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Volume 02; Issue 17

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Wednesday, October 29, 2008



see page 11
Halloween Goes Hollywood in Moraga
 By Andrea A. Firth

Youth Commission's Haunted House Rocks
 By Cathy Tyson

From Pumpkin Patch to Trick-or-Treating at ghoulishly garbed homes, Lamorinda's kids get ready for Halloween

Photos by Andy Scheck and Lamorinda Mom's Club

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

this week

Orinda Candidates Forum - Similarities and Differences Made Clear **Page 4**

ORINDA

Drought: Are We Meeting Our Goals? **Page 5**

Over 40 new Letters to the Editor! **Pages 17, 18, 19**



Some of the best reading of this issue can be found on pages 17, 18 and 19

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Upcoming Election-Related Events

Nov 4 - Vote! If voting by mail, your two-card ballot needs .59 postage. If you've already mailed your ballot with less, don't worry - the Contra Costa County Elections Division will pick up the difference, but warns that ballots with insufficient postage may be delayed; so if you haven't yet mailed yours, don't forget to add that extra .17 to make sure your vote counts.

Nov 5 - The Lamorinda Democratic Club invites all Lamorindans to an outdoor celebration on to commemorate this year's historic elections. Enjoy lively music and refreshments with your fellow Lamorindans from 6:00-8:00 pm in Lafayette Plaza Square (corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road). Local officials and state representatives will share their

thoughts concerning the critical impacts made by America's ethnic communities as well as by the environmental, grass-roots and women's movements upon this historic election of our country's first African-American President. Bring your family, friends and neighbors and celebrate!

For more information, visit:
<http://www.lamorindademoclub.org>

Nov 10 - Hear an analysis of the election and discuss the impacts as St. Mary's College and the League of Women Voters present a post-election forum. The event begins at 7:00pm in the Soda Center and is free and open to the public. Forum participants will discuss the impact that the results of the November 4th

election will have, both locally and the state and national level. "We have designed a great panel," says Tim Farley, St. Mary's Community and Government Relations Director, "Steve Sloane, who teaches Political Science, will represent St Mary's and analyze the international impact of the elections; Marc Sandalow, political analyst for KPIX Channel 5 and KCBS Radio will come from Washington to talk about the impacts of the national races; Carla Marinucci, political analyst from the San Francisco Chronicle, will talk about state results and Lisa Voderbrueggen, Political Editor of the Contra Costa Times, will address local issues." Professor Mike Russo will moderate. Speakers will share their insights and take questions from the audience.

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Discover the Pride of Lafayette

Moraga-gate?

By Andy Scheck, Sophie Braccini and Lee Borrowman

After being contacted by a concerned Moraga resident who had received an anonymous political email from a person or persons who refused to divulge their identities, calling themselves by the apparent misnomer, "Moragans for Government Integrity" (MGI), the Lamorinda Weekly was surprised to discover that MGI had used our Post Office Box number as their mailing address. The Lamorinda Weekly is not affiliated in any way with MGI, nor would we be involved with one-sided political action, particularly an action that contained racial innuendo -- this was cause for further investigation.

A check of MGI's website registration (www.moragansforgovtintegrity.com) appeared to reveal a flurry of recent activity. Prior to the use of the Lamorinda Weekly's address, the site's administrative contact had been listed under the last name Clement, with a Burbank address. A day later, the name of the site's administrative contact was changed to Mark Felt, phone number 925-123-4567, and our address (Mark Felt, as many may recall, is the name of the former Associate Director of the FBI who revealed three years ago that he was the source known as "Deep Throat" in the Watergate scandal.)

Publisher Andy Scheck contacted the legal department of the site host and filed a report with the Moraga Police Department.

The regulations of the Internet Corporation for

Assigned Names and Numbers require the administrative contact for a web site to have a legal address. Clement could not be reached for comment. The Moraga Police Department is still investigating.

Clement's name also formerly appeared on the website registration of Moraga Town Council candidate Howard Harpham, although that too was changed on the same day as MGI's and Harpham is now listed as the contact for his own website, www.howard-harpham.com.

When we approached Harpham with our documentation at a recent Town Council meeting, wondering if there was a connection, Harpham replied, "I guess it looks like it," but declined to comment further.

The anonymous email in question suggested that a link exists between current Council member Ken

Chew, Council candidate Karen Mendonca and Walnut Creek printer Cedric Cheng.

One of the claims was that Chew had pressured Town staff to award a printing contract to Cheng without going through the proper bidding process. Philip Vince, who was the Town Manager at that time, said he was aware that allegations had been made and did not wish to comment. The business between Cheng and the Town was for an amount below that which would have required the Town to follow a competitive bidding process. "I looked at the offer, asked my clerk to compare a few unit cost prices and made the decision," recalls Vince.

Another element of the email was an inference that Chew and Cheng were conspiring to nail down the Asian vote for Mendonca.

... continued on page 9

Time Change!

Daylight Savings Time ends November 1st; don't forget to set the clock back one hour.

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Lamorinda Community

Calendar, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, November 10	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, November 6	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, November 12	
Town of Lafayette:	
http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us	
Chamber of Commerce:	
http://www.lafayettechamber.org	



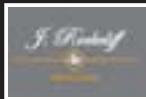
Don't Forget Your Backpack
10/18/08 - A concerned citizen alerted Lafayette Police when he noticed a suspicious backpack sitting alone on a bench outside of the Lafayette Library. Police responded to the call and carefully searched the backpack for owner identification. Two phone numbers were discovered in the pack and one of them was next to the word "Mom." Police dialed the number and discovered that the backpack belonged to a Lafayette Elementary student.

Does the Glove Fit?
10/19/08 - A Leland Drive resident was awakened by the sound of someone attempting to pry open the doors in the front and rear of his home. After shouting "Is somebody there?" the victim heard footsteps running away from his house. A short time later, he heard screeching car tires. Police were summoned and discovered a single glove, two mini flashlights and a 32-ounce 7-11 cup in the driveway. Two persons were contacted inside a car parked on Leland Drive. It is unknown whether or not they were involved in the attempted break-in.

Missing Bag
10/16/08 - A Dewing Avenue resident left her bag in the back seat of her car and forgot to lock the door. An unknown suspect was not deterred by the lack of locks and managed to open the door and leave with the bag. Residents are encouraged to lock their doors.

Who Wrote the Check?
10/18/08 - An Oak Hill Road resident received a call from Wachovia Bank about a woman attempting to cash one of his checks in the amount of \$1,500. The victim confirmed he had not written the check and has no idea how the suspect obtained his check. It is still uncertain as to who actually wrote the check and the investigation continues.

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Credit Crisis Impacts Lafayette's Bonds

How safe are Lafayette's investments?

By Cathy Tyson

As it turns out, very safe - no pork bellies or wheat futures grace the City's balance sheet. However there has been a significant bump in the road for bond sales to complete the new library.

When the project was in its infancy, the Lafayette Redevelopment Agency could not have anticipated the current financial meltdown. The plan was to sell \$11 million worth of bonds in October 2008 to complete the remaining year of construction on the project.

"When the RDA sells its bonds later this month, Lafayette will likely pay an interest rate that's up to two percent higher than it was just two months ago. As a result, instead of netting \$11.3 million from the bond issue, Lafayette might reap just \$7 or \$8 million," said City Manager Steven Falk in his Friday Summary.

He continues, "Despite the

turmoil, the City Council - acting as the Lafayette Redevelopment Agency Board - voted unanimously to proceed anyway and issue the bonds. Agency members noted that putting off the bond issuance could stall the project and, given the unstable markets, perhaps relegate the Agency to even higher interest rates."

There are a couple of options to bridge the \$3 to \$4 million funding gap. The RDA Board will consider borrowing the money, to be repaid with interest, from the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation or from other city funds.

Aside from bond concerns, a recent report states, "Staff believes that the City's investments in relatively conservative instruments are in line with the City's policy to value safety over yield."

Tracy Robinson, Administra-

tive Services Director, put it another way, "We tend to not invest in anything we can't understand or explain."

The City tends to ladder investments in order to give the City sufficient liquidity while offering a more stable source of income.

... continued on page 6

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Meet Lafayette's Newest Officers



Officer Vince Ones and Officer Andy Russell recently joined the Lafayette Police Department from the County Patrol - Valley Station in Alamo. Both officers are already familiar with local watering holes and bad guy hangouts to better serve and protect residents.

Photo Cathy Tyson

Golden Anniversary of Las Trampas



County Supervisor Gayle Uilkema, District 2 with Las Trampas Board President Rich Motta, recipient of a Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors' Resolution. Las Trampas is a non-profit organization that has served adults with developmental disabilities for fifty years. Bonnie Peacock, Development Director, organized the Open House and greeted guests who were offered tours of the campus and refreshments prepared by the consumers at the facility.

Lafayette Juniors Rummage Sale

By Cathy Tyson

Those looking to de-clutter, get a tax deductible donation and support a worthy cause should hold on to their gently used items for the Lafayette Juniors Rummage Sale. On Saturday November 15, the Lafayette Community Center will be open to collect clothing, household goods, furniture, kitchen items, and more from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The big sale starts at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, doors will close at 3:00 - come early

for the best selection.

"The children's department does really well," notes Monica Byers. Many of the Juniors have young families and as every parent knows, kids just seem to grow out of their Big Wheels, high chairs, and toddler size clothing so fast.

This annual fall fund raiser is expected to garner between \$5,000 and \$8,000 to be split among a number of local charities including: Futures Explored,

the Lamorinda Spirit Van, and the Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center in Orinda. With very little outlay of funds to host the sale, the over fifty member strong Juniors are proud that they get a lot of charity bang for the buck.

The few things they don't accept are children's car seats, computer monitors and non-working electronics. Only cash and checks will be accepted in payment.

Re-elect Carl Anduri Lafayette City Council

PRIORITIES

- **Maintain our fiscal integrity and strengthen our infrastructure**
 - Continue Lafayette's strong tradition of fiscal responsibility.
 - Put in place the financing necessary to improve our infrastructure, especially our neighborhood roads.
- **Preserve our incomparable natural setting and semi-rural ambience**
 - Protect our hillsides, ridges and open space for the enjoyment of all our residents.
 - Support Lafayette's General Plan.
- **Create a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly downtown**
 - Encourage one-of-a-kind shops and restaurants.
 - Work for better parking alternatives in downtown Lafayette.
- **Build a city in which all generations thrive and interact**
 - Make the new library a focal point of our community.
 - Be alert to opportunities to add to the City's parks, recreation programs and trail system in a fiscally sound manner.
 - Support the work of the City's Environmental Task Force and its efforts to improve our quality of life.
 - Find ways to make it easier for our seniors to continue to live in Lafayette and to contribute to our community, including appropriately sited senior housing and improved services for seniors.

EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Councilmember, 2002 - present
- Mayor, 2005
- Planning Commissioner, 1997 - 2002; Chair, 2000 - 2002
- Co-chair, Roads Task Force
- Co-chair, Senior Housing Task Force
- Chair, Environmental Strategy Task Force
- Member, Hillside Task Force
- President, Lex Mundi, a global association of law firms, 2000-present
- Associate, 1974-1980, and Partner, 1980-2000, Morrison & Foerster LLP (admitted to the bar in California and New York; general business practice with emphasis on financial transactions, project finance, cross-border investment, and technology acquisitions)
- B.A., Stanford; J.D., Yale Law School
- Married to Sharon Woodnutt Anduri, who grew up in Lafayette and attended Lafayette schools; two children: Eric and Lauren



"We need Carl's proven abilities, judgment and vision on the City Council. He has been great for our entire community."
Anne Grodin, Chair, Lafayette Community Foundation; former Mayor and Citizen of the Year

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Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

Moraga

- Calendar**
- City Council 7:30pm**
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School
1010 Camino Pablo
Monday, November 12
 - Planning Comm. 7:30pm**
Hacienda, La Sala Room
2100 Donald Drive
Monday, November 17
Monday, November 3 canceled
 - Design Review 7:30pm**
Hacienda, La Sala Room
2100 Donald Drive
Tuesday, November 10
 - Park & Rec 7:30pm**
Hacienda, Mosaic Room
2100 Donald Drive
Tuesday, November 18
 - Liaison 8:00am**
Fire Station
1280 Moraga Way
Friday, November 14
 - Town of Moraga online:**
<http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us>



Dirty pool, 10/19/08 Last Saturday, someone threw dirt into a Walford Drive resident's pool. The reporting person said it would cost approximately \$400 to clean the pool. It was suggested that a neighbor might be the culprit; suspected neighbor said they were not involved. Case of the mystery dirt has been suspended pending additional leads.

Vodka swiped, 10/18/08 A source reported that a white female put a bottle of Vodka inside her purse and left Safeway without paying for it. Alert source obtained the license plate number of the truck the young alleged thief got into. Contact with the registered owner, the dad, revealed that his daughter was driving the truck and spending the night at a friend's house. Dad found daughter and vodka. Vodka was destroyed and the daughter is presumably in trouble.

Vandalism, 10/17/08 A small storage unit next to Rheem Elementary's Roadrunner Club was broken into. A red Radio Flyer wagon and a miniature soccer goal were damaged in the process, along with the locking mechanism, but it appears that no property was taken.

Burglary, 10/16/08 During the night an unknown suspect or suspects entered Moraga Auto Care and Service by force and subsequently removed 79 packs of cigarettes. We can rule out the Surgeon General as the thief.

Land Use Initiatives Debate Heats Up

By Sophie Braccini



Ellen Beans left, President Moraga Citizens' Network and Lee Borrowman, Editor Lamorinda Weekly
Photo Andy Schreck

Moraga residents who attended the Moraga Citizen's Network Initiatives Forum still have questions about the initiatives' potential impacts on their town. As the election draws near, campaign strategies have taken a more aggressive turn. This polarization doesn't make it any easier for Moragans to make their decision.

On October 13th, Moraga Citizens Network presented a land use forum, inviting proponents of Measure J (Dick Loewke), Measure K (Renata Sos) and "No on Both" (Bob Reynolds). Your friendly neighborhood newspaper co-sponsored the forum and provided a moderator. Go online at www.lamorindaweekly.com to view our video of the forum.

After a background presentation of the Moraga General Plan and MOSO 1986 by Bruce Whitley, Chair of the Planning Commission, each group offered its arguments then responded to questions submitted from the audience.

One aspect that was recently dragged into the debate by Measure J (J) proponents is the building of affordable housing in Moraga as a result of the passage of Measure K (K). Many questions pertained to this issue.

To recap the underlying issue: Each town in California has to plan for its fair share of affordable housing to meet the global needs that have been forecasted. Failure to do so results in monetary loss and other complications. The Town's obligation is to plan, not to build, 245 high-density and/or low and medium income units. Meaning that areas need to be designated with a certain density, or carry restrictions as far as affordability of what will be built there. For example, classifying a large enough land area with a density of 24 dwellings per acre would be enough to comply with the Town's obligations.

... continued on page 6

Rancho Laguna Project Stalled

By Sophie Braccini

The Planning Commission sent the Rancho Laguna housing development project that has been under study for years back to the drawing board, on the evening that could have seen its Environmental Impact Report (EIR) adopted. Now there is no chance that the project will be adopted before the people of Moraga vote on the two land-use initiatives that are on the November ballot.

The single question that allowed the Commission to reject the EIR was asked by Planning Commissioner Bruce Whitley, "Is the project compliant with the General Plan?"

In a document sent earlier by Planning Director Lori Salamack to the Commission, she explained her concerns about the compliance of the project with the General Plan. She focused on the homes that were proposed to be built along Rheem Boulevard: "The General Plan provides direction regarding minimum lot sizes...(it) requires larger lot sizes if necessary to mitigate negative visual impacts and/or geologic hazards." She explained that the lots on Rheem Boulevard are subject to both geological hazards and negative visual impacts. Salamack wrote, "The Planning Commission may find it necessary to increase the minimum lot area along Rheem Boulevard so as to mitigate the negative visual impacts." The Commission debated the issue and agreed that due to the visual impact on Rheem Boulevard the plans did not satisfy the minimum lot size requirement of the General Plan.

The Commission could still have supported the project by approving a statement of overriding consideration.

A financial contribution offered by Rancho Laguna L.L.C. to repair Rheem Boulevard could have been such a consideration.

... continued on page 12

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See the Town Council Candidates Night and Initiatives Forum online at:
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We videotaped the Moraga Citizens' Network events for those who couldn't attend.

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- Acalanes Union High School District Board Member, 1987-2000, President for four terms
- Moraga Elementary School District Board Member, 1979-87, President for two terms
- Campolindo Homeowners' Association Director, 1973-80, President for four terms
- Moraga Education Foundation Founder, 1981

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Gene Gottfried (Moraga-Orinda Fire Board)	Bob Merritt (Moraga School Board)
John Wyro (Moraga-Orinda Fire Board)	Phyllis Gallaher (Acalanes School Board)
Barby Eppinger (Moraga School Board)	Elizabeth Rudnick (Acalanes School Board)
Peggy Cabaniss (Moraga School Board)	Alice Johnson (Acalanes School Board)
Maridel Moulton (Moraga School Board)	Leonard Holmes (Acalanes School Board)
Robert Mogg (Campolindo Homeowners' Board)	

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Janice KOLBE

Moraga Town Council

www.JaniceKolbe.com

©2008 Committee to Elect Janice Kolbe ID#1309964

Here's what community leaders say about Janice Kolbe...

"I served two years on the Moraga Planning Commission and one year as the Chairman of the Moraga Beautification Committee. I feel uniquely qualified to recommend Janice. Moraga needs level headed, reasonable Town Council members who do not seek office with a preconceived agenda. Janice is a centrist who seeks to understand all sides of an issue before making up her mind. Please support Janice Kolbe for Town Council. She is qualified to lead our town."

Bernie Smit

"Janice Kolbe will bring common sense, positive vision, and fiscal responsibility to Moraga's Town Council - and those qualities are sorely needed."

Cliff Dochterman, Retired University Administrator, Former Worldwide President of Rotary International

"The times I've had the opportunity to serve on committees with Janice, I've been impressed by her consensus building skills and willingness to listen—they are great strengths that will be needed with our Town Council."

Rick Nedell



Janice Kolbe - Moraga Town Council Candidate

To learn more about Janice, please visit her website.

www.janicekolbe.com

"Committee To Elect Janice Kolbe" ID# 1309964

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Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, November 5	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, November 11 canceled Tuesday, November 25	
Public Safety Comm.	7pm
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Wednesday, November 13	
Mayor's Com. Liaison	9am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, November 3	
Revenue Enhancement Task Force Community Workshop	7pm
De Rey School Auditorium Wednesday, November 12	
Town of Orinda: http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us Chamber of Commerce: http://www.orindachamber.org • local businesses • upcoming events	



Armed robbery, 10/22/08 At 10:00 p.m. an unknown suspect entered the Cocina Mexicana on Orinda Way through the unlocked front door and brandished a black revolver. The suspect told employees to lie on the floor and demanded cash from the register. Fortunately the money was safe in their safe and robber only got away with an iPod and iPhone.

Bold armed robber, 10/22/08 The same unknown suspect entered Village Pizza at 10:06 p.m., located half a block from Cocina Mexicana, and ordered employees to lie on the ground. He took cash and coin valued at approximately \$500. and fled. Perhaps he was looking for his own personal economic stimulus package.

Pallet theft, 10/21/08 Two unknown suspects loaded plastic pallets from the back of Safeway into a van and sped away. The vehicle and thieves were caught on tape, but unfortunately not by the cops. Be on the look out for a white 1990 Chevrolet van with the license plate number 8H11361. Are plastic pallets a hot item on Craig's List?

D.U.I., 10/19/08 A 28-year-old white female from Livermore was pulled over on Moraga Way at 3:00 a.m. for going 61 m.p.h. in a 35 m.p.h. zone. Upon confrontation by the cop, he noticed that she had bloodshot eyes, an unsteady gait and slurred speech. Coincidentally her blood alcohol level was above the legal limit.

Orinda Candidates Forum—2 Incumbents and the Alternative

By Andrea A. Firth



Candidates for Orinda City Council (L to R) Dr. Bob Larsen, Steven Glazer, and Victoria Smith. Photo A. Firth

As the three candidates vying for the two open City Council seats in Orinda assembled to participate in the Candidates Forum on the evening of October 16th, there was no physically apparent difference among them. Yet a quick peak under the table gave a hint to the differences that might lie ahead. The current Mayor, Victoria Smith, wore blue pumps with a sensible heel. Incumbent and the former Mayor, Steve Glazer, was wearing a pair of black men's dress shoes. Dr. Bob Larsen sported pointy-toed, grey leather boots. One of these candidates was not like the other two—a point that Dr. Bob tried to emphasize throughout the evening.

To the question of Orinda's most pressing priority, Smith and Glazer identified repairing Orinda's roads as first on their lists. Both cited the \$100 million roadworks problem as the City's most urgent need, and both hoped to realize a comprehensive solution. Larsen took a different approach citing the need to improve City revenues through the promotion of small businesses to fill the empty storefronts in Theater Square.

When asked how they would improve the business climate in Orinda, Larsen stated, "We need professional help and a business plan." He went on to suggest that the City hire a consultant, possibly from UC Berkeley, to help make this hap-

pen. He mentioned the City's moniker of Borinda (not to be confused with their neighbor Boraga) as evidence of the need for more entertainment outlets for teens and seniors, and he suggested a bowling alley as a possible improvement. Glazer described the ongoing sales tax leakage study as a good step toward identifying the commercial needs of the downtown district, and he highlighted the strong partnership already in place with the Chamber of Commerce and Council. Smith was also a fan of the sales tax leakage study, which she had pushed to make happen, and highlighted the commercial planning task force that was already at work to help redefine Orinda's downtown.

When it came to schools, another clear distinction among the candidates arose. Both Glazer and Smith supported Measure E—the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) Bond Measure on the November ballot—which has been endorsed by the current Council, citing the fact that AUHSD ranked first academically in the State because of the community's financial support of the schools.

... continued on page 6



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Orinda City Task Forces Plan Public Workshops

By Andrea A. Firth



Orinda's Planning Director (L), Emmanuel Ursu, introduced the new Assistant Planner, Richard Yee, at the most recent City Council meeting. Photo A. Firth

Following a year filled with over 150 task force and subcommittee meetings, Orinda's Planning Process Review Task Force (PPRTF) plans to schedule a series of public workshops in November to get the community's input on a draft report of recommendations to streamline the City's planning process. "The volunteers on the [PPRTF] donated a tremendous amount of time over the past year," notes Councilmember Amy Worth who is also a member of the Task Force. "A lot of really thoughtful di-

alogue went into the development of this draft report," she adds.

The Task Force identified three main areas for review and revision within the City's planning process according to Councilmember Tom McCormick. The process subcommittee looked at ways to revise the planning, application, and review process to make it less cumbersome. A residential subcommittee identified over 20 specific areas where the development code could be simplified.

... continued on page 6

Bicycle, Trail and Walkway Master Plan Takes the Next Step

By Andrea A. Firth

Over forty Orinda residents recently attended a community meeting with members of the City staff and Vice Mayor Sue Severson to provide input to guide the development of Orinda's Bicycle, Trail and Walkway Master Plan (BTW Plan). During the two-hour meeting, attendees heard a presentation by the consulting group Alta Planning and Design (Alta) who shared the results of an ongoing online survey of residents regarding the status and needs of the paths and trails throughout the City.

"Many Orinda citizens regularly participate in walking, hiking and biking around town," states Severson. "Unfortunately, there are limited areas in our community where these healthy activities can be enjoyed safely. This is especially true for our youth, who face many challenges in attempting safe routes to school," she adds. The online survey results echoed these sentiments and revealed that while a majority of residents regularly walk, bike, and hike around Orinda, just as many are dissatisfied with the pedestrian and bicycle paths they have to navigate.

Alta noted that Orinda's access to BART, neighborhood schools, and the regional trail system provides an excellent opportunity to create a more pedestrian- and cycling-friendly community. Challenges to achieving this goal include

the narrow right-of-way and lack of sidewalks on many residential streets, topography and drainage issues, and the limited number of existing paths and bikeways outside of the Downtown area.

Residents at the community meeting were invited to participate in a workshop session. As the attendees poured over maps of the City to identify the most important areas to be included in the BTW Plan, the common theme of a desire for safe access to downtown, schools, and trails resurfaced. "This public input helps us to get a good handle on what is most important," says Todd Skinner, Director of Parks and Recreation. He adds that the public process and the creation of the BTW Plan will help to establish clear pri-

orities and enable the City to determine what is most easily attainable, affordable, and creates the greatest usability.

"The BTW Master Plan process is very collaborative," states Severson. Over the next several months, additional public input will be solicited on the contents of a draft BTW Master Plan, which will then be revised before it is presented to the City for adoption next year.

"Once a Master Plan is in place, it will provide a vision for improving safe access to schools and our downtown area with prioritization for best use of limited resources," notes Severson. "This will allow for greater opportunities to receive future grant dollars in realizing the improvement plan."

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A Vision For Orinda

- A vibrant, revitalized small city downtown
- A place that welcomes entrepreneurs and small business
- A business plan that produces robust revenue for our city and schools
- A town that reveres its elders and those who contribute to our community
- A community that is inclusive and inviting, not one that marginalizes those who question
- A physical location that is blessed and lives up to its human(e) potential

Let's get there together
Doctor Bob Larsen - The Alternative

THE ALTERNATIVE
DR. BOB LARSEN
ORINDA CITY COUNCIL

Life in LAMORINDA

Drought: Are We Meeting Our Goals?

By Sophie Braccini



San Leandro Reservoir view from Pinehurst Road last Sunday

Photo Andy Scheck

In September the single-family residences served by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) missed their water usage objective of a 19% reduction by just one point, and the global goal of a 15% overall reduction for the agency was met.

The numbers are similar for preceding months, however if the coming winter is as dry as the two previous winters, EBMUD could have to resort to extreme rationing, which could mean a 50% cut back for single-family users. The solution: Save now and hope for a wet winter!

"I am still optimistic," said EBMUD elected Board Member Kathy Foulkes, "we are very grateful for all the efforts people have made and our agency is working on many fronts to maintain a high quality service for its constituency."

For some, the 19% felt like a huge burden. Out of the 1.3 million customers served by EBMUD, 7,300 have applied for an adjustment and 90% of them have received it. According to Foulkes those are for example people with children who just bought the house of an old couple, families where kids are coming back to live, per-

sons with a medical problem or individuals who are doing everything they can already. The cases were examined by EBMUD Conservation Department, which will conduct spot checks.

The industrial users exceeded their 5% reduction objective by reducing their consumption by 13%. Foulkes attributes this to the partnerships that take place between her agency and these users. "The industrial clients are the category who consumes the most water," says Foulkes, "for example the refineries need enormous quantities of water to cool down their cooling tower, or Coca-Cola which uses our water for its sodas as well as for its bottled water." That's where partnerships operate. EBMUD is processing recycled water: twice treated sewage water, appropriate to swim in but not for drinking. Such water is used in the Richmond cooling tower refinery.

EBMUD is working on many others venues to secure and improve our supply. Some projects are just in infancy such as the feasibility of a desalination plant, other are closer like the use of ground water available in the San Lorenzo area or Sacramento County, and by

December of 2009 we will have access to the water of the Sacramento basin in case of drought.

In the meantime, EBMUD recommends that all of its customers continue their efforts. If you own a pool, install a pool cover, and don't forget that re-filling pools has been banned. The agency asks that we do not forget to turn off our irrigation systems as soon as the rain starts and that for the time being, we water no more than one day a week. We are asked to address indoor water waste by checking for leaky toilets - notorious water wasters - and putting a stop to running water in sinks while doing dishes or brushing teeth and limiting showers to 5 minutes. "I personally recycle my own grey water," says Foulkes, who met her 19% objective, "I have a bucket in my shower to collect the water that runs before it gets warm enough, and one in my kitchen sink." She believes that without the use of that water to irrigate her garden, it would have died.

EBMUD's Board of Directors will reconvene in April to examine the level of the snow pack and make a decision for the coming year.

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Dear Jeff: I have a Hybrid vehicle. Are there any special Hybrid service concerns I should know about? Signed, Mr. Green

Dear Mr. Green: Hybrid technology is certainly a sign of our transportation future. Unfortunately, not too many shops are properly trained to service these vehicles. Most hybrids require hybrid specific oils and fluids that meet low emissions capabilities. Always use trusted facilities with trained technicians that offer the correct oils to keep your warranty in effect and keep your hybrid the best it can be.

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LAMORINDA Community

Credit Crisis Impacts Lafayette's Bonds *How safe are Lafayette's investments?*

... continued from page 2
 However nowadays Robinson notes that the yield curve has remained rather flat so the investments are relatively short-term.
 What's the actual break down of the investments? Of Lafayette's \$32,916,000., roughly 70% or \$22,982,788. is invested in the Local Agency Investment Pool (LAIF). According to their website, this program offers local agencies the opportunity to participate in a major portfolio, which invests hundreds of millions of dollars, using the investment expertise of the Treasurer's Office investment staff at no additional cost to the taxpayer.
 "We tend to keep it there because it has a better yield, and it needs to be liquid," said Robinson. "At this point, LAIF is offering higher yields than other investments, although that has not always been the case. The City contracts with PFM (Public Financial Management) to advise them on investment strategy."
 The remainder is split between Federal Agency Bonds, FNMA Disc Notes, and two Money Market Pools that do not have exposure to sub-prime mortgages and are being used to fund library construction.
 "The City's investments need to be in accordance with the State Government Code, however, the City's policy is actually more restrictive than the Government Code allows. For example, the City requires higher investment ratings on negotiable Certificates of Deposit, Medium Term notes and California Local Agency obligations than the government code permits," said Robinson.

Land Use Initiatives Debate Heats Up

... continued from page 3
 Whether or not those are built is then the decision of the property owner/developer and does not impact the compliance of the town. The Town of Moraga has been working on a "Specific Plan" that would address those needs and high density housing has been proposed on the Bruzzone family property adjacent to the Moraga Center, one of the only place in town that meets all the State's requirements, including easy access to public transportation. This plan has been in the making for years, in partnership with that family.
 So why is the Bruzzone family and their J campaign saying that K would force low income housing on their land? At first glance, it's irrelevant. K does not address the downtown area and its density. But Dick Loewke, who appeared on behalf of Measure J at the forum and who has been working with the Bruzzone family for many years as their urban planner, said "The Specific plan is being initiated by the Town of Moraga. The number of units, the kind of units, how it interfaces with retail is a key issue with the economic feasibility of this plan, if Measure K passes, the kind of housing downtown will exclusively be low income housing, very low, low and moderate." He added that in the absence of the possibility to build these units elsewhere, they would be concentrated in the downtown area, while Measure J would allow for the building of in-law or secondary units in large homes (these types of units being considered as "affordable" as well.) Later in the forum Loewke went a step further, "If this low income housing cannot be accommodated as second units and would have to be put into the downtown, it can't be built," he said, "it's not economically feasible for a developer to go out and build low income housing all by itself without a subsidy; if that happens the Town will find itself in violation of State law and litigation would come from the General Attorney's office."
 Could a vote for Measure K put the town at risk of litigation from the General Attorney's office? No - because the Town's obligation is to plan, not to build.
 "This is an unfortunate attempt to tag Measure K with this issue," responded Renata Sos for Measure K, "when the Bruzzone family has complete control of the negotiation and the future of the condominiums."
 The second issue that generated a lot of public questions was the impact of the initiatives on the economic development of the town. Measure K would block large development in Moraga's open space.

If Bollinger Canyon, for example, was to be designated as 20 dwellings per acre, it is unlikely that a developer would invest in a remote property that would require a large infrastructure investment. The number of homes would not allow a sufficient return. Additionally, Loewke said that MOSO 2008 would apply beyond the designated area, "If you read sections 8a3 and 23.b," he said, "you will see that it prohibits development on minor ridgelines outside designated land."
 Section 8,a/3 in the K text reads: "development will be prohibited on 'minor ridge lines' immediately adjacent to and extending into MOSO 2008 Open Space if slopes exceed 20% and the elevation of said ridges is greater than 800 feet of mean sea level."
 On the other hand, J would permit the construction of hundreds of homes (the number is not set in the initiative but could exceed 300) that would generate additional property tax for Moraga and potentially additional sales tax revenue. "Development appears to be an attractive way for a town to raise revenue," warned Sos, "it is only a short term gain. The tax stagnates while the costs associated with supporting the development, police, schools...grow at twice the rate." She believes that K, which limits possible development, will be a more fiscally responsible measure.
 Part of the financial stability of the town should come from a vibrant business community. A question regarding the impact of their initiative (or lack thereof) on the business climate of Moraga was not addressed in much detail by the presenters.

Fire Chief Reacts Strongly to Measure J Campaign Tactic
 "Measures J & K are issues that appropriately should be decided by those who live in the Town of Moraga, and the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) has no vested interest or desire to interfere with the vote of the people. The Fire District has launched a comprehensive investigation and will pursue all appropriate means to engage responsible parties," wrote MOFD Fire Chief Pete Nowicki last week, in response to Measure J campaign material distributed over the weekend of October 17 which presented firefighters affiliated with the MOFD supporting Proposition J and opposing Proposition K. Nowicki stated firmly: "The MOFD neither endorses nor opposes any ballot measure which will be decided on November 4."
 "The MOFD did not send these mailers, nor did it have any knowledge that they were being sent. Although the mailers show firefighters in their rescue ensemble and identifies them as District and local firefighters, District policy does not authorize employees to speak on behalf of MOFD nor on behalf of the Board of Directors," wrote Nowicki. The Chief also sent letters to the members of the Moraga Town Council expressing his frustration with the situation, labeling the mailers "irresponsible" and assuring the Council that in addition to a complete investigation the District would take action to inform voters of its neutrality.

This is the second time that local authorities have had cause to renounce any association of their agencies to Measure J. The appearance of the "Go Cougars" statement on the "Yes on J" campaign signs prompted a swift reaction from Acalanes Union High School District Superintendent Jim Negri on September 23, who advised residents that "Campolindo High School and the AUHSD have not taken any position in support of or against Measure J."

Orinda City Task Forces Plan Public Workshops

... continued from page 4
 "The residential group tackled some sacred cows to make it easier to remodel and not overly burdensome," notes McCormick. A commercial subcommittee looked at the impediments to improving the downtown environment. "The commercial group has identified ways to create more of a village-like atmosphere to help revitalize the downtown area," he adds. An overview of the recommendations of changes and improvements to the commercial elements of the plan will be presented at the upcoming Chamber of Commerce luncheon next week.
 "[In the workshops] the community members will have a chance to weigh in on the plan before it is in a more final format," states Worth. Based on the community workshops, the PPRTF report will be finalized and presented to the Planning Commission and Council for approval. The dates, times and locations for the workshops will be posted at the City's website, <http://www.cityoforinda.org>.
 The City of Orinda's Revenue Enhancement Task Force (RETF) is also hosting a public workshop to discuss their preliminary recommendations for generating additional revenues to fund Orinda roads, storm drain, fire flow, and downtown improvements. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, November 12th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Del Rey Elementary School Auditorium. Ideas to be discussed at the meeting include property tax reallocation, a sales tax increase, a utility users tax, a parcel tax, a business license tax, and a city reserve drawdown.

Orinda Candidates Forum—2 Incumbents and the Alternative

... continued from page 4
 Larsen questioned the appropriateness of the \$93 million bond measure. "Just because students do well on test scores is not a reason to borrow \$93 million," he stated.
 Things got stickier when the discussion turned to the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) and campaign financing. Larsen noted that the MOFD receives three times more money from the State than the City of Orinda does. "We need to start talking turkey to these people, but it's hard to do when you get their endorsement," stated Larsen. "I think the Fire District does a great job, and I appreciate their efforts," stated Glazer. "[The City] gets seven cents on the dollar [from real estate taxes], and we are trying to do our best with that," he added. Smith also complemented MOFD's service and cited the importance of being able to work well with others as a key factor to success in city government.
 Regarding campaign contributions, Larsen stated emphatically that he had and would not take money from special interest groups and that he differed distinctly from his two opponents in this respect. Glazer questioned Larsen's accusations regarding his current campaign contributions and the link to his previous campaign four years prior. Glazer stated that the majority of his campaign contributions had come from Orinda residents, and that smear campaigns reflected more negatively on the individual making the accusations. Smith admitted to having received a small contribution from PG&E and pointed out that this was just one of the many contributions that she had received including hundreds from Orinda residents.
 Smith and Glazer closed their remarks noting their experience on the City Council, their successes in implementing positive programs for the City, and their desires to continue the work in progress. Larsen noted the difference between himself and his two opponents and encouraged voters seeking change to cast just one vote for him.

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Life in LAMORINDA

Lamorinda Prepares to Face Disaster

By Sophie Braccini



CERT volunteers being debriefed by Gordon Nathan

Photo Andy Scheck

“At approximately 06:45-hours on October 25th, Lamorinda experienced an 8.1 earthquake.... Roads leading into and out of the area are closed due to damaged pavement, and power lines blocking some major roads.... You receive word, via a

“runner” from the Lamorinda Disaster Coordinator that all available CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) members are requested to report to the Moraga Commons Park for staging and await further instructions.”

And on that day at 08:00-

hours, 100 CERT volunteers gathered at the Moraga Commons, to participate in the first tri-city drill organized by CERT in cooperation with the police departments, the fire district, and other agencies.

For efficient emergency re-

sponse, the circulation of information is critical. Volunteers were bombarded with one incident after another of all magnitude: an injured person somewhere in town, a car leaking gas in the street, or an apartment building collapsing nearby. The command center received notice, allocated resources and documented its actions. One of the key teams that morning was the medical center. Areas had been set up to triage victims depending on the level of their injuries: a green tarp for minor, yellow for serious but not life threatening, red for requires immediate attention and a black tarp marked the morgue area.

Earlier that morning another 70 volunteers had come to be made up as victims and were ready to be rescued. Ben Thomas, a freshman at Campolindo and member of Boy Scout troop 212 had volunteered. “When we arrived we each chose the scenario to play out,” said Thomas, who had a pole go through his chest.

... continued on page 10

Private Donations Help Offset Cuts in Non-Profit Funding

By Jennifer Wake



Volunteers shown from left to right: Vicky Toth, Carolyn Poetzsch, Wendi Shively, Kathleen Guillaume, Diane Sasser, Martha Ross, Julie Corbin, Dick Corbin

Photo Carolyn Bybee

While personal retirement accounts decline in value and financial markets convulse, non-profit organizations must scurry to find funding to keep their doors open and their programs operational.

Youth Homes operates five state-licensed six-bed homes in Lafayette, Concord and Pleasant Hill, including three long-term residential treatment programs and two crisis emergency shelters. It has skirted cuts from the state, so far. But during that same time of flat funding, the organization has seen gas prices, energy costs and healthcare more than double, says Youth Homes Executive Director Stuart McCullough.

With more than 80,000 children in the foster care system in California – 2,000 in Contra Costa County alone – these funds can mean the difference between whether these children go on to pursue meaningful lives or end up on the street.

In the majority of foster care homes and facilities, 40 to 50 percent of kids leave the system – often running away and ending up homeless. An even higher percentage drop out of high school. Youth Homes’ success has been markedly different, with 75 to 80 percent of its participants staying on their plan.

The reason? “We don’t quit on our kids,” McCullough says. “We don’t kick people out.”

Youth Homes not only offers a place for these children and teens to call home, they provide family counseling and psychiatric services, chemical abuse treatment and behavioral coaching – and they never give up on a child.

“The majority of children in the foster care system are there due to abuse and profound neglect,” McCullough says. By the time a child begins to exhibit behaviors consistent with abuse, it’s been several years and the child is severely wounded, McCullough explained.

Typically, if someone is suspected of being abused, they’re carefully assessed, but once it’s determined there is abuse in the home, the steps to remove a child from that home can be traumatic.

“The next night Dad is arrested, the child is taken away to

“We try to step in to be the parent,” McCullough says. “We support them significantly. We try to support this child as he or she matures into young adulthood. After they turn 18, we often have kids come back to join us for Thanksgiving dinner because there’s no place for them to go.”

In 2007, Youth Homes started an AfterCare Program for those who have “aged out” of the foster care system. The AfterCare Program provides therapeutic services, ongoing counseling and financial help for those aged 17 to 22 – services typically cut once a child turns 18.

Unfortunately, all of these programs require money, and current economic conditions are hitting non-profits hard. “Youth Homes, like any non-profit, is focusing on private fund donations,” McCullough says. “It’s highly competitive and a stressful time. In 2009-10, the state budget’s smoke and mirrors will come to roost. Property taxes will decline, and income taxes are going to decline as people are laid off.”

Fortunately, McCullough says the support he’s received from his board members, community outreach efforts and, specifically, the Lamorinda Community has been phenomenal. “Our board personally raised \$50,000 and challenged the community, which responded in kind with four to one donations,” McCullough says. “I could not ask for a more skilled or better board.”

Last month, Youth Homes received a first-time grant of \$70,000 from the HEDCO Foundation for the purchase of three eight-passenger vans to be used to transport Youth Homes children to school, doctor’s appointments, counseling and other activities, and the Lafayette Juniors recently named

Youth Homes as its recipient for the group’s annual November Rummage Sale and its Kitchen Tour in the spring. Other Lamorinda organizations including the Lafayette Garden Club and the Lafayette Chamber have provided volunteer support and resources.

“Unlike most children born into a loving home, these kids were not so lucky – through no fault of their own,” says Nedda Janatpour of Youth Homes. “It is with the support of the community that we can show them that people do care about them.”

“We’ve been blessed by the Lamorinda area,” McCullough added. “It’s been a life-saver, to be perfectly honest.”

For more information about Youth Homes, you can visit its Web site at www.youthhomes.org.

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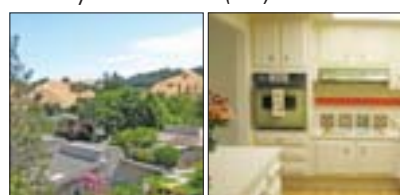


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Not to be missed

MUSIC-THEATER

On Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008, guests of the 18th California Symphony Ball will be transported into a wondrous Cirque Du Musique, featuring professional circus performers around the world. The evening will begin with a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and champagne, followed by an elegant dinner paired with fine wines and dancing to the strains of the California Symphony with an exciting live auction. All proceeds from this event will support the Symphony's education and artistic programs. Tickets and tables can be ordered online at www.californiasymphony.org or be calling (925) 280-2490. Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville.

Chevalier Restaurant Offers Live Music. Every Wednesday night, the recently opened French restaurant invites patrons to come and enjoy French/American jazz music by local group "Duo Gadjö" 7 to 10 p.m. 960 Moraga Road, Lafayette. chevalier-restaurant.com (925) 385-0793.

Celebrating its 43rd year, Women Sing presents a holiday program, "O Holy Night," with a galaxy of choral selections, highlighting the chorus's hallmark programming of "the traditional and the unexpected." Led by Artistic Director Martin Benvenuto, and accompanied by Paul Caccamo, WomenSing is a 50-member auditioned chorus, based in Orinda. Performances are Sunday, Dec. 7th, at the First Congregational Church, Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, at 3pm, and Wednesday, Dec. 10th at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, at 8pm. For ticket information, visit our Web Site at www.womensing.org, or call 925-974-9169. Ticket prices are \$20 General, \$25 Premium, \$18 Senior, \$10 Student.

ART

MASTERPIECE OR MESS? Bob Wahrhaftig's presentation is part of a series of First Friday events at the Moraga Art Gallery in the Rheem Valley Shop-

ping Center which will be from 7pm-9pm on Friday Nov. 7th. Bob will discuss painting basics and how he is inspired to work with colors. Then he will set up a canvas and have each member of the audience splash different colors on the canvas 'til it is covered. The artist will then use this mixture as a starting point to paint a portrait of a model. One lucky audience member will take the finished painting home in a free drawing. Moraga Art Gallery, 570 Center Street, Rheem Valley Shopping Center, Moraga. For questions call 510-524-7664. Bob Wahrhaftig- Drinks and refreshments served. Free to the public.

Lindsay Wildlife Museum -Vanishing Wildlife- through Nov. 16. Watercolor and mixed-media by Rita Sklar Vanishing Wildlife depicts American, European, Latin American and African wildlife. Critics describe her paintings as a mix of abstraction and realism, giving the paintings a feeling of movement and immediacy and praise them as capturing the subtle mood of the mystery of nature. Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Avenue, Walnut Creek. www.wildlife-museum.org.

The Moraga Art Gallery presents a new group show, "Celebrate"—through January 4, 2009. The Gallery is doubly featuring the work of 2 artists: Terri Durkovic, a jewelry designer following a life-long passion for creating wearable art. She is constantly collecting semi precious stones, pearls, shells, wood beads and precious metals to include in her designs. Natalia Udaltsova is a painter and artist who loves life and people, and this is reflected in her paintings. The public is invited to the Opening Reception on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008, from 3-5 pm. Moraga Art Gallery, 570 Center St., Rheem Valley Shopping Center/ next to Longs Drugs Moraga. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 12-5 pm, 925.376.5407.

The Lafayette Gallery is celebrating the holidays with "Lightly Seasoned: Fine Art with a Dash of Holiday Spirit." Through Dec. 24, 2008. The gallery member artists are displaying original fine art, paintings, prints, watercolors, photography, jewelry and ceramics. Art is a perfect gift for the holiday season. It is a gift that will be cherished for many a season to come. Gallery Hours: 11 - 5 pm Tuesday - Saturday, 50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, Ca 94549 925-284-2788.

New this year is the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce event, the "Lafayette Holiday Art Walk, 2008." The Art Walk occurs all day on Saturday, Dec. 6th. Do stop by Lafayette shops to view artwork from gallery artists displayed at businesses from 10am to 6pm.

PARENTS & TEENS

Risky Behavior - What Is Happening? What Can We Do About It? Join our speakers for a lively, up-to-date review of the current risky behaviors in our middle schools and how we, as parents, can identify and address them. Thursday, Nov. 6, 2008, 7:30pm, library Stanley Middle School, 3455 School Street, Lafayette no fee, NEW register class #05-6101 on-line at <http://adulted.acalanes.k12.ca.us/online/reg/> Questions & comments? Vera Babor at vbabor@acalanes.k12.ca.us.

CARE Parent Network- a workshop for parents of children with special needs in Contra Costa SELPA, which

Not to be missed

includes the Acalanes, Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda school districts - Saturday, Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.. The 'Parent Academy' is a wonderful opportunity for parents to attend up to four workshop sessions presented by an outstanding group of educators on some of the most requested topics in special education. Marchus School, 2900 Avon Avenue, Concord. Contra Costa SELPA parents: \$25, other parents: \$35, Other professionals: \$50. Deadline to register is October 31. Pre-registration is required. Questions? Call Cathy Nicoll, SELPA Coordinator at 925-827-0949 x13 Visit our website: www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/selpa/ccselpa.htm

St. Perpetua will hold its 5th Annual St. Perpetua Wine Festival on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 6:30-10:30 pm. The Wine Festival will be held at the War Veterans Memorial Building in Lafayette. The event will include the opportunity to taste and purchase wine from Wine Thieves of Lafayette, learn about wine and enjoy a catered buffet dinner while listening to a live jazz band. An extensive selection of wines, including many that are hard to find, will be available. A limited number of tickets are offered for \$55 per person and can be purchased on-line at www.stperpetua.org. For more information, please call the school at 925-284-1640.

Smart Money: Using the Bank Instead of Mom and Dad. Thursday, Nov. 20th, 7-9pm, in the Las Lomas Theater. Learn how to make smart credit choices, apply for auto loans including the hidden expenses involved, and keeping your identity safe. Parents are welcome to attend. This series is brought to you by the Las Lomas PTSA's Parent Ed and Healthy Choices Committees and is free of charge. Handouts will be available at all sessions. Questions? Contact Karen Schroter, schroter5@astound.net. RSVP/register through our new online registration site: <http://adulted.acalanes.k12.ca.us/online/reg/>, enter course #056216.

LECTURES & LITERATURE

The Italian Dolomites—A slide presentation will reveal the flora, fauna and other aspects of this beautiful area. Emeritus College instructor Lucia Falcone also will describe local customs, natural resources, and favorite foods. The single session will be held from 1 to 3 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 6, at the Lafayette Community Center's Elderberry Room, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Fee: \$15. To register, visit www.dvc.edu/emertus or call (925) 906-9105.

Thursday, Nov. 13, 4pm Garth Stein will discuss and sign copies of The Art of Racing in the Rain. Orinda Books, 276 Village Sq, Orinda, (925) 254-7606

Writin' On Empty: Parents Reveal the Upside, Downside, and Everything In Between When Children Leave the Nest. Thursday, Nov. 13, 7:30 pm, Lafayette Library. Hear authors Linda Peterson, Taylor Cehn, Risa Nye, and Julie Renalds reading from their tales and essays. (See story page 10)

OTHER

Join the staff of the Shahrzad Dance Academy at the Lafayette Library on Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. when they teach us the basics of Persian Dancing. Whether you have performed on a stage or never

stepped foot in a dance class before, this class will be an experience not soon forgotten. So bring you friends and neighbors to a free, fun-filled evening of dance and laughter. Ages 10 through adults only please. For more information, please call (925) 283-3872 or go to ccclib.org. Sponsored by the Lafayette Community Foundation and the Friends of the Lafayette Library. Lafayette Library, 952 Moraga Road

THE CYCLE RECYCLE. Again this year, Bobbie and Tom Preston will be doing the "Cycle Recycle, collecting repairable bikes for refurbishing by the inmates at Marsh Canyon Detention Facility. The repaired bikes will be given at Christmas to under-privileged children throughout the county—Most needed are tricycles and junior bikes. Not only do the kids get the gift of a bike, the inmates learn the marketable skill of bicycle repair. New and/or used, repairable bikes may be delivered to the side driveway of the Preston's home from now through the month of Nov. only: 1307 Larch Avenue, Moraga. (No need to contact the Prestons before leaving a bike, unless you need more information) For more information call 376-8474.

The Friends of Orinda Creeks invites creek homeowners to learn more about protecting their creeks. Nov. 5, 2008 from 7:30 - 9 pm in the Gallery Room of the Orinda Library. Please RSVP at mayarapp@comcast.net or 925-253-1997.

Home Composting for Busy People workshop on Saturday, Nov 8th from 1-2:30. If you are interested in attending, it is VERY IMPORTANT that you rsvp with the Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority at 925-906-1806. McDonnell Nursery, 196 Moraga Way, Orinda, 925-254-3713

Timeless Traditional Tea & Holiday Boutique at the Lafayette United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 955 Moraga Blvd., Lafayette. Saturday, Nov. 15. Boutique from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. with an informal tea cafe. Boutique features many handcrafted items at reasonable prices, perfect for Holiday gifts. Outside vendors also participating. Three seatings for the Multi-course Traditional Tea at 12 noon, 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. \$20 each, two for \$35, or table for eight for \$130 - Traditional Tea Requires RESERVATIONS - call 925-284-7857.

Widowed Person Support offers social events and a workshop for all widows and widowers during Nov.. Call 925/932-3448. Saturday, Nov. 15, a luncheon at Terzetto Cuisine Café in Moraga. Saturday, Nov. 22, a free workshop to help widowed people handle the Holidays, at St. Stephens Church, Orinda.

County Connection has scheduled a Lamorinda public workshop at the Orinda Community Center, 26 Orinda Way on Wednesday, Nov. 12- 4-7 pm to discuss proposed service changes and a possible spring implementation of the approved fare increase originally scheduled to take place July 1, 2009. Staff will be available to describe proposed service changes, and gather usage information from riders to minimize ridership loss. Maps and information will also be available on the agency website - www.cccta.org, and a dedicated email account will be set up for email comments, by Nov. 1st (925) 676-7500, or visit www.cccta.org.

Saint Mary's College

Campus Happenings



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

Open House
Saturday, Nov 1st 10 am - noon in the Soda Center:

BA in Leadership and Organizational Studies and MA for working adults. Hybrid online format.

MA in Leadership (19 months) designed for working adults, combining online learning with in-person sessions. Financial Aid available. Light refreshments served.

"Personal Investment Advice in this Crazy Economy" - Tuesday, Nov 11, 6-8pm at Saint Mary's College of California's Soda Center. Rob Black, the host of "Rob Black and Your Money" on KRON-TV, San Francisco and on KYCY 1550 AM, and contributor to "MoneyTrack" on PBS-TV, is coming to offer personal investment advice to SMC Graduate Business alumni and friends. Come with questions, and pen and paper! This event is free, sponsored by the SMC Graduate Business Alumni Council, but you must RSVP by going to <https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/alumni-and-friends/alumni-events/rsvp/index.html?event=3216> - 6:30pm: Registration, Networking, 6:30-8pm: Seminar, Q&A.

Seminars
Distinguished Speaker Series
Sat, Nov. 22 - Erin Gruwell - exemplary teacher, actress, author Freedom Writer's Diary! (based on the award-winning film and book) Soda Center, Saint Mary's College, Moraga. \$60/session. To register, contact: Lydia Wiley, (925) 631-8124. (see story page 11)

Rheem Green movie night on Nov. 13th "Dead in the Water"

Around the world, one in four people doesn't have access to clean drinking water. Some large international corporations view this crisis as a business opportunity, attempting to deliver clean water, while also privatizing what many consider a public resource. Award-winning documentary filmmaker Neil Docherty investigates this controversial trend by looking at recent developments in Argentina, South Africa, Bolivia and California. For \$14 (on-line) you can enjoy wine tasting and appetizers starting at 6pm, followed by the movie at 7pm.

Commonwealth Club Event-Thursday, Nov 13, 6:30 pm- Offshore Oil: Drilling Ourselves Into The Next Generation or An Environmental Catastrophe? Join a panel of experts to discuss both the short-term and long-term advantages and disadvantages of offshore oil drilling. JOE SPARANO, President, Western States Petroleum Association, MICHAEL BRUNE, CEO, Rainforest Action Network, RANDALL LUTHI, Director, Minerals Management Service, PETER SCHWARTZ, President, Global Business Network. 6 PM check-in, 6:30 PM program, Cost: \$15 members, \$30 non-members, \$7 students. For tickets, visit commonwealthclub.org or call (415) 597-6705. Events held at the Bentley School at 1000 Upper Happy Valley Road, Lafayette, CA 94549.

Clowning class for adults with Jeff Raz - Cirque du Soleil and Pickle Family Circus veteran Jeff Raz will teach some basics of clowning, the fundamentals of funny. Focusing on partnerships, students will learn classic routines, some cool moves and some really silly tricks. Class size limited. Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m., Nov. 3-Dec. 8. Stagebridge Theatre, 2501 Harrison St., Oakland (at 27th St.), Near BART, on-site parking. \$75 (for 6 weeks) 510.444.4755. STAGEBRIDGE THEATRE COMPANY, a non-profit organization based in Oakland since 1978.

On Saturday Nov. 15th, the Moraga branch of the Union Bank of California invites families to come to the branch and get their children fingerprinted by the Moraga Police for free. Residents are invited to come in and talk to Moraga Police Officers and Fire Fighters about protecting their children, and keeping our community safe. The bank will donate \$1000 to schools with 70% of their students who come in for the free fingerprinting between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. from the following schools: Los Perales, Rheem School and Camino Pablo.

The Moraga Women's Society and Hospice are having a "Fancy Us" Fashion Show and Luncheon on Nov. 17, at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street in Moraga, 10am - 1pm. Fashions are from the Hospice Boutique, and will be modeled

Creative Writing Reading Series

Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 7:30 p.m. - Brenda Miller's book, "Season of the Body: Essays," was a finalist for the PEN American Center Book Award. She has received four Pushcart Prizes for her work in creative nonfiction, and her essays have appeared in such periodicals as The Georgia Review, Prairie Schooner, Fourth Genre, The Sun and Yoga Journal. Soda Center, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Contact: MFA Program (925) 631-4457.

Theater

"Abundance" -- a Play by Beth Henley. Directed by Rebecca Engle, the play is a quirky comedy about mail-order brides, by the Pulitzer-winning author of "Crimes of the Heart." Thurs-Sun, Nov. 13-22, 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 16, 2 p.m. LeFevre Theatre, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Tickets: \$8 for SMC faculty, staff and students. \$12 for non-SMC students. \$15 general admission. Performing Arts (925) 631-4670.

Art Exhibits

The Second Golden Age of Dutch Art: 19th Century Dutch Paintings from the Beekhuis Collection -through Dec. 14 Paintings by more than sixty artists represent a broad range of styles and subject matter, including cityscapes, landscapes, seascapes, still lifes, portraits, and interiors. The exhibition is comprised of three main groupings: Dutch Romanticism, The Hague School and Dutch Impressionism. Exhibition Admission: \$3; Gallery Hours: Wed - Sun, 11 am - 4:30 pm, 925.631.4379, www.hearstart-gallery.org.

Exhibition hours: Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 am until 4:30 pm
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>.

by the Hospice volunteers. Tickets are \$25. Call Louise Barr 284-7465.

Nov. 18th the Orinda Woman's Club will host its annual Festival of Trees luncheon, raffle, and fashion show. Women's Fashion by Helen Lyall of Vallejo; Men's Fashions by Jos A Bank Clothiers of Lafayette Mercantile; Hair and Makeup by Suzanne & company of Pleasant Hill. The doors open at 10:30 AM for raffle preview and cocktails, 11:45 AM is the luncheon and the fashion show. Tickets are \$85.00 per person. Please call (925) 963-6356 for reservations. Proceeds benefit local charities. Blackhawk Museum at 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville.

Please join the Town of Moraga and the Moraga Chamber of Commerce at the annual Moraga State of the Town Address on Wednesday, Nov 19th at 7pm at the Rheem Theatre. There will be complimentary wines donated by Tim Argenti of Allied Waste and finger foods provided by our local restaurant owners from Terzetto Cuisine. Please come meet your local elected officials and network with community residents and neighbors! The Chamber will announce this year's business person of the year, and the Town Council will have a succinct power point presentation on key Town activities. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

MORAGA GARDEN CLUB MEETING - Nov. 20, 2008, Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. SAXON HOLT, Acclaimed Photographer, will present "Images of the Garden." For membership call Pat at 925-4675.

Montelindo Garden Club Meeting and Speaker Series, Friday, Nov 21st. Orinda Community Church, #10 Irwin Way, Orinda, Meeting at 9:30 a.m., Speaker at 10:30. Speaker: Garth Jacober, master gardener, plant care teacher at Heather Farms, and owner of Mt. Diablo Nursery in Lafayette, will speak about perennials and pruning. The free meeting welcomes guests. www.montelindogarden.com. email : montelindogarden@aol.com

Volunteers Needed: Tax-Aide Counselors, Computer Techies, and Greeters. Help low to moderate-income tax-payers of all ages - focusing on those over age 60. Provide free tax return preparation and electronic filing service. To learn about the non-profit all-volunteer program, attend a half-day orientation meeting in Nov. 2008. (Orientation not required to volunteer) Classes to become IRS Certified Counselor in January 2009.. You will learn much more about helping people through Tax-Aide when you call LaVerne Gordon, District Coordinator, at 925/335-8749 or 925/256-6807 or email lavemeg1@juno.com

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"Friday Night Festival"
Games and special activities are just part of the fun for children (ages 6 months - 5th grade) of parents attending the seminar.
Cost: \$5 per child

Life in LAMORINDA

Fish, Eat, Party

By Sophie Braccini



At the table with guests of Jim Logsdon (left) and chef Eric (right)

The Quillback Rockfish prepared with ginger and scallions that chef Eric brought to the tables of Hsiang's Restaurant on Monday evening were still swimming in the Pacific Ocean on Sunday morning. They found their way to the Orinda kitchen with the help of the rods of Orinda resident Jim Logsdon and his friends. They were partaking in a tradition of good sport and great eating that has been going on for ten years.

The two large round tables at Hsiang's were covered with many more creative and tasty dishes: Minced fish in lettuce cup, Braised Lingcod steaks in a hot, spicy sauce, Braised Cabezone

steaks in a sweet and hot sauce, Olive Rockfish and Blue Rockfish fillets fried in the Salt and Pepper style with Jalapeno peppers, and Hot and Spicy Szechwan style fish stew with Chinese lip-numbing pepper corns. The chef added white and brown rice, and a variety of vegetable dishes.

"Eric and I made our arrangement about ten years ago when he first opened the restaurant and Judy and I had just started seeing each other," says Jim Logsdon, "He has cooked many memorable meals for us over the years. In fact, we thought so much of his skill that Judy and I reserved the same two tables for our Rehearsal Dinner prior

to our marriage in 2000. We just told Eric to pull out all the stops and create a fabulous meal for twenty four people. It was one of the best meals I have ever eaten." Some of the dishes that Eric prepared that night are on his menu, sometimes in a "chicken version." Others are created for the occasion, depending on the catch.

As diners ate to one's fill, stories of the Sunday outing went around the table. They left Orinda before dawn on Sunday morning for Emeryville where they had reserved a boat with Emeryville Sportfishing (www.emeryvillesportfishing.com). The objective was the Farallon Islands where fishing has rarely been

Photo Sophie Braccini

disappointing for them.

"I had a hard fight with a seagull," told Logsdon. Fishermen use live anchovies as bait, so the boat is surrounded by a group of seagulls that try to get the baits before they reach the fishes. "I had cast my line when that seagull dived in pursuit of the anchovy. Suddenly my line started coming back up at great velocity and I reeled in as fast as I could. The bird emerged from the ocean, flapping his wings vigorously and screaming to the top of its lungs, the hook was stuck in his neck. I tried to grab the bird by the neck, but they are incredibly fast and their long neck is flexible in all directions. It was like dealing with a snake, only one with a long, hard and very sharp beak. The bird twisted his head around and snapped my hand in his beak. One of the deck-hands came to the rescue, but the bird wouldn't let go of my hand and would contort himself so much that the man couldn't do anything. Finally, I seized the bird with my other hand just below the head, like I did with snakes when I was a kid, and the man could remove the hook. We released the bird, but he was so shocked that the captain's dog got him, we all rushed to shoo the dog away and the seagull finally made his escape." What a story that bird must have told his family that night!

Everyone came back safe and sound, as they do every time and with a nice catch. Only the men went fishing that Sunday, but sometimes the wives join too. "I go out and try to be a good sport when I'm pretty sure that the weather is going to be nice," says Judy Logsdon.

Moraga-gate?

... continued from page 1

Both Cheng and Chew are members of the Chinese American Political Association (CAPA). The anonymous email claimed that CAPA urges Moraga's Asian voters (15% of the population) to "block vote" for the candidate they choose.

Some members of Moraga's Asian community felt offended by the comment. Eugene Tomine, a Moraga resident of Japanese origin who had seen the email, found it distasteful. "I do not see why the '15% Asian Americans' living in Moraga had to be brought into this," he said. The soft-spoken attorney added that he didn't appreciate the racist tone of the text.

"I had never experienced racism toward Asians in Moraga before this email," said Susan Jun Fish, a Korean-American mother who has lived in Moraga for six years, "I recognized the racist tone of this negative campaign material and hope that other people will recognize it as well and just erase it." Jun Fish continued, "We have worked for decades to reduce racism; that email sent us back to the 60's. Racism doesn't belong in Moraga or anywhere else, it breeds paranoia and fear against other cultures when we need to foster integration of the many different traditions that make our country."

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An Evening of Musical Story Telling

By Cathy Tyson



Laura Zucker

Photo provided

Mother of three, attorney in a past life, and award winning singer/songwriter Laura Zucker will be appearing at Joe's of Lafayette on Saturday, November 1 at 7:30, for "Telling Our Stories," an evening of musical story telling in celebration of the release of her new CD "A Step Ahead." Performing with Zucker will be singer/songwriters Karen Mullally and Chris Hanson. With a style that has been compared to James Taylor and Shawn Colvin, seeing Zucker and friends perform might be the just the thing for tired trick or treaters.

The acoustic guitar player and vocalist released her first CD, "Left Foot Forward," in August of 2006 to much critical acclaim. The RI Muse describes Zucker's music as, "expertly crafted songs, accessible and compelling, performed with a seasoned finesse and a vocal quality that is honest and direct." She's the winner of West Coast Songwriters, "Best Song of 2007" for "I Can't Let Go" and Best Song 2006 for "It was you." Her song "Memorial Day" was a finalist in the Public Domain Foundation's

"Music to Life" contest, resulting in extensive airplay on XM radio.

"I am so fortunate that I get to write and perform. It's very soul satisfying, when so much of my time is taken up with the everyday tasks we all face: grocery shopping, laundry and carpoles. And to receive such overwhelmingly positive feedback is like the icing on the cake," said Zucker.

She was performing on the east coast for much of the early 1980's. "I took a break to attend law school and practice law, but knowing I would need something to fall back on, I kept my music skills honed," Zucker jokes. With children at Happy Valley, Stanley and Acalanes, she's only able to devote a fraction of her time to her own music, the rest being taken up with family, her part-time work as a music teacher and guitar teacher for teens and adults.

Go to www.laurazucker.com for a listen. Her haunting song, Memorial Day, references the Lafayette crosses and urges that we should never lose another child to war. "People keep trying to politicize that song, since it's

about war, and the crosses. But it's really just a mother's plea, and I think, about something we can all actually agree on."

Joe's of Lafayette, is located at 3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd., on the west end of town. There is no cover charge.

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9:40 a.m. Education for all ages
10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship Service
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A one inch listing will cost \$20.

Election Outreach in Orinda

By Andrea A. Firth



Michele Olsen reads to a Glorietta kindergarten class as part of her election outreach program. Photo A. Firth

As Michele Olsen read to a group of kindergarten students in Ms. Johnson's class at Glorietta Elementary School, she was there as both a mother (of her five-year old son, Sam) and as the Orinda City Clerk. Olsen launched an election outreach program in the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) this year to help young students make sense of the proliferation of brightly colored signs that have appeared on lawns and roadsides throughout their neighborhoods during this historic election season.

"It is important to demystify the election process for the youth in Orinda so they have a better understanding of current events and understand the importance of being an informed citizen," explains Olsen, who has spoken to kindergarten, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grades classes at Glorietta and Del Rey Schools as part of her election outreach efforts. "My motivation, in part, for organizing this effort was following out the City Council's adopted goals of providing Community Outreach to its residents (both big and small) and partnering with local agencies like OUSD," adds Olsen. "It is also my duty as a Municipal Clerk to educate as many people as possible on the election process, most specifically the importance of voting."

For the younger set, Olsen

read the book *Duck for President*, which tells the story of an ambitious duck who wins his first election against Farmer Brown to become head of the farm. Duck then works his way up to the Presidency but finds that running a country is very hard work. The story concludes with Duck abandoning the political world and at work on his biography. The playful story introduced children to the vocabulary of the voting process with words like candidate, ballot, polling place, and oath.

With the older students, Olsen was able to delve even deeper into the legislative process. In some classes she held mock elections in which students voted by both open and secret ballots. They were able to see first-hand the potential influence of peer pressure on the voting process.

"The students were incredibly informed about the election process, specifically the presidential election," says Olsen. "The questions that they asked were relevant and insightful and demonstrated that they have been taught in an unbiased manner," she adds. Olsen looks forward to continuing and expanding the school election outreach program in the years to come to ensure the kindergarteners of 2008 are casting their votes in the election of 2021.

A Message from the Moraga Orinda Fire District: Please help us with our Strategic Plan

In 2005, The Moraga-Orinda Fire District revised its Strategic Plan, identifying progressive changes and enhancements to our operational process in order to be able to better serve our customers. We listened to the community, our employees, and other local agencies to develop a sequence of goals, and a 'task' pattern to achieve those goals. We have recently completed our annual review of the Plan, and have noticed that the hard work of all of our employees has paid off handsomely. We have successfully completed nearly all of our planned objectives - two full years ahead of schedule.

We have decided to allow our 2005 Plan to expire and create a new vision for the future. In order to create a comprehensive

new Strategic Plan that will best serve the community, we again would like to hear from you - our valued neighbors and customers. In order to allow the community an opportunity to respond with ease, we are going hi-tech. We are going to utilize an internet survey, as well as offer the ability to provide additional on-line suggestions and comments. The URL is listed below, and the survey will be accessible October 18th through November 18th. For those who would rather not utilize the internet, the District will host meetings with the Fire Chief for comments and suggestions. The dates and locations are listed below.

To utilize the website: <http://ctmsurveys.com/html/mofd08/mofd08.html>

- Meetings:**
- MOFD Administration Bldg - 1280 Moraga Way
November 17th 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
 - Orinda City Offices - 22 Orinda Way
Sarge Littlehale Room
November 18th 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Local Authors Highlighted at Lafayette Library's Sweet Thursday

By Moya Stone

Local Lafayette residents Linda Peterson and Maria Hjelm have been two of the hard working ladies behind the Lafayette Library's popular author reading series Sweet Thursday since its inception six years ago. But the upcoming Sweet Thursday event scheduled for November 13, at 7:30 will honor Linda and Maria as authors. Both women have contributed their literary talents to recently published anthologies.

Many readers will know Linda from her mystery book, *Edited to Death*, featuring magazine writer Maggie Fiori - the "arrogant but likable" amateur detective. Linda is just finishing up the second in that series while helping to promote "Writin' on Empty: Parents Reveal the Upside, Downside, and Everything In Between when Children Leave the Nest" for which she wrote the opening essay, *Naked Parents in the Pool*.

The book is a collection of essays about the universal experience of children leaving home and includes authors such as the San Francisco Chronicle's C.W. Nevius, the New York Times John Leland, and Linda Weltner from the Boston Globe. Edited by empty nesters Joan Cehn, Risa Nye, and Julie Renalds, *Writin' on Empty* started as a conversation among women sharing feelings about sending their children out into the world. Soon the three women decided there was an obvious niche to fill. Linda, who also works full time as a marketing executive, met Risa in a writers group and became involved in the project.

Linda's only son is 30 now and has a baby of his own, but Linda says the day he left home for good is as fresh for her as if it happened yesterday, "I missed the noise, excitement, and chaos of having a teenager around," says Linda. But she also concedes that there are a few upsides as well. "Fridge freedom," she says. "We no longer have to worry about what's in the fridge." In her essay, Linda approaches the topic with humor sharing stories of her meltdowns and tirades the first few weeks after her son, Ben, left for

college, and then the surprising upside, like late night skinny-dips in the family swimming pool.

Maria, who has a background in book publishing and now works in fundraising at UC Berkeley, became involved with the book, "Knowing Pains: Women on Love, Sex and Work in Our 40s" through a friend. This collection of essays addresses another niche - the shift women make into their 40s, having achieved a certain level of success and confidence, and how they deal with issues such as aging parents, death, divorce, motherhood, sex, and more. Edited by local businesswoman Molly Tracy Rosen, *Knowing Pains* came from Molly's desire, on her 40th birthday, to read about other women in their 40s. She went to the bookstore and found nothing on the subject, thus she decided to fill the gap herself.

In her essay, *Just a Blip*, Maria shares her story of losing her mother, who was diagnosed with cancer on Maria's 39th birthday and died two months short of her 40th birthday. She says in her essay: "So, here's my quarrel, my bone to pick, my beef with being 40 - it's all too adult, and I prefer to pretend that I'm still 28. You'd think that having three kids, a mortgage, and a marriage that needs constant tending would have turned me into an adult, but it's the learning to live without the protection of my mother that has finally done it."

Maria says she is struck by this shared experience of turning 40. "There are so many different ways to experience 40," says Maria, "I marvel at the strength of women and how different we all are and the many different ways to experience the same thing."

Joining Maria and Linda on the November 13 Sweet Thursday event will be *Knowing Pains* editor Molly Rosen and contributor Nancy Davis Kho, and *Writin' on Empty* editor Risa Nye and contributor Laura Shumaker. Copies of both books will be available for purchase, with proceeds going to breast cancer education. For more information contact the Lafayette Library at 283-3872.

Lamorinda Prepares to Face Disaster

... continued from page 7

"The triage team identified me as immediate and I was dispatched to the red tarp," he said. He was then directed to an ambulance. Thomas was lucky there was an ambulance, "If there is an incident of this magnitude here," said Moraga Chief of Police Mark Ruppenthal, "roads might be closed and evacuation impossible. You might be looking at two weeks before any public agency shows up."

The importance of self-reliance was constantly reinforced. "You might have only one or two police officers on duty when something happens," said Lieutenant Robert Priebe, "and we are lucky that some of the Public Works people live close by." Dan Bernie's Public Works team was there and manifested their presence and efficiency, interfacing with CERT volunteers and flying from incident to

incident to bring help.

CERT's Gordon Nathan, who was instrumental in the preparation of the drill, described the 3 objectives of the training: "1- Organization, 2- Communication, 3- Interfacing with public agencies." During the debriefing that followed the volunteers were rated a 6 (out of 10): They did a good job, but there was room for improvement.

"I was very impressed by the turn out and how people immediately got involved," said a Lieutenant from the Orinda Police Department, "I saw a bit of temper flaring and some uncertainty regarding specific skills, but on the whole it was a good experience."

The next CERT training will start on February 5th 2009; go to lamorindacert.org for more information.

Send Letters and Opinions to letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Life in LAMORINDA

Halloween Goes Hollywood in Moraga

By Andrea A. Firth



Members of the Star Wars cast who will be performing at 12 Linden Place in Moraga on Halloween. Photo A. Firth

Halloween goers will be treated to much more than a chocolate bar or lollipop when they stop at 12 Linden Place in Moraga on October 31st. For the past ten years, Michele Wilson and her brother Greg have made Halloween a Hollywood affair treating the kids who visit to a five-minute skit based on a popular movie. This year's skit will feature two scenes from the first Stars Wars movie (Episode IV).

"People call this the Halloween house," says the Wilsons' mom Lyn, whose driveway and garage serve as the stage for the pro-

duction. The outdoor "set" includes Han Solo's spaceship and the Mos Eisley Cantina on the planet of Tatooine.

Michele, who has acted and sung on stage and the big screen, serves as writer, actor, costume designer, and director for the Halloween show while brother Greg contributes creatively and manages the lighting and audio. Michele has recruited a loyal group of family members and friends to round out the cast that includes Chewbacca—Han Solo's large and furry comrade, Princess Leia and brother Luke Sky-

walker, the villainous Darth Vader, and the robot C-3PO. Even R2 D2 (a cleverly disguised shop-vac vacuum) makes an appearance.

"Kids get dropped off by the vanload to come see the skit," states Lyn Wilson proudly. Previous Halloween skits have included Michele and friends dressed as witches and hanging from brooms on the front porch (scenes from the movie Hocus Pocus) and outfitted as Dorothy and friends traveling down the yellow brick road (scenes from The Wizard of Oz).

We do have lots of fun doing

the skit. It's a win-win for everyone," says Michele's friend Judy Shumate who will portray Princess Leia for the evening. She encourages folks out on Halloween to stop by and enjoy the show. To see the Wilsons' Halloween skit, stop by 12 Linden Place (at the corner of Linden and Corliss) in Moraga.

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Youth Commission's Haunted House Rocks

By Cathy Tyson



Once again, the Lafayette Youth Commission (LYC) has worked long and hard to put together their annual Haunted House fundraiser event. Just a few weeks ago they still needed random body parts, toe tags and surgical scrubs, among other things, but it all came together into the truly creepy expe-

rience that has become an institution. This year's theme was Nightmare.

Who knew that the Community Center could be transformed into the Morgue room, Circus room, Psychedelic room and more. Not only have Youth Commission members created a performance "Night-

mare," but these teens were savvy enough to make the "House" only semi-scary for kids under 7 during early hours, and super scary for an extra \$2. for those eight and older into the evening hours. Thereby maximizing the fear factor and revenue.

All of the ticket proceeds after expenses benefit the youth of Lafayette. Last year they made approximately \$5,000. The LYC paid for half of the cost of Stanley Intermediate School's new scoreboard, and they've also contributed to the Moraga Skate Park.

Just who are these kids who donate their time? Brayton Noll is President this year, Naomi Wasserman is Vice President, both are seniors at Campolindo. About thirty teens were asked at a recent meeting why they belong, their answers ranged from "Love Lafayette" to "support the community" to "looks good on college applications." The group chose the theme, and worked on committees to design and set up the rooms and spent hours working on the event last weekend. Whatever the reason, these students are creating something from nothing and in the process making the community more vibrant, and scary, at least for a few days each year.

Freedom Writers' Teacher to Speak at Saint Mary's

By Andrea A. Firth



Erin Gruwell Photo provided

who is the Director of Teaching Leadership at SMC and who has known Ms. Gruwell for several years. "She is a very inspirational speaker. She puts the heart back into teaching and education," she adds. Gruwell will talk about her passion for teaching and describe how she transformed high risk, struggling students into well read, college-going young men and women. For those who have seen the movie Freedom Writers, Perez has one caveat, "As good as Hilary Swank is, Erin is better."

urday Seminar series has been conducted for 15 years," states Perez. Although traditionally structured for beginning teachers and their mentors, this year's Series includes speakers that will appeal to a broad audience notes Perez.

Each Seminar starts with a continental breakfast, which is followed by the keynote presentation. Attendees then choose from a variety of topic-specific breakout sessions in which to participate. The morning ends with a buffet lunch. The next seminar in January will feature Mike Geisen, the National Teacher of the Year. Geisen is an innovative middle school teacher who uses music and technology to humor and motivate students. Comedian and author Michael Pritchard will speak in February followed by author Jo Gusman who will discuss teaching English language learners.

Further information on the Distinguished Speakers Series can be found at <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/academics/schools/school-of-education/> or by calling (925) 631-4811.

On November 22nd, Erin Gruwell, the teacher on whom the movie Freedom Writers is based will speak at Saint Mary's College (SMC) in Moraga as part of the Distinguished Speakers Series. "We are very excited about Erin coming," states Dr. Kathy Perez

Gruwell's presentation is part of SMC's ongoing Distinguished Speakers Series that is held on selected Saturdays throughout the school year (see sidebar). "The Sat-



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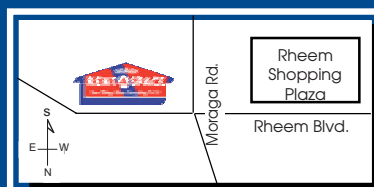
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Camille is a long time and enthusiastic member of the Lafayette Garden Club and several Stanford alumni organizations, and a contributor and supporter of the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

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Rancho Laguna Project Stalled ... continued from page 3



A company representative stated that \$500,000 would be the maximum contribution they were prepared to make toward the repairs. Jill Mercurio, Town Engineer and Public Works Director, evaluated the total cost of the restoration at \$2.7 million. The Commission decided there were not enough elements to approve a statement of overriding consideration.

The Commission could then have approved the project with no development on Rheem Boulevard and only the construction of 21 homes on the southern plateau. The developer stated that under that circumstance Rancho Laguna L.L.C. would not make any contribution toward the repairs on Rheem Boulevard, except to provide soil from the excavations to consolidate the road.

The Commission chose to send the project back to the developer with instructions to reduce the number of homes along Rheem to six, on larger lots to be consistent with the General Plan.

In the meantime, Moraga residents will have voted for the land use initiatives on the ballot. If Measure J passes, or neither J nor K passes, nothing will change for Rancho Laguna L.L.C. On the other hand, if K passes the land in question will be rezoned to MOSO 2008, which will require a lower density; at 20 units per acre, the 180 acre property would accommodate only 9 dwellings.

Real Estate's Youngest High Flying Act

By Maria Eberle



Think you know what characterizes a 10-year old girl these days? Thinking braces and braids, the complete Jonas Brothers collection, Judy Blume books, and all the candy in Powell's?

Meet Lindsey Barrows, a full-fledged 10-year old circus performer and real estate tycoon-to-be, a not-so-typical young lady who alternates acrobatics, contortions and aerial leaps with touring homes for sale in Orinda.

"When my mom asked me what I wanted for my birthday, I looked at the calendar - December 15 falls on a Sunday - and I shouted 'Open Houses!'"

Mom Cathie confirms it's true. "She loves to go to homes for sale on Sundays. I drive her around and I've actually gotten to like it too!" Not only does she drive her to open houses, but Cathie often makes the round-trip 30 minute trek from Orinda to Emeryville five

of floor plans at home." It all started several years ago when Lindsey and her family, father Doug Barrows, a project director with McCarthy Building Company, mom Cathie and 12-year old sister Shauna visited the Pope Estate in South Lake Tahoe. Fascinated by the floor plan posted at the front entrance to the historic site, Lindsey was hooked. Since then she has committed to learning every phase of structural design from the planning stages to the finished product. Discovering she has a flare for residential architecture, she has been honing her skills for three years.

Indulging her favorite pastime, Lindsey visits up to four or five Orinda homes on any given Sunday. She has met some of the most successful and prominent agents in the tightly knit real estate community of Lamorinda. With a confident air she strolls into a house and if the opportunity presents itself, offers her completely biased and remarkably astute gift for home appraisal. In fact, she told one real estate agent in a house she toured last week that he would be lucky to get half of his asking price!

"If the agent will talk to me, I like to give them my guess at where the house should be priced, and what I think it will sell for. I look at square footage, and at recent sales in a neighborhood, but what I really look at are the finishes." The value is in the details, she likes to think, and offers this pearl of wisdom, "Hardwood is good."

Exhibiting insight beyond her years, she struggles with an environmental dilemma: "I watch the Discovery Channel and I learned that some Brazilian cherry wood is gotten through stripping the forests of Brazil. I love granite, but it's sad to see the way they strip the mountains with dynamite in China and Italy."

The pragmatist in her knows it's not all glamour in the up and down world of real estate. She's closely monitoring signs of the economy on her beloved Orinda. "The

real estate market has slowed down because the economy is falling. I think electing a new president will have a good effect on things."

Lindsey's favorite home? An English Tudor style on the market earlier this year. "It had great curb appeal!" She thinks Orinda is a very special place. If she didn't someday buy a home here, her next choice would be in a mountain region for the climate. "Of course my house

would have to be "green," with solar panels, a gas fireplace, and an outdoor kitchen with a breakfast bar would be nice. Oh, and a house should have at least as many bathrooms as it has bedrooms!"

What do Lindsey's friends think of her "open house" hobby? "Only 30- or 40- or even 50-year olds like to do that stuff!" chided a close girlfriend. Undeterred, Lindsey says, "I keep all the business

cards of the agents I meet, and I remember every house I've ever toured." The next time you're in an open house, look for the little lady with the engaging grin. It may seem impossible, but you just might learn a thing or two!

Maria Eberle is a Prudential Realtor, and resides with her husband Peter and four children in Orinda.

~ HE'S ALL ABOUT LAMORINDA ~

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Lamorinda Home Sales continued

Area	Last reported:	Lowest Amount	Highest Amount
LAFAYETTE	7	\$682,000	\$1,457,500
MORAGA	2	\$545,000	\$1,100,000
ORINDA	3	\$937,500	\$1,349,000

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**
- 778 Las Trampas Road, \$830,000, 3 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 9-30-08
 - 1321 Martino Road, \$1,256,000, 4 Bdrms, 2587 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 9-22-08
 - 3464 Monroe Avenue, \$775,000, 2 Bdrms, 1164 SqFt, 1941 YrBl, 9-30-08
 - 1510 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2634 SqFt, 1977 YrBl, 9-23-08
 - 3380 Ridge Road, \$682,000, 4 Bdrms, 1237 SqFt, 1947 YrBl, 9-22-08
 - 3207 Ronino Way, \$1,457,500, 3 Bdrms, 2205 SqFt, 1983 YrBl, 10-1-08
 - 3167 Stanley Boulevard, \$755,000, 3 Bdrms, 1434 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 10-2-08
- MORAGA**
- 82 Miramonte Drive, \$545,000, 2 Bdrms, 1798 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 9-25-08
 - 1330 Rimer Drive, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2297 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 9-24-08
- ORINDA**
- 43 Canyon View Drive, \$1,349,000, 3 Bdrms, 895 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 9-25-08
 - 231 Ivy Drive, \$1,103,000, 4 Bdrms, 2170 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 10-2-08
 - 249 Overhill Road, \$937,500, 4 Bdrms, 1712 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 9-25-08

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business briefs

Intraware To Be Sold

Intraware Inc., an Orinda software services company, has agreed to sell itself to Acreso Software, a private equity firm's subsidiary for \$27 million. The company that provides online services to deliver and manage software and digital files, was founded in the late 90s by Peter Jackson and Mark Hoffman. After a difficult period in 2001, the company fought its way back to profitability under the direction of Jackson. "Intraware has deep expertise in (software services), and an impressive list of partners and customers, including a number of shared customers," Mark Bishof, Acreso's president, said in prepared comments. The sale is expected to close in December or January. Jackson said he believes the new owner will retain the majority of Intraware's 60 employees. The future operation will likely have East Bay offices.

Mountain Mike's of Lafayette Honors Veterans, 3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd. (next to Citibank) - 283-6363

Mountain Mike's Pizza in Lafayette offers free lunch buffet to ALL active duty and retired members of the United States Armed Forces on Tuesday, November 11th from 11 to 2 p.m. in honor of Veterans Day. "We want to Honor all those who have served and all who are currently serving," said Ben Mahoney, "and we will be accepting donations for the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund as well."

Mt. Diablo Business Women Networking Dinner

On November 13th from 5:45 - 8:30 p.m. The group invites its members and interested parties to join their networking dinner at the Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. The November Speaker is Susan Urquhart-Brown, author of "The Accidental Entrepreneur: Practical Wisdom for People Who Never Expected to Work for Themselves." Register early, no walk-ins. \$37 member, \$44 guest. For info contact: www.mtdiablobusinesswomen.org.

A Message From Lafayette Police Chief Mike Hubbard:

On 10-22-08 a string of robberies occurred in Contra Costa County. There were three robberies in the early afternoon in the Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek areas. At 5:15 p.m. the 76 gas station on the corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and First Street was robbed. A black male, wearing a hoodie, entered the business with a handgun and demanded money. The suspect fled on foot and was not found. Between 9:00 and 10:00 pm two more robberies occurred in Orinda. The first at Village Pizza and the second at Concina Mexicana. In both instances a dark skinned male, wearing a hoodie entered the business with a handgun and demanded money. The Orinda Police Department and the Lafayette Police Department are working on these cases.

The most important thing to note is that no one was hurt. It is vital that the business owners and their employees know what to do in these situations. The most important rule of thumb is COOPERATE. There is No Thing worth risking your life for. There is a reason so many medals for bravery and heroics are issued posthumously.

Here are some other tips on Crime Prevention for your business:

1. Secure and / or anchor your safe to concrete.
2. Fully illuminate the exterior and parts of the interior of the building and grounds at night.
3. Consider motion detector lights and low voltage alternatives.
4. Locate check-out counters near the front of the store, clearly visible from the outside so that employees can better watch all activities. Place all entrances under visual surveillance.
5. Train your employees to be aware of suspicious persons and call the Police Dispatch immediately.
6. Prevent easy access to the roof or fire escape from the ground by trimming trees adjacent to the building. Secure windows, roof access, and fire escape ladders with locking covers.
7. If possible, install rear windows to face parking areas for increased visibility.
8. Do not cover up windows with display material.
9. Use interior shelving and displays no higher than five feet, even lower in the front of the window.
10. Design loading areas that avoid creating hiding places for people and merchandise.
11. Maintain clear visibility from the store to the street, sidewalk, parking areas and passing vehicles.
12. If you are considering purchasing an alarm system or digital video surveillance system, contact several reputable companies and get a full assessment of your needs.
13. If you do purchase an alarm system, consider adding the following: Panic Buttons, Fire/Smoke Detectors, Monitored System (contacts Law Enforcement in case of an Alarm)

Check with your local Police Department for more tips on how to prepare your business.

Chambers of Commerce News:

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

- November Chamber Mixer at Queen Bee on Wed. Nov. 12th 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.; 261 Lafayette Circle.
- Entrepreneur's Club, Thursday November 20th at 8:30 a.m. will take you on a road trip to The Nut Factory, 3477 Golden Gate Way.

Moraga Chamber of Commerce

- Chamber monthly meeting Friday, November 21 at 8 a.m. (7:30 a.m. coffee) at Fireside Room Hacienda.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce

- Breakfast Meeting on Thursday, November 13, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. at Shelby's Restaurant, Theater Square. Continental Breakfast Cost \$10.00 Speaker to be announced.

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

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Economic Crisis: How Are Our Banks Doing?

By Sophie Braccini



John Rossell CBC CEO
Picture courtesy of California Bank of Commerce

The local community of smaller banks has been able to avoid most of the mortgage loans and swaps that have hurt their larger counterparts. They run a simpler business, know their clients well, and lend back to them, in what is more or less a closed system.

Recent earnings statements are reassuring.

Mechanics Bank is a family owned institution which, according to D.D. Felton, Vice-Chairman of the Board, "has spent 104 years being very conservative." The great grand daughter of founder E.M. Downer believes that this is the reason why her bank is so well positioned to face the tough times ahead. Last week the Orinda resident visited the 33 offices of the bank, located from Napa, to the East Bay to San Francisco, with one in each of our Lamorinda cities. They all reported a rise in deposits, and number of customers. Felton attributes the growth to the partnerships that have been built over the long term with their customers. This knowledge has allowed the bank to mitigate risk and as a result enjoys a 5-Star rating with Bauer Financial.*

California Bank of Commerce cannot boast such a long history. It was founded a little more than a year ago in Lafayette, but it is just as pleased with the growth of its business. Total Assets were up by 20% over the end of the second quarter, 2008. Total Loans grew 45% and Total Deposits grew 19% over the same period.

"Margins continue to be under pressure," says John Rossell, President and CEO of the Bank, "the Federal Reserve is pushing rates down and controlling the prime rate, and so community banks lend at prime, meaning that our earning side is weakening." This affects banks all over the country and Rossell believes that California Bank's unique approach has preserved them from the common fate. "The bank is safe and still growing, we live on Main Street not on Wall Street," adds Russell, who is happy with the latest results especially the good growth for loans and deposits. The Bank has no problem serving the borrowing demands of their customers, mostly commercial and industrial companies who borrow from one to four million dollars.

We find the same generally positive situation at the Union Bank of California. The bank, a subsidiary of the Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, with offices concentrated in California and local branches in Moraga and Orinda, announced in its third quarter statement a growth of total revenue from \$721 million this quarter, up 13 percent compared with third quarter 2007 and a decrease of its net income from \$127.5 million a year earlier to \$104.8 million this quarter.

At Union's Moraga branch, Dimitry Bokman, the Branch Manager, reports good results. The bank has not been involved in risky mortgage operations and they strive to be local partners. "We cater to the needs of individuals and businesses on a one on one basis," says Bokman, "we actually pick-up the phone when people call us." A significant

percentage of his business customers are professional services which do not seem to be experiencing extreme difficulty at this time. Bokman has not noticed any new trends in the credit requirement of his customers and the bank is able to continue its philanthropic efforts: They gave \$2,500 for Moraga's summer concerts in the park and are sponsoring "Kids' Day" with the police department on November 15th that aims to fingerprint all elementary school students. The bank will give \$1,000 to schools at which at least 70% of the students participate.

The question is how the banks' situation will hold if the recession persists and how they will support their clients. "Our customers have already been in a recession for seven months," says Rossell, "but their financials are still sound and we don't have one delinquent loan." The CEO wants to remain a participant in the economy, whatever the downturn, "There is a temptation to not process any more loan," he adds, "but our Board of Directors doesn't want that, we want to bring in new deposits, and we won't freeze borrowing."

"We have been working side by side with our clients in good and bad times in the past," adds Felton, "we see the coming times as very tough and we will stick with the fundamentals that have made us successful: pricing for risk, having reserves, saving."

*Bauer Financial compiles financial data for U.S. banks and thrifts from call report data as reported to federal regulators. The web site is www.bauerfinancial.com, 5 Stars is the highest rating.

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SCHOOL CALENDAR

School Governing Board Meetings

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High School District
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 7:30 pm
- Special Session
Wednesday, Nov. 5

Lafayette School District

LAUSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
Monday, Nov. 17 at 7:00 pm

Orinda Union School District

OUSD Office
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda
Monday, Nov. 3 at 4:00 pm

Moraga School District

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate
School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
Monday, Nov. 18 at 7:30pm

Sorenson Leads OUSD Board in Difficult Economic Times

By Andrea A. Firth

Having recently stepped into the president's shoes on the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) Governing Board, Riki Sorenson knows the District will face some difficult challenges over the next year. Sorenson feels that the three biggest issues that the Board will deal with are the state budget crisis, the Pine Grove property project, and the proposed parcel tax.

"We have already trimmed everything that we can within the District's budget," states Sorenson, who anticipates that the District will have to deal with midyear cuts to State education funding.

The demolition at the Pine Grove development, which requires moving the District offices and maintenance facility by the end of

December, is one of the most pressing issues that Sorenson has to manage. "This is the most controversial issue that I have dealt with since being on the Board," says Sorenson, who has worked on this issue for four of the past six years she has served on the Board.

The Pine Grove development will require the District administrators to be relocated over the next eighteen months until a new District office is constructed at the site. The more challenging element of the relocation process is that maintenance operation, which has been sharing space with the City, must also be moved to a completely new site.

After previous locations at the Wagner Ranch and DeLaveaga properties fell through as relocation

options, the District hired a consultant to rethink the maintenance operation and its facility needs. Sorenson explains that the Board is evaluating a proposal to downsize the physical space needs of the maintenance facility and to switch to a more mobile operation with a small administrative center and well-equipped trucks. The place for this new vision of a maintenance operation remains the challenge.

"We have to be able to maintain our schools. They need a place to work," explains Sorenson. She recently attended a meeting of teachers, parents, and Ivy Drive residents to discuss the plan for using a blacktop at Orinda Intermediate School (OIS) as a temporary site for the maintenance crew and their belongings. The OIS site had been identified, in part, because the location already has utilities in place from portables that had been housed there during the OIS modernization project.

Along with noise and safety concerns, a major objection of the Ivy Drive residents to the proposed placement at OIS is the potential for increased traffic which is already a significant problem and sore subject in the neighborhood. Sorenson acknowledges the neighbors concerns but feels that the seven-man maintenance crew will not add a significant amount of traffic. "We have talked about having the maintenance workers arrive early, by 6:45, to get their working orders and move on to the schools to avoid heavier traffic times," she explains.

Sorenson's third big agenda item is the proposed parcel tax to help further fund the OUSD. Sorenson and fellow Board member Pam West are part of a subcommittee that is working on the parcel tax initiative. "It will be interesting to see how measures across the State fare in this environment," notes Sorenson. She believes that the Board is in consensus that a parcel tax should be placed on the ballot in 2009, but when and how much must still be determined.

Lamorinda Schools

Lamorinda Moms Club to Hold 11th Annual Preschool Fair

By Jean Follmer

The Lamorinda Moms Club (LMC) will hold its 11th Annual Preschool Fair on November 13 from 6:30 to 9:00 pm at the Oakwood Athletic Club. In a recent press release, LMC said it has organized the annual preschool fair designed to help local parents find the perfect preschool for their child. The event is open to LMC members as well as the general community. Over 30 Lamorinda preschools will be available to discuss their programs and answer questions. The event is free and children are welcome. The event is a great timesaving tool for parents. LMC will provide a comparison of each of the participating preschools in addition to offer the chance to meet the director and parents from each school. "I think it's a great opportunity to speak with all of us at the different preschools and learn our philosophies," said Joyful Beginnings Preschool Director Dot Feist. Feist said the Preschool Fair has helped her school gain greater exposure

and increase the enrollment.

"In one evening you can see more than 35 preschools. This year we've been getting inquiries from preschool in other communities (outside Lamorinda)," said Preschool Fair co-chair Larisa Genin. Dr. Genin said the LMC Preschool Fair has a very good word-of-mouth reputation and that explains the participation requests from other communities.

In conjunction with the annual LMC Preschool Fair, the Community Outreach Committee will gather donations for the Bay Area Crisis Nursery (BACN). The purpose of the Bay Area Crisis Nursery is to prevent abuse and neglect of children by providing support to families who are in crisis. The primary service is providing a warm, loving, homelike environment for children birth through five years of age by offering 24-hour residential care. Services are free, confidential and voluntary. "They're always looking for donations. Some specific donation requests are Enfamil Lipil w/ iron formula and winter clothes. They only ac-



cept new clothes after November 15 during the holiday season. They also need tooth brushes, toothpaste, basic toiletry needs and cash for office supplies," said Amy McDonough, LMC Preschool Fair Community Outreach Chair. The BACN web address is www.bacn.jkmas.com.

The LMC is a social and support club for parents with children under five years of age in the greater Lamorinda area, including the cities of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda.

LMC strives to help members enrich their lives through cultivating new friendships, personal and professional growth, and community involvement. Since its origin in 1995, the LMC has evolved to become one of the largest parenting organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area, with approximately 570 members. The club hosts dozens of activities and special events each month, and provides valuable resources to parents in the Lamorinda area. Learn more about the Lamorinda Moms Club including how to join at www.lamorindamomsclub.org or by calling (925) 941-4714.

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Red Ribbon Week Reminds Kids to Make Healthy Choices

By Jean Follmer



1st Grade Class Lafayette Elementary School with teacher Tina Skuce

Photo provided

"Are you doing the right thing at the right time with the right people?" asks Springhill Red Ribbon Week Coordinator Karen Elliott. Springhill's Red Ribbon Week theme this year is "Do the Right Thing."

Springhill kicked off Red Ribbon Week with a highly attended assembly featuring Ralph the Great of "The Pro-Kids Show." "In his entertaining show, which included magic, illusions, comedy, student participation and a very funny puppet named Rosco, Ralph the Great taught the children some very important lessons. These messages included: cooperation, honesty takes courage, doing the right thing when nobody is looking proves you have excellent character, and respect your teachers," said Elliott.

While Springhill always kicks off Red Ribbon Week with an assembly, this was the first year with Ralph the Great. Elliott said she's received the best feedback to date as a result of "The Pro-Kids Show". Elliott has been the Red Ribbon Week chair at Springhill for five years and said she received the best assembly feedback to date after Ralph the Great. "I really feel passionate about this," said Elliott. Each of the Lafayette schools has a different approach to Red Ribbon Week and Elliott would like to see a more cooperative approach in the future. "I would love to see the other schools use my assembly guy," said Elliott. In some other districts, the assembly is offered on different days at different schools and culminates in a larger presentation for the entire community to attend at the local high school.

Springhill is piloting a program for the district called Char-

acter Counts. The program is based on six pillars: Trustworthy, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. The pillars are part of daily conversation in and out of the classroom and each pillar is assigned a color. Springhill decided to incorporate the Character Counts colors into Red Ribbon Week this year. One day was blue and yellow for "Trustworthy" and "Character" and another was orange for "Fairness". Red stood for "Caring" in addition to Red Ribbon Week and Green and Purple stood for "Responsibility" and "Citizenship". The students were engaged in a scavenger hunt, poster making and a "Wheel of Fortune" game show hosted by Principal Bruce Wodhams.

Lafayette Elementary's Red Ribbon Week activities were coordinated by Kathy Dexter. The Lafayette Elementary theme is "Healthy Choices for Healthy Futures." "We really focused on making healthy choices now. It could be eating correctly, turning off the television and video games in your home, having family time, reading or playing with your friends. We're reminding the kids with red ribbons," said Dexter. Lafayette started Red Ribbon Week by tying red ribbons around the school and handing out red pencils and red bracelets to use and wear throughout the week. Students were encourage to bike or walk to school or engage in some type of exercise-related activity during the week. Students throughout the school made posters and parent volunteers hung them. On Friday, the students wore red to school. "The general feedback is positive. It reminds families

about healthy choices," said Dexter.

Happy Valley Elementary also participated in Red Ribbon Week last week. They also encourage students to bike or walk to school and to wear red. Happy Valley also asked their families to have a "Family Night". Danette Wieczynski said they wanted the families to talk about things that were both healthy and unhealthy. The children were asked to write a pledge at home about what healthy choices they will put into practice. "At Happy Valley, we seek to incorporate the themes of Red Ribbon Week into our current goals of helping our children make Healthy Choices for Healthy Futures. This begins at home," said Wieczynski. Daily prizes included passes to Jamba Juice and Family Fun Packs from Blockbuster.

Burton Valley Elementary is holding their Red Ribbon Week this week. Burton Valley Secretary Marsha Dahl said all the students wore red on Monday and were given a Healthy Choices worksheet to take home and complete with their families. "Our big thing is Wednesday we're doing a walk-a-thon where all of the students participate for 30 minutes," said Dahl.



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“Hospital” Treatment Helps Middle Students Succeed

By Trina Audley



“Binder” physician” Sue Tenerowicz reviews binder with Joaquin Moraga 8th grade student Gaby Photo Trina Audley

The adjustment to middle school poses organizational challenges. Running between classes and keeping track of multiple assignments from different teachers can overwhelm 11 to 13 year olds.

“Adolescent brains are usually not developmentally able to meet the stringent organizational demands placed on them,” confirms Beth Samuelson, founder of SOS Student Services in Walnut Creek. Samuelson regularly speaks about student organization and agrees that “whatever a child’s academic ability, his or her organizational skills dictate achievement.” While most middle schools teach organizational skills in the classroom, one local school is doing more.

Bruce Burns, Principal of Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School (JM), says with first hand proof, “An organized student is a more successful student.” Last spring, Burns came upon a novel idea in another district that was working to improve student organization. Intrigued by the concept, he quickly found a parent volunteer to institute “The Binder Hospital” at JM.

Parent Julie Ewert launched the program with the help of school counselor Heidi Felt. The impact was quickly made obvious. “We started seeing students in April and in less than two months, we had measured success,” reports Felt. By June, teachers reported improved homework and test scores for the students who had been “treated” with the Binder Management System (BMS) at the hospital.

Although excited by the results, Ewert points out that resources are limited. Hospital staff consists of only three trained volunteers. Appointments take place during lunch and funding comes through donations. Whereas all students are eligible, appointments are prioritized for students with the most need first. “Students are identified and referred to the hospital by a teacher,” says Ewert.

The teacher referral slip provides the hospital with classroom observations. Parent volunteer “physicians” then perform an “intake evaluation” with the student at the first appointment to pinpoint needs. At maybe another visit, backpacks and binders are culled

carefully for unnecessary clutter. Sometimes a new binder or planner is provided to the student. Finally, new system instruction and practice ensue. “We schedule follow-up appointments and offer rewards to guide and ensure progress,” says Ewert. “New habits are hard to get under your belt.”

Teachers follow progress and provide feedback as well. “That makes it hard for a child to fall between the cracks,” comments Felt. She likes the program for more than just its associated academic success. “Lack of organization can be a red flag for other struggles,” says Felt. “It is a proven fact that students respond when they know that they are cared for by two adults and followed-up with two or more times.”

It is likely many students could benefit from guided reorganization. Teachers at Joaquin Moraga must agree. “The program is booked out with referrals until January already,” added Felt. Given the program’s success, Principal Burns hopes that the Binder Management System materials can become standard school supply requirements for incoming 6th graders next fall.

Miramonte Gets MADD

By Jean Follmer



Orinda Detective Nate McCormack leads Joey Epperson (middle) and another student in a mock field sobriety test at Miramonte

Photo Jean Follmer

As part of Red Ribbon Week, the Healthy Choices, Safety First Club at Miramonte hosted the Mothers Against Drunk Driving Crash Trailer. The plexi-glass trailer encased a completely destroyed automobile that had been involved in a drunk-driving accident in Santa Barbara. In that case, a drunk 44-year-old man was fleeing police and hit a concrete barrier at about 80-90 mph.

“It’s probably a good example of what can happen. It’s a good message that this can happen at any age,” said Senior Heather Aars after viewing the wrecked automobile. “I’m a parent volunteer and it’s my 3rd year to be working with Healthy Choices Safety First. Students want to do something every couple of months around the topic of drinking and driving because they feel it’s become an issue for their peers,” said Healthy Choices Safety First Club Chair Marsha Harris.

In addition to the trailer, Orinda Detective Nate McCormack was on hand to let students try on Fatal Vision Goggles and attempt to

successfully pass a field sobriety test. There were many different pairs of day and night Fatal Vision Goggles and the impairment levels differed. The impaired vision ranged from a Blood Alcohol Level of .06 (which is below the legally impaired level of .08) to 2.5 times the legally impaired level.

McCormack asked the teens to stand on one leg, keep their arms at their side and raise the other leg up about 6 inches while counting. He also asked them to walk heel to toe, turn and walk back. The teens had a lot of fun trying to pass the pseudo field sobriety tests, but it was clear that none of them would have passed. After trying on the goggles and subjecting himself to McCormack’s mock field sobriety test, Senior Joey Epperson was impressed. “I actually couldn’t do anything he (McCormack) asked me to do. It’s (drunk driving) something that I would never consider doing,” said Epperson. (This reporter can attest to what Epperson said after completely losing my balance when I tried on the daytime vision .06 goggles.)

McCormack said the department has had some trouble with teen DUI’s but “the Slow Down Lamorinda campaign really helped.” He explained the legal level of intoxication for a minor is a .01 BAC and the minor can be charged with a DUI with a .05 BAC. “It’s one of the most dangerous misdemeanors that people can commit because people can really be affected and hurt by it,” said McCormack.

In addition to not drinking and driving, McCormack said it’s important for teens to adhere to all driving laws. When a teen first gets his license, it is illegal for him to carry underage passengers in the vehicle. It’s also illegal for the newly licensed teen to be driving after 11:00 pm. Both of these laws are “widely ignored” and McCormack cautioned that offenders can be cited with a loss of license for 30 days if they are caught. When asked if the teens simply don’t know the law, Detective McCormack said “I think most of them know it and choose to ignore it and their parents just don’t enforce it.”

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OIS Science Fair a Success

By Jean Follmer



Photo Chris Severson

Orinda Intermediate School (OIS) recently held its much anticipated tri-annual Science Fair. The parking lot overflowed as well over 1,000 people attended the 2008 OIS Science Fair. With over 30 interactive science demonstration stations, there were plenty of activities to choose from. The demonstration stations offered chemistry, medical science, life science, "fun" science and astronomy. Some of the demonstrations at the chemistry stations included chemical reactions and explosions. Medical science provided the chance to see real body parts like eyeballs, dissected hearts

and joint replacement techniques. Life science stressed the importance of creek preservation and "fun" science made ice cream with liquid nitrogen. The astronomy section was outside and provided telescopes for star gazing and constellation identification. Some of the presenters were from Chevron, Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, Clorox, Alta Bates Medical Center, UC Berkeley, Kaiser Permanente, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory and Miramonte High School.

The event was coordinated by Glorietta Elementary parent Chris Severson. Severson has four chil-

dren: three at Glorietta and one in preschool. Although his kids aren't at OIS yet, Severson became involved because 2005 OIS Science Fair coordinator, Andy Sorenson, was looking for help. The OIS Science Fair is a huge undertaking. "We started having steering committee meetings in March. By the beginning of August, we were a full committee," said Severson. "Our focus group was middle school aged kids and younger. Miramonte kids were our helpers throughout the fair. A lot of the scientists (at the fair) have children in the district and/or live locally," said Severson.

Saklan Valley School Students Travel Outside of the Classroom

Submitted by Debbie Parish



Front Row: Jenny Faddis, Hanna Beckman, Grant Franklin, Jack Ginsburg, Jessica Wilcox, Abby Mueller, Gabe Binder, Haley Wilcox, Elise Filter, Stephanie Jump Back Row: Charlie Thimesch, Michael Lumley Photo submitted

Fifth and eighth grade students from Saklan Valley School had the wonderful opportunity to experience learning outside of the classroom this month. Experiential education is a key characteristic of Saklan's academic program and both grade levels were able to discover this firsthand.

Saklan's eighth grade students attended a weeklong environmental education program at Caritas Creek in Occidental, CA. In total, there were over sixty five students from three different schools in the Bay Area. Program activities were inquiry-based, allowing students to explore the natural world, build community with others and develop self-reflection and communication skills.

Saklan students found themselves living and working with students they had never met before with the goal of empowering themselves to share their discoveries with one another. Upon returning to campus, Saklan's eighth graders reported that they have a greater understanding of their responsibili-

ties as peace-makers and as ecological stewards.

Haley Wilcox, a Saklan student for 9 years, said, "It was really fun! We learned more about each other in one week than we have in our years together at Saklan. It was fun to watch us all break out of our shells and be open to new ideas. This experience has definitely helped me, especially in preparing me for high school."

Diane Faddis, a Saklan parent for 11 years, said, "As a parent, this was a wonderful opportunity for my daughter. She had the opportunity to work with a diverse group of kids, make connections, and step outside her comfort zone. With the transition to high school approaching, I saw this as an amazing opportunity for our kids to challenge themselves. Saklan has always provided our students with opportunities like this."

The very same week, Saklan's fifth graders attended The MOSAIC Project in Napa. MOSAIC is a non-profit organization that unites fourth and fifth graders from different schools with markedly different so-

cioeconomic, racial, and ethnic make-up. Students are given the opportunity to experience firsthand a diverse setting in which all is welcomed and respected. MOSAIC addresses issues of difference, building self-esteem and community, and providing students with the essential skills to thrive in an increasingly diverse society, empowering them to strive for peace. Saklan students were encouraged to appreciate each individual's contribution and the value of community.

Two of Saklan's fifth graders, Lauren Quittman and Sarah Dey, said the program taught them how to change the world to make it a better place. Lauren said, "They taught us how to be assertive, not to be passive and not to be aggressive. They also taught us to be empathetic." Sarah was excited to report that "we learned how to communicate with each other and to celebrate diversity. I also met a lot of new kids. MOSAIC means Mutual respect for others, Open mindedness, Self respect, Attitude, Individuality and Community. We definitely did all of that."

Sleepy Hollow Dedicates New Building to Liv Milan

By Jean Follmer



More than 100 Sleepy Hollow parents and students gathered for its annual "Scary Story Night," made especially sweet by the official dedication of the school's parent-club funded new before-and-after school care and enrichment center. Photo provided

The determined efforts of many Sleepy Hollow parents and supporters paid off. Last week, Sleepy Hollow honored Liv Milan, the 20+ year Director of the Sleepy Hollow Before and After School Club (B/ASC) with the opening of the new Liv Milan B/ASC Enrichment Center.

"Students and parents alike love Liv Milan and I think this dedication is proof of that," said Milan's daughter, Kari-Anne Milan. Over 100 Sleepy Hollow students and parents gathered for the event. The dedication of the building to Liv Milan coincided with Sleepy Hollow's annual Scary

Story Night. "We've never done story reading outside before. It was really a great community building event," said Sleepy Hollow parent Trish Cetrone.

OUSD Superintendent Dr. Joe Jaconette read "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and OUSD Board of Education member Pam West performed dramatic audience participation readings of "Where the Wild Things Are" and "Room on a Broom" with Orinda's past Mayor and current City Council Member Steve Glazer.

"Our campus is maxed out on space...in order to provide educational enrichment programs like

daily Spanish language classes, we needed additional classrooms. The Liv Milan B/ASC Enrichment Center has one dedicated homework room for students and tutor sessions plus two classrooms used for enrichment classes and parent club meetings. The building also provides dedicated restrooms and a kitchen facility all dedicated to childcare services," said Cetrone.

Cetrone said there was a "huge need for larger before and after school care for students." The average daily attendance ranges from 60 to 150 students. Due to the state budget crisis, the Orinda School District was not in a position to contribute funds toward the project. The total project cost was about \$420,000 and was paid for completely by the Parent Club and a generous legacy donor. A portion of the total project cost also included updates to Sleepy Hollow's existing computer lab. Cetrone said Glorietta Elementary recently completed a similar modular building and "Wagner Ranch was ahead of its time when it installed a similar building approximately 7 years ago for the same reasons." Cetrone said the event was so touching that the Parent Club received another \$5,000 in funds - bringing its Legacy Donation Fund (specifically for the building) to \$75,000.

Dear Dr. Harold,

How do I know the difference between normal acting out and if my kid needs to see a therapist?

By Dr. Harold Jules Hoyle Ph.D.

When our bodies are broken or out of balance, it is often quite clear when we need to go to the doctor and when we do not. When our behaviors, thoughts or emotions are out of balance it can be more difficult. If you have kids now, you were raised in a time when therapy had much more of a negative stigma than it does for the current generation. When Tiger Woods needs a golf coach, it shows our society opening up to the fact that we could all use a little help. I am consistently surprised at how many young people will say, "Yeah, most of my friends have gone to see someone about something", the reality is therapists can be very helpful for folks who are going through a rough transition, so below I will provide you with some tips for knowing when to go and seek help.

Know your kids

One of the first questions a mental health professional will ask you is, "What brings you here and is this a change for your child?" Catching a change in behavior, thoughts, emotions, sleep, eating or interaction with friends is only possible if you know what your kid's behavior is like in those areas. I just listed the first categories that will be of interest to mental health professionals. When and if you go to a professional, you will be asked about these areas. For one kid, deciding to skip a meal is not out of the ordinary, for another it indicates that

something needs attention. Your child needs balance. They need to develop their intellect (school, adventure), their body (exercise, sports), their social life (family and friends), and their spiritual life (your religious tradition and the sense of the beautiful and divine). These are the proactive areas to work on with your kids. The most common areas of distress for kids are anxiety, depression, anger, and developmental issues.

Connect with the school, and other adults who interact with you child

You see your child primarily in one of the venues in life; their home life. They spend a great deal of time at school or your house of worship or music lesson or with coaches, siblings or friends. These are all resources for you in collecting the data that you need to make a decision. If the child always has a headache when sport is brought up, but in no other area, then you probably have some work to do in that one area. If all of the areas in your child's life are seeing behavioral changes, you should start looking into professional to work with your child or adolescent.

Next steps when you think it is time

Get an appointment with your child's pediatrician in order to answer the first question we want answered, "To what degree is there a medical cause for what is going on."



www.drharoldhoyle.com Harold can be contacted by phone or email: 510-219-8660 hjhoyle@mac.com

If there is a medical issue then any type of talk therapy will not be the whole solution. It could be part of the solution, but not the whole. Once you have taken care of that, many health plans have some short term therapy and can be helpful in diagnosis and short term treatment. Another option is private practitioners. Since children and adolescents are not likely to get up in the morning and say, "Hey mom can I go to therapy today?", finding the right therapist can be important. The therapeutic relationship can be difficult to predict. Spend some time making sure that there is a good match between your child and the therapist. Then work closely with them towards a solution. Good treatment can work wonders.

2nd Annual Tim Truesdell MS Walk-a-thon Coming Up


By Jean Follmer

Miramonte Seniors Alex Gompertz and Hannah Wood will sponsor the 2nd annual Tim Truesdell Multiple Sclerosis Walk-a-thon on November 22. Through the event, Gompertz and Wood seek to raise funds to further research the treatment of MS. Tim Truesdell is Alex's cousin and he is currently suffering from Multiple Sclerosis. Alex said the event will be held in special memory of Tim's late Godfather, Doug Gillespie. Gillespie was an ardent supporter of the 1st annual walk-a-thon.

Alex's brother, Max Gompertz, started the walk-a-thon for his Eagle Scout Project two years ago. Alex and Hannah are developing a "Multiple Sclerosis Walkathon Manual" to ensure that the walk-a-thon continues in future years. The manual will be given to both the Miramonte Leadership Class and Boy Scout Troop 233. The 1st annual walk-a-thon raised over \$10,000 for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Alex and Hannah hope to raise even more funds this year.

Alex and Hannah encourage

the community to participate in this healthy activity while raising money for a worthwhile cause. The walk-a-thon is open to the public and first aid and water stations will be set up along the walking route. You can join Alex and Hannah at the Moraga Commons parking lot on November 22 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Donations can be made to National Multiple Sclerosis Society and either dropped off at the walk or mailed to Alex Gompertz, 14 Oak Drive, Orinda, CA, 94563.



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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**

Orinda
 To the Editor:
 As Orinda City Council member the past four years, Victoria Smith has provided leadership and support to Orindans. In 2004, my husband Sarge and I recognized her commitment to the betterment of our community in a caring and fiscally responsible manner. I don't need to repeat her accomplishments -- if you are not already aware of them, you can read about these elsewhere.
 What I must stress is that we need the benefit of her ongoing efforts today, and so I most heartily encourage you to join me in voting to return Victoria to the City Council to continue those efforts.
 Sue Littlehale
 Orinda

Dear Editor,
 Victoria Smith gets it! Her vision for Orinda is crystal clear- " safe roads ". She has worked tirelessly to improve the city's roads by being on the Campaign Committee for Measure Q and Co-Chair for Measure E to obtain funds to repave the city's failed roads. The repavement of Moraga Way happened during her watch!
 I've known Victoria and her husband, Wick, and her two sons, Will and Daniel, for the last eleven years. I've known her as a leader in the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. She has also been a leader in the Parent's Clubs in Sleepy Hollow, Wagner Ranch, OLS and Miramonte. Whether it's as a parent, Planning Commissioner or City Council member, Victoria understands the needs of our families and our community. We need someone in the City Council who understands the needs of our community and can find a consensus to tough problems. Victoria Smith's tenure as a City Council Member has been about bringing diverse groups together to find workable solutions! We have a long way to go to fix our roads and we need to trust people like Victoria Smith to work with different groups and achieve a solution. You can trust Victoria. Vote for Victoria Smith for City Council of Orinda!
 Carlos Baltodano
 Orinda

Smith and Glazer are Keepers for Orinda City Council
 We have had the opportunity to see both Victoria Smith (Orinda mayor) and Steve Glazer (Orinda City Council member and ex-mayor) in action, and we'd like to encourage our fellow Orinda residents to re-elect them for Orinda City Council. After seeing the types of issues that they address, from city-wide projects and improvements to neighborhood planning issues, we realize that they have faced two classic problems: balancing interests that are sometimes conflicting and doing so much with so little. Both Victoria Smith and Steve Glazer have volunteered countless amounts of time and expertise, have done an outstanding job of improving our city, and have handled these tough problems with diplomacy, integrity, and ALWAYS the best interests of our special city, Orinda, in mind and at heart. Please join us in voting to re-elect Victoria Smith and Steve Glazer for Orinda City Council on November 4th!
 Sincerely,
 Allison and John Banisard
 Orinda

Dear Editor
 Orinda residents, please join me in voting to reelect Mayor Victoria Smith to the Orinda City Council.
 I had the pleasure of working with Mayor Smith on the bond campaign to fund the repair of roads, drains and water lines in Orinda. I was impressed by her leadership which I was able to observe over many weeks. She demonstrated her concern over the issues raised by opponents to the bond issue and did everything possible to explain the necessity and feasibility of the proposal and to address the concerns of the opponents. Although the bond issue narrowly failed, with Victoria's leadership Moraga Way has been restored, and a sound program for road improvements has been established with citizen participation and oversight. Road improvements are a major part of her agenda. Mayor Smith has demonstrated her desire to be more responsive to citizens, to make city council business more transparent and to encourage citizen involvement in city government.
 Mayor Victoria Smith deserves our vote to reelect her to the City Council.
 Jack D. Wickware
 Orinda

Editors:
 What kind of ad is the Follow The Money ?
 Somebody paid for it? Let's, as they suggest, FOLLOW THE MONEY.
 I am an independent, undecided voter at this time, and I read the letters to the editor seeking information about the candidates. This kind of negative smear does not sit well with me. Why are the accusers willing to pay for what appears to be character assassination. In this country the law says we are entitled to know our accuser(s), to comprehend what we are being accused of, and to defend ourselves. Anyone can make any kind of claim. It may be true, or it may be totally without merit. To publish what looks like an unsubstantiated smear is to slander the accused. If the charges are true, document them.
 And the Lamorinda Weekly should allow the accused opportunity to defend themselves.
 Penny Kermit
 Orinda

Dear Editor,
 As you probably already know, Mayor Victoria Smith is up for re-election. As many people have already stated, she has done an amazing job and I would also like to urge you to vote for her in the upcoming election. It would bring great joy to me to see her in office for another term.
 Joe Loudon
 Orinda

To the Editor:
 Steve Glazer is a candidate for the Orinda City Council in this November's election. In Mr. Glazer's Candidate Statement in the Voter Information Pamphlet he lists his occupation as "Orinda City Council member." Councilmembers receive no salary; so how does Mr. Glazer support his family? The answer is that Mr. Glazer is a paid consultant for developers. Why does Mr. Glazer try to hide this from the voters? Also, why does Mr. Glazer not reveal his education as the other two candidates do? On Mr. Glazer's signs he states "Fresh Ideas and Proven Record." One of the "fresh ideas" seems to be the concealment of the fact that Mr. Glazer is a developer's consultant. Part of his "proven record" seems to be the concealment of his developer connections. With such evasion can we trust Mr. Glazer in other matters?
 Barbara Vaughn
 Orinda

To the Editor:
 Novel and fresh ideas are desperately needed on the Orinda City Council. Dr. Robert (Bob) Larsen, now running for the city council, is Orinda's best hope for needed change. For years, Orinda has been governed by an entrenched group of fiscally reckless city council members. Larsen has promised to end the rancid tax-and-spend atmosphere pervading Orinda.
 Larsen would be a dramatic improvement over incumbent city council member Victoria Smith, who is running for re-election.
 Grotesque conflicts of interests permeate Smith's campaign. She has received campaign contributions from companies which she is supposed to regulate. According to Form 460, which can be obtained from Orinda's city government, Smith has received significant campaign contributions from AWIN management and from Waste Management, two companies in the rubbish-collection business.
 Smith is a member of the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, the entity which sets Orinda's garbage-collection fees. On March 1, the solid waste authority raised Orinda's garbage-pickup fees by 14.7% (Contra Costa Times, Feb. 1). Smith supported the fee increase, an increase several times the annual rate of inflation.
 Are Smith's campaign contributions a reward for her support of the higher fees? Instead of supporting the higher garbage fees, Smith should have opened Orinda's garbage-collection system to honest, competitive bidding.
 Smith cannot be trusted to govern wisely. Please vote for Larsen, not for Smith.
 Larsen has not taken money from special interests.
 Richard S. Colman
 Orinda

Editor:
 We enthusiastically support Dr. Bob Larsen for City Council for many reasons, not the least of which is the fact that we have known him for twelve years. His intelligence and integrity is above reproach. He is able to solve problems quickly and efficiently while working with people of diverse backgrounds. He is an experienced business owner and an accomplished medical doctor, honored with many professional achievements. Last but certainly not least, his ideas for improving our community are long overdue.
 Not only does Dr. Larsen support continued public school excellence and stepping up the repaving of our horrific public roads, but he sees a critical opportunity to improve our Orinda community tax base and retail experience. Have you ever asked yourself why there are so many retail vacancies and such high business turnover here? Why do businesses choose other small towns nearby to locate to? Ask any store owner. They will tell you that Orinda is nearly impossible to deal with. We all end up paying a very high price since we have to personally fund more of our improvements or not fund them at all.
 Dr. Larsen advocates a healthy business environment not just for tax revenues but to improve the services and environment for citizens. The City Council needs to offer compelling incentives to attract and keep business here.
 The downtown area of Orinda can be refurbished to look more inviting and more attractive. Our city looks like the far flung assortment of storefronts that clearly lack a guiding and planning hand. Residents rarely shop here and our kids have nothing to keep them here. It's a travesty.
 The expectations of our elected officials must be much higher. With Dr. Bob Larsen our community will have a stronger voice to carry out a progressive agenda.
 Rosarie Hartmeyer, Ph.D. and Bailey Hartmeyer
 Orinda

Editor:
 The Current Orinda City Council allowed The Wilder (formerly Gateway) Development to erect monstrous Power Towers on our beloved hills, destroying the "semi rural" nature of our community, and formerly pristine views from both public property (eg Orinda BART platform) and private property (many homes, including my own). There was no communication to citizens about this possible change to our Orinda landscape.
 Clearly the incumbents do not abide by the definition of Transparency.
 Thank goodness we have an option this year: Dr. Bob Larsen - The Alternative.
 Sincerely,
 Susan Winchester
 Orinda

Dear Editor,
 We support Victoria Smith for re-election to the Orinda City Council, and feel that we are lucky to have a person of her stature willing to expend the energy and time to represent us. She is a positive force on the council, who researches the subjects before the council and speaks for the well being of the total community. She is intelligent, available to the citizens, and works realistically within our severe budgetary constraints. She has supported the bond measures that sought to improve our roads, drains, and water pipes for fire safety.
 Please vote for Victoria Smith for Orinda City Council.
 Pat and Bob Dunn
 Orinda

Dear Editor:
 I support Steve Glazer for City Council because he is open to new ideas and has created many opportunities for citizens to get involved and share their thoughts where it will make a difference. Steve has been a driving force behind the creation of citizen task forces such as the Citizen's Infrastructure Oversight Commission, the Revenue Enhancement Task Force and the Planning Process Review Task Force. These committees are comprised of citizen volunteers who are sharing their expertise and ideas on ways to make Orinda a better City. In the Planning Process Review Task Force, innovative ideas are being surfaced that could streamline home owner improvement project approvals and revitalize our commercial districts. These ideas are being surfaced so the citizens of Orinda can have a real choice in how their City is run. I applaud Steve for working so hard to make Orinda a better place to live and I find it ironic that he is criticized by some for a "lack of transparency" when he has done so much to foster citizen participation in Orinda government.
 Rick Booth
 22 Year Resident & Orinda Planning Commissioner

Dear Editor:
 We want to add our voice to our many neighbors who are supporting Steve Glazer for re-election to the Orinda City Council.
 Steve has been an incredible addition to the council. He is accessible, open minded and a good listener. He is a constructive problem solver, as well as a forceful advocate for open government and transparency. His energy and focus have been on basics of city government: public safety, road repairs, planning matters and fiscal accountability.
 We also appreciate that he stepped in and helped make the Safeway remodel happen. We are disappointed to see Bob Larsen's smear campaign against Mr. Glazer. However, we remain confident that our Orinda neighbors will look at the issues, recognize the hollowess of Mr. Larsen's charges, and join us in supporting our energetic and sensible Councilmember Steve Glazer.
 Carol and Steve Whittaker
 Orinda

Moraga
 Dear Editor:
 Those of us who treasure the small town tranquility of Moraga are deeply disturbed by the nasty political attacks against Karen Mendonca's candidacy for Moraga Town Council. Some of these attacks have turned particularly virulent, as a group of covert activists have played what many see as the "the race card" against Karen's candidacy. Deception, misrepresentation, and offensive innuendo have no place in civil discourse. Here's the situation and what we need to do about it:
 1. Unlike other candidates, Karen Mendonca's road side posters have repeatedly been vandalized or stolen from public right of ways and private property where permission has been granted by the owner. This malicious behavior occurs in the dead of night and requires a continuous effort on the part of the Mendonca campaign to replace and repair signs. This is especially problematic because Karen is the only candidate that has not been allowed by the Bruzzones to post signs on their land, so the area in which she can post signs is quite restricted in comparison to her competitors.
 2. Unlike other candidates, Karen Mendonca has been the target of false emails about her candidacy, with misrepresentations regarding campaign contributions, expenses and relationships. These misrepresentations are a disservice to our community and an insult to our intelligence. Reports of campaign expenses, as well as the amount and source of campaign contributions, are matters of public record.
 3. Finally, and most egregious, is the recent surfacing of what many see as hate mail from a group calling itself "Moragans for Government Integrity". At its website and in emails, it has concocted a subtly racist attack on the local Asian community, because some members of that community support Karen's views and endorse her campaign. Building a common vision for Moraga and future generations requires a commitment to civility, mutual respect, truth and thoughtful analysis. No matter who you vote for in the coming election, we must realize that we cannot build a future based on integrity and trust if we foul the community with fear and loathing.
 Barbara Ochota
 Moraga

Dear Editor,
 Though time has taken its toll on the political signs around town, I found it interesting to observe two weeks ago that of all the signage lining Moraga Way upon entering Moraga, the only signs not standing proudly were the three urging Yes on Proposition 8. Their remnants lay in the grass and roadside rocks, torn and pulled from their support rods. A random act of vandalism? If so, why only these signs, and why on both sides of the street?
 Whether you favor or oppose a candidate or proposition, denying the opposing group the equal opportunity to advertise its position is a characteristic of a fascist state (i.e., if you don't support my views you have no say!) Not allowing the democratic process to work its way does nothing to gain support for those who want equality under the law. Let the evidence at the end of the election day indicate the true community support of your candidate or position, giving all voices a chance to be heard.
 Rick Dinkle
 Moraga

Dear Editor,
 On October 13, the Moraga Room at the Soda Center at St. Mary's College, was full of attentive, interested voters, gathered for the Initiative Forum that was sponsored by Moraga Citizens Network. As sponsors, we want to thank the College for making this room available for a very important town event. As coordinator of the Forum, I experienced excellent cooperation and professional support from every college employee and student with whom I worked. This was truly a piece of our dream where the town and the college came together to collaborate. I hope we citizens will continue to be alert to finding other ways for mutual town and college exchanges, support, cooperation.
 Thank you, St. Mary's College, for giving Moraga residents a large enough space for everyone to sit down to learn about the land use initiatives.
 Ellen Beans
 President, Moraga Citizens Network

Letters continued on page 18-19

Public Forum JOIN IT

Halloween Comes Early to Moraga
 Halloween is traditionally a time for children, enjoying treats or being the target of tricks. But this year is different -- it is Moraga's adult resident voters who are the target of tricks--political tricks the likes of which Moraga has never seen before.

Immense amounts of money have been spent by developer, Bruzzzone Inc., trying to defeat Measure K through chaos, confusion and intimidation of the voter. This developer has spent an astonishing \$500,000 so far--more than \$100 per voting household. His campaign no longer promotes his own Measure J, but now concentrates on attacking and distorting the citizen-sponsored Measure K. You can see the results of these huge expenditures in your postal and email mailboxes and on your TV sets.

Bruzzzone Inc.'s attack mailers are scarier than a haunted house, but they are not truthful.

For example, the latest Bruzzzone gem implying that the Moraga-Orinda Fire District opposes Measure K has been unequivocally repudiated by MOFD Fire Chief Pete Nowicki.

And if creating confusion and distorting the truth do not work and Measure K passes, Bruzzzone Inc. threatens to sue the Town. Does this sound like someone protecting your interests - someone whose counsel, advice and guidance you should follow?

Developers' lawsuit threats are not new to Moraga. Northwood Homes made the same threat twenty-two years ago when Moraga citizens campaigned for the Town's first open space protection measure, the Moraga Open Space Ordinance (MOSO 1986). It is important to note here that MOSO 1986--an ordinance now praised by Measure K's opponents--was not a product of the Moraga Planning Process. It was an initiative, created by residents, placed on the ballot through the collection of signatures, and approved by the voters.

After MOSO 1986 passed, the developer did sue, and the Town defended that initiative in court and won. That lawsuit, and its judgment in favor of the Town, has become a landmark case in land use law. Most long-time Moragans feel that passing the MOSO Initiative in 1986 and subsequently defending the will of the voters in court was the right thing to do.

If Measure K fails, the Town will be forced to process the major subdivisions planned for Bollinger Canyon, Indian Valley and Rheem Ridge. Is the Town protected from lawsuits then? Absolutely not!

As evidenced by the Palos Colorados project, contentious developments spawn lawsuits of their own, and legal challenges would likely be filed against each of these new subdivision projects individually. Moraga was sued twice over Palos Colorados, by both the developer and by Lafayette, and had to pay its own legal expenses. And Orinda and Lafayette have made clear that they stand ready to challenge any development project generating significant additional traffic from Moraga.

Just how strong is the legal basis for a challenge to Measure K? The Town Attorney examined the eight most important legal issues regarding the initiative. On every issue, the Town Attorney's analysis (in the "9212 Report") showed the significant difficulty such a challenge would face. This Town Attorney has served Moraga for over 20 years, successfully defended MOSO 1986 on behalf of the voters of Moraga, and is recognized as one of the most experienced and respected land use attorneys in the Bay Area.

But if you don't trust the Town Attorney, consider the fact that Alameda County voters passed an open space measure very much like Measure K in 2000, which was upheld all the way to the California Supreme Court where it became a statewide precedent. Four years later, Hercules voters passed a similar measure which was also upheld. Fre-

mont and Livermore voters passed their own similar open space initiatives which were never challenged--those developers figured out that to do so would be a waste of money.

The bottom line is that Measure K has a strong and tested legal foundation. If Measure K must be defended, the Town will be defending the right of its residents to establish land use regulations under state and federal law.

Measure K will protect the quality of life in Moraga. It's easy to take for granted, but we should all ask ourselves just what contributes to that quality of life and what first attracted us to Moraga?

Surely, the semi-rural character and stunning beauty of our surroundings enhances our lives with a feeling of peace as we rush through our busy days. Are developments with huge estate houses lining the ridges and covering the hillsides consistent with your concept of semi-rural?

We are all familiar with the traffic problems in and out of Moraga, especially the torturous commute traffic. Is there any way our lives won't be impacted by the several thousand additional vehicle trips generated daily by the proposed developments?

And what about the value of our homes, probably the single most important component of our quality of life? As everyone knows, home value is a function of desirability of location. How will the desirability of Moraga - the quality of life it offers - be impacted by building in scenic view areas and on ridgelines, and by adding yet more traffic?

This Halloween, don't fall for the developer's tricks. Protect your quality of life and property values, and vote Yes on Measure K.

Frank Comprelli
 Moraga

• Letters to the Editor • Letters to the Editor • Letters to the Editor •

Dear Editor,
YES ON K KEEPS MORAGA'S OPEN SPACE.
 Moraga voters have a choice this November concerning their prized open spaces. Residents who value the hills and ridgelines surrounding the town, appreciate the semi-rural setting, and don't want to see new sub-divisions clogging up the scenery (not to mention the roadways) should vote yes on Measure K.
 Opponents of Measure K, including the "no-no" crowd, want us to believe that everything is fine and the existing "process" is working. But the process is only as good as the underlying laws governing it, and those laws are too weak at present to prevent the big developments coming Moraga's way.
 Palos Colorados is an illustration: after over 15 years of public hearings, untold hours of staff time, and two lawsuits against the Town, the end result will be a 123-lot subdivision—that Moragans didn't want in the first place—to begin construction next spring. Is that what the "no-no" faction means by the "process" working?
 Now the Town is about to approve a new subdivision along Rheem Boulevard—again after years of public opposition—because there's nothing on the books to stop it. Bollinger Canyon (not covered by any of Moraga's existing open space guidelines) and Indian Valley (currently allowed up to 200 houses) will be next.
 What the no-no people don't realize is that the status quo is the problem, not the solution. Measure K will fill in the missing safeguards to protect these areas and their ridgelines from big development.
 The "no-no" people also say to vote 'no' in response to developers' litigation threats. Thank goodness Moraga voters didn't listen when they said the same thing in 1986 about MOSO, the first open space initiative. If they had, there would be houses all over Mulholland Ridge and Campolindo Ridge today: those projects were stopped only thanks to the voters. Moraga shouldn't forfeit its open space because of developer bullying.
 As responsible citizens, we need to step up and adopt laws to protect Moraga for the people and wildlife who live here today, and for Moraga's future generations. Please vote yes on Measure K.
 Leslie J. Swartz
 Moraga

Dear Editor,
 I would like to ask all Moragans to vote for Janice Kolbe. As a member of Moraga CC I have worked closely with Janice for the past 5 years & she is a dynamic leader, team player, & has the ability to prioritize what needs to be done & then gets it done. The financial status of MCC is the best it has ever been & it has a comfortable reserve! Vote for Janice Kolbe she's just what the doctor ordered!
 Wesley T Spewak
 Moraga

To the Editor:
 Opponents of Moraga's Measure K—namely, the "Yes on J" and the "No on J and K" groups—have resorted to incredible distortions and outright lies intended to scare voters into rejecting a very sensible and rational approach to preserving the character of our town. Measure K is simple: It limits the amount of development that will be allowed in three areas of Moraga: Bollinger Canyon, along Rheem Boulevard, and Indian Valley. Instead of roughly 350 houses in those areas, only 50 will be permitted. That's it! I repeat: That's it!
 Yet, opponents of this straightforward measure have conjured up the insidious influence of Berkeley radicals to incite a kind of fear and prejudice in our community. Absolutely nothing in the measure pertains to low-income granny flats, high density condos, or mobile homes. The spectre of an endless string of future lawsuits is a sham. Let us hope that informed Moragans won't be misled or swayed by falsehoods and innuendos. Let them proudly cast their votes for Measure K.
 Sincerely,
 George Ehrenhaft
 Moraga

Editor:
 I would like to report the fact that my McCain/Palin 2008 poster was taken from my porch today (10/21) between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. I am not happy with the fact that number one it is a total invasion of one's privacy, number two who ever it is took something off of MY porch that belongs to me. What a sad world we live in! Who ever you are, the police have been contacted. They will be on the lookout for anyone "stealing" signs of any kind from anywhere! I noticed while driving on Saint Mary's road yesterday,

there was a McCain/Palin sign in one particular spot and was replaced with Obama/Biden.....Come on people.....Everyone is entitled to vote how they want! That's what makes this country so great! So beware! I now have cameras out and I will know who you are.....and the police will be "on it"!
 Sincerely,
 Janet Bellotti-Kelley
 Moraga

Dear Editor,
 I am appalled by the Bruzzones' nauseating smear campaign against Measure K. We Moragans know where we live and know that this is not Berkeley. We are not stupid and do not like the lies and false information the Bruzzone campaign is putting out about Measure K. The Bruzzones OWN the land that they threaten will be developed with low income housing. THEY and not Measure K will determine what is done with that land. They are behaving like a small child threatening the residents of Moraga with low-income housing if they do not get their way. It's time to grow up, because the people of Moraga can see thru these veiled threats. The majority of the residents of Moraga support open space protection and can accomplish it once and for all by passing Measure K. Any other alternative would guarantee long and costly lawsuits.
 Peter Bennett
 Moraga resident 40 years and I know where I live

Editor:
 More evidence that Moraga needs Measure K
 If Moraga residents are not convinced of the need for the passage of Measure K, then the October 20 Moraga Planning Commission meeting should convince them otherwise. At this meeting, the Planning Commission directed Planning staff to prepare the necessary resolutions for the approval of the Rancho Laguna project with 21 ridgetop homes.
 Moraga residents have consistently shown that they support ridgeline protection. This is reflected in the passage of MOSO 1986 and the 2002 General Plan revisions. Throughout the hearings on the Rancho Laguna Project, the majority of speakers have voiced their opposition to the ridgeline homes. But MOSO 1986 protects only certain ridgelines and only part of the Rancho Laguna ridge. Where MOSO 1986 applies to this site no homes are proposed on the ridgeline. Immediately on the other side of this line the ridgeline homes would begin. The contrast could not be starker.
 In conversations with Moraga residents many have told me they thought MOSO 1986 covered the entire town. They also thought that adequate protections for ridgelines have been built into the General Plan. The recent Planning Commission action clearly demonstrates this is not the case. Ridgeline protection language in the General Plan has been interpreted by the Commission to be advisory and open to judgment. Ridgelines not protected by MOSO 1986 will only be protected when their preservation is not subject to interpretation. Measure K will do this. It will permanently protect these ridgeline areas. Please vote yes on Measure K to protect the qualities that make our Town such an attractive place to live.
 Sincerely,
 Malcolm Sproul
 Moraga

Dear Editor,
 One of the main arguments against Measure K is that it is hasty and extreme, and that we should allow the Town's long-successful deliberative process to manage future developments. The argument states that in this way, we can avoid costly lawsuits by unhappy developers. Unfortunately, those who put forth this argument have forgotten recent Moraga history. When the Town's "deliberative process" permitted excessive development at Palos Colorados, we voted in 3 new Town Council members who promised to stop it, and stop it they did. The developer then sued because the Town had reneged on its previous agreements. The Town lost, and re-approved the plan. Unfortunately for Moraga, that agreement impinged on the City of Lafayette's ridge views and Lafayette also sued the Town. So much for avoiding lawsuits!
 The deliberative process on its own is subject to the viewpoints of the members of the Planning Commission and Town Council. With Palos Colorados we swung from strongly pro-development government to a backlash-induced, strongly anti-development government. Both were wrong in their approach. Such transient situations should not be the guiding force when working with developments that will be with us forever. As the saying goes, "good fences make good neighbors." The ONLY way to prevent law-

suits in the long term is to have clear guidelines on what development may occur on our hills. Measure K does this by CONTROLLING, NOT ELIMINATING, development in designated areas so that we, our children, and future residents will enjoy nearly the same beautiful views that we have now.
 If Measure K loses on November 4, nothing changes in current law and we are almost guaranteed future lawsuits, or threats of lawsuits, over every project which we try to stop or significantly alter. If it takes one fight now to avoid many in the future, so be it. As property owners in Moraga, we have the right to protect what drew us here in the first place. Don't give up your future rights because someone wants to threaten our Town's finances with a frivolous lawsuit. Please vote YES on Measure K.
 Mike Bernhardt
 Moraga

Editor:
 There is a Third Choice – A Better Choice Vote NO on J and K
 If you like Moraga the way it is, Vote NO on J and K.
 People on both sides of the J and K battle say they like Moraga as it is, a great place to live. I agree.
 What is lost in the dispute is that J and K – both sponsored by special interests – mean irreversible change into uncharted territory. Consequences won't be known for years. Things we like about Moraga result from a planning process that works, has limited growth, has retained the special character of our community. Why would we want to throw it all out?
 Smart people with good intentions on both sides disagree sharply about the impact of J and K. The result of their pre-election disputes will certainly be very expensive post-election lawsuits we don't want and cannot afford.
 As you vote, remember that there is a better and a safer choice for Moraga. Vote NO on J and K.
 Bob Reynolds
 Moraga

Editor:
 I believe most Moraga residents want to preserve open space and keep traffic from getting worse, so I hope they aren't fooled by the Bruzzones' onslaught of deceptions about Measure K.
 I hope they keep in mind that the Bruzzones own hundreds of acres both in Moraga's open hills and in the downtown. I hope they keep in mind that until Measure K came along, it was the Bruzzones who were pressing the Town Council to allow over 700 units next to the Moraga Shopping Center.
 It's truly incredible that now the Bruzzones would turn around and pin their own outlandish downtown development plans on Measure K in an effort to scare and confuse voters.
 The fact is that if Moragans don't want more traffic they should adopt Measure K. Major subdivisions are being planned for Rheem Ridge, Bollinger Canyon, and Indian Valley totaling 350 houses and bringing several thousand additional car trips per day. These are beautiful open space areas and rangelands that are not appropriate for over-sized subdivisions in the first place. Follow the money—More homes benefit the developers.
 The Town of Moraga's study says Measure K will cut the 350 additional houses down to about 50 and prevent 3,000 car trips per day. Measure K benefits Moraga residents by curbing the desires of developers to do whatever they want.
 Please join us in voting YES on K to prevent more traffic and save open space.
 Dave and Kandy Petersen

Editor:
 The voters of Moraga will be asked to decide between two competing ballot initiatives, the ramifications of which are still poorly understood by all too many voters. Measure K originated, and was funded by, a group of overwhelmingly non-Moraga residents who wanted to increase "open space" beyond the extensive amount already existing. K will rewrite our current laws and restrict our options. K would exchange single-family housing, in areas that can't be seen, for high-density housing contained within our downtown. It would also impose burdensome new land-use restrictions on many unsuspecting Moraga homeowners, which will limit what they can do with their property.
 The current General Plan (GP) and other open space Measure J, would like to preserve the character of the Town. There are 20,000 acres of open space; agricultural and public lands in and around Moraga and there is little difference in the amount of open space

Re-elect CAROL FEDERIGHI

Lafayette City Council



Join your Friends and Neighbors who Support Experienced, Dedicated, and Outstanding Leadership!

Robert Alfandry and Susan Nurock
 Mike Anderson and Courtney Murphree
 Brandt and Patti Andersson
 Carl and Sharon Anduri
 Ann and Peter Appert
 Jeanne and Jack Ateljevich
 Diane and Guy Atwood
 Clint and Laurie Bailey
 Ruth Bailey
 Dr. Francis Barham
 Dick Bass and Lynne Thompson-Bass
 Geoff and Sally Bellenger
 Larry Blodgett
 Kathy and Rick Bowles
 Dan and Lori Bosshart
 Pete Bucklin
 Ann Burns
 Shirley Callister
 Susan Price Callister
 Nancy Caranica
 Judy and Steve Carney
 Kevin and Paula Carter

Carole and Don Chaiken
 Larry Challacombe
 Tom Chastain and Renee Chow
 Sereta Churchill
 Joan and Tom Cleveland
 John Coleman
 Chris and Dean Coons
 Stephen Cortese
 Jack Coulter
 Kelley and Pat Crane
 Sue Cross
 Patricia Curtin-Tinley
 Judy and Frank de Carbonel
 Dorothy D'Ambrogia
 Ann M. Denny
 Sally and Jack Doherty
 Marechal and Doris Duncan
 Larry Duson
 Michelle Edmunds
 Roger and Pat Falcone
 Doug Federighi
 Dennis and Sally Garrison
 Judy and Kent Garvens

Community Service:

- Lafayette City Council: Mayor 2007, 2003; Councilmember 1999 to present
- Lafayette Planning Commission: Chair 1998; Commissioner 1993-1999
- Lafayette Senior Housing Task Force: Member 2006 to present
- Lafayette rep.: Central CC County Solid Waste Authority and League of CA Cities
- Moraga Road Transportation Advisory Committee: Chair 2001-2004
- League of Women Voters: State President, 1987-1989; LWVDV President 1983-1985

Education and Professional Experience:

- JD: Hastings College of the Law * Secondary Teaching Credential: UC Berkeley * BA: Stanford University
- Alameda County Civil Court Appointed Attorneys Panel: Advisory Committee Chair 2008, Member 1995 to present (Juvenile Dependency Law)
- Legal Assistance for Seniors: Volunteer, consultant, staff attorney, 1993-2007

Carol's Priorities:

- * Fiscal Soundness: Support long-range planning, strong fiscal management and retention of healthy reserve; continue to seek state, federal, and other grants where feasible; maximize use of our Redevelopment Agency's limited tax increment funds.
- * Infrastructure Support: Continue to make road maintenance, repair, and reconstruction of public roads a top priority.
- * Strong Retail Core: Continue to support a vital, prosperous, and attractive downtown that is pedestrian friendly and attractive to shoppers. Continue attempts to develop additional public parking in the downtown.
- * Hillsides, Ridgelines, Parks, Walkways, and Trails: Protect the beauty of our hillsides and ridgelines through land-use policies and regulations. Support continued improvement and expansion of Lafayette's parks, walkways, and trails.

Teresa Gerringer
 Mike Gilson
 Gayle Grant and George Burt
 Katherine and Chuck Greenberg
 Anne and Marshall Grodin
 John and Linda Gross
 Wayne and Susan Hahn
 Ken Hertel
 Lynn and Dave Hiden
 Mary Ann and Bill Hoisington
 Gene and Gretel Holit
 Dick and Robin Holt
 Scott C. Honegger
 Sherry and Howard Hoover
 Erling and Pat Horn
 Rick Humann
 Anne D. Jacobberger
 Don and Linda Jenkins
 Jack Jenkins-Stark
 Alice and Dick Johnson
 Mark and Hilma Jones
 Suzanne, Robert and Glen Jones
 John Kiefer
 Brad and Jeanne Kisner
 Diane Kisner
 Jahanna Knight
 Carolyn and Al Lacy
 Lois Laine
 Gwenn Lennox
 Terry and Gish Lichblau
 Jay Lifson
 Marcia C. Linn
 Fred Wright Lopez
 Fred Lothrop
 Will and Sally Lovitt

Byrne and Oystein Mathisen
 Ruth and David McCahan
 Mary McCosker
 Al and Mary McDonald
 Jan and Ted McHale
 Mike and Kathy Merchant
 Brian and Luisa Miles
 Mary L. Miller
 Mark and Anne Mitchell
 Marci Montgomery
 Lin Morehouse
 Sarah Morrill
 Tom Mulvaney
 National Women's Political Caucus
 of Contra Costa County
 Dr. Robert Nolan
 Cathy O'Dea
 Jeff and Janice Peacock
 Ruth Perkins
 Michele Perrault
 Maeve Pessis
 Linda Petersen
 Debora Peverada
 Earl Piermattei
 Alpha Quincy
 Margaret Race
 Paul and Susan Renno
 Patricia J. Riggs
 Ned and Mardy Robinson
 Karen Rose
 Bob Russell
 Ivor and Sharon Samson
 Jeane and Roger Samuelsen
 Maralee Schneider
 Frieda Schonach

Christene Schreiber
 Robert Semar and Roberta Richards
 Cindy Sevilla
 Stephen and Barbara Shaw
 Sandy Sherman
 Tom Shoenhair and Dr. Julit Patil
 Liz and Les Simmonds
 Carol and Bob Singer
 Catherine Sinott
 Kathy Skovgard
 Sandra and Dick Smith
 Pat Snyder
 Margaret and Allen Steele
 Ed Stokes
 Candice and Bill Stryker
 Chuck and Virginia Stuart
 Don Tatzin and Ellen Reintjes
 Harry and Jean Tajima
 Stephanie Teichman
 Jim and Allison Todhunter
 Cliff Tong and Nancy Lee
 Will Tissue
 Bonnie Wakeman
 Eleanor Ward
 Liz Welch
 Jesse Wellen
 Tom White
 Dale and Terry Wilkerson
 Avon and George Wilson
 Greg Woehrl
 Anne Wondolowski
 Mary-Jane Wood
 Sheri and Barry Woodruff
 Ken Yzurdiaga
 Pete Zolintakis and Renee Breber

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offered by either measure. Current laws PROHIBIT homes on major ridgelines and severely restrict development on slopes. Taking the small remaining land we've reserved for single family housing will have permanent and profound consequences for Moraga's character, short and long-term financial situation, ultimate quality of life, and even municipal survival.

Measure K will force all current and future affordable housing into our downtown. Our current mandate of high-density affordable housing is very-low (84), low (64), and moderate-income (97) units. These unsubsidized 245-units are today's requirement AND Moraga has told the state that they will rezone 20 acres in our center to 24 units per acre, for affordable housing.

Moraga is projected to go into a deficit next year and worse yet we are exceeding \$80 million in deferred infrastructure costs. Exchanging expensive single-family homes for these affordable units, which do not pay impact fees, and are taxed at the subsidized market rate, will strain the town's ability to provide necessary services. Additionally, it has been estimated that the town of Moraga will lose more than \$400,000 in future revenues each year if Measure K passes. The other losses to our schools, police, and fire departments are likely to total in the millions. We can't afford this.

Vote NO on K and YES on J. www.moragasfuture.com.

Mark Solomon
Moraga

Dear Moragans,
Please join me and the Moraga Citizens Network Steering Committee in offering a heartfelt thank you to the Lamorinda Weekly for co-sponsoring our recent and very successful candidates' night and land initiative forum. Together we have worked to promote an informed Moraga citizenry. Approximately three hundred Moragans attended each event. In addition to providing advertising of the events, the Weekly videotaped in segments each event in its entirety so that people who were not able to attend can view the meetings by accessing www.lamorindaweekly.com or moragacitizensnetwork.org.

Again, thank you Andy and Wendy Scheck, and the Lamorinda Weekly for your generosity and dedication to our community.
Yours gratefully,
Janet Forman

Lafayette

To the Editor:

I have had the privilege to serve alongside three Lafayette Councilmembers running for reelection in 2008—Mike Anderson, Carl Anduri, and Carol Federighi. I do not always agree with each of them on every issue, but I always know these things:

- They each bring years of professional experience and volunteer service to the City.
- They each express their positions and arguments articulately and, when necessary, passionately.
- They each consider the views of others. They listen carefully to our citizens, our staff, and each other.
- They each seek positive consensus or compromise that will enable Lafayette to move forward.
- None of them allow ideological intransigence to stand in the way of decisions that serve the interests of Lafayette.
- They each put in the hard word it sometimes takes to work out an effective solution to a difficult issue.

The result is a record of efficient management of City resources and accomplishment of City goals: conservative fiscal management, protection of hillsides and ridgelines, careful development of the downtown, and continuing efforts to repair and maintain our roads. Lafayette has been well served by these talented and experienced public servants, and I encourage you to return them to office.

Sincerely,
Brandt Andersson

Dear Editor,

The Lafayette City Council uses taxpayer funds to publish Lafayette Vistas, a newsletter used to influence public opinion. This month's Vistas is aimed at influencing the results of the upcoming election. It is a one-sided propaganda piece that uses facts selectively and specifically rebuts many of the criticisms that Gabriel Froymovich, their only challenger, has raised.

Public funds should not be spent for political propaganda, but the article printed on the back page upset me even more. The article, entitled "Ten Ways to Destroy Your Town," is a condescending screed chastising Lafayette's residents for being too troublesome. The number one way to destroy Lafayette, according to the article? "Complain about local government officials."

I cannot believe someone felt that a good use for our tax dollars would be to print an article telling us to pipe down. This is wildly offensive, un-democratic and a poor way to spend our money when there are roads that need to be fixed.

I urge any of Lafayette's residents who would rather not pay to be told to quiet down to vote for only one candidate for Lafayette City Council: the only challenger, Gabriel Froymovich.

Sincerely,
Gordon Mattonen
Lafayette

Dear Editor,

My late husband and I moved to Lafayette sixty years ago and he practiced medicine here for over 35 years. There were no stop lights, plenty of pear and walnut orchards, wonderful neighbors that have remained life long friends and excellent local schools attended by all of our five children.

I have never written a letter to the editor in support of a local candidate, but am doing so today in support of Carl Anduri's re-election to the Lafayette City Council. Carl is well educated with the right kind of experience that allows him to properly oversee City finances with fiscal integrity. He also supports maintaining Lafayette's semi-rural atmosphere as do I. There have been letters to the editor calling on Lafayette residents to vote for only one candidate for the Lafayette City Council. That seems to be rather 'un-democratic'. I am voting for Carl along with the other two incumbents so Lafayette will continue to be 'inclusive' rather than 'exclusive'.

Sincerely,
Shirley P. Callister

Dear Editor

This month's Lafayette Vistas, the informational, monthly mailing from our city government saddened me. Most of it seemed to be aimed at making pro-council arguments during election season, which strikes me as an unethical use of taxpayer money. But what do I know? According to an article in this month's Vistas, complaining about local government officials is the number one way to destroy our town.

Well, if I can't complain I guess I'll vote. I have decided this year to vote for Gabriel Froymovich because I believe, given the chance, he will make a difference in our spending policies.
David Weidberg
Lafayette

Dear Editor:

I have worked with Carl Anduri for three years on the Lafayette Roads Task Force, a group of volunteers endeavoring to raise funds to repair our failing neighborhood roads and drains. This group, which is co-chaired by Carl, was set up to study all the possible alternative ways to fund our road and drain repair shortfall. In addition to initiating the last Road Campaign ballot measure, which received 65% voter approval, this group under Carl's tutelage has worked with other City Council members and staff to allocate every available dollar of the City's General Fund toward road and drain repair. Over \$15 million dollars has been allocated by the City Council since 2004 to resolve this once \$30 million problem. I am confident with Carl's leadership the City will continue to allocate every possible General Fund dollar to repair our remaining failing roads and drains. Please join me in re-electing Carl Anduri to the Lafayette City Council.
Guy Atwood
Lafayette

Dear Editor:

The City of Lafayette is constrained in its revenues due to its having, in 1968, incorporated as a "no tax" city. In spite of this limitation the City has attained an AA Bond rating for its General Fund revenues and an A Bond rating for its Redevelopment Agency Fund (RDA) revenues. The A Bond rating on RDA Funds makes Lafayette the smallest city in California with such a high rating. Bravo!! Such success is primarily due to strong fiscal management of its finances and operations by its staff and careful oversight by its City Council members. Carl Anduri, Carol Federighi, and our mayor, Mike Anderson, have shown strong leadership in managing the City's finances and supporting the many grant programs that have upgraded the city's infrastructure and improved safety for all of our residents. For example, the City Council has allocated over \$15 million to repair the city's failing roads and drains during the past four years.

I am confident that under their proven leadership the City will continue its history of strong fiscal management.

Please join me in re-electing Carl Anduri, Carol Federighi and Mike Anderson, who is also our current mayor, to the Lafayette City Council on November 4th.

Lynn Hiden
Lafayette

Editor:

I am a Lafayette resident, and write to urge fellow residents to support the three incumbent City Council members who are running for re-election - Mr. Anduri, Ms. Federighi and Mr. Anderson.

There is one challenger – Mr. Froymovich. In the voting booth, I urge you to silently thank him for his involvement and good intentions, then vote for the incumbents.

I am a practicing land use attorney with nearly ten years of experience. Land use, and related impacts to a city's finances, is the predominant and most complicated issue that cities like Lafayette must confront. California has some of the most, if not the most, complex land use laws in the country. The existing Council members have extensive experience grappling with these laws.

Mr. Froymovich has demonstrated in his campaign literature a tenuous - and incorrect at that - grasp of these laws. More troubling, he exhibits a highly ideological predisposition that would prevent him from objectively learning and applying these laws. I submit that we have had enough of ideology trumping considered judgment in this country in recent years. Please keep it out of Lafayette.

James Andrew
Lafayette

Fireboard, Measure E, Measure WW

Dear Editor,

Schools, like all government entities, are masters at marketing their insatiable desire for more money. Money for them is 'fungible', in that ANY money raised simply frees up other money for other purposes. They do not have to be honest about why they want to raise the money. As a result, they simply market to you what you want most, even if the increased supply of money simply enables them to increase payrolls. What could be easier for them than to market to your love of your children. Too bad you can't judge the competent use of all the funds. Top heavy administrative staffs are typical.

Look at your property tax bill. Look at both sides of it (i.e. Special Taxes, and Ad Valorem taxes). Acalanes district schools have been generously funded. Government entities receive better hedges against rising costs than you do with your wage increases. Parental love leads you to leap well over protection given you by Proposition 13. Great education is not a function of more spending. Measure E is nothing more than a transfer of your discretionary wealth to the School's discretionary wealth; which then becomes your BONDED ENDEBTEDNESS for 10 years.

Sincerely,
Gordon Mattonen
Lafayette

Dear Editor,

For one raised in a 2-generation park ranger family, by a former school teacher mother, it's always been relatively easy to support tax measures for schools and parks. No longer though - Acalanes School District measure "E" - and, East Bay Park District Measure "WW", both reflect imprudent application of scarce taxpayer levies.

"E" is both deceitful and reflective of ill-apportioned earlier Measure "B" tax revenues (over half of proceeds to athletic facilities - with, mostly single digit percentages going for vital infrastructure needs).

"E" also claims "no increased tax" - yet, it will now tax "seniors" "opted out" from the \$43 mil. earlier bond. And, the proposed \$93 mil tax will be extended beyond existing bonds maturation, thus for kids and grandkids to pay (hugely increased tax and bond interest totals).

"WW" plays an equally unwarranted game on region taxpayers!

It aims to buy even more land - this, when unable to maintain that already owned. Further, existing over-generous public employee wages, salaries and benefits, consume revenues which otherwise could go to maintenance - especially, if major portions of upkeep and maintenance were put up for outsourced contact bids.

Vote NO on "E" and "W"
Donald Lively
Lafayette

Dear Editor:

This letter is directed to my friends and neighbors in the Moraga Orinda Fire District Zone 2 who will have the opportunity on November 4 to reelect Fred Weil to the MOFD Board of Directors.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Fred. He is a man dedicated to the Fire District and wants only the very best for its residents. This has been clearly shown by his continued support for service improvements, such as the upgrading of a second ambulance to full-time staffing, a strong Public Education program and continuing education for all personnel. His past experience as a Board member of our two local school districts is an invaluable asset to our Fire District. He has a keen eye for financial matters and understands the issues facing the District. He is a consensus builder and tries to seek solutions to difficult problems, but is not afraid to make the tough decisions.

The only choice for Fire District Board Director of Zone 2 is Fred Weil.

Gordon Nathan
Past Director of the
Moraga/Orinda Fire District

To the Editor:

When our daughters attended Campolindo High School, California's public schools stood as benchmarks for excellence. Sadly, California's leadership among school systems has declined due to the failure to adequately invest in public education. Our local schools, however, have retained their place among the best public schools in the nation for one reason - local support.

Now, as we watch our grandchildren head off to our local high schools, we see, firsthand, the need to continue local investment in our quality schools. Campolindo, which was built 47 years ago, is in desperate need of repair and upgrades. Similarly, each of the schools in the Acalanes district is in need of infrastructure upgrades to support the technology our students are expected to use today. Measure E will provide the funds to make sure that our local high schools continue to provide access to the same excellent education that once made California's schools the envy of the nation.

Please join us in voting Yes on Measure E. It's a vote for our future, our children's future, and the future of our children's children.

Bill and Connie Mueser
Moraga

To the Editor:

When it came to chose a place to raise our family, the Lamorinda area rose to the top of the list for one simple reason: the quality of the schools. Good public schools and good communities are nearly inseparable and Measure E is an investment in both.

Measure E dollars will stay right here in Lamorinda to update our local high schools and upgrade the infrastructure to support the computers and technology that is essential for today's students. Additionally, Measure E will establish a \$6 million technology replacement fund to ensure that our students gain the skills expected in today's businesses.

Some may argue that this is not the time to ask voters to approve a school facilities bond. I'd argue that just the opposite is true. With historically low interest rates and declining construction costs, this is the best time to approve an investment in our schools.

Please join me in voting Yes on Measure E. It's one vote guaranteed to bring a return on our investment.
Stacy Ashby
Moraga

To the Editor:

I urge Lamorinda voters to join me in voting Yes on Measure E for the four high schools in the Acalanes High School District. Each of the Acalanes District schools is approximately 50 years and each is need of repairs, electrical upgrades, and numerous infrastructure improvements.

Measure E asks Lamorinda voters to protect their investment in the schools by approving a bond measure that will raise the funds to renovate our high schools and establish a

ten-year technology replacement fund to ensure that computers and classroom equipment are up-to-date and accessible to students. And, Measure E does this without taking scarce funding from classroom programs and without raising homeowners' current tax rates.

I'm sure I speak for many of the Lamorinda families who, like me, attended the Acalanes schools and have returned to this community to raise our own children and send them to the same excellent schools. Our schools are community assets that serve us well and are worthy of our investment.

Mary McCosker
Lafayette

Editor:

Fred Weil has had a profound, positive impact on Moraga during the 35 years he and his family have lived here. He has 26 years total service on three local governing Boards: our Moraga-Orinda Fire District (where he is currently Board President); the Acalanes High School Board (4 times President) and the Moraga Elementary School board (President twice). Undoubtedly, he has the Board service, leadership experience and the managerial, financial and legal skills that are the essential prerequisites one should look for when voting for a Fire Board candidate.

Fred has also "given back" to our community in a multitude of additional ways, from serving as President of the Campolindo Homeowners Association, to chairing the LMYA Girls Softball League, through serving as Director of the Soda Aquatic Center... the list goes on and on.

Our Moraga-Orinda Fire District is currently facing some difficult financial challenges. Fred has successfully faced similar budgetary challenges during his prior service on our two local school boards. He's been there before and has come through for us taxpayers. When you consider whom to vote for, please select Fred because of his outstanding record of prior Board service, his superior knowledge of our Fire District's finances and operations, his laudable past service to our community, and his commitment to serving only the interests of our Fire District's residents, voters and taxpayers.

Stan Holcenberg
Moraga

Editor:

Voters in Orinda and Moraga have a clear choice in the upcoming election for two Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board seats. Current Fire Board members, Dr. Gene Gottfried and Fred Weil, have outstanding records of public service, not just on the Fire Board, but across a wide spectrum of activities in their respective communities. The Orinda Association recently selected Dr. Gottfried as "Orinda's Volunteer of the Year" for his broad public service. Mr. Weil has 26 years of local Board Service. In addition to our Fire Board (where he is currently President), Weil has also served on the Boards of the Acalanes High School District and the Moraga Elementary School District. Both gentlemen have the Board experience, the knowledge and the financial skills that we need now during these difficult economic times that will certainly bring new financial challenges to our fire district.

They are being opposed by two former members of the Firefighters Union's Local 1230, which Local represents the Fire District's employees. Thanks to a recent investigative story in a local newspaper, we now know that the Firefighters Union has bestowed large sums of money on both Union candidates. The Local has paid for their signs and slate mailers and has also given \$1,000 cash to each. The same news story also reported that Mr. Weil's opponent had totally failed to report those Union donations in his campaign finance statement filing. The Union's two candidates loudly proclaim that their firefighting experience somehow qualifies them to be Board members. Not so! Where firefighting experience really matters is in the Fire Chief's and Battalion Chief's positions. Fire Chief Pete Nowicki and each of his Battalion Chiefs have all attained higher educational levels, have more professional certifications and collectively they have far more firefighting experience than either of the Union's candidates. The Union's candidates would therefore add absolutely nothing to our Fire District's firefighting knowledge base and skill set.

The choice is absolutely clear. Vote for Gottfried and Weil. Only then can you be totally confident that your Fire Board's members will represent only the interests of Moraga's and Orinda's citizens.

Richard J. ("Dick") Olsen, Former Moraga Fire Commissioner
Moraga

Advertising

Dear Orinda Community

Bob Larsen should be ashamed of himself for engaging in a sleazy campaign for Orinda City Council. In newspaper ads, debates and letters to the editor, he makes false claims, insults community volunteers, and is hypocritical on issues central to his campaign. These are pretty strong words but let me back them up with specifics – something he routinely fails to do.

Larsen claims I appoint my friends to City Commissions: I am proud of the fact that we have 78 Orinda residents involved in governing our city on various commissions and task forces. This is an increase from 35 just two years ago. There is no truth to his charge that I appoint my friends. In fact, I do not have a social relationship with any of the current appointees. He is mad that he applied for three commissions and was not selected. He fails to note that his wife was appointed to the Mayor's Award for Excellence in Architecture panel and the spouse of his campaign treasurer's was appointed to our new Budget Committee. I am sorry Larsen's feelings are hurt but that is not a reason to make a false claim and to insult the many other volunteers appointed.

When I ran for Council, and during my four years of service, I have recused myself from any discussions and decisions on the Wilder project. I have a relationship with a financial partner of the project and the law requires this. Larsen lives next to this project and dislikes it. He has attended numerous Council meeting to raise concerns about it. About 18 months ago, he spoke to the Council and said I should be recalled because of my legally required decision to leave the room (recusal). He wanted me to vote on his concerns. When he declared his campaign for Council he sent out a news release attacking my recusal; now he says that he must recuse himself if he is elected. He also says that even though he will recuse himself, he will stay in the meeting room to help his friends. While his compassion is admirable, his ignorance of the law is not.

In newspaper ads, Larsen screams scandal with his "follow the money" attack. He doesn't give a single example of where any contribution influenced a council vote. It is simply a smear. In the last reporting period for contributions, 99% of my contributions came from Orinda residents. On the other hand, Larsen received 95% of his contributions from folks outside of Orinda. I don't care if Larsen has "friends" from outside Orinda contributing. But if he is going to make a claim of corruption, he should back it up with specifics.

The voters of Orinda deserve better than Larsen's sleazy campaign.

Steve Glazer, Orinda
City Council Member

Steve Glazer for Orinda City Council,
61 La Espiral Road, Orinda, CA 94563

Gabriel Froymovich

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Committee Information:
Campaign for a Fiscally Responsible Lafayette, 3546 Wildwood Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549.

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Delectable Fresh Wild Salmon using a recipe imported from Canada

By Susie Ivanosch

This week I received an email from a Lamorinda reader, who enjoys Brussels sprouts and happens to be a good steward of our environment too!

Kathy Sylvester (of Orinda) wrote, "Your recipe in the Lamorinda Weekly looks wonderful ... one small suggestion, instead of using a baggie to incorporate the salt and oil with the sprouts, how about just a bowl or even using the cookie sheet and your hands? We are not going to get very far with improving the environment if we keep using plastic bags as disposable items."

I thought that was an excellent suggestion, and though I am somewhat addicted to the use of Ziploc baggies, I'm going to go get my hands greasy and give her

ideas a try.

Kathy also suggested that waxed paper bags can work for many of the things we normally use baggies for and they can go into your "green garbage." She gets the Waxtex brand of these bags at Diablo Foods.

Speaking of Diablo Foods, I went in the other day to pick up some fresh wild salmon because a friend of mine had described "the most wonderful" salmon dish she'd had while vacationing in Victoria, British Columbia.

She said it was pecan-crusted, served on a bed of Asian noodles, with a hint of maple and topped with green onions cut into very thin pieces that were baked to a crispy texture. So, naturally I asked if she'd inquired about the recipe and

she said, unfortunately it never occurred to her to do such a thing.

Since I make a regular habit of doing just such a thing, I asked her for the name and number of the restaurant so I could phone the chef myself. This dish sounded too good to pass up. By the time I got home, the recipe was waiting in my inbox. Now, that is service!

Thanks to Chef Lisa Hartery of Nautical Nellies Steak and Seafood House for sharing this fabulous dish!

NAUTICAL NELLIES STEAK AND SEAFOOD HOUSE
Telephone: (250) 380-2260
Fax: (250) 380-2261
Address:
1001 Wharf St. @ Broughton
Victoria, British Columbia V8W1T6

PECAN SALMON

SERVES 4
4 Salmon Fillets, boneless and skinless (6 oz. each)

HONEY BALSAMIC DRESSING

- 1 cup honey (or maple syrup)
- 1 cup balsamic vinegar
- ¼ cup canola oil
- 2 tablespoons sesame oil
- 1/2 bunch green onions, cut in 1/4" slices
- 2-3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon crushed chilies

PECAN CRUST

- 1 cup pecans, roasted
- 3 tablespoons butter, softened to room temp
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar (demerara preferred)

VEGETABLE NOODLE BASE

- 1 large bunch sui choy, (Napa cabbage) chopped
- 1/2 bunch green onions, cut on a bias
- 18 pieces snow peas, julienne
- 1 large tomato, small dice
- 1 package chow mein noodles (1 pound), cooked
- Lime, fried leeks and maple syrup for garnish

Method

Dressing

In a large mixing bowl combine the honey and the vinegar. Gradually whisk in the canola oil until well incorporated. Add all remaining ingredients and mix well. The dressing can be made ahead of time and will hold refrigerated for two weeks.

Crust

Toast the pecans in a moderate oven, 250-300 degrees for 5 minutes or until they start to release their oils. Remove from the oven and cool completely. Place the nuts in a food processor and pulse to rough chop. Add the butter and brown sugar. Pulse until mixture comes together, being careful not to make a paste. Heat oven to 425 degrees.

Salmon

Rub the fillets with a little olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Sear in a large, hot sauté pan, approximately 45 seconds to a minute per side, depending on the thickness of the salmon. Place seared salmon on a baking sheet, skin side down, and crumble the pecan crust over each fillet. Place the salmon in the oven for 5-7 minutes. (Again, time in the oven depends on the thickness of the fish, be careful to not overcook the salmon.) While the salmon is baking, return the searing pan to medium high heat. Add the first three vegetables and stir fry quickly. Add the diced tomatoes and toss to warm through. Pour the dressing into the pan, 2 ounces per serving, 1 cup total. Heat through. Add cooked and drained chow mein noodles and toss through. Divide among four bowls. Remove salmon from the oven. Place a piece of salmon on each dish. Garnish each dish with fresh lime, fried leeks and a drizzle of maple syrup.

*Susie's notes: In translating from metric to U.S. measurements, there may be a slight variation. To make the fried leeks, I cut them into julienne strips, tossed with marinade and scattered outside of the fish while baking. They turned out crispy and were perfect as a garnish atop the fish. I also used about half the amount of maple syrup/honey called for in the marinade along with a teaspoon of soy sauce.

This recipe is available on our web site. Go to: www.lamorindaweekly.com
Susie can be reached at susiven@gmail.com



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10 Ways to Lose Weight During the Holidays

By Tsingis

As the days shorten and weather becomes cooler, there is a natural tendency, probably borne of mammalian instinct, to hibernate slightly, eat more and spend less time outdoors. It also happens to be holiday time, which encourages the same set of activities, all of which can cause weight gain. How can you beat the holiday weight gain blues? We have some research-based suggestions for success:

- 1) Plan Your Indulgences - Eat before going to a party. Just a small balanced, healthy snack will leave room for the party food. With stabilized energy, it's easier to not overeat.
- 2) Take small portions of what you most want to eat - and skip the lesser quality foods. Serve yourself a small amount of the higher calorie foods that you crave on that buffet table, along with plenty of vegetables and fruits. Or, given the choice between a candy bar or a high quality chocolate, go for the good stuff (just less of it).
- 3) Do Not Skip Meals - The usual party strategy is to not eat much until that evening's event. The resultant low blood sugar level causes the liver to dip into muscle stores for energy. That evening, overeating occurs due to hunger, and the liver stores the excess intake as fat. (This is also called the "Sumo wrestler's diet," because as you guessed it, this

- type of eating causes weight gain). Eating every 4 hours keeps hunger and cravings at bay.
- 4) Eat more slowly - The brain communicates satiation to the stomach if given the chance. Most Americans have finished a meal and cleared the table before those signals (which take about 20 minutes) have been sent.
- 5) Learn when to stop eating - French women use this as their dieting strategy, and it works. Most people fill their plates to an already-accustomed level, and then eat what they served themselves. The French either under-serve themselves food, and/or deliberately leave food on their plate. Hence, they eat the foods they like, but small portions of them (they also interact a lot during a meal, which slows down their eating speed).
- 6) Hide the food - In his book "Mindless Eating", researcher Brian Wansink found that leaving snacks out in the open caused 71% more consumption of those snacks! Apparently visual clues stimulate the brain's hunger center, creating the "See-Food" diet. Every time we see food, we have to decide whether or not we want to eat it. Out of sight, out of mind, holds true here.
- 7) Use small plates and bowls - Wansink's research lab tested the effect of bowl size on consumption, and discov-

- ered that people using large server ware ate up to 59% more than those using smaller dishes and bowls. Large server ware makes regular portions look so small that it's natural to compensate by overfilling and hence, overeating. One of their studies found that even masters-level nutrition grad students (who'd attended many lectures on bowl size and increased consumption), unconsciously overate when exposed to high volumes of food. Set your table for reasonable-sized eating, and it will happen.
- 8) Stay hydrated - Have you ever had a craving for ice cream, when you were really only thirsty? Dehydration may activate both the thirst and hunger centers of the brain, since natural foods such as fruits and vegetables contain a fair amount of water. Drink water, stay thinner.
- 9) Drink from taller glasses - Similar to food, beverages trick the eye depending on what they are served in. Think tall, thin glasses. A diet camp's experiment found that campers who were allowed to pour their drinks into short, wide glasses poured 74% more than their tall-glass buddies. The brain via the eye, measures the volume of what one is to consume. A tall glass tricks the eye, giving the impression of a higher volume. Bartenders know this and use it to their advantage; so can you.

- 10) Stay active - Exercising early in the morning tends to result in the most success. If you can, find a buddy to whom you commit meeting 4 - 5 times weekly, and stick with it. A 1 hour walk is an ideal way to get fresh air, some vitamin D on the skin, improve circulation and energy, and prevent weight gain.
- It's much easier to avoid gaining those holiday 5 pounds than to take them off next year. At Lamorinda Nutrition we help people stay on track with good nutrition and long term health goals through the holidays. We're offering a 10% discount on a new patient first appointment if scheduled before December 1st. Call us at (925) 254-1080 for an appointment.



Dr. Theresa Tsingis, D.C., M.S., maintains a nutrition practice at 89 Davis Rd., #180, Orinda. She specializes in weight loss, digestive and hormonal disorders, and children's nutrition. Dr. Tsingis can be reached at drtsingis@comcast.net or (925) 360-2729.

In the Back Yard

Digging Deep -Thanksgiving is Every Day

By Cynthia Brian



Begonias

Photos Cynthia Brian

"The more gratitude you show in life, the more you will have to be grateful for."

Cynthia Brian

Lamorinda is an area of great abundance, yet in these times of economic chaos we find ourselves complaining about the lack in our lives. Being human means that all of us, regardless of race, religion, economics, politics, or sex, will have difficult times and challenges to overcome. Because I'm a gardener, I find grace and gratitude in the dirt. My creative plan makes Thanksgiving every day, not just once a year. And of course, I encourage you to find happiness in nature as well.

Here's my plan. With our world in a state of despair, let's offer some humor, hope, and healing by planting bulbs for the brave! By planting bulbs now, we'll be putting the bloom on the gloom when the wicked weather of February and March roll around. After a long gray winter, you'll be glad that your gratitude for the bounty of the year had you donning your gardening gloves and trowel now.

Top Bulbs for Fall Planting:

Enrich your garden with the beauty and radiance of spring flowering bulbs that you plant in fall. The brightly colored flowers greet you each spring—a welcome sight after a long, gray winter. Most gardening experts agree that fall is the best time to plant spring flowering bulbs.

Here are some of my favorite bulbs:

1. Daffodil: These versatile bulbs are hardy in cold and warm climates. You don't even need a garden...daffodils grow great in pots and make excellent cut flowers.
2. Tulip: Treat yourself to a garden filled with tulips. They come in an array of colors, shapes, and sizes.

Group colors together for more impact. Tulips are also great in containers and work wonderfully intertwined with other annuals and perennials. Bulbs need to be chilled for four to six weeks prior to planting outdoors.

3. Freesia: These are magnificently scented bulbs arriving in a rainbow of colors. Their floppy flower stalks add to their charm. Deep water every 4 days.

4. Ranunculus: Cottage style garden flowers that have peony-like blooms are gorgeous in any planting situation. They need plenty of sun. You can extend the bloom time by deadheading the spent flowers.

5. Hyacinth: Dutch hyacinth smell as delicious as they look. These charming flowers appear delicate, but they are tough, surviving in a variety of conditions. Plant in sun or filtered shade.

6. Grape Hyacinth: These tiny hardy gems naturalize and look best planted in mass or used for edging.

7. Iris: Dutch irises make terrific cut flowers. They come in blue, purple, white, yellow, and mauve. They have a long blooming season, and need much as frost protection.

8. Anemone: These are colorful tubers, and come either as singles or doubles with a contrasting center color. They prefer cooler conditions in light shade and also like to be mulched.

9. Crocus: Winter is nearing its end when you see these mighty blooms push through the ground to reveal their beauty. Only a few inches high, they are perfect compliments to container gardens with the other bulbs. Crocus arrive in a variety of rich colors including blues, violets, yellows and whites and are usually the first to show off their charm in Lamorinda gardens.

10. Allium: A member of the onion family, most allium bloom in late spring or early summer with spherical blossoms that are striking and hardy.

11. Lily: Planted now, lilies offer large fragrant blooms on tall stalks in late spring or summer.

Naturalizing bulbs, which bloom year after year and spread throughout your landscape, benefit from a bulb fertilizing at planting time. Non-naturalizing bulbs are not as picky. Many gardeners plant their bulbs while adding blood or bone meal to the soil, however, I have found that this only attracts our masked faced friends—the raccoons. When I first moved to this area I always added meal while planting bulbs only to wake up the following morning to a scene of "keep your eye on the bulb" as all my hard work lay atop the ground!

Bulb Planting Technique

"It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer."

Albert Einstein-1879-1955, Physicist

Planting bulbs is not rocket science, but it does take time and patience! Every year I plant hundreds, sometimes thousands of bulbs, always feeling like Einstein because I hung in there, despite our challenging clay! Patience is a virtue. There are many tools that make planting bulbs a bit easier. Whatever works for you is the best tool to use. Trowels are great if your soil is not too compacted and you can dig to the required depth. Many trowels actually are marked with inches. Augers are powered by a drill and are great in our hard clay soil. They easily penetrate untilled dirt and are super to maneuver in a mature garden where plants are crowded. Bulb planters take the strain out of planting bulbs. There are foot planters for hard soil and hand planters for looser soil. Over the years I have purchased and tried them all. I must admit, I am back to my handy hard working trowel. With my constant supply of chicken manure and compost pile scraps, the dirt is slowly becoming rich and fertile. Whichever tool you decide to use, till the soil a bit to loosen it. Even if you are a beginning gardener, planting a bouquet of bulbs will make you shine like a real pro, lift your spirits, and help you believe that all is well in the world! Voila! Blossoms for the brave.



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CYNTHIA'S DIGGING DEEP GARDENING GUIDE FOR NOVEMBER

"Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some." Charles Dickens, 1812-1870, Novelist

Thanksgiving is nigh. Pumpkins and scarecrows decorate our yards. An old wheelbarrow filled with an assortment of bright begonias brightens a barren corner. We give thanks for the bounty of our beautiful gardens, our wide-open spaces, community camaraderie, and the benevolence of family and friends. As we celebrate November, we must still prepare for the dormant season ahead.



- CLEAN UP any leaves or weeds left over from summer annuals and vegetables. Put all your debris into a compost pile. Cleaning up now will prevent the population of snails, earwigs, and sow bugs from expanding.
- FERTILIZE your annuals and vegetables with fertilizers high in nitrogen. Lawns need their second application now. Water well.
- PLANT ground covers, trees with fall color, and shrubs. Nurseries boast a wide variety of perennials such as columbine, carnations, coral bells, and chrysanthemums which can be planted from six packs.
- BULBS are usually ready to be planted now. Chill tulips and hyacinths for 4-6 weeks before planting.
- DEADHEAD your roses regularly to maintain blossoms and fragrance until January. If you prefer, allow the rose hips to grace your bushes with their vibrant colors and vitamin C for your tea.
- SEEDS for hardy annuals such as sweet alyssum, bachelor button, and forget-me-not's can be sown now.
- DIVIDE perennials and separate overgrown clumps. Plant elsewhere or share with a friend.
- SOW garlic and onion bulbs now for those great dinners you are planning to cook! There must be a bit of the Mediterranean culture in all of us!
- COLLECT dried grasses, pods, willows, branches, and other natural materials for a cornucopia of autumn arrangements.
- CREATE glorious fall hued floral arrangements with the firecracker colors of roses, gerbera, berries, and reeds.
- VEGETABLES such as broccoli, beets, carrots, lettuce, peas, turnips, and spinach can be planted by seed.
- HARVEST your pumpkins, squash, apples, walnuts, and tangerines. Make sure to save some for holiday décor.
- ENJOY the fall foliage! Persimmons, pomegranates, and guava trees are now showcasing their precious fruits. Savor the colors in anticipation for the juiciness to come next month.
- BE grateful for your garden- large, small, or the potted plant in the window, everyone is enriched by nature. Take time to give thanks for the little things every day, not just once a year. Be grateful for what you have. Having an attitude of gratitude makes every moment shine brightly.

Everyday is Thanksgiving Day when you live, learn, laugh, and love in the moment. Thanksgiving is today. Share the abundance. Wishing everyone a very happy, healthy, and delicious Turkey Day!

May the sun shine in your garden and the stars in your heart!

Happy Gardening to you

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SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



Women's Gaels Show Great Promise

By Mikaela Cowles



Jontelle Smith in last year's Fresno play Photo Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's women's basketball team looks forward to a promising season. With a team stacked in experienced returnees and talented newcomers, head coach Paul Thomas has high expectations.

Despite going from a 14-14 season in 2007 to a 15-17 record in 2008, Thomas said the Gaels had a more successful season than the previous one, finishing with an RPI of 127. Saint Mary's raised their Rating Percentage Index by 67 points, making their improvement the second highest increase in the West Coast Conference and one of the highest in Division I women's basketball.

The Gaels also broke an im-

portant streak during the 2007-2008 season, as they beat Loyola Marymount 71-67 in the conference tournament. This win advanced the Gaels to the second round of the WCC Tournament for the first time in seven years.

Despite the loss of seniors Serena Benavente, Lauren Shaughnessy and Mikaela Cowles, the Gaels return with experienced leading scorer Jontelle Smith, freshman sensation Louella Tomlinson and crafty fifth year Maija Lahde.

Smith broke SMC's all time record for three-pointers scored in a career last year, totaling 189, as well as the record for three-pointers made in a season, finishing with 84. Thomas said he has seen incredible

maturity and growth not only in Smith's game, but also her leadership, and he is confident that she will bring big things to the team.

As a freshman, Tomlinson broke the NCAA Division I record for blocks in a season with 156. Averaging 12.8 points, 6.3 rebounds and 4.8 blocks per game, Tomlinson returns stronger and with the experience of a season under her belt.

Saint Mary's also looks to incorporate the freshman class right away. Thomas is pleased with their competitive spirit and love for the game. He says they bring "important tangibles, such as versatility."

Keep an eye out for point guard Alex Carbonel of American High School who comes in with an average of 27 points and 6.5 assists per game. Also on the court this year will be local favorite Katie Batlin from Miramonte High School.

With a lengthier lineup and another year to learn Thomas's Freak Defense, he is confident that his weapon of choice will be ready for the upcoming season. The fast paced, full court defense is not only hard to understand and learn, but is also extremely hard to beat when implemented correctly.

Thomas says the success of Freak will depend upon two main factors. First, he says, "it doesn't matter what offense or defense, coaches need to adjust to the personnel's skills." Second is "trust." He believes Freak will work well with his roster and that the trust will be there this year to bring success.

Check out the Gaels in action at their season opener Sunday, Nov. 9, at 4 pm in McKeon Pavilion when they face off against San Francisco State.

Gaels Lose Heartbreaker to Hilltoppers

By Kevin D. Shallat

The Saint Mary's women's volleyball team got off to an impressive start this year. The Gaels have compiled a 13-4 overall record, with a 3-1 record in the West Coast Conference. Their one loss in league was against a nationally ranked Pepperdine team.

On Thursday, Oct. 16, the Gaels looked to continue their hot streak as they hosted the University of San Francisco. The Dons, or Hilltoppers, as they are affectionately called, came in with an identical 13-4 overall record, boasting a 3-0 record in league play. The Gaels survived a slow start to take a 2-1 set lead, only to lose the fifth set tie-breaker 12-15. With the loss, the Gaels move to 13-5, with a 3-2 record in league play.

The Gaels kept the score close in the first set despite a few misfires on offense. San Francisco's Darcy Carroll made a few key plays for the Dons to put them back ahead each time the Gaels evened up the score. After taking a 23-20 lead, the Dons looked to take the first set with ease.

However, Megan York and Shannon Lowell had other ideas for the Gaels, as they cut the San Francisco lead to 23-22. Unfortunately, Saint Mary's was unable to sustain their comeback bid, and they dropped the first set 22-25.

The Gaels made some real progress in the next two sets, as they truly played inspirational volleyball. Setter Kapua Kamana'o went from 12 sets in the first set to 18 sets in the second. After surviving the best rally of the match in the second set, something seemed to click for the Gaels, and their confidence level appeared to rise. Nevertheless, the Gaels would again find themselves down at the end of the second set.

Saint Mary's trailed 21-23 before Shannon Lowell took over for the Gaels. Lowell had back to back kills followed by a service ace to help propel the Gaels into a 1-1 tie in sets, taking the second set 27-25.

Saint Mary's jumped out to a 16-8 lead in the third set, largely due to the heads up play by York. York normally relies on her power

to assert her dominance, but she evolved her game into a more strategic, finesse game in this match. She had more delayed tip shots in this game than any other in recent memory. Her strategy to utilize location over power appeared to pay off, and the Gaels took the third set 25-17 after Megan Burton blocked the final shot by USF.

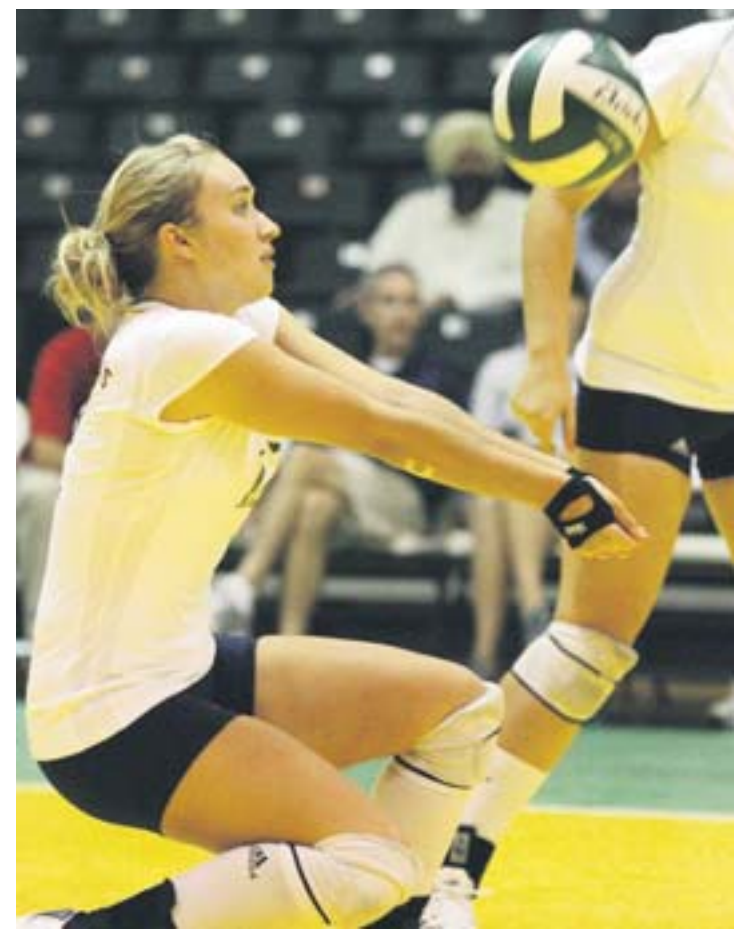
There were no glaring errors by either team in the last two sets. USF secured a two point lead at the right time, forcing a fifth set tie-breaker after winning the fourth set 28-26. The Dons got the good rolls at the right time, and they walked away with a big league road win, outlasting the Gaels 15-12 in the tie-breaker.

Middle blocker Megan Burton Middle blocker Shannon Lowell Setter Kapua Kamana'o Middle blocker Megan Burton Libero Alita Fisher Outside hitter Taylor Groess Head Coach Rob Browning

Catch the next Gaels game by checking the schedule online at: www.SMCGaels.com



Setter Kapua Kamana'o (14) Photo Tod Fierner



Libero Alita Fisher (12) Photo Tod Fierner

Can You Hit Off a Kid?

(Information submitted by Stuart Gruendi)



Tyler Bartis at bat Photo submitted

On Friday, November 7, the Lamorinda Baseball Academy Rangers challenge you to try to hit off of one of the strongest pitching staffs in 12U Northern California travel baseball. At the same time, you will help the team raise money for its efforts to send its Championship team to Cooperstown Dreams Park National Invitational Tournament in the summer of 2009.

The Rangers is a competitive, community-based baseball team that is currently one of the top-ranked 12U Fall Baseball teams in

Northern California. LBA (or "the Academy,") consists of seven different teams representing five different age groups. The Academy was formed in order to foster a high level of training and skills development for each player involved. The goal is to hone their love and skill of the game.

"This is our second year with the Lamorinda Baseball Academy, which has been awesome for our 12 year old son Tyler. He loves to travel to tournaments and pitch in clutch situations and close in big games. He has a lot more experi-

ence now than when he was younger, and I am worried that I won't even be able to get a hit off of him," says Steve Bartis of Moraga.

Bartis' son Tyler talks about his experience with LBA: "I love playing for the LBA Rangers because it gives me a chance to deal with a lot of pressure when I pitch in big games, while also being able to hang out and make jokes with my friends. Going to Cooperstown, New York, to play baseball has been a dream of mine since I was eight years old, and I am getting closer to fulfilling that dream with the Rangers."

To help Tyler and his teammates go to Cooperstown, come to Buckeye Fields, 711 St. Mary's Road, between 4:00 and 6:00 on November 7. \$20/at bat - Get a hit and make it to 1st base--Win a prize! This event is sponsored by All Out Baseball of Pleasant Hill. For more information and to sign up contact Stuart Gruendi, 510-682-6108, stuart@bay-rock.com.

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

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SMC Gaels Home and Local Games

Fri, Oct 31	All Day	Sun, Nov 9	2:00 PM
Men's Tennis		Men's Soccer	
Gael Classic	Moraga	San Francisco * Saint Mary's Stadium	
Sat, Nov 1	All Day	Sun, Nov 9	4:00 PM
Men's Tennis		Women's Basketball	
Gael Classic	Moraga	San Francisco State	Moraga
Sun, Nov 2	All Day	Fri, Nov 14	2:00 PM
Men's Tennis		Men's Soccer	
Gael Classic	Moraga	Portland * Saint Mary's Stadium	
Sun, Nov 2	1:00 PM	Fri, Nov 14	7:05 PM
Women's Soccer		Men's Basketball	
Pepperdine	Saint Mary's Stadium	Seattle Pacific	McKeon Pavilion
Thu, Nov 6	7:00 PM	Sun, Nov 16	1:00 PM
Women's Volleyball		Men's Soccer	
Portland	Moraga	Gonzaga * Saint Mary's Stadium	
Fri, Nov 7	7:05	Mon, Nov 17	11:00 PM
Women's Basketball		Men's Basketball	
Showtime Basketball	Moraga	Fresno State	McKeon Pavilion
Sat, Nov 8	1:00 PM		
Women's Volleyball			
Gonzaga *	Moraga		

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SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Miramonte Outplays Acalanes

By Guy Dotan



Quarterback Taylor Caldwell (8)

In a battle between two fierce Lamorinda rivals, the Matadors were able to put down the Dons on Oct. 24 thanks to an explosive first half and shut down defense in the second half. This win puts Miramonte in sole possession of third place in DFAL with a 5-2 record, one game behind Campolindo and Las Lomas' 6-1. The loss dropped Acalanes to 2-5, fourth place, creating an even larger gap between the Dons and Matadors in the DFAL standings.

Miramonte came into Friday's game with a vengeance after losing to Campo in a tight 7-0 game the previous week. Acalanes, on the other hand, was looking to end their three-game losing streak. As if to make up for a lack of scoring in their previous games, both teams exploded for touchdowns in the first half.

The Dons struck first as kicker Nick Manning hit a field goal in the first quarter. However, the Dons never saw their team on top again for the rest of the game. Miramonte quarterback Conor Lowery led the Matador offense surges, throwing for multiple first half touchdowns to receivers Alex Epstein and James King. Even the running game was flowing for Miramonte, as Kevin Paulsen was the Matadors' main source of offense in the second half.

Despite a very slow start in the passing game for Acalanes—zero first half yards—Tyler Malley's running helped the Dons stay in contention. Malley rushed for 144 yards in the game, almost all of those coming in the first half.

The second half was a completely different game, as both defenses began to shut down the opposing offense. Neither team was

able to put up a third quarter point. A fourth quarter touchdown run by Paulsen ended the second half scoring drought. On the Dons' final possession, quarterback Tyler Caldwell made up for his slow start by leading the team on a downfield drive, culminating in a touchdown pass to Robert Mull. Lowery kneeled the ball after the ensuing kickoff for Miramonte, ending the game with a

final score of 31-17.

Acalanes defensive end and junior Trevor La Honta believed that his team's "biggest problem on Friday was that they didn't execute in the spots when they needed big plays." As for the rest of the season, La Honta claimed that, "we just need to be prepared to eliminate our mistakes and play our game, not our opponent's."

Photo Doug Kohlen



Miramonte quarterback Conor Lowery (2)

Photo Doug Kohlen

It's a Threepat for Campo

By Alex Crook



Photo Doug Kohlen

On Friday, Oct. 17, came that time of year again – Campolindo vs. Miramonte football. In a low scoring 7-0 win, the Cougars pushed their streak to three straight wins over the Matadors.

In the first, the Matadors slowly progressed down the field into Cougar territory. First, a risky quarterback sneak on fourth down gave the Mats a first down at their own 46. After a 17-yard strike to tight end Alex Epstein, Miramonte got a first down at Campo's 26.

Late in the first, the Mats were threatening inside the Campo 5 down to the Cougars' goal line. On fourth and goal with 2:50 left, the Campo defensive line pushed their way to a goal line stand and kept the game scoreless. If the Mats had scored, this game might have gone into overtime.

Early in the second, Tyler Rittenhour recovered a Matador fumble and the Cougars took over at their own 39. On the ensuing Matador possession, a Taylor Giles sack for the Cougars led to a 3 and out for Miramonte. There was no score in the second either, so both teams went to the break scoreless.

To start the second half, a 15-yard pass interference call gave Campo a first down at their 35-yard line after a Matador defender roughed it up with Cougar wide receiver Anthony Fadelli. With 9:40

remaining in the third, Tommy Stephens hit Garrett Holmes with a 42-yard beauty for the only score of the night. Ben Rudolph's PAT lit up the scoreboard, reading 7-0 Campo.

Late in the final quarter, the Cougars faced a fourth and 8 from the Mats' 8. Rudolph's 25-yard field goal was tipped at the line and bounced off the crossbar back into the end zone, and the score stayed 7-0.

Following the missed field goal, Miramonte looked to take advantage of an opportunity to tie the game and possibly force overtime. But with 2:36 left, Campo

safety Tyler Rittenhour intercepted a Miramonte pass and sealed the win for the Cougars, who at that point just juiced the clock.

Campo fans started to rush the field after the victory, not realizing that there were still two seconds on the clock, so everyone was forced to wait on the sidelines for those two seconds. When the clock read triple zero, Cougar faithful flooded the field again. It was a total madhouse.

With the win, Campo improves to 5-1 on the year, and the Mats drop to 4-2.



Sammy Cohen (69), Tommy Stephens (8)

Photo Doug Kohlen



Mats quarterback John Vaccaro (12)

Photo Doug Kohlen

Send sports stories and ideas to:

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