, two on the Parks and Recreation Commission, three on the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, two on the Citizen's Infrastructure Oversight Commission, three on the Public Safety Advisory Commission and one on the Art in Public Places Committee.

In addition, the newly-created Budget and Finance Committee will be composed of seven residents, and will review the City's proposed Operating and

Capital budget and provide recommendations to the City Council and City Manager.

But wait, there's more. The Revenue Enhancement Task Force, also new, needs four residents with a background in areas such as financial institutions, municipal financing or bond agencies. The goal of the Task Force will be to make recommendations to the City Council and City Manager on revenue enhancements to supplement current revenues. These could span an array of sources to provide funding for infrastructure challenges, downtown revitalization and other projects.

The application deadline for the Budget and Finance Committee and the Revenue Enhancement Task Force is 5:00pm on December 14, 2007. All other applications are due on Friday, January 11, 2008. Applications are available on the City website, www.ci.orinda.ca.us or from the City Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 2000, 22 Orinda Way, email molsen@ci.orinda.ca.us, phone 253-4221.

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Life in LAMORINDA

Restoring Our Creeks is a Community Affair

By Jennifer Wake



Algae forms in warm creek water flowing over concrete behind Safeway in Orinda. Photo Jennifer Wake

Lamorinda creeks are a beautiful natural resource, both pleasing to the eye and calming to the spirit. With thousands of homes built along creeks throughout Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga, residents have an opportunity to enjoy the wonder of these waterways and the local wildlife it supports.

But with the tranquil setting comes added responsibility.

According to the president of Friends of Orinda Creeks (FOC), Maya Rappaport, even after the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, contamination levels of local waterways remained high.

"The EPA was curious why contamination levels were higher than expected after so many safeguards had been put into place by

industrial businesses," she said. "Unfortunately, the Act did not address a key contributor to water contamination: homeowners."

In 1987, the Clean Water Act was amended to address non-point source pollution (stormwater runoff from farmlands, forests, construction sites, and urban areas), now estimated to represent more than 50 percent of the nation's remaining water pollution problems.

Geologist Cinda MacKinnon founded FOC in 1992. Rappaport, whose environmental background is in water quality issues, joined in the efforts of Friends of Orinda Creeks in 1994 because she was concerned about the lack of attention that local homeowners and city officials were paying to Orinda's creeks.

Thanks to organizations like FOC, as well as city-supported committees such as the Lafayette Creeks Committee, efforts are being made to educate local residents, survey existing problems, and replant waterways with native vegetation.

Friends of Orinda Creeks President Maya Rappaport stands among newly planted native vegetation along San Pablo Creek in Orinda. Photo Jennifer Wake



Planting Day at San Pablo Creek
The Friends of Orinda Creeks (FOC) is hosting a planting day at San Pablo Creek on Saturday, Dec. 22 from 10 a.m. to noon behind the Buehler building at 19 Orinda Way. Volunteers will work to restore native understory species such as Santa Barbara sedge and creeping wild rye. Bring gloves and wear long sleeves and pants to avoid any poison oak that may still be lingering. FOC will supply plants and digging tools. (Heavy rain will cancel the event.)

Unfortunately, the contamination problems persist.

"People are still emptying pool water into the street," Rappaport said. "The water goes into the storm drains and directly into our creeks."

All Lamorinda residents should remember that waterways are not just affected by homeowners with creeks on their property.

"Every time you press the brakes, copper and chrome, oil and grease contaminate the road.

When it rains all the drainage flows directly in the storm drains, which empty into the creeks," Rappaport said. "You can't eliminate the problem, but you can minimize other sources of contamination."

Changing to eco-friendly fertilizers and not washing cars on driveways can help. Even a seemingly simple thing like planting along a creek bank can be devastating to the waterways.

"Pampas grass and French broom are so invasive, it kills the native vegetation," Rappaport said. "If the shade over creeks is removed, the water heats up and algae forms, killing important macroinvertebrates that live in there."

A brochure on the San Pablo Creek Restoration project explains how native vegetation helps stabilize the creek banks and the roots help prevent soil erosion. Vegetation also traps sediment carried from upstream sources, keeping the water clean, while runoff from heavy rains is slowed down by plant life, allow-

ing water to filter into the ground and replenish essential groundwater reserves.

Lafayette's Creeks Committee, which was formed by the City Council 10 years ago, recently sent surveys to more than 900 homeowners whose properties line the creeks. Questions included whether there had been any changes in the creek bed since moving to the property, if homeowners had experienced any flooding, and if any modifications had been made to the creek bank.

The outreach effort will help the committee to identify potential problems at different locations, and the information will help the committee serve in its advisory capacity, responding to inquiries regarding development that would affect waterways as well as city planning beautification endeavors.

The Friends of Orinda Creeks board would like to see a similar outreach effort in Orinda. "There are more creeks in Orinda than any other city in the county," Rappaport said. "Policing these waterways is challenging, at best."

Although any remodeling projects in Orinda have to go through a biological review, which outlines what homeowners can and cannot do based on this ordinance, Rappaport noted that if they are working without permits, problems can go unchecked.

Through organizations like FOC and city and town endeavors, word is spreading about how to protect our waterways. Currently, information brochures are given to every new Orinda homeowner with a creek on their property at the close of escrow – an ordinance the Lafayette Creeks Committee would like their city to emulate – and information about how to protect our watersheds can be found on a variety of Lamorinda Web sites.

The problem is getting people to not only read the information, but to take action.

"There are a lot of embedded practices that are hard to change," said Lafayette Creeks Committee member Jeff Gilman. "Everyone is part of the solution."

For more information, visit the Friends of Orinda Creeks Web site at: www.orindacreeks.org.

Orinda Saves Old Bricks for New City Hall ... continued from page 6

The brick salvage operation was quite successful with only 40 of the original 150 bricks lost due to breakage. Unfortunately, the size and specifications for building-grade bricks had changed over the years, so the decision was recently made to purchase new bricks engraved with the residents' names as before. O'Connell-Nye, resident Sheyla Kantor, and city officials had carefully compiled a list of the brick donors' names, and they now await a shipment of 150 newly engraved bricks.

The bricks will be set in the ground surrounding the flagpole by the upper entrance of City Hall. An original boulder and commemorative plaque from the old city offices' entrance will be moved to the location as well. "It's important to preserve history and document the changes," noted Ann O'Connell-Nye. To that end, an addi-

tional plaque explaining the trail of the bricks and recognizing the monetary contribution of the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation to the new project will also be included in the display.

So what will happen to the pile of old bricks? Once again, Ann O'Connell-Nye has stepped in to save a little bit of Orinda's past. "I know I want to keep my family's original engraved brick," said Ann. She plans to contact the individual residents to coordinate the return of their bricks.

It may not be a piece of the Berlin Wall, but it is a great piece of local history. Who knows, we may see the great, great-grandchild of an Orinda brick owner on Antiques Roadshow looking for the story behind the old brick, and of course—the value of their little piece of history.

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FAMILY FORUM:

Pressure for Grades

By Margie Ryerson

In Lamorinda, where as Garrison Keillor might phrase it, “all the children are above average,” expectations of ourselves and our children can be quite high. There are many successful high-achievers in our community and naturally the hope is that our children will follow suit. Expectations can be a two-edged sword. They motivate us to aim high, but they can also create too much pressure.

A frequent scenario involves worried parents with an underachieving child. It is very frustrating to know your child is extremely capable, but that he is not utilizing his potential. Janet and Larry came to see me, accompanied reluctantly by their 14 year-old son, Sean. Sean was in ninth grade and getting low B’s and C’s, despite having qualified for the gifted program when he was in elementary school.

Janet and Larry lectured Sean often about the importance of good grades for his future, and became frustrated and then angry when they saw how little effort he put into his studies. Sean interpreted his parents’ concern as nagging and controlling. This family was locked in a power struggle with no end in sight.

In their sessions, each family member was able to express what lay beneath their behavior. Sean learned that what he experienced as pressure was really a reflection of his parents’ worry and love. Janet and Larry saw how their words and actions came across as strong-willed and angry. Sean admitted that he was actually concerned about his grades and getting into college. Once the family felt more united, they were able to formulate a plan for Sean to get additional help. And they agreed on a different approach, with Sean taking charge of school and grades, and requesting advice from his

parents when needed.

For a positive approach to grades, start in the early elementary school years by asking your child what he would like to achieve. Most children at this age want to do well in school. If your child has a learning disability or medical diagnosis that may impede him from doing as well as he would like, help him set realistic goals that he can attain.

If your child succeeds in meeting his goals, celebrate with him in a small way – with praise and a special meal, or doing a special activity together. Giving your child money makes grades more parent-centered, as if they are so important to you that you will pay for them. Help him learn to work for his own intrinsic satisfaction, and not just for external praise and rewards.

If your child does not accomplish his goal, share his disappointment with him and provide encouragement. He may need to adjust his own expectations and get some assistance. Some children work cooperatively with their parents, but others will benefit from an outside tutor or program.

If your child resists getting help, try to stay neutral and encouraging. Timing is important, and some children are not ready to succeed until later. Let him know that your love and respect for him are not contingent upon his academic record. As we all know, there are many definitions of success in our society, and having a loving, supportive family is one of them.

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.

Empty Nesters Unite

... continued from page 2

Now that they were strapping young men, it just wasn’t appropriate anymore. The cute cupcake window had closed.


“There is a different dynamic in the house,” said Yoni Mayeri regarding the older of her two sons going off to college. That abrupt separation some parents go through was a little different for her. Son Max is at Sonoma State, along with a dozen other Miramonte graduates, and as a member of the baseball team, he and his teammates work the Cal Bear foot-

ball games to earn money to support their team. Mayeri said it’s not unusual to see him home for dinner or at a Cal game. “There was never a dull moment when he was home.” Her youngest son is still at home along with her husband.” Life goes on, “but there is a lot less laundry.”

Many parents, particularly mothers, have feelings of sadness and loss when their youngest child heads off to college. There’s even a name for this, Empty Nester Syndrome. Ellen Lev, a psychologist who focuses on mid-life transition issues and practices in Lafayette, notes that her approach is two-fold with Empty Nest clients. “First, helping them go through the natural stages of grieving the loss, that will end in a healthy acceptance. Second, helping the person redefine the Self.”

On the opposite end of the spectrum, some feel that this is a new beginning; that their child is exactly where he or she is supposed to be. For an empty nester mom that could translate to a perfect time to explore new hobbies, volunteer, travel, get a job, go back to school, or even rekindle some romance.

Letters to the Editor



Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer’s name and town (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for length or legal considerations.

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com;
Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Dear Editor:

One reads and hears complaints about government much of the time, but rarely do we hear about it working properly and efficiently. I would like to tell you of an instance when local Town government services responded quickly and efficiently to resolve a problem.

Dan Bernie, Supervisor of Moraga’s Public Works Department and his staff acted promptly after I noticed them of two potholes in two areas of Moraga. Dan got back to me within a couple of hours of my call to assure me the situation would be addressed immediately and corrective action would be taken. The very next day as I passed the two intersections where the potholes had been located and they had been repaired.

My thanks and a “Hats off” to Dan Bernie and his Public Works staff for responding to the problem with lightning speed. Moraga’s Small town government really does work.
Gordon Nathan
Moraga

Dear Editor:

The Lamorinda Weekly describes Moraga as divided over the bumps on Camino Pablo. This is not surprising since few facts have been given to the citizens on this issue. Bump advocates see a speeding vehicle taking the life of a pedestrian youngster justifiably as tragic and avoidable. A loved one dying because EMS arrived too late can be viewed as tragic, but death from natural causes. The

irony is that a death from reduced response time could be a child suffering from injury or shock.

The Orinda-Moraga Fire Department’s strong position against the “bumps” is based on their response time study. This is consistent with other studies across the country indicating that calming programs that reduce response times cost more lives than they save. There are 325,000 deaths a year from sudden cardiac arrest alone, compared with 5,000 pedestrian deaths. Because survival rates drop by 7 to 10% for each minute of delay, speed bumps on the wrong roads become killers. A detailed Austin Texas study estimated 37 lives would be lost from speed bumps for every pedestrian saved.

Other towns have faced this conflict and decided either 1) speed bumps are prohibited on arterials used by emergency responders or 2) extensive study involving impacted people is required before installation, AND a super majority of citizens must approve bumps. Neighboring Orinda and Lafayette have adopted such policies. None of this was done in Moraga prior to bump installation. When properly presented to the citizenry, a decision should be made to remove bumps and find less dangerous but equally effective calming devices. This will serve the priorities of both pro and anti bump groups, and Moraga will no longer be divided.
Joe Mahoney
Moraga

Mayor Gives

“State of the Town” Address

... continued from page 3

Moragans will soon be able to view meetings of the Town Council from the comfort of their living rooms, as that illustrious body will be moving to La Sala and its’ meetings will be televised. The date for the Council’s cable television debut has not been determined.

Metcalf concluded with a detailed budget presentation. The three major sources of revenue for the town of Moraga are property tax, sales tax and fees. Movements such as “Shop Moraga First” are attempting to address the issue of sales tax “leakage” and keep more tax dollars in town. The Town has generated a slight surplus over the past years and projections indicate that the budget will stay

balanced until 2013. After that time, the Town could be facing a structural deficit. \$3,750,000 of the \$17M in fees from the developers of the Palos Colorados housing project has been received, with the remainder to be paid over the next seven years. The Council has spent a small amount of these funds on the library, but has agreed not to undertake any major spending until a comprehensive program is adopted. The Council plans to take up this issue at its meeting on November 28.

To view the Town of Moraga General Plan or the Mayor’s State of the Town Powerpoint presentation, go to <http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us>

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Scavenging For Food Scraps

By Sophie Braccini



Bart Carr and Lois Courchaine check a green bin for food scraps

Photo Sophie Braccini

On a chilly Lafayette morning, three individuals were roaming Rohrer Drive in Lafayette, one armed with what looked like a long bent screw driver, one carrying a notepad, the third a camera. It was trash collection day and the trio was going from one green recycling trash bin to the next, digging in wholeheartedly, inspecting, sniffing and commenting.

An older gentleman came out of his house and asked, "May I help you?" "Hi," replied the tall gentleman in the group, "We represent the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA) and we are checking the recycling bins to see how many people are recycling their food scraps. My name is Bart Carr, and this is Lois Courchaine from CCCSWA." The third person was a certain nosy reporter, who wanted to see first hand how the program was doing.

The "Food Scrap Recycling

program" started in Lamorinda at the beginning of September, when small gray plastic containers were distributed to all residents along with the "Does and Don'ts" of food scrap recycling. According to Carr, "The program aims at two objectives, first to diminish the amount of trash that is sent to land fill, since about 20% of our trash is made of food scraps; and second is to minimize the amount of food that goes down the drains, because the harder it is to treat that water and greater the risk of clogging."

At two months into program, CCCSWA decided to audit the response of the community. In Alameda County, a similar program has been in effect for years and the rate of homeowners recycling food scraps is about 30%.

So when they started on their trash-digging journey, Carr and Courchaine didn't have their hopes too high. Lafayette was the

first town tested, and the results were amazing: 37% of all green bins checked included food scraps. Ron Zuckerman, on Rohrer, was out gardening when the "trash police trio" came by. "We love this program," said Zuckerman, "we don't use the gray bin, we put our scrap in a paper bag when we prepare food or clean up and directly dump it into our tall green bin. Now our blue can never overflows anymore." Bart Carr told him that for a two-person home, a twenty gallon blue bin should now be enough and would save him an additional \$5 on his garbage bill. Susan Manzano of Lafayette uses big paper bags too, "We are a seven-person family," she said, "plus a dog, but I understand that no manure goes into that program!"

The following week it was Moraga's turn. The inspection started on Calle La Mesa, and right from the start the result was jaw-dropping: 54% of all trash cans contained food scraps. George Atashkarian, a local recycler, commented, "It is so easy, and it seems the right thing to do." As the group encountered other Moragans who reported issues with fruit flies and even maggots, Carr offered advice: "If you are concerned with odors and flies, you may want to stay away from meat and dairy products and just put vegetable and fruit scraps in your bin. You want to empty your bin frequently; it literally takes days for any larvae to develop, so you should never get them. You may also use paper grocery bags to enclose food, keeping smells in and flies out. Since paper is biodegradable, it

can be composted with the food and yard scraps."

The amazing Moraga rate was not matched by Orinda the following week during the third trash voyage. But Orindans held their own with a very respectable 28%. There too, the residents that the trio met in the streets were amicable. Marcie Tuttle, who was walking with a friend, was particularly positive. "I have that little

container right there on my counter," she said, "and I fill it up whenever I prepare food. I was born in California and was raised saving water, this too is a way to save water, you don't have to waste so much using the disposal all the time."

At the end of the audit both Carr and Courchaine were pleased by the results. They plan to promote the program some more

around Thanksgiving so fewer leftovers, bones and other food scraps end up in the trash. "These numbers are very reassuring," concluded Courchaine, "and we didn't take into account the fact that many times we couldn't dig very deep into the bin, because we didn't want to make a mess. So we probably missed some recycled food scraps at the bottom."

Toys For Tots Drop Box In Orinda Grobanites On A Mission

By Cathy Tyson

Who knew one curly haired crooner could make such a difference? Josh Groban, a pop and classical singer, has inspired countless fans, who according to their website are, "inspired by the rich meaningful music of Josh Groban and his desire to help children. Naturally charitable, always thinking of ways to lift others." These fans, which go by the catchy name of Grobanites, have formed Grobanites for Charity and have partnered with Toys for Tots, to bring toys to needy children at Christmastime.

Look no further than The Framemaker shop in Orinda to find a true Grobanite, Bev Malcolm, and a drop box for Toys for Tots. She will be collecting new, unwrapped toys in containers provided by the Marine Corp until mid December.

Staff Sergeant Brian Banko, of the Fourth Force Reconnaissance Company, says his unit is just gearing up to mobilize for the season. Since so many needy children in Contra

Costa and Alameda Counties will receive toys, the Marines have partnered with social service organizations, the Red Cross and

season. Part of the Marines mission is putting out and collecting collection boxes, as well as hosting events to collect donated toys and cash donations.

Banko says they collect toys for children from 0 - 17, but that there is a particular need for gifts for 4 - 7 year olds and 13 - 17 year olds. The suggested toy is new, unwrapped, and costs between \$10 and \$20.

Donation boxes are ready and waiting at The Framemaker, 19 Orinda Way, Orinda. Those stopping by the store just might hear some Josh Groban on the sound system. "It's a really nice thing for the kids. Not only does he have a beautiful voice, but he has a very humble quality," notes Malcolm.

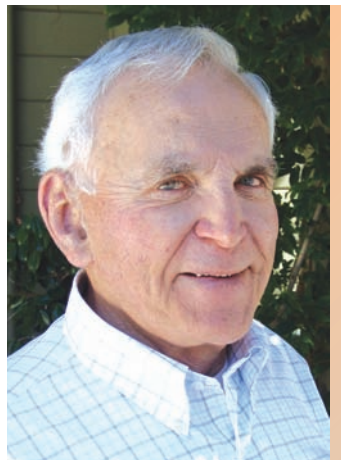
Fire stations in the Moraga-Orinda Fire District are also accepting toy donations, through December 18.



Fire Departments among others to distribute an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 toys locally this holiday

For more information go to, www.grobanitesforcharity.org or www.toysfortots.org.

The United States Marine Corp Reserve's Toys for Tots Program is celebrating its 60th year! Toys for Tots began in 1947 when Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. The pilot project was so successful that the Marine Corps adopted Toys for Tots in 1948 and expanded it into a nationwide campaign. The initial objective that remains the hallmark of the program today is to "bring the joy of Christmas to America's needy children." According to Toys for Tots, the Marines have distributed more than 370 million toys to more than 173 million children. The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, created sixteen years ago to administer the program and receive cash donations, has supplemented local toy collections with more than 70.2 million toys. For more information and to view other drop-off locations go to: <http://www.toysfortots.org/>



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Teaching Adolescents to Argue?

By Lee Borrowman, with Mojgan Vijeh

Argue? Any parent of a 13-year old will tell you, "They already know how to do that!" But there's more to the art of debate. According to the national Middle School Public Debate Program, debate helps students develop speaking, thinking, and even listening skills. Students who debate become more engaged in the world around them and develop sophisticated knowledge about a wide range of current events and complex ideas. The East Bay Debate League, founded in 2006 by a group of local middle school teachers, kicked off its second season at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School on November 3.

Students from Joaquin Moraga, Orinda Intermediate and Stanley Middle School went head to head against each other and students from as far away as San Jose and Sacramento, arguing one side or the other of such topics as: Medical testing on animals does more harm than good; The U.S. should have a draft for military service; On balance, video games do more harm than good; and California should raise the driving age to 18.

Each speaker was given twenty minutes to prepare and five minutes to present the pro or con side of the subject. JM teacher Don Read, who helped establish the East Bay Debate League, says, "One of the things that I love about the Debate



The JM debate team and coaches hosted the first event

League is how excited the kids get when they find out the topic they will be debating and whether they will be speaking for the proposition or the opposition. They all become so very busy writing down notes and planning their strategies. I admire them for the courage it takes for students to speak in front of people and defend their position on very challenging topics."

At the end of the day, OIS went home with first place for total school wins, JM took the overall win (based on number of participants), and a debater from North Creek Academy, a private school in Walnut Creek, won first place for an individual speaker. Most of the students went home with first place for total school wins, JM took the overall win (based on number of participants), and a debater from North Creek Academy, a private school in Walnut Creek, won first place for an individual speaker. Most of the students went home with first place for total school wins, JM took the overall win (based on number of participants), and a debater from North Creek Academy, a private school in Walnut Creek, won first place for an individual speaker.

Some of the JM parents whose children are on the debate team expressed a concern that Campolindo High School does not offer a Public Speak-

ing/Debate option, and they would like to see one created so that the middle school students who are getting this early exposure to debate can continue to pursue their interest while in high school. But Campo Principal Carol Kitchens explains, "Our students participate in the extra curricular programs of Model UN, Academic Decathlon and Mock Trial, which afford them the opportunity for public speaking and debate."

For more information about the Middle School Public Debate Program go to <http://www.middleschooldebate.com/leagues/ebdl.htm>

Upcoming middle school debate tournaments:

December 8, 2007 at Orinda Intermediate School, Orinda

February 9, 2008 at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, Moraga

Date TBA spring 2008 at Stanley Middle School, Lafayette

Principal Exchange

By Cathy Tyson

There's a reason Miramonte High School Associate Principal Sharon Bartlett's Spanish is getting better every day. Both she and Principal Silvio Rasmussen of Leonardo da Vinci High School in Rio Cuarto are participants in the Fulbright Fellowship Exchange Program. Rasmussen is here for three weeks shadowing her and doesn't speak much English.

Rasmussen's school in Argentina is on holiday at the moment. Bartlett plans to reverse roles, visiting in July when Miramonte is on summer break.

Since 1946, The Fulbright Program has facilitated exchanges with teachers, administrators, graduate students, and professionals to increase mutual understanding. Sponsored and administered by the U.S. Department of State and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, this is a unique opportunity for both Bartlett and Rasmussen to learn about each other's culture, schools, and teenage behavior.

Rasmussen is the principal of a private school with 180 students from seventh to twelfth grade in the center of Rio Cuarto, population 150,000, in the Cordoba province, located in the center of Argentina. This is not his first trip to the U.S. He taught at a school in Miami for a month, and has been to Cuba as part of a conference.

The biggest difference between Miramonte and his school is the students stay in the same classroom, while the teachers rotate through six pe-



Sharon Bartlett, Associate Vice Principal Miramonte High School and Principal Silvio Rasmussen of Leonardo da Vinci High School

Photo Andy Scheck

riods each day. There the school day runs from 7:45 in the morning until 1:45 in the afternoon, when the students go home to have lunch and siesta. Usually only the students that have afternoon P.E. or after school sports stay and have lunch at school.

Rasmussen was overwhelmed at a recent Matador football game with the number of students, players, cheerleaders and little cheerleaders in training that happened to be there that night. Halloween was another big surprise; neither it nor Day of the Dead is celebrated in Argentina. He took a number of photos of costumed students and staff.

Overall he was impressed by how orderly and

well behaved the students are at Miramonte. Especially at lunch or brunch, when the bell rang, within five minutes all 1,400 students were back in class. In visits to Spanish classes he noted there were lots of questions by the students about Eva Peron and husband President Juan Peron.

While at Glorietta Elementary School, Rasmussen remarked just how different parent involvement is here. In Argentina, families are tightly knit, especially since teens can't get a driver's license until 18, but parents do not help out at school. He saw firsthand the number of parent volunteers in the classroom and serving hot lunch.

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Acalanes High School Celebrates 2007 Homecoming at Harvest Festival

By Jean Follmer



Mackenzie Demos and Danielle Lincoln enjoy the band rock band comprised of Acalanes students. According to Matt Boone, Acalanes Student Body Vice President, there would be "something for everybody" when it came to the

music because there were two more bands to come, ending with a rap group. While it was easy to linger and enjoy the obvious talent on stage, Boone assured that the music was just the beginning of the entertainment. After purchasing tickets, patrons strolled into the small gym where the well-attended Harvest Festival was being celebrated in full force.

Once inside, some of the offerings included expert face painting, a fortune teller, balloon popping with real darts, fresh cotton candy and plenty of baked goods. Sophomore students Mackenzie Demos and Danielle Lincoln were two of several students who volun-

teered to help construct, paint and set up the booths. Lincoln said, "There is even pumpkin bowling in here!" And so there was. Kids of all ages bowled small pumpkins into gourds for prizes. Although not on par with the Professional Bowling Association Tour, pumpkin bowling provided great visual entertainment. The hours of volunteer work resulted in success and Acalanes donated the proceeds from ticket sales to Monument Crisis Center and Building with Books.

Acalanes Student Body Social Secretary Richard Dent,

IV, said the event has been held outdoors in past years. Due to a late homecoming this year, they decided to hold it in the small gym in case the weather didn't hold. While the weather was

beautiful, the new venue worked out and as Dent said, it was "really cool." It's safe to say that the hundreds of attendees agreed with him.

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Lamorinda Kids Giving Back

By Lee Borrowman



Julia and Haley's Just Go Pink party Photo provided

Happy Birthday, Julia and Haley!

Julia Gomes and Haley Justus are 5th graders at Del Rey Elementary in Orinda. Last month, they celebrated their 10th birthdays together, in a pink way.

"They wanted to do something special," explains Julia's mom, Gina. "Have their friends donate to a good cause." Haley's grandmother and aunt are breast cancer survivors, as is Julia's grandmother; Julia lost an aunt to breast cancer a couple of years ago. So the girls decided that rather than receiving material gifts, they would instead ask their friends to donate to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, to help find a cure for their generation.

They created a website through Susan G. Komen Passionately Pink for the Cure, and set a goal of raising \$200 in lieu of gifts.

For their Just Go Pink Party, their families decorated an RV with pink ribbons and signs and took the girls, dressed all in pink of course, to Pinky's Pizza and then to Pinky's Nail Salon to get their nails done. When the pink cupcakes had been consumed and the party was over, the girls added up the donations and were thrilled to find that over \$1200 had been raised for their cause.

To learn more about the Susan G. Komen Foundation go to: <http://ww5.komen.org/home/>

Pre-Schoolers Walk for Fadi

Last week Seedlings Preschool, in participation with the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, held its annual walkathon to raise money for the Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children in Gaza City, Palestine. For the past 5 years, the funds raised by Seedlings have specifically gone towards the annual tuition of a young Palestinian boy, Fadi Ismaili Al-Thaltheeni, one of five deaf children in a family of nine children. Until he entered Atfaluna, Fadi had never attended school and was therefore unable to "talk" to his siblings. Today,

Fadi continues to thrive in school and at home.

In the preceding weeks, coordinator Jenny Shepherd visited the classrooms to talk with the "older" children (3 and 4 year olds) about Fadi. The children were able to see him in pictures, see his school and learn how and why they would raise money for him. Shepherd says that most of the kids understood, at least generally, why it was important to do this. "It teaches the children compassion for another child; it teaches them to help someone who really needs our help, and it teaches them about what it would be like to be deaf." The kids walked, ran or strolled laps around a course and collected pledges, with help from their families, for every lap completed.

Shepherd concludes, "The Atfaluna Society operates a school specifically designed to educate poverty stricken deaf children in Gaza City. This wonderful opportunity to promote peace in the world and to transcend borders has been incredibly fulfilling over the past 5 years for both LOPC and for our Seedlings families."

To learn more about the Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children go to <http://www.atfaluna.net/>



Brendan Mazeffa, Isabella Draper and Rylie Sapp (L-R) Photo Jenny Shepherd

Lafayette Parcel Tax Passes

By Cathy Tyson

The voters have spoken. Measure J, a seven-year \$313 per parcel tax on Lafayette homeowners, resoundingly passed, garnering nearly 73% approval. The tax includes an exemption for homeowners 65 years and older, so they might opt-out, in addition, to keep up with inflation, the tax will in-

crease 3% per year.

Lafayette Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Frank Tom couldn't be happier. "On behalf of the school district, I would like to thank the Lafayette voters for their exemplary support of Measure J. As stated in the campaign, the revenue generated from the parcel tax will

continue to maintain small class sizes, support critical educational programs, retain and attract qualified teachers and staff, update our technology infrastructure, eliminate our budget deficit and provide a stable base for district funding."

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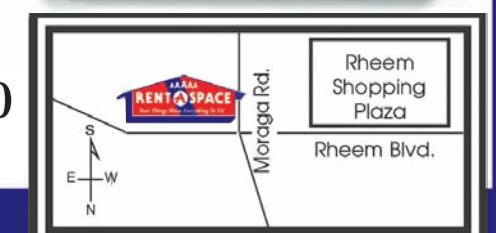


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Thursday, Nov. 15, 7:30pm Campolindo High School Instrumental Music Fall Concert Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic and Concert Band Dvorak, Symphony No. 8 Wilson, Piece of Mind Admission complimentary open to the public Campolindo Performing Arts Center, 300 Moraga Road, Moraga.

Miramonte Players present Charles Dickens' "The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby" Nov. 14, 15 and 16 at 7:30 pm Miramonte High School Theatre, 750 Moraga Way, Orinda Tickets: Available online at the Miramonte High School website, click on Webstore and then "tickets." Students: \$8.00 and Adults: \$10. "Who knew Dickens could be this bawdy, silly, and ridiculous? Luckily, Miramonte High School's advanced drama students are up to the task." Simon Kaplan, Director, Nicholas Nickleby.

Do It Yourself' Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens & your family Saturday Nov. 17th 2-3pm. Fun-filled hands-on workshop that will give you the script and the know-how to stage this heartwarming play in your family room with family & friends. Recapture the time when fun didn't require batteries. FREE
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Last weekend to see Wonderful Colors Paintings of Jo Ann Hanna & Robert Becker accompanied by Papier-Mache Sculpture by students of M. J. Schuppert Wilson on exhibition. Orinda Library Gallery through - Nov. 17th, 2007. Orinda Library Gallery 24 Orinda Way, (925) 254-2184

Moraga Women's Society Nov. Meeting. Monday, Nov 19th Coffee 9:30 am

- Meeting 10 am Speaker 11 am Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga: Our speaker is author and massage therapist, Maggie Walters, who will speak about her book, "Finding The Bloom Of The Cactus Generation: Improving The Quality Of Life For Seniors." For information call 376-3520

The Commonwealth Club offers an Evening with Anthony Bourdain Monday, Nov. 19th, 6 pm Check in | 6:30 pm Program. From Brazil, to China, to Las Vegas, Anthony Bourdain has sat down to eat at some of the world's most famous and infamous tables. Join us as the controversial, yet likable, rebel chef stops by and shares experiences of his many travels. No reservations needed. The Bentley School, Student Performing Arts Center, 1000 Upper Happy Valley Rd., Lafayette Cost: \$15 for Members, \$30 for Non-members. www.commonwealthclub.org or call (800) 847-7730

November 20th, Warm Up America! This winter we are joining Warm Up America!, a nationwide organization that brings communities together through knitting for charity. If you knit or crochet, or would like to learn how, come to our Knitting Night, November 20 from 6:30-7:30pm, where we'll work on squares that will eventually be joined together as an afghan to donate in our community. All ages and abilities encouraged to come! If you can't make it but would still like to help, you can drop off 7" by 9" swatches at the library at 952 Moraga Rd through December 21. RSVP to Rebekah in person or by phone at (925) 283-3872.

Nov 23rd, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, fine art photographer Sue Reynolds will be signing copies of her new book "Proud People ~ Nations within a Nation". The signing is a celebration of the book's release -- as well as the re-release of 2006's popular "Revealing Nature's Mysteries" --and will expose the beauty and power of contemporary powwows. Over 50full-color images by documentary photographer Sue Reynolds with native contributing writers unveil Reynolds' unique vision and connection with these celebrations across the West. A portion of proceeds benefits the American Indian College Fund. Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Ave, Walnut Creek, Mt. Diablo A Personal View - The Photography of Sue Reynolds Through Feb. 28, 2008

Celebrate Thanksgiving at a Thanks-

giving concert by acclaimed tenor, David Flagg. Flagg, a long time Orinda resident and Orinda's frequent fourth of July national anthem singer, has sung internationally, starred in light opera and has sung 36 times for inaugurations and major league ball clubs. Sunday, Nov. 25, 11 am to noon at Calvary Baptist Church, 3201 Stanley Blvd. Lafayette, across from Acalanes High School. There will be no preaching, just music of Thanksgiving in many styles. Wendy Flagg, soprano and pianist will join her father in song. For more information, phone (925) 935 7507.

TOO MUCH TURKEY? Tilden Nature Area, Tara Reinertson 10am-noon, Sun, Nov 25. Burn off those extra calories with a vigorous climb high into the hills. On this 4-mile loop, we will learn about the native and non-native species of the watershed. For information, call 1-888-EBPARKS (1-888-327-2757), option 3, x4564.

Holiday Concerts WomenSing, an auditioned Bay Area chorus of over 50 women, will perform a holiday concert. Artistic Director is Martin Benvenuto, accompanist is Paul Caccamo, Dancer's Circle. Wednesday, November 28, 8:00 p.m., Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga and Sunday, December 2, 4:00 p.m. Ticket are \$25 premium seating, \$20 general, \$18 senior, \$10 student/youth 18 and under. Tickets can be charged on the website at www.womensing.org, by phone at (925) 974-9169, or at the door.

6th Annual Overhill Road Holiday Boutique Nov 30, noon - 8 pm, Dec 1 & 2, 10 am - 5 pm 214 Overhill Road, Orinda. Percentage of proceeds to benefit the American Red Cross. Hand-crafted gifts and foods by local crafters. Includes items from the Miramonte Marketplace. Free admission. 925-253-9065 or 925-254-3944

Special holiday treat - "Playhouse West: Our Musical Legacy." This fun musical revue performs Nov. 30 - Dec. 8 only at the company's Locust Street theater. Ten musicals will be featured in both scenes and songs creatively stitched together by artistic director Lois Grandi, who directed and choreographed the show. Performers will bring to life characters from such shows as "Baby," "Starting Here, Starting Now," "The Boyfriend," "The World Goes Round," "Rodgers and Hammerstein's A Grand Night for Singing," and much more. Tickets are \$30. Call 925-942-0300 or www.playhousewest.org.

New Moraga Art Gallery Show through January 6th. "Texture and Light" by local Bay Area and Lamorinda artists and featuring the work of Pat Smith, who likes to experiment with different art forms: watercolor, acrylic painting, printmaking, photography and fiber arts. Moraga Art Gallery, 570 Center St, Rheem Valley Shopping Center/next to Longs Drugs Open Tuesday through Sunday, 12-5 pm. 925.376 5407

Envisioning the Season The artists of Lafayette Gallery have created a special show that captures the spirit and the glow of the holiday season - open through Dec. 23, 2007. On Nov. 19, the

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Gallery will be decorated with ornaments made by the artists. A holiday reception will be held at the Gallery (50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette) on Nov. 30 from 7 - 9 pm.

"Capturing the Light: a Retrospective" solo exhibit by Bay Area photographer Wenda Pyman . Her body of work shown here are Landscapes, Scenics and Nature, mostly concentrating on the local Diablo area and beyond . Moraga Public Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga, 925.376.8294 Open Tuesday through Sunday, hours vary.

Lafayette Town Hall Theatre Company Presents Miracle on 34th Street Nov. 17 - Dec. 29, 2007. Contact the Town Hall Theatre Company Box Office for exact dates and times Rating - Appropriate for all Ages. Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street at Moraga Road, Lafayette 925-283-1557 or www.thtc.org

Are you Alto, tenor, soprano, bass? The St. Stephen's Annual Messiah Sing is Friday, Nov. 30th at 7:30pm. If you wish to sing in the Festival Choir for this event, join us for one rehearsal on Wednesday, Nov. 28th at 7pm in the Church at 66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda. Contact: Brenda Free, St. Stephen's office: 254-3770.

HOLIDAY WREATHS, NATURALLY Tilden Nature Area with Linda Yemoto Noon-3:30pm, Sun, Dec 2 #16629, Dec 9 #16661 Create wreaths, garlands and other seasonal delights using natural materials. Learn about fir, bay and other flora, and how to use them. Please bring a pair of small hand-clippers, a large, flat box and a bag lunch. Not appropriate for children under 8 years old. Reg. Required 888-327-2757 option 2, 3. Fee: \$30 adult; \$25 senior/teen (13-18 yrs); team fee \$50 (one adult, one child 8-12 yrs)

"Light the Night" Martinez Gallery, 630 Court St. Martinez, W.Th.F. 10-2 Nov. 30 - January 16. Friday, Nov. 30th, Children's Crafts: 3pm-5pm Artists Reception: 6-9 "Light the Night" First Night Martinez Auction: 8pm www.martinezarts.org

Moraga Community Chorus to Perform Dec. 2 1:30pm at Aegis, Moraga

Wednesday, Dec. 5, the Orinda Historical Society will hold its annual Holiday Dinner. Joe Cleary, Orinda artist and sculptor, will be our guest speaker. We will gather at 6:30pm, and the dinner and program will begin at 7pm. All are welcome. The dinner and program is \$35, with a choice of beef, chicken, or vegetarian lasagna. Please call the Historical Society at 254-1353 for more information, or you can reserve your seat by sending a check with your meal choice to: P.O. Box 82, Orinda, CA 94563.

Moraga Women's Society's 22 biennial Holiday Homes Tour Fri, Dec 7, 10am-4pm Tour four unique Moraga homes and the newly renovated Historic Moraga Barn. \$28 donation includes a tea and boutique as well as the tour. Gourmet box lunch can be preordered. Tickets can be purchased at King Florist at the Rheem Shopping Center or St. Mary's Florist at the Moraga Center. Proceeds will benefit Moraga Schools, the Library, Parks, etc.

CAPA performs The Nutcracker Dec 14th, 15th and 16th The snow falls on-stage and the Christmas tree magically grows in the California Academy of Performing Arts presentation of a full-length Nutcracker in Moraga. This is an energy-filled spectacle with a certain joy that reflects the studio's dedication to young dancers with more than 100 performers and extra characters & surprises

For specific show times and tickets, please contact www.capadance.net or call 925-376-2454. Student Matinees: If your child's school class would like to come to a Student Nutcracker performance, please contact Nancy Falk at nancy.falk@gmail.com. Student Performances are 9:30am and 12pm on Wed Dec 12 and 13th at the Rheem Theater in Moraga.

The Friends of the Moraga Library will hold an "overstock Book Sale" on Saturday, Dec. 1st from 9 am to 12 noon. Children's books and cook books will be featured along with unsorted fiction and non-fiction. The sale will be held on the Moraga Library porch at 1500 St. Mary's Road. All funds raised are used to benefit the library programs and it's patrons. Recently these funds paid for new tables, more books and programs for children and adults. Bring your friends and take advantage of greatly reduced prices. For further information call 376-6259 Holiday Book Sale Thursday, Dec. 6, 10 am - 1 pm

Friends of the Orinda Library holiday book sale includes just-like-new books and collector's books ideal for holiday gifts. The Sorting Room and Bookshop will both be open during the sale; the Bookshop will remain open until 6 pm Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda

Thursday, Dec. 6 4 PM-Orinda Books Penny Warner will discuss and sign copies of The Official Nancy Drew Handbook. A special added attraction at this event will be Hannah Gruen's Lemon Bars. 276 Village Square, Orinda, orindabooks@thegrid.net

Friday, Dec. 7:10 AM Gerry Wallace, Orinda's favorite ceramic artist, will have a holiday exhibition and sale of her work. Paul Kratter, whose plein air paintings are a continuing feature at Orinda Books, will have a special exhibition and sale on that day also. 276 Village Square, Orinda

Surprise your family with a hearty Indian meal for the holidays! Get to know the techniques used to infuse vegetables & meats with wonderful spices. You'll truly have a holiday to remember. Moraga Parks and Rec. Non-Vegetarian Meal 1, Wed, Dec 12, 7-9:30pm, \$55 + supplies Register at www.moraga.ca.us. 925-376-2520

Christmas Creche Around the World Lafayette United Methodist Church at 955 Moraga Road, Lafayette, will host a display of nativity scenes from around the world on Saturday afternoon Dec. 8 from 1 pm - 3 pm and Sunday Dec. 9 from Noon - 2 pm The public is invited. Refreshments will be served and a free will offering taken. Supervised children are welcome.

Calling All Golden Bears!

Submitted by Susan Sperry



Don't have tickets for the Big Game between Cal and Stanford? Come join the Lamorinda Golden Bears on Wednesday, November 28th , 6 pm to 8 pm to fill your soul with Cal spirit! This year the group has moved this annual celebration to the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. A promised visit by the Cal Marching Band will follow speakers Tuck Coop, Executive Director of the University of California Alumni Association and Steve Holton, Deputy Director of Athletics. Expect good food, drinks, fellowship and fun. Bring your checkbook because the annual silent auction will provide the revenue necessary to continue scholarships for local Lamorinda high school students accepted to UC Berkeley. Send your check for \$10 per person made out to Lamorinda Golden Bears to Susan Sperry, 172 Valley Hill Drive, Moraga or pay at the door.

Founded in 1993, the Lamorinda Golden Bear Club is a regional alumni group for the University of California, Berkley. Its website, <http://www.lamorindacalalum.org>, features calendar events. The age range of the alumni is from 25-70+. Typical activities include getting together to watch a movie or dinner, running, book reviewing, going to concert and theater events, and cheering on Cal Bears wherever they may be! Join us.

It's Happening at Aegis Living!



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Thursday, November 29th
3:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Attend the Aegis of Moraga Holiday Gift Show and get your shopping done for Christmas!

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- Tupperware Gifts
- Welcome Village Gifts
- Stampin Up Craft Stamps and Scrapbooking Supplies
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Campus Happenings

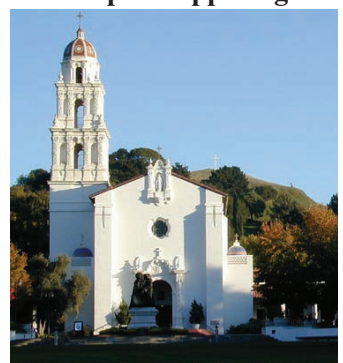


Photo by Ken C. Young, Moraga; www.kcyoungfineartimages.com

Performances/Lectures:

"Twelfth Night"
by William Shakespeare
The SMC Performing Arts Department's fall mainstage production will be Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," which has been called Shakespeare's most perfect comedy - an intoxicating musical romance set on a mythical island paradise. Directed by award-winning faculty member Reid Davis ("Urinetown") at SMC, faculty at ACT and Cal Shakes, and company member of Shotgun Players), the play explores themes of gender, identity, romantic delusion and love.
Nov. 15, 16, 17 at 8 pm; Nov. 18 at 2 pm. LeFevre Theater
Sponsored by: Performing Arts: Dance, Music & Theater For tickets, contact: Performing Arts Office, (925) 631-4670

Social Justice Speaker Series - Author Dorothy Allison
Author Dorothy Allison will speak about:

"Telling stories in mean times - Can writers actually make a difference?" Dorothy Allison's bestselling novel "Bastard Out of Carolina" was a finalist for the 1992 National Book Award and was made into an award-winning movie. In 1998 Allison published "Cavedweller," a novel about the relationship between mothers and daughters that became a national bestseller and was named New York Times Notable Book of the Year. The themes in her writing reflect her background growing up poor and female in the South. Allison was raised in extreme poverty by her mother's family in Greenville, South Carolina, where she was often beaten and raped by her abusive stepfather between the ages of 5 and 11 years old. Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 7:30 pm Clays Lounge, SMC Soda Activity Center Free

Author C.S. Giscombe
C. S. Giscombe is the author of the collections of poetry Postcards, Giscombe Road and Here, as well as the collection of essays Into and Out of Dislocation. His work has also been published in New American Writing, Callaloo, O-Blek, Iowa Review and Hudson Review. A graduate of SUNY Albany and Cornell, he has taught at Syracuse University, Illinois State University, Penn State, the New York State Poets-in-the-Schools program, and currently UC Berkeley. He has been editor of Epoch magazine and worked for the Housing Service for the Aging in Syracuse, New York. He is the winner of the Carl Sandburg Award for Poetry. Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 7:30 p.m. Soda Center, Free

A Musical Celebration for Christmas featuring the Pacific Mozart Ensemble
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Pacific Mozart Ensemble

ning vocal ensemble has captured the hearts of music lovers around the world. Directed by Lynne Morrow, Pacific Mozart Ensemble's holiday concert features a stirring rendition of Cary Boyce's Ave Maria, Poulenc's Christmas Motets, and a selection of elegant holiday songs sung in small ensemble groupings. Sponsored by the Committee for Lectures, Art and Music at Saint Mary's College. Saturday, Dec. 8 at 8 p.m. Saint Mary's College Chapel
Suggested Donation: \$30 general; \$25 seniors; \$15 for SMC faculty/staff and non-SMC students; \$2 for SMC students. For information, call (925) 631-4381 or go online to www.stmarys-ca.edu and click on "The Arts."

Art Exhibitions:

"Footloose in Arcadia: Artists and Authors of Piedmont from 1890 to 1930"
Nov. 3 to Dec. 16
In celebration of the centennial of the City of Piedmont, the Hearst Art Gallery has organized this exhibition of the region's early artists and writers. Turn of the century Piedmont was home to Jack London, who wrote the Sea Wolf and Call of the Wild while living in Piedmont. He was part of the local artistic and

literary bohemians that included George Sterling, Herman Whitaker, and Xavier Timoteo Martinez. The Reverend Joseph Worcester, the first Swedenborgian minister in San Francisco, designed and built his own home and was one of the first to design a structure that was harmonious with nature - he influenced architects Bernard Maybeck and Willis Polk. In 1901 Jack London moved into Worcester's cottage. William Keith painted several versions of the Worcester cottage; three are included in the exhibition. Hearst Art Gallery
"William Keith: The 1880s Paintings"
Works from the 1880s, which marked a decade of great changes in William Keith's life. On view in the William Keith Room Hearst Art Gallery

Exhibition hours: Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.
Admission: \$3 adult; children 12 and under free; free parking
Web site: <http://gallery.stmarys-ca.edu>.
Telephone: 925-631-4379

For more information about upcoming events at Saint Mary's College, visit the college website at <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/news-and-events/events.html>.

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Many Lamorinda Residents Lack Earthquake Preparedness

Prepared for the Big One? If not, you're in good company.

By Jennifer Wake



Brothers Jefferson, 7, and Jonny Wake, 5, know to stay under a table or desk during an earthquake
Photos Jennifer Wake

Although the recent 5.6 tremor was felt throughout the area and was the topic of conversation for a lot of Lamorinda residents, the likelihood of a small quake pushing people into action to prepare for a larger one is surprisingly low, says Orinda resident and psychiatrist Dr. Harvey Widroe.

Although the U.S. Geological Society says there's a 62 percent chance that at least one 6.7 magnitude quake will hit the Bay Area by 2032, only 17 percent of people in California are prepared for the next big quake. An even lower number of homeowners have earthquake insurance, topping out at only 12 percent.

"Most people don't look at reality objectively because it causes anxiety," Widroe said. "If someone asks if you'll make a plan for what you'd do in an earthquake, they'll say, 'Oh yeah. I'll take care of that tomorrow.'"

Orinda resident Sandy Barnett says she has some water set aside in her home, but that's about it. After the recent quake, a friend of hers gave her information about how to prepare for an earthquake, but all of it seemed overwhelming.

"Where do you put all the stuff?" she said. "Here's my thought: What if I put it all in my garage, and my garage gets crunched? My house has many supplies where I could get them if

I needed to."

During the 1989 Loma Prieta quake, Barnett was standing with her daughter in the near-empty parking lot of the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church. "I had just shut my door and thought, 'Wow. I'm really strong,' because the car was rocking from the force. Then I looked up and saw the light post swaying and the pavement sort of waving like surf and I said to my daughter, 'We're in the perfect spot.'"

A self-professed optimist, Barnett says she's banking on being in the perfect spot again.

"We all gamble every day. I'm on the highway. I'm in the stock market," Barnett said with a smile. "There are too many variables that you don't know. It's hard to cover all the bases."

Widroe agrees.

"It's a kind of circumscribed reality testing deficit based on denial," he said. "If we really looked at the chance of an accident on the highway, we'd all have one anxiety attack after another. Denial averts anxiety and fear. You couldn't live without those mechanisms."

He recommends keeping it simple.

Lafayette resident Marti Kohen, who has now lived through two major earthquakes in California, took advantage of earthquake preparedness talks at Burton Valley Elementary and purchased ready-made kits sold at the presentation.

"I have an earthquake kit in the house plus we have a Jacuzzi and a water purifier, too," she said. "We also have a generator - just in case - and I have a blanket, water and first aid kit in my car."

Kohen said they bought the



Wind-up flashlights, blankets, water, a hammer and first aid kit are a few recommended items.

generator after enduring a category 5 hurricane with no electricity for three days in the Caribbean.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the best defense is to plan ahead, starting by identifying the safe places in every room of your house.

"During a large earthquake, get under a sturdy table or desk and hold on to it," they state on their Web site. "If you're not near a table or desk, cover your face and head with your arms and stand or crouch in a strongly supported doorway, or brace yourself in an inside corner of the house or building, but stay clear of windows or glass that could shatter or objects that could fall on you."

They also advise if you're inside, stay inside. "Many people are injured at entrances of buildings by falling debris."

For most people, a little planning can go a long way.

"We should have a general, one-size-fits-all disaster plan," Widroe said. "Don't task the imagination. Keep a few simple things in mind. Once you start amplifying the list, you get scared, you start using denial, and you toss the list and forget it."

For information on earthquake preparedness plans, you can visit the CDC's Web site:

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/earthquakes/prepared.asp>

Read online at:
<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html/read.html>
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Edy Schwartz: Working Together to Find Solutions

By Sophie Braccini



Edy Schwartz, Person of Year

Edy Schwartz is the new "Person of the Year" elected by the members of the Chamber of Commerce of Moraga. Chamber President Jenny Boyd presented her with a certificate on Thursday November 8th, at the end of Mayor Metcalf's "State of the Town" address.

Schwartz's recognition was due to her role in expanding the reach of the Chamber of Commerce and starting the "Shop Moraga First" movement. Schwartz and colleague Ellen Bean personally visited all the town's retailers to urge them to join the new Chamber. The re-

sults speak for themselves; over a one-year period the Chamber membership increased from 40 to 100 members.

Schwartz moved to Moraga with husband Jeff, her high school sweetheart, in 1967. Here she raised her two children, John and Cathy. An educator by training, she substituted both at Rheem and Los Perales. She was involved in the incorporation of Moraga, the founding of the library and many of the groups that make raising children in Moraga such a great experience:

Brownies, Lafayette-Moraga Youth Association, and the School Site Committee. She got involved as well with citizens' movements in the Bay Area that work on educating people on sociological and global issues. There she refined her organizational skills and developed her vision of the power of education to make the democratic process effective.

In 1985 she went back to school and got a Masters degree in Psychology and Counseling and operated a private practice for five years in Lafayette. After twenty years of intense activity, Edy decided to take a break.

She wanted to bring balance to her life and assimilate what had been learned along the way. Three years ago, she heard President Bush talk about the importance of democracy in the world and asked herself how participative democracy was doing at home. She contacted a core group of twelve friends and formed the Moraga Citizens Network, an association that aims at disseminating information about town's issues and encourages Moraga residents to get involved and let their voices be heard. MCN has now more than 500 members and can be credited for improvements in the participative process in Moraga politics.

During one of the meetings Edy attended, she learned about the sales tax deficit Moraga suffers from and decided to join the Chamber of Commerce as a private member. She was struck by the small number of retailers that were members at the time, and thought that creating a more vibrant business community around the Chamber would help. But that wasn't enough.

... continued on page 15

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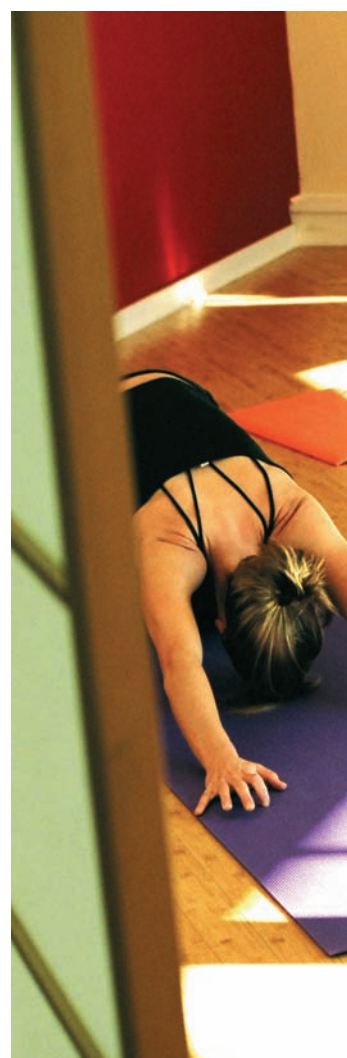
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<p>1241 S. ROSAL CONCORD</p>  <p>Offered at \$699,999 THIS 4bd, 3ba, 2200sf HOUSE IS AMAZING - Your feet will glide over the cherry wood floors. The kitchen is a chef's delight with granite counters and stainless appliances. Relax in the pool or hot tub. Call: (925) 283-7000</p>	<p>1973 ASCOT DRIVE #B MORAGA</p>  <p>Offered at \$359,500 Lowest Priced 2 bedroom 2 bath condo in Moraga. Great low price for ground floor condo in desirable Moraga community. Top-rated schools - walk to Rheem Elementary, Brick fireplace, deck with views and swimming pool. Call: (925) 283-7000</p>	<p>2129 ASCOT DRIVE #7 MORAGA</p>  <p>Offered at \$424,900 Relax by the sparkling pool. This Moraga 2 bedroom condo has over 1300sf of living space plus updated kitchen, new carpet, freshly painted, inside laundry and ready to move-in. Top rated Moraga Schools. Call: (925) 283-7000</p>

Mortgage Fraud and Foreclosure in Lamorinda:

Are We Immune to It?

By Steve Snyder, CMG Mortgage Services, Inc.

Mortgage fraud is rampant throughout the United States, creating an immediate threat to homeowners and local communities. Nationwide, mortgage fraud is estimated to have cost businesses nearly \$50 billion and consumers some \$5 billion in the past five years, ac-

ording to a recent study conducted by the Federal Trade Commission.

Some people consider it akin to cheating on their income tax. But when a borrower makes misrepresentations about their income, personal debt, property value or down

payment conditions, it can lead to a fraudulent loan situation. The situation becomes a problem when the borrower cannot continue to make the payments and the home goes into foreclosure. With the current decreasing value market, the lender sometimes has to sell the home for less than the loan amount.

Mortgage fraud in Lamorinda is a very rare instance. Some people have to work very hard to buy in the area to send their kids to the school system they chose, but whatever their income level they are decent people. Unfortunately, some cases of fraud involve loans that lead the consumer to foreclosure because they should have

never been put into the product in the first place because they simply cannot afford the loan payment. Sometimes the consumer does not know where to turn for help. As of this writing, there were six hundred eighty eight homes in foreclosure in Contra Costa County with evidence of sixteen of those in the Lamorinda area.

While individual cases of mortgage fraud are increasing, the major rise is from organized groups who work together in a fraud scheme. This can include loan officers, appraisers, lenders, attorneys, title and escrow workers and real estate agents. The FBI reports that 80 percent of reported fraud cases involve collaboration or collusion by industry insiders. The Federal Agency has already investigated twice as many fraud

cases in 2007 as in all of 2006. There is a recent article, "Former Broker in Contra Costa County accused in \$1.5 Million Fraud." This person allegedly robbed real estate from a ninety two year old person who was not aware they were being taken advantage of.

While many states have, or are considering, laws to make mortgage fraud a crime with harsher penalties, I'd like to offer some tips for consumers to make sure they are not caught-up in a criminal activity:

If you are considering a mortgage loan, get referrals from mortgage and real estate professionals, family, and friends who you trust that have had a satisfactory transaction.

Also, check their licenses and ask for background infor-



Steve Snyder, CMG Mortgage Services, Inc.

ation and references.

Check to see if they have any complaints on their license.

Always question any outrageous promises or deals and stay away from high pressure sales techniques. If it sounds too good to be true, it is.

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As MTSC Faces An Uncertain

Future, Members Find New Homes

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Tennis and Swim Club (MTSC) is up for sale, following a heartfelt but unsuccessful attempt by members to purchase the Club. What will become of the property is not yet clear. Located off Larch St., MTSC has been part of Moraga's recreation scene since 1977.

The property is zoned under the Moraga Open Space Ordinance (MOSO), which means that only four houses could be built on the land. The present commercial usage can be "grandfathered" even if the property is sold, or it could be turned into a non-profit or educational facility.

During the summer of 2007, two meetings were held by MTSC members to discuss the possibility of purchasing MTSC. After the second meeting, a committee reported on the price the member group believed it could offer for the Club. It didn't reach the ballpark of \$4M the owners want for the property, and the offer was not accepted.


The women's tennis team has found a new home at the Moraga Valley Pool. "It's a great match," says Rica Chudler, an ex-MTSC member, "we needed a friendly place and our teams are bringing the club the adult tennis players they needed. The A2 women's team is still a bit small, so new play-

ers are welcome!"

The member families of the once mighty Fighting Mackereels swim team have scattered among the different clubs of the area. "MTSC has been a valuable asset to the community for over 30 years as a swim and tennis club," says Tom Ward, who headed the member group. "The swim team has been the center of activity for many families during the summer, and a majority of families attending the meetings to consider purchasing the club had children on the team. To lose any team has a major impact on OMPA. I would like to ask other area clubs to make more memberships available to absorb both the MTSC swim and tennis team families that need a new home before next summer."

Some members said they would love to see the property become a public facility, with public tennis courts, a public pool and may be Heather Farms-type classes. Jay Ingram, Moraga Parks and Recreation Director, has heard of the property, but nothing precise has been discussed. Owner Linda Gong believes that "with issues about traffic on Larch and a previous petition by neighbors to limit the expansion of the Club, it is unlikely that the town would embark on the development of the property for public use."

Lamorinda Home Sales continued



LAFAYETTE Last reported: 139
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$515,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$2,225,000

MORAGA Last reported: 10
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$480,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,195,000

ORINDA Last reported: 12
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$700,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$4,750,000

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

- LAFAYETTE**
- 3627 Boyer Circle, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2312 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 10-24-07
 - 3247 Camino Colorados, \$706,000, 3 Bdrms, 1168 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-5-07
 - 376 Castello Road, \$975,000, 5 Bdrms, 2319 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 10-5-07
 - 2460 Cherry Hills Drive, \$745,000, 4 Bdrms, 1780 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 10-24-07
 - 32 Crest Road, \$2,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 3720 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 10-24-07
 - 929 Dana Highlands Court, \$1,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 3538 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 10-17-07
 - 1154 Glen Road, \$1,200,000, 10-16-07
 - 631 Huntleigh Drive, \$1,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 3376 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-26-07
 - 516 McBride Drive, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2206 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-25-07
 - 863 McEllen Way, \$980,000, 4 Bdrms, 2866 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 10-26-07
 - 3810 Palo Alto Drive, \$1,349,000, 3 Bdrms, 2452 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 10-5-07
 - 1234 Pleasant Hill Road, \$800,000, 2 Bdrms, 1560 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 10-26-07
 - 3744 Sundale Road, \$515,000, 10-5-07

- MORAGA**
- 722 Augusta Drive, \$748,000, 2 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-29-07
 - 748 Augusta Drive, \$910,000, 2 Bdrms, 2079 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-17-07
 - 1467 Camino Peral, \$625,000, 3 Bdrms, 1584 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 10-29-07
 - 128 Corliss Drive, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 2313 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 10-24-07
 - 479 Fernwood Drive, \$1,140,000, 3 Bdrms, 2066 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 10-18-07
 - 651 Moraga Road #14, \$480,000, 3 Bdrms, 1394 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 10-16-07
 - 1190 Moraga Road, \$1,195,000, 4 Bdrms, 2809 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 10-26-07
 - 115 Shuey Drive, \$850,000, 5 Bdrms, 1855 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-19-07
 - 97 Sullivan Drive, \$1,157,000, 4 Bdrms, 2215 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 10-18-07
 - 241 Tharp Drive, \$820,000, 4 Bdrms, 1862 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 10-26-07

- ORINDA**
- 147 Camino Don Miguel, \$1,766,000, 3 Bdrms, 2348 SqFt, 1932 YrBlt, 10-18-07
 - 1 Claremont Avenue, \$799,000, 3 Bdrms, 2279 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 10-25-07
 - 44 Donald Drive, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 2246 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-23-07
 - 34 Ichabod Lane, \$1,089,000, 4 Bdrms, 2035 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 10-29-07
 - 720 Miner Road, \$1,382,500, 4 Bdrms, 2030 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 10-5-07
 - 460 Moraga Way, \$700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1361 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 10-16-07
 - 31 Parklane Drive, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1892 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 10-5-07
 - 9 Southwood Drive, \$839,000, 3 Bdrms, 1960 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 10-26-07
 - 48 Sunnyside Lane, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2132 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 10-19-07
 - 4 Sycamore Road, \$4,750,000, 5 Bdrms, 4931 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 10-19-07
 - 44 Valencia Road, \$1,140,000, 5 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 10-26-07
 - 508 the Glade, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 1533 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 10-5-07

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business briefs

Lafayette Attorney Honored:

Lafayette resident Michael Ney will be honored as a Kennedy Laureate at John F. Kennedy University's Laureate Award Celebration on Friday, Nov. 16. A Senior Partner at McNamara, Dodge, Ney, Beatty, Slattery, Pfalzer, Borges & Brothers, Michael Ney has been an integral contributor to the local legal community since being admitted to the Bar in 1972. Currently specializing in civil litigation, he has served as Judge Pro Tem, Contra Costa Superior Court and Deputy District Attorney of Alameda County (1972-1973), as well as the Board of Directors for the Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California. Ney is also a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Moraga's Colleen Markham Joins "Epic Change":

Colleen Markham has been named the Northern California Chapter Head for Epic Change, a new national non-profit organization whose first project is to rebuild Shepherds Junior Academy, a school serving one hundred children aged 2-11 in Arusha, Tanzania. Epic Change founder Sanjay Patel said of Markham, "I have known Colleen for almost five years now and her energy and compassion towards others made it an incredible easy decision for us to appoint her into this position." The project to rebuild Shepherds Junior Academy is estimated to cost about 250,000 over the next five years, and Patel reports they have raised almost \$30K to date and are preparing to purchase land on which to build the new school. "The children of Shepherds Junior remain hopeful that help will come," says Markham, "and Epic Change is ensuring that these children's modest dreams become reality."

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

News from the three Chambers of Commerce:

- Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 100 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette - www.lafayettechamber.org; 925-284-7404**
- Community Thanksgiving Breakfast - Friday, November 16. Join city leaders, residents and the business community for breakfast as we have done for 27 years. The annual event will be held on Friday, November 16th from 7:30am-9:00am at Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette. Reservations can be made by calling the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce at 284-7404 or visit www.lafayettechamber.org. Cost is \$15 per person.
- Business Issues/Government Affairs Committee Open Meeting on 29 Thursday at 8:00 am - Lafayette Chamber Conference Room.

Chamber of Commerce of Moraga - www.moragachamber.org

- Chamber monthly meeting on November 30th at Terzetto Cuisine at 8:00am, 1419 Moraga Way in the Moraga Center. The new board will be elected.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda - www.orindachamber.org:

- Breakfast Meeting Friday, December 7, 2007 - 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. Location: Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda, CA 94563
- Bill Lindsey will introduce Rev. Shumake of the Richmond Improvement Association
- Launch of the Shop Orinda campaign on November 17th.

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

California Bank of Commerce moves to the Mercantile

By Sophie Braccini



Left to right as you look at the picture: Tom Park - Executive Vice President, Mark DeVincenzi - Chief Marketing Officer, John Rossell - President & CEO, Roxy Klein - Director and Chair of the Investment Committee, Virginia Robbins - Chief Administrative Officer, Steve Shelton - Executive Vice President
Photo Katy Dyer

After only four months of operation, the California Bank of Commerce, headquartered in Lafayette, boasts eighty clients representing nearly \$18 million in deposits or an average deposit of about \$225,000 per client. These deposits build on the \$25M in capital provided by local investors in the Lamorinda area. This week the bank moved to its new location, on the first floor of the new Lafayette Mercantile building on Mount Diablo Boulevard.

Local investors gathered last May at the Lafayette Veteran's Memorial to hear the bank's business plan and participate in the future success of the enterprise. CEO John Rossell confirms their accomplishment, "We had to return about \$3M to investors; the community really came through and their purpose is to invest for the long term, some even buying shares for their children." Roxy Klein, Board Member, was not surprised by the result of the fundraising, "We knew there was a strong need for a community business bank in this area. Our research showed that 98% of the businesses in the East Bay Area have less than 100 employees.

These businesses need the personal attention and service that California Bank of Commerce can provide."

The target clientele of the Bank is located throughout the Bay Area. According to Rossell, the clients are mid-size companies, achieving from \$2 to \$50M in sales, looking for establishing a real partnership with their banker. "The service to our customers combines a sophisticated electronic interface with very experienced account managers: that's a very powerful blend. Plus, our strong relationship with Wells Fargo allows our clients to use their branches, so we have no problem servicing a restaurant in San Francisco or an insurance company in Walnut Creek," says the C.E.O.

Klein believes that the greatest strength of the bank is the expertise of the staff, noting, "Our executive management team has more than 100 years of combined banking experience." "That's why you won't see our advisors in their offices," explains Rossell, "they're at their customer's site, doing what they do best, acting as consultants. For example, helping

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them streamline their accounts receivable, or even getting a better P.R. positioning." The Bank's management team believes that's what sets a community bank apart from regional and national banking chains: partnering with customers, access to top management and quick decision making.

Richard J. Scherer, President of the Pelican Group, explains that it's because of past relationship and trust that he chose CBC: "We got involved with CBC because of our trust in some of the executives of the bank such as Steve Shelton and Michele Wirfel. We've been doing business with these two individuals for over 10 years now." Scherer explains that a community bank is what he needs: "Large banks have never understood my business and have not been there when I needed them. CBC relates well to medium sized companies and offers services and loans for an array of needs including capital improvements, equipment financing, and real estate lending. These are the services I look for in a bank." The trust was such that Scherer was one of the initial investors building the bank's capital and he adds that if times for banking get tougher, "Yes, I'd stick by them as they have by me during tough times."

Professional Condos in Moraga

... continued from page 3

Interest is building for the eight suites available. David Schnayer, the real estate agent in charge of unit sales, reports that about two dozen business owners have expressed an interest in the project. "We have met with law firms, insurance brokers, dentists, CPAs, a church group, engineers, design companies and a few financial institutions," says Schnayer, "most are professionals who live in Lamorinda; about half currently have their offices in Walnut Creek and beyond."

The units are priced from just below \$500,000 to \$1,399,000. Colliers International will accept reservations at this time with a 3% refundable deposit. For more information contact David Schnayer, 925-279-4606 or Matt Hastings, 925-279-4625.




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Edy Schwartz: Working Together to Find Solutions ... continued from page 13

If Moragans do not shop in town it's because they have the perception that there is not much choice there, and if new businesses don't want to come it's because they feel the amount of local shopping is weak. She felt that this "Catch 22" condition should be broken first in the minds of residents and that's how "Shop Moraga First" started. The group comprising Schwartz, Bill Snider, Grant Stubblefield, Craig Lazarus, Janet Forman, Ellen Bean and Andy Schreck created the concept and went to the Chamber of Commerce for support.

"Edy is the type that leans forward and doesn't give up, she gets things done," says a fellow chamber member. "Edy is unfailingly cheerful; she has one of the greatest positive attitudes I've experienced," adds Boyd. "She has a lot of passion for our town and brings people together in a very supportive way," says long time friend Ellen Bean, "I've never worked with somebody that's quite as reliable, present, able to go with the flow and operate without judgment. In recent years she has learned to balance activities and stillness."

Edy now has the pleasure of seeing her first two grandchildren grow up in Moraga. She is a member of the American Association of University Women, and promotes the annual "Sister to Sister" summit. She also makes sure she finds time to smell the roses.

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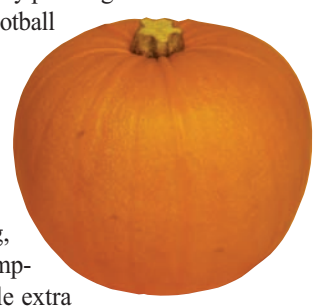
From the Kitchens of the Lamorinda Weekly At the End of the Day, It's All About the Pumpkin Pie!



Your helper can scoop out the baked pumpkin

It's one of my holiday weaknesses, right up there with eggnog and gingerbread. I tell myself that pumpkin is loaded with beta carotene, an important antioxidant, as I guiltily eat the last piece for breakfast the morning after Thanksgiving, long before anyone else is even awake. Thus ends my ambition to see what the 5:00AM Christmas shopping rush at the mall is all about; there's not enough coffee in the world...at least, not by the time I've finished the pile of dishes I couldn't face the night before and tried to vacuum the mashed potatoes out of the carpet. Even though my kids won't touch pumpkin pie, they love to smell it baking. Then of course there was the study that came out earlier this year claiming the smell of pumpkin pie is, well, unusually pleasing to men. I wonder if the test subjects were allowed to watch football during the experiment?

The Pumpkin:
There's nothing wrong with canned pumpkin; it makes a fine pumpkin pie. But if you've never tried the mild, fresh taste of the real thing, you're missing out! Using fresh pumpkin is not hard, and only adds a little extra active preparation time. You can cook the pumpkin a day ahead and refrigerate it if needed (in a covered container), but bring it to room temperature before mixing your pie filling.



You'll need about two cups of pumpkin puree, so find a nice medium-large Sugar Pie or other baking pumpkin (it should feel heavy for its size). Cut the pumpkin in half (scoop out the seeds and the slimy stuff that kids like to throw at each other AFTER it's baked; much easier). Bake cut side down in a shallow baking dish in a 350F oven for about an hour - poke it with a fork to make sure it's soft. When it's cool enough to handle, use a large spoon to scoop the flesh into a blender or food processor and puree briefly. You can throw in a small cooked (steamed or boiled) and peeled garnet yam as well; it will add natural sweetness and beautiful color to your pie. Let the puree stand in a fine-mesh strainer for about 30 minutes to drain excess liquid before using or refrigerating.

The Crust:
Let's face it, without that cornucopia of trans-fat, vegetable shortening, the pie crust will never be as tender and flaky again. But it can still taste good. Use your own, or try this simple butter crust:

- 1 cup flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 6 tablespoons very cold unsalted butter
- 3-4 tablespoons ice water

Cut the butter into small pieces and put it in the freezer briefly while you ice some water and mix the flour and salt together in a bowl. Working quickly using your fingertips, mix the flour and butter together. When the butter starts to break up and the flour picks up some color, add the water in small amounts (1 tablespoon at first, then by 1/2 tablespoon; you may not need all of it), mixing until the dough comes together. Knead briefly on a floured surface, then wrap in plastic and refrigerate for half an hour before rolling out, placing in a pie dish with beans or pie beads and pre-baking for about 10 minutes at 375F.

The Filling:

- 2 extra large (or 3 small) eggs
- 2 cups pureed pumpkin (or pumpkin/yam)
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 2/3 cup light brown sugar (packed)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- pinch of allspice and/or cloves (to taste)

Whisk the eggs in a large bowl until foamy, then add pumpkin and remaining ingredients, whisking until smooth. Pour into pie shell and bake at 375F until filling is set, 50-60 minutes. If you want to add texture and decoration, try sprinkling toasted, chopped pecans, mixed with a bit of finely chopped candied ginger, around the edge of the filling to make a border immediately after removing the pie from the oven.

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



Photos Tod Fierner

Strutting Their Stuff!

By Wendy Scheck
Close to six hundred people attended the Orinda Women's Club 21st Annual Festival of Trees fashion show at the San Ramon Marriott on Thursday, Nov. 8th. Mayor Steve Glazer, looking dapper as always in pajamas, and Chamber of Commerce President Keith Miller, joined Women's Club members and professional models on the catwalk. Plenty of champagne was available to ease those pre-show jitters. The final tabulations were not available as of press time, but all profits from the show will be donated to Holden High School and the Opportunity Junction.

Women interested in joining the Orinda Women's Club may contact Cynthia Hutchinson, 247-7632, for more information. Orinda residency is not required.



Keith Miller on Stage



Steve Glazer on Stage



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LAMORINDA's Restaurants <small>•• updated November 14, 2007 ••</small>			
American			
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	
BBQ			
Bo's Barbecue	3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7133	
Burger Joint			
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	
Café			
Express Cafe	3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd #170, Laf	283-7170	
Ferrari-Lucca Delicatessens	23 Lafayette Cir, Laf	299-8040	
Geppetto's cafe	87 Orinda Way, Ori	253-9894	
California Cuisine			
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	
Chinese			
Asia Palace Restaurant	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809	
Chef Chao Restaurant	343 Rheim 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	
Coffee Shop			
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	
Continental			
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	
Hawaiian Grill			
Lava Pit	2 Theatre Square, St. 142, Ori	253-1338	
Indian			
India Palace	3740 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5700	
Swad Indian Cuisine	3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9575	
Italian			
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 Rheim Blvd, Mor	376-2533	
Pizza Antica	3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0500	
Postino	3565 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8700	
Ristorante Amoroma	360 Park St, Mor	377-7662	
Japanese			
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	
Jazz Dinner Club			
Joe's of Lafayette	3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Laf	299-8807	
The Orinda House	65 Moraga Way, Ori	258-4445	
Mediterranean			
Alex's	2 Theatre Sq # 105, Ori	254-5290	
Nino's Bay	#2 Theater Square, Ste. 153, Ori	253-1327	
Oasis Cafe	3594 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8822	
Per Tutti Ristorante	3576 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5225	
Mexican			
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	1275-B Moraga Way, Mor	377-1203	
Baja Fresh Mexican Grill	3596 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8740	
Celia's Restaurant	3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8288	
El Balazo	3518D Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-8700	
Maya Mexican Grill	74 Moraga Way, Ori	258-9049	
Numero Uno Taqueria	3616 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1333	
Pizza			
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 Rheim 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	
Sandwiches/Deli			
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	
Subway	396 Park St., Mor	376-2959	
Subway	3322 Mt. Diablo Blvd #B, Laf	284-2627	
Subway	Theatre Square, Ori	258-0470	
Singaporean/Malaysian			
Kopitiam	3647 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1653	
South American			
The Patio Tapas and Restaurant	960 Moraga Road, Laf	299-6885	
Steak			
Casa Orinda	20 Bryant Way, Ori	254-2981	
Tea			
Patisserie Lafayette	71 Lafayette Cir, Laf	283-2226	
Thai			
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

Fall in the Garden

By Garth Jacober, Mt Diablo Nursery



Fall in the garden is a rebirth from spring and summer. Temperatures have cooled considerably—days are shorter and daylight is slowly escaping us in the evenings. This time of year is ideal for planting shrubs and trees. Winter rain will hopefully arrive soon which provide plants an opportunity to “heal in” to get a jump start before spring.

Adding annual flowers in the fall offer color for borders and beds. Pansies, violas, cyclamens, primrose and garden mums are good choices. Ornamental cabbages and kale offer spectacular color in pots and planters.

When mowing your lawn this time of year, be sure to adjust the height of your mower so that

the grass is not cut too short. It is also time to apply fall and winter lawn food. Irrigation clocks should be reset when daylight savings time ends and changed to shorter run times. Plants are slowing down and winter dormancy is close by. There is no need for maximum watering times as in the summer months. Save and conserve water when you can. There is nothing worse than seeing a lawn with its sprinklers on during a winter downpour.

This time of year is a good time to reflect upon a great spring and summer in the garden. Take the time to look at the trees change color, watch the hummingbirds feed on the salvias, observe the blue jays and squirrels are pack food away for the winter.

Slow down, reflect and take a moment to be in the moment.

Deciduous trees have great fall color and are a great addition to all gardens. Raywood Ash, Chinese Pistache, Bradford Pear, Crape Myrtle and White Birch are all good sources for fall color. Acer Rubra is also a good choice. What about those deciduous trees that have great fall color now and will eventually drop their leaves? Why not start a compost pile? All that is needed is a mixture of green (lawn clippings) and brown (leaves) to create a good mulch for the spring. One can also use these leaves as weed barriers and mulch to top dress garden beds and vegetable boxes.

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the grass is not cut too short. It is also time to apply fall and winter lawn food. Irrigation clocks should be reset when daylight savings time ends and changed to shorter run times. Plants are slowing down and winter dormancy is close by. There is no need for maximum watering times as in the summer months. Save and conserve water when you can. There is nothing worse than seeing a lawn with its sprinklers on during a winter downpour.

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Slow down, reflect and take a moment to be in the moment.

The Orinda Christmas Tree Lot Returns

To raise today's dollars for today's kids

Submitted by Gabriella Mozee, Orinda Educational Foundation



“Today’s dollars for today’s kids!” That’s what EFO is all about. “I am happy that EFO is able to come through for each child who attends public schools in Orinda precisely because EFO maintains a \$1.3 million in reserve called the Funds Functioning as Endowment (FFE). That means that if for any reason EFO is not able to raise and collect the \$1.4 million that is already pledged for the 2007-08 year, EFO will still cover it! The schools’ administrators, teachers, parents and students can rely on our commitment and know that they will have the “hard

dollars” and resources needed to excel,” says Janet Riley, EFO President.

It’s this kind of earnest commitment and general benefit to the Orinda community that prompted Orinda residents Mike Kang and Barbara Cabellon to begin their seasonal Orinda Christmas Tree Lot business and proudly support EFO. Mike explains: “I realize that EFO is beneficial to everyone in Orinda, not just the school system. A good school system increases the value of our community’s real estate. We’re very fortunate here in Orinda,

where our schools are at the top 10% in the state. It’s for everyone’s benefit if we can keep our schools well funded even if the state doesn’t.”

This will be the second annual partnership between EFO and the Orinda Christmas Tree Lot, located in the old J. F. K. University campus on Altarinda Road. The Christmas trees themselves are from a tree farm in Oregon, owned by the most enthusiastic tree lover named Greg Bartells. The Christmas trees come in a variety of sizes, from the smallest table tops to the more magnificent tall ones, depending on your space and taste.

The Grand Opening this year will be the Friday of Thanksgiving week, November 23 through December 24. Hours will be from 11 am to 9 pm daily. Besides Christmas trees, Mike will also sell holiday wreaths and garlands. The lot will have space and tables available for Miramonte stu-

SPORTS

Lamorinda Girls Win a Third Consecutive Tournament

Submitted by Dennis Rowland



Lamorinda Soccer Club U17 Team

The under 17 girl’s team from Lamorinda Soccer Club celebrated their third consecutive tournament victory Oct. 28 at the Placer United Foothill Cup tournament in Roseville. They add this win to previous victories in the U.S. Club National Cup in North Carolina and the California Cup. This week their next tournament takes the team to Tampa, Fla., where they will compete in the five day United Soccer Leagues Super-Y League North American Finals (Nov. 15 through 20).

To win the Foothill Cup, the Lamorinda girls defeated teams from across the Northwest. In the first game against Belmont Oaks of Redwood City, spectacular goal keeping by Laura Banister and the solid back line of Corrine Collins, Marissa Crossetti, Katherine Cuyler and Bonnie Zeiger held the opponent scoreless, resulting in a 0-0 tie. A conversion of Moira Heath’s corner kick by Corrine Collins in the second game against the River City United Boca Juniors was enough to give Lamorinda a 1-0 win. In

the third game, the team faced the Ajax United Elite ’91 team from Modesto. A well placed corner kick from Heath was headed by Marisa Rowland but hit the crossbar. McKenna deBack was there to kick the ball home for the 1-0 victory.

In the championship game, Lamorinda faced the Black Diamond from Park City, Utah. Two scores on breakaways carried the team to a 2-1 victory. In the first breakaway, DeBack’s shot bounced off the goal but she was right there to catch the rebound and push it in for a score. The second breakaway score was by Rowland on a fine pass from Ashley Aczon.

Other members of the team are Adrienne Johnson, Kendall Pegan, Alex Salgado, Katherine Sander, Caroline Scofield, Elaine Tanski and Allegra Zoller. The team is coached by Mohamed Mohamed who is assisted by Alasdair Heath.



Barbara Cabellon and Mike Kang

parents to bring, display and sell their Matador Marketplace products to help raise funds for their graduation events. Now Orinda families can gather, mingle and shop for their Christmas trees, wreaths and garlands locally, knowing that a portion of the proceeds of the sales will support EFO directly. “For every tree that we sell, we will be donating a generous amount to EFO...Last year we donated over \$3,000; we hope this year we’ll be able to raise that amount or higher with our community’s increasing support.”

For more information see www.orindaefo.org or www.orindachristmastreelot.com.

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SPORTS

LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



Oakland Strokes Rows Strong at Autumn Festival

Submitted by Pat Rudebusch

Oakland Strokes, the East Bay's premier high school rowing team, traveled to Newport Beach this past weekend to participate in the 20th Annual Newport Autumn Rowing Festival (NARF). The Newport regatta offers competition at various levels including collegiate and master rowers and several states including one team that came from as far as Connecticut. This was the first time Oakland Strokes competed at NARF.

Both men's and women's teams made a strong showing in Newport, which was their second event of the year and first time rowing on the 4,400-meter course in Newport Bay.

The women's lightweight eight varsity and junior varsity boats placed first and second respectively in the juniors, with both boats earning better times than many of the college teams. Only Stanford's women's lightweight posted a better time than the Oakland Strokes varsity boat.

In Oakland's lightweight varsity boat included coxswain Molly Fehr (Miramonte High), and Kendra Nyberg (Miramonte High) and Anne Hofinga (Miramonte High) in bow position. The JV boat was coxed by Mia Hamano (Piedmont High), with Jennifer Zitterman (Miramonte High) stroking, and India Akin

(Campolindo High) as one of seven in bow.

"I am encouraged by the performance of the team, which built upon the lessons learned from the season's first outing in Sacramento," said women's head coach Ian Simpson. "We rowed with much more consistent power than in Sacramento. Our women's eight JV boat made the biggest improvement, placing sixth overall with a time of 18:28 and beating five varsity boats from competing teams. Our women's varsity rowed steadily and methodically over the course to finish fifth with a time of 17:40 and our third eight boat improved technically to finish 19th overall."

The men's varsity eight-man boat placed second with a time of 15:33, just 10 seconds behind first place Capital Crew from Sacramento. They were coxed by Lelia Pakawongse (Berkeley High), with Patrick Stolcke (Berkeley High) as stroke, followed by seven including Michael Schier (Miramonte High) in bow. Three other Oakland men's varsity eight boats finished fifth (15:57), tenth (16:29) and 15th (17:12) overall.

"Newport Bay is a tricky course with a series of straight-interspersed with challenging and often-confusing turns," Simpson describes. "It was a

great place for the coxes to display their skills and it was also very useful for the rowers to learn to focus on their rowing and not be distracted by the surroundings."

Although the beauty of Newport and the course's surrounding celebrity homes could have been easy distractions, Simpson is quick to point to the dedication of the Oakland Strokes athletes: "The trip provided a great opportunity for the team to bond and rededicate themselves to training hard and to making the improvements required for them to be successful in the spring racing season. The coaches gained a lot of information from both races and know there is much work still to be done as we mold this young team of great kids into the athletic force that it can be. We are on track, the training is going well and they have great team spirit."

The Oakland Strokes is a nationally recognized, junior level rowing club open to all high school students in the San Francisco Bay Area. In addition to rowing technique, the coaches emphasize our values of teamwork, leadership, initiative, dedication and fellowship. Financial aid is available to those who qualify. For more information, visit the website at www.oaklandstrokes.org.

Oakland Strokes Newport Roster

Men's Junior Eight Varsity:

Lelia Pakawongse, coxswain (Berkeley High); Patrick Stolcke, stroke (Berkeley High); Chadwick Swenson (Skyline High); James Lenczowski (Bentley High); Nicholas Hoff (Berkeley High); William Deskin (Campolindo High); Richard Colby Foote (Encinal High); Andrew Ramos (Alameda High); and Michael Schier, bow (Miramonte High)

Men's Junior Eight JV:

Alex Topacio, coxswain (Campolindo High); Will Danner, stroke (Berkeley High); William Provost (Albany High); John Howerton (Head Roys); Scott Hampton (Acalanes High); Cole Williams (Campolindo High); James Manuso (College Prep); Garrett Bell (Las Lomas High); Evan Bontemps, bow (Del Oro High)

Men's Junior Eight 3V:

Daniel Migdale, coxswain (Miramonte High); Owen Hurley, stroke (Bishop O'Dowd); Matthew Lenhart (Campolindo High); James Kwan (Piedmont High); 5. Jack Andreoni (Piedmont High); James Weber (Piedmont High); Ted Kizor (Miramonte High); Hugh Rutherford (Piedmont High); Robert Chan (Miramonte High)

Men's Junior Eight 4V:

Kasey Benjamin, coxswain (Miramonte High); Lucas Rondenet, stroke (St. Mary's College High); Forrest Allen (Bishop O'Dowd); Jake Farrell (Bentley High); Sean Minnis (Piedmont High); Dhruv Amin (Piedmont High); Jack Berfiled (Piedmont High); Wesley Motlow (Piedmont High); Andrew VanSlyke, bow (Piedmont High)

Women's Junior Lightweight Eight Varsity:

Molly Fehr, coxswain (Miramonte High); Maso Motlow, stroke (Piedmont High); Kendra Nyberg (Miramonte High); Anne

Hofinga (Miramonte High); Mollie Roark (Marin Academy); Sarah Coppock-Pector (Bishop O'Dows); Rosie D'Orazio (Bishop O'Dowd) Ayla Koenig (Berkeley High); Charlotte Horsey, bow (Head Royce)

Women's Lightweight Eight JV:

Mia Hamano, coxswain (Piedmont High); Jennifer Zitterman, stroke (Miramonte High); Eva Sharf (Head Royce); Erin Mullin (St. Joseph's High); Caroline Sullivan (Piedmont High); Ceci Bohm (Piedmont High); India Akin (Campolindo High); Anabelle Roeser (College Prep); Tyler Atwood, bow (Bentley High)

Women's Junior Eight Varsity:

Leslie Chou, coxswain (Miramonte High); Dana Walsh, stroke (Miramonte High); Nikki Dahlberg-Seeth (Miramonte High); Ally Weiland (Northgate High); Claire Grover (Miramonte High); Kelly Bauer (Miramonte High); Ali Mittelberger (Head Royce); Beth Goodwin, bow (Miramonte High)

Women's Junior Eight JV

Celena Chan, coxswain (St. Ignatius College Prep); Nicole Petiet, stroke (Berkeley High); Kendall Sandy (Miramonte High); Caroline Godfrey (College Prep); Molly Castles (Bentley High); Piper Akol (Miramonte High); Nicole Sung-Jerezcek (Piedmont High); Mackenzie Whitton (St. Joseph Notre Dame High); Brittany Beck, bow (Miramonte High).

Women's Junior Eight 3V

Katherine Anderson, coxswain (Bentley High); Jane Rudebusch, stroke (Miramonte High); Ella-Rae Woodland (Albany High); Katie Sullivan (Bentley High); Joanie Sullivan (Bentley High); Alison Blazer (Miramonte High); Alex Hannah (Piedmont); Allie Foster (Miramonte High); Isabel Sepkowitz, bow (Bishop O'Dowd)

Mats Boys Water Polo Takes NCS Title

By Jennifer Wake



Campo Goaly Barni TJ and Mats Junior Tommy Briskey

The spirited rivalry between No. 1 Miramonte (24-4) and No. 2 Campolindo (23-5) boys water polo continued last Saturday at the Soda Aquatic Center at Campolindo. Winning 9-7, it was the Mats ninth North Coast Section (NCS) title.

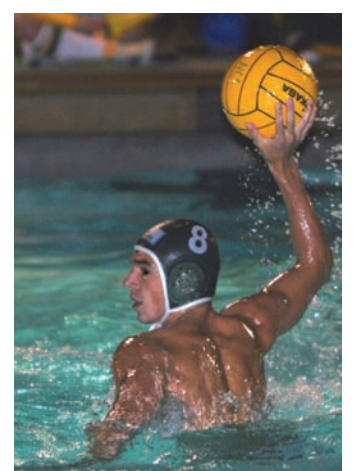
But it didn't come without a fight.

Things looked good early on for the Cougars after taking a second quarter lead of 4-2 following goals by Peter Shimer and Brett Lambert. But it wouldn't last, as the Mats Stephen Siri's last first half goal started the comeback for Miramonte.

Miramonte advanced to a 5-4 lead and, except for a brief tie, led for the duration, including five goals in a big third period.

The No. 2 Matadors (23-4) girls water polo team advanced to the finals following Thursday's NCS semifinal 10-9 win

over the No. 3 Cougars (18-8). Campolindo's Lizzy Peiros scored on a penalty shot, sending the match into two three-minute overtime periods. The Cougars Maddy Smith scored in the first overtime, but the Mats returned the favor with a goal by Maxine Sharf. Tied up, the game went



Mats Junior Stephen Siri

Photo Jordan Fong into sudden death. With only four seconds remaining in the first sudden death period, Kim Sanguinetti scored the game-winning goal.

The Miramonte women lost to No. 1 Monte Vista (26-1) at the NCS finals on Saturday, by a score of 11-5.



Despite being on opposing rival teams, Miramonte Senior Lincoln Haley and Campolindo Senior T.J. Barni share a moment together after concluding their high school water polo careers at the NCS Championship Game at the Soda Center on November 10, 2007. Out of the pool, long time water polo friendships prevail!

Photo submitted

Defeat Moves Dons to Third-Place Tie; Mats Take Fifth

By Jennifer Wake

Acalanes faced undefeated Las Lomas in Walnut Creek last Friday night. Although they gained some good yardage in the second half, the Dons were unable to recover from a 38-0 halftime deficit. The Las Lomas squad finished with a 52-14 win, continuing an undefeated season.

The Knights combined a

balanced running game with a big play passing game. Las Lomas had seven players with ten or more yards rushing, while they struck with three long passes from Yago of 37, 69 and 75 yards.

Despite the end result, Robbie Pestal was able to continue his strong season with 22 completions for well over 200 yards.

The Las Lomas win ended an historic undefeated regular season at 10-0 (9-0 in the DFAL).

Acalanes ended the campaign tied with Campolindo for third place in the DFAL with 6-3 league marks. Miramonte finished fifth at 4-5.



Miramonte Senior Class 08 Team

Photo Jordan Fong

Lamorinda Generals

Win Fall Classic

Submitted by Steven E. Shelton



Top row (R to L) Brock Griffin (coach), Connor Hornsby, Todd Burgos, Tim Caleo, James Marvel, Grant Diede, Trent Shelton, Clint Hoover (manager).

Bottom row (R to L): Spencer Henderson, Alex Rollins, Cole Rider, Jon Gee, Austin Rei, Bobby DaMaren

The Lamorinda Generals (14U Majors Club Baseball Team) won the prestigious 17th Annual Desert Fall Classic, hosted in Las Vegas Oct. 26 through the 28. The annual event draws the top club baseball teams throughout the western United States and Canada. The team went 4-0-1 in pool play, and then ran the table in bracket play to make it to the championship game and ultimately win the 28-team tournament. Notable wins

included victories over top teams from Canada, Washington, Arizona, Nevada and their long time California rivals the Star Maker Smash. The Generals are part of the elite Lamorinda Baseball Club organization. The team has a core group of players from the Lamorinda area that have played together for the past six years, and have consistently been recognized as one of the top teams in the country in their age group.

Announce Club Sports registration/meetings/tryouts send to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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SPORTS

LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Saint Mary's Tip-Off Classic: One Rout and One Barn Burner

By Kevin D. Shallat

The Saint Mary's Men's basketball season got underway this past weekend, as they hosted the Sonoma State Seawolves on Friday, Nov. 8, and the Drake University Bulldogs on Saturday, Nov. 9. The Gaels beat the Seawolves 82-57, and corralled the Bulldogs 72-66.

The fans got a good first look at Saint Mary's guard Patrick Mills from Australia, as he scored the first points of the season for the Gaels. He's been described as "lightening in a bottle" by fans. It's been five years since a freshman started his first game for the Gaels, and Mills did not disappoint, as he racked up 17 points, five assists, and four steals in his first contest.

Gaels forward Diamon Simpson had a typical game as he recorded a double-double with 18 points and 11 rebounds. Center Omar Samhan and guard Tron Smith also contributed for the Gaels.

The second game was a tightly contested game. St. Mary's is known for their frontcourt, but it was their backcourt that saved the day in this game. Drake has a talented but smaller squad than the Gaels, but they compensated for it by their athleticism and shooting ability. The Gaels got away from attacking the basket and kicking out to the perimeter in the second game, even though this style worked well for them in their game against Sonoma State. The Bulldogs were able to drive to the basket against the Gaels in the first

half, but Saint Mary's did a good job of shutting down those lanes in the second half.

The Gaels addressed their shooting concerns from last year, having clearly improved in that category. Among those contributing to this improvement is guard Carlin Hughes, also from Australia. Hughes, a transfer from Montana State, was unstoppable Saturday night. In this game, Hughes looked to be the fastest player on the court. He was also deadly from the perimeter, hitting five of eight 3-pointers on the night. The performance by Hughes Saturday was reminiscent of former Gael guard David Sivulich's record game of eight 3-pointers set back in 1995.

The game would go back and forth, with each team taking relatively small leads that would not stick. At one point in the second half the Gaels would trail by eight points, but managed to shoot their way back. The game would get locked up at 61 a piece with two minutes remaining. Yusef Smith was able to get a nice put back and a foul with 1:52 left in the game that put the Gaels up 64-61. However, just when the Gaels looked to put the game away, the Bulldogs would crawl back and get within two points, bringing the score to 65-63. Shortly thereafter, Todd Golden would hit his fourth and final 3-pointer on the night, putting the Gaels up by five with 46 seconds to go, which in essence sealed the win.

(See pictures page 1)

Saint Mary's Women Show Depth in OT Win

By Kevin D. Shallat



Suzie Davis (12); Serena Benavente (20); Lindsay Ekki (25) Photo: Tod Fierner

Saturday, Nov. 3 was the season opening game for the Saint Mary's women's basketball team as they took on Loyola University of New Orleans at McKeeon Pavilion. The Gaels outmatched this New Orleans team in almost every way, but Loyola found a way to come back and send this game into overtime. With the combination of a proven rebounder, a freshman rising star, and a fifth year senior, Saint Mary's won the game in overtime, 93-86.

It looked as if the Gaels were going to put this game away in the first half. Fifth year senior guard Serena Benavente did a good job of controlling the tempo of the game for the Gaels. She made a number of tough shots in traffic when Saint Mary's needed it the most. Benavente's clutch shooting, as well as her six assists and control of the ball, enabled the Gaels to get everyone involved. "Everybody's buying

into our new defense and it's up tempo style, in your face, pressure all the time kind of style," said Benavente.

The men's team isn't the only squad with a highly touted Australian recruit. Gaels forward Louella Tomlinson came over from Melbourne, Australia, and is only a freshman, but was able to make quite an impact in her Saint Mary's debut. Tomlinson was 10 of 13 from the field, scored 22 points, grabbed nine rebounds, and had five blocks in only 29 minutes of action. She also added two steals and three assists in her near triple double opening performance. Tomlinson was able to catch the ball up high throughout the game, and either pass it or shoot it without putting the ball on the court. "She's versatile where she can go inside and outside, and if you get bigs on other teams that try and guard her, she can drag them out (of position)," said Benavente.

Saint Mary's junior Jontelle Smith also had a nice game, as she scored 13 of her 21 points in the first half. Smith led the team in minutes and was able to track down seven rebounds in 38 minutes.

Loyola was able to keep the score close in the second half by a strong performance from Trenese Smith, who scored 37 points in 41 minutes. The score was 69-63 in favor of the Gaels with only 5:21 left to play in regulation when the Gaels called for the substitution of several starting players. Shortly

thereafter Loyola would close the gap and get within two points before Benavente hit a free throw to go up by three with 12 seconds to go. Loyola's Christine Mainguy hoisted a 3-point shot as the horn sounded and the shot clock light went off. Despite being heavily guarded by Gaels forward Maija Lahde, the ball dropped in to send the game into overtime. Lahde would get her revenge though, as her defense and rebounding would single handedly propel the Gaels in overtime to give Saint Mary's the win.

Campo Harriers Triumph

By Douglas Chudler

On Nov. 7, the Campolindo cross-country team coached by Chuck Woolridge raced triumphantly at the DFAL Cross Country Championships to prove, once again, that they are one of the top high school running programs in the area.

The league championships were held at Shadow Cliffs Recreation Area in Pleasanton. The varsity 3-mile course, as well as the freshman/sophomore and JV 2-mile course, were relatively flat with minimal hills. Runners were thus given the opportunity to run their best race of the season and exhibit their full potential.

The two varsity races showcased some truly exciting performances by the Campo Cougars. The girls race was held first. Prior to the race, senior Hillary Tomas reflected upon the girls' season: "It's been kind of hard because of all the injuries, but for the most part, we've done really well and we're still undefeated."

During the race, freshman Grace Orders was in the lead, battling side-by-side with College Park's top runner. Although the College Park runner eventually broke away to win the race, Orders finished second. This is a spectacular finish for Orders who is just a freshman.

"Well, I just got off my injury, and I just got second, so I was really happy with my race," said Orders. She is among several freshman girls, including Sarah Mostatabi and Rachel Faoro, who stepped it up as the season progressed and landed them spots on the varsity squad. The combined efforts of each runner gave the team a first-place finish in the championships. This is made more exceptional by the fact that during mid-season, the girls team was plagued with injuries. The girls successfully bypassed these obstacles to close out the season

still undefeated.

The varsity boys race followed next.

For most of the race, junior Robert Pulford stayed just behind some of the greatest runners in the state. His great pacing allowed him to finish sixth. Juniors Michael Brondello and Ross Geiger positioned themselves at the front early in the race to push the team to a third-place finish. The Cougars lost to College Park and Acalanes, but defeated Las Lomas, who had beaten Campo in the early part of the season. The Campo varsity boys overcame a lack of discipline early in the season to prove themselves serious and focused athletes. Sophomore Paul Jackson, the youngest runner on the varsity squad, was excited about his 18th place finish: "I did everything I wanted to do in this race. It was my best race, and now I'm number four for Campo."

The Campolindo JV and frosh/soph teams also generated positive results at the league championships. While the frosh/soph girls achieved the perfect culmination to their season with a first-place finish, the frosh/soph boys finished in third. On the JV side, five Campo runners finished in the top ten for the boys, who concluded the season undefeated, while the girls acquired a third-place finish.

The varsity squads now look to the postseason. "We're hungry for redemption," said junior Colby Pines. The first postseason meet will be the North Coast Section Championships on Nov. 17. While the girl's look to defend their NCS crown, the boys look to take their relatively young team to the next level.

"I'm preparing myself mentally and physically," said boys varsity team member Jason Budge. "As the Asics ad says, 'Sound Mind, Sound Body.'"

Miramonte Defeats State

Champion Campolindo

By Kevin D. Shallat

The defending women's state volleyball champion Campolindo Cougars hosted the Miramonte Matadors on Thursday, Nov. 8, as the two teams faced off for the second time this year. There was a good sized crowd on hand. However, like the first match-up, the home team lost. Miramonte pulled off a monumental upset as they beat the defending state champions, 3-1.

In the game a month ago, the Cougars won because they had a more balanced offensive attack. In that game Miramonte relied heavily upon outside hitter Juliana Stivanicevic, yet they had trouble getting more people involved. This was not the case Thursday night, as setter Mary Diamantidis played inspiring volleyball where she was able to get many of her teammates involved. "It was a lot of painful repetitions for her, but she really stepped up, I'm so proud of her and the way she's played so far," said Miramonte head coach Andy Jee.

Diamantidis was in the zone while racking up assists to her fellow teammates. One of those recipients was Miramonte outside hitter Kari Johnson. In the first meeting between the two teams, Johnson's highlights were centered around her serving. In this game it was her play above the net which helped elevate her team's performance. Campolindo's duo of Chandler Moore and Anni Isaacs, both outside hitters and middle blockers, had a terrific game defensively. However, with Johnson stepping up her play around the net, Campolindo couldn't account for both Johnson and Stivanicevic.

Perhaps the happiest player on the court was Miramonte's Stivanicevic. Stivanicevic, a transfer from Campolindo, seemed to be having the most fun out on the court, and it seemed to carry over to the other players.

The Matadors were able to get the visiting crowd rocking on a few stellar spikes after a few long relays. As good as Miramonte was in this first game, they won by a mere two points, beating the Cougars 25-23. The Matadors had won a game early in the first matchup, so there was some guarded optimism from the crowd. Diamantidis and the Matadors would continue their assault, as she continued to throw pinpoint assists to outside hitter and middle blocker Kelsey Freeman, middle blocker Haley Sayres, and outside hitter Kelsey Ross.

After Miramonte took the second game 25-23, it was apparent that the match was the Matador's to lose. The Cougars were able to fight back in the third game, as they wouldn't go down without a fight. Campolindo freshman setter Mary Vaccaro did all she could to keep Campolindo in this match. Cougar libero Alessandro Neason kept many rallies going by diving for impressive digs. Campolindo would mount a comeback in the third game and win 28-26, but would eventually lose steam in the fourth game and drop this final game of the match 25-17.

"I really hope we go to state. We may not be the best physical team, but I think we have the most heart, and I think that we can go all the way," said Diamantidis.

High school boys DFAL championships

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Team scores: College Park 62, Acalanes 74, Campolindo 77, Las Lomas 78, Dublin 133, Alhambra 163, Miramonte 179, Northgate 203, Concord 226

Top 20 finishers
Attarian (D) 14:48, Beach (Aca) 15:03, Grace (D) 15:18, Blattler (Alh) 15:31, Drosky (LL) 15:34.0, Pulford (Cam) 15:34.9, Stinnett (Aca) 15:52, Rubio (CP) 15:54, Chaidex (CP) 15:55, Cameron (CP) 15:57.0, Brondello (Cam) 15:57.5, Jamieson (LL) 16:03.0, Walton (N) 16:03.4, Bickert (CP) 16:05, Green (LL) 16:11, Geiger (Cam) 16:13, Troxel (Aca) 16:15, Jackson (Cam) 16:19, Gracely (LL) 16:22, Cantrell (Aca) 16:23

Women's Cross Country DFAL Championships Meet Results 11/7/07

High school girls DFAL championships
2.95 miles at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, Pleasanton

Team scores: Campolindo 36, College Park 59, Miramonte 87, Acalanes 104, Las Lomas 110, Alhambra 139, Concord 215, Dublin 221, Northgate 239
Top 20 finishers
Cridebring (CP) 18:10, Orders (Cam) 18:37, Rosenthal (Cam) 18:51, Tanski (M) 18:56, Berge (Aca) 19:05, Brokaw (LL) 19:06.6, Andrews (Alh) 19:06.9, Finnegan (Cam) 19:13, Mostatabi (Cam) 19:14, Smedebush (Con) 19:17, Smith (CP) 19:24, Tsao (M) 19:29, Crawford (CP) 19:33, Brennan (Cam) 19:45, Parker (Alh) 19:51, Shidara (CP) 19:52, Caine (Aca) 19:54, Gallagher (CP) 19:58, Ota (CP) 20:07, Shearer (Aca) 20:16

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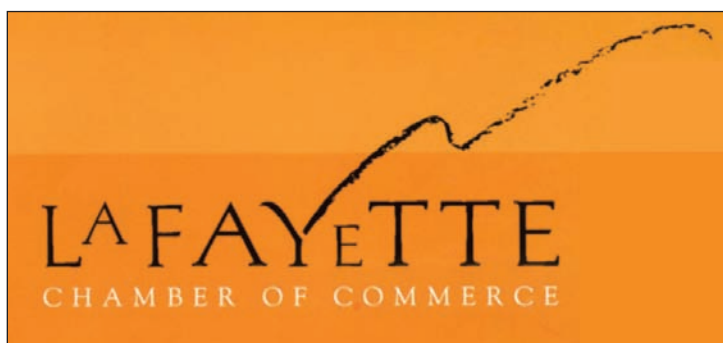
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