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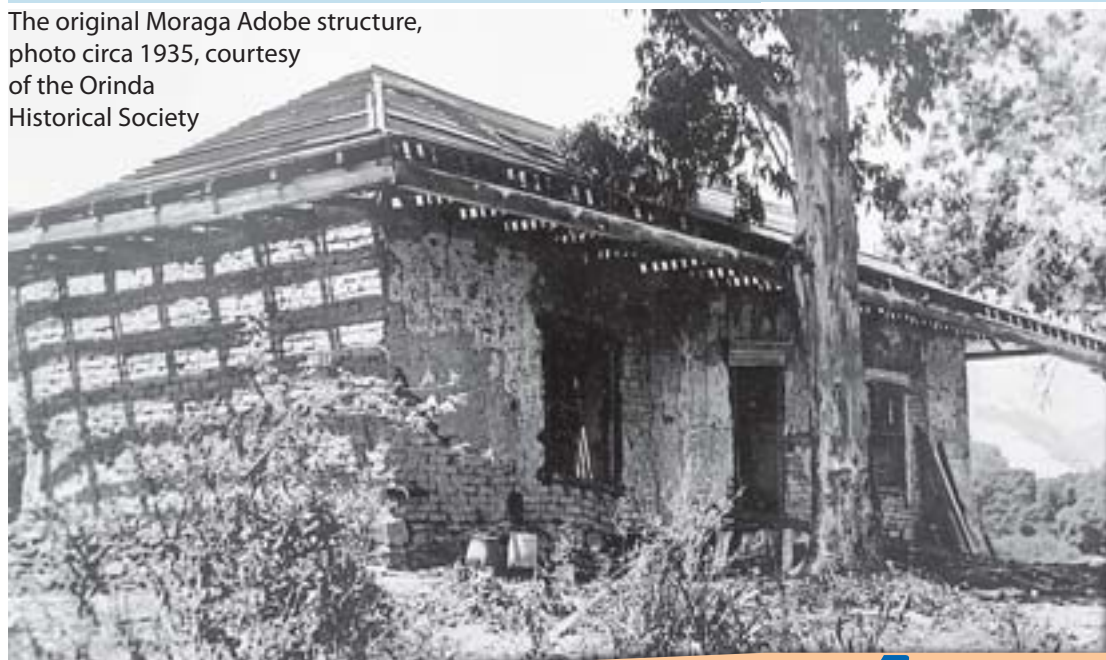
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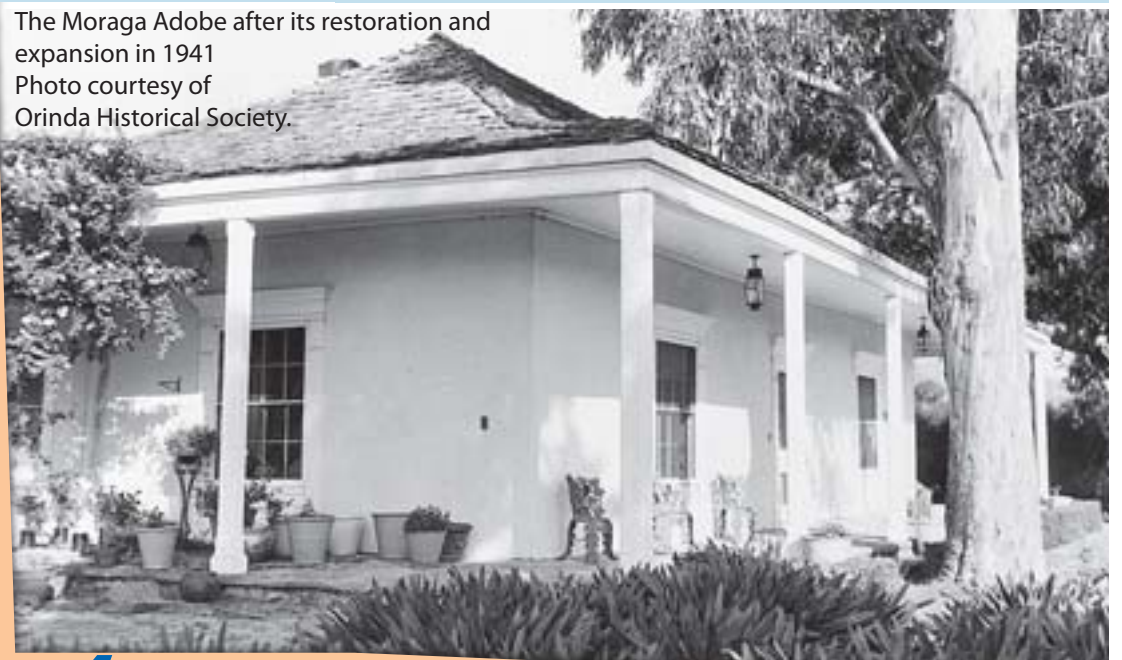
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Wednesday, February 18, 2009

The original Moraga Adobe structure, photo circa 1935, courtesy of the Orinda Historical Society



The Moraga Adobe after its restoration and expansion in 1941. Photo courtesy of Orinda Historical Society.



## Moraga Adobe



Exterior view of the Moraga Adobe, October 2008

Photo Kent Long



Exterior view of the Moraga Adobe, January 2009

Photo Teresa Long

# The Joaquin Moraga Adobe: A Local Historic Treasure

By Andrea A. Firth

If Joaquin Moraga's influence was measured by the presence of his name around Lamorinda, one could not deny that Joaquin, an early settler of the ranch lands that now comprise parts of Moraga and Orinda, had a significant impact on the area. Moraga's name graces a town, a valley, two main arteries—Moraga Way and Moraga Road, a school district, a middle school, a library and a hardware store, to name just a few. Yet, the most historically

significant application of Moraga's name may be on a small ranch-style home set on knoll above Del Rey Elementary School—the Joaquin Moraga Adobe.

Following receipt of a land grant in 1841, Joaquin Moraga built the three-room home which still sits on its perch in Orinda overlooking its neighbor Moraga to the south. "It's the oldest adobe in the entire East Bay area. It may even be the oldest residence," states Kent Long, archivist for the Orinda

Historical Society. Growing up in the El Toyonal neighborhood of Orinda, Long knew of the adobe's existence but had never seen the property. He recently had the opportunity to view the adobe inside and out as part of a group of locals invited to tour the residence by the new owner of the 20-acre parcel of land on which the (approximately) 165-year old home is located.

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## LAMORINDA WEEKLY

this week

**Orinda Task Force Unveils Plan to Streamline Planning** **Page 4**

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## Taxes in California's State Budget Hit Hard

(Editor's note: At press time on Monday the California state legislature had not voted on the proposed budget.)

By Jennifer Wake

There are few winners in California's state budget, which seeks to wipe a more than \$40 billion deficit from its books. While some speculate that sweeping cuts in education, healthcare, and other services might be offset by money from the federal stimulus plan, a variety of new taxes will likely touch everyone.

The taxes affecting vehicle licensing and taxes at the pump are causing worry among local independent business owners – especially those who rely on vehicles to conduct their business.

Moraga resident Mike Kelley, owner of Kelley Construction, says the increased gas excise tax of 12 cents per gallon will be tough in this economy.

"We use a lot of money on fuel," Kelley said. "The timing is very difficult, especially with independent business owners. People are tightening belts. Additional costs make it difficult for independent business owners to survive. It's a difficult situation."

Governor's Schwarzenegger's budget proposal last week included the extension of sales tax to services including veterinarian visits, appliance repair, and auto repair. This caused an outcry from professional organizations and local business owners, including Orinda Motors owner Allen Pennebaker, who is the former president of the Automotive Service Councils of California (ASCCA).

Pennebaker believes regressive taxes like those in the budget unfairly burden lower- and middle-income citizens.

... continued on page 11

## In Case of Emergency, Dial ???

The best course of action in any type of emergency is to dial 911 from a land line; but what if you only have a cell phone? Orinda: 925-284-5010; Lafayette: 925-284-5010; Moraga: 925-228-8282 (284-5010 also works from Moraga); alternate number for all Lamorinda communities: 925-646-2441; alternate number for a fire or medical emergency: 925-933-1313. Please see article for details.

By Lee Borrowman

Two weeks ago, we received a disturbing email from a reader, Ashley Coates: "Last night, a man in my exercise class at the Lafayette Community Center suffered a life-threatening medical crisis. We tried to call 911 on cell phones but could not get through. Out of all the people in class, no one knew the quickest way to reach our local dispatchers rather than the CHP dispatch that gets 911 calls from cell phones. I hope you will research the issue of how to contact emergency services when you have a choice between land line vs. cell phone, and how to contact our local emergency services when all you have is a cell phone." Coates says she contacted us "in the hope of getting information to as many people as possible."

Sadly the victim, a 56-year old husband and father of two young boys, who was described as an avid fisherman and exercise fanatic who always had a friendly smile and greeting, died that night.

As it turned out, the answer to the question "Who Do You Call?" is not as simple as one might hope.

All of Lamorinda's emergency responders agree: The best course of action in any type of emergency is to dial 911 from a land line. Moraga's Interim Chief of Police Bob Priebe explains why: "A land line is the preferred method of communication in an emergency because it automatically displays where the call is originated and allows help to be sent to that location, even if the caller is unable to speak."

Dialing 911 from a cell phone is strongly discouraged by all of Lamorinda's emergency responders. Priebe lays it out: "When a cell phone is the only available device, calling 9-1-1 can (cause a delay of) several minutes because it is received by a California Highway Patrol (CHP) office, then the call has to be transferred to the correct responding agency."

... continued on page 9

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# Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

# Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, February 23	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, February 19	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, February 24	
Senior Services	3:30pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, February 26	
City of Lafayette:	
http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us	
Chamber of Commerce:	
http://www.lafayettechamber.org	



### Wreckless Driving

1/29/09 – A Lafayette man was pulled over on Mt. Diablo Boulevard after police witnessed his vehicle driving on the shoulder of the road, weaving in the lane of traffic and crossing the lane divider twice. The suspect was arrested and released to his wife.

### False Tags, Robbery and Meth

2/1/09 – A Lafayette Police Officer spotted the suspect sitting in a parked car in a dark secluded area on the St. Stephen's overpass. When police ran the car's vehicle tags, they learned the tags were false. The suspect told police that he was on probation. The suspect was wanted on an armed robbery charge in Alameda County. Police asked the suspect to step out of the vehicle so they could perform a search. When the suspect exited the car, he began reaching for his rear waistband with his right hand. Police found the suspect was holding suspected methamphetamine and performed a NIK test. The test was positive and the suspect was arrested and taken into custody. This guy certainly has a well-rounded rap sheet.

### Bicycle Thief

2/4/09 – An environmentally friendly Blackhawk Road resident rode his bike to a store on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. The bike owner leaned his bike against a store window and went inside. When he returned 45 minutes later, the \$300 Giant Sedona was missing. An anonymous person told him a male wearing a black hat and black pants with tattoos on his arms stole the bike.

### Driving Without a License

2/5/09 – Lafayette Police stopped a vehicle on Highway 24 near Acalanes Road for a routine traffic stop. The stop resulted in yet another case of someone driving without a license. The suspect was cited and released at the scene. A shocking reminder: It is illegal to operate a vehicle without a license. How is it that so many people don't seem to know this?



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Discover the Pride of Lafayette

## Open Invitation to Downtown Strategy Community Workshop

By Cathy Tyson

Curious residents who would like to provide input on the Downtown Strategy and Specific Plan, or just want to take a closer look, should plan on attending the final Community Workshop scheduled for Wednesday, February 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Veterans Memorial Building. For those who can't make it, comments are welcome at [amerideth@love-lafayette.org](mailto:amerideth@love-lafayette.org).

The process started back in February of 2007. There have

been 17, count 'em, public Advisory Committee meetings, two Community Workshops, stakeholder interviews and a survey of 11,000 residences and business according to Ann Merideth, Community Development Director. "The result is a Draft Strategy and Specific Plan that maintains Lafayette's unique character while recognizing that we need to plan a sustainable downtown that meets the community's future needs," she said.

This vision for downtown Lafayette was prepared with the help of urban consultants Wallace, Roberts and Todd to provide a framework for future growth along with design guidance. All of their recommendations are based upon input gathered from the surveys, workshops and interviews along with the specific recommendations of the Advisory Committee. One of the biggest challenges has been creating a *community* vision; what a young family might like to see is

not the same as what a single older empty nester might like to see.

Key recommendations include: a series of downtown districts, a strong downtown core, parks and creek greenways, improved streetscapes and parking, and, finally, recommendations on private development, "to encourage market-feasible mixed use and residential infill but preserve the sense of place and small town charm that is so important to Lafayette's identity," according to

the Executive Summary posted on the city website.

To view the complete plan, go to [www.lovelafayette.org](http://www.lovelafayette.org)

The Board of the Lafayette Homeowners Council strongly encourages participation, and in a recent open letter described the plan as, "A document that will have critical impacts upon our city for decades to come. Members have found aspects of this plan that they like and others that they do not."

## Holt House Officially Denied – For Now

### Last minute drama at City Council meeting

By Cathy Tyson



View of Lot 66 from Sierra Vista Way, house site would have been on the right side of Sessions Road Photo Cathy Tyson

Just before the February ninth City Council meeting which would have finalized the denial of former Planning Commissioner Dick Holt's building application, his attorney requested that the resolution be removed from the consent calendar. What had seemed like a done deal to opponents was now up in the air. The usual procedure is

that a decision is made by the Council, who direct staff to return with a resolution at the following meeting – in this case, on February ninth. At that meeting, the matter was opened up to discussion, but ultimately the Council adopted the denial resolution.

Neighbors who had been following the many twists and turns of

this controversial application to develop Lot 66 were once again incensed. C.W. Chung, President of the Northridge Park Home Owners Association said, "We are fed up with this. We would like to reject this once and for all." He wasn't the only one expressing his displeasure, many neighbors offered comments encouraging the Council to deny the application.

"Once again I am appalled at the arrogance and continued defiance shown by Mr. Holt and his representative with respect to this request. By my count, this is the sixth time that this scandalous proposal has been rebuffed or denied by representatives of the City of Lafayette," said Jeff Harmon in a letter to the City Council.

In the end, the Council did deny the appeal of Holt for a request for a hillside development permit for a home at the corner of Sessions Road and Sierra Vista Way.

David Bowie, attorney for Holt noted, "It must be perfectly clear that this matter is not going away," suggesting they will submit a new application at some point.

## Lafayette's State of the City

By Cathy Tyson

Mayor Don Tatzin, in his State of the City speech at the Businessperson of the Year dinner on January 30, recalled when he was a first time mayor back in 1987. He noted that Lafayette has changed dramatically since then for the better, especially when compared to the county, the state and the federal government. A few examples of improvements include a more vibrant downtown, pedestrian-oriented development and dramatic improvement in the condition of roads and drains, and community spirit.

"The Council's priorities focus on the long-term while recognizing the short-term challenges we are likely to face. During the past several years we started many

projects and finished most of them," he said.

### Some of the Mayor's goals for 2009 are:

- Finish and open the Library
- Adopt the downtown Strategic Plan
- Fix more failed roads and reduce the backlog
- Implement the Financial Review Committee's recommendations
- Decide on continuing with the County Sheriff for police services or take another path
- Look for opportunities to acquire sites in good locations for public parking
- Provide a local stimulus package to help our businesses

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## City seeks volunteers for participation on the new City Charter and Communications Committee



**The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to serve on a newly approved City Charter and Communications Committee.**

This new five to seven-member committee will have two tasks, the first is to investigate the pros and cons of becoming a charter city and make a recommendation to the City Council on whether Lafayette should take this step. Existing nearby cities which operate under charters include Piedmont and San Ramon.

The committee's second task is to use the city charter investigation as a case study to develop more effective ways for the city to communicate with its residents and businesses. It is hoped that the methods of communication developed in this effort could be adapted to improve all future communication by the city with its constituents; on a wide variety of issues.

The committee will be asked to deliver its report regarding becoming a charter city in September 2009. Work related to communicating the findings and recommendations to residents may take longer.

Members of the committee will be appointed by the City Council on the basis of education, community involvement, training and experience in the fields of city government, communications, public outreach, finance, and related fields.

Questions regarding the committee may be directed to the Mayor at [DTatzin@lovelafayette.org](mailto:DTatzin@lovelafayette.org).

Individuals interested in this volunteer position may obtain an application from

The City's website at [www.ci.lafayette.ca.us](http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us) or  
City of Lafayette Offices  
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 210 or

Call the City's Clerks Office at (925) 284-1968 and an application will be mailed. Completed applications must be received by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 6, 2009.

**The Lafayette City Council is also soliciting applicants to serve on a newly approved City Open Space Committee.**



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# Lamorinda Community

# Moraga

- Calendar**
- Town Council 7:30pm**  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School  
1010 Camino Pablo  
Wednesday, February 25
  - Planning Comm. 7:30pm**  
Hacienda, La Sala Room  
2100 Donald Drive  
Monday, March 2
  - Design Review 7:30pm**  
Hacienda, La Sala Room  
2100 Donald Drive  
Monday, February 23
  - Park & Rec 7:30pm**  
Hacienda, Mosaic Room  
2100 Donald Drive  
Tuesday, March 17
  - Liaison 8:00am**  
Fire Station  
1280 Moraga Way  
Friday, March 13
  - Town of Moraga online:**  
<http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us>
  - Chamber of Commerce:**  
<http://www.moragachamber.org>



Moraga Police Blotter will be back March 4.

**Please send storyideas to storydesk@lamorinda weekly.com**

## Planning Commission Discusses Palos Colorados

By Sophie Braccini

During the February 2nd meeting of the Planning Commission, the Commissioners had their plate stacked with a very tall order: approving the Precise Development Plan of the Palos Colorados project, a bite they decided was too big to chew in one meeting.

During the discussion with Lori Salamack, Moraga Planning Director, the Commissioners seemed surprised to realize that some decisions had already been made, during previous steps of the process, that were now tying their hands. In addition, a question was raised regarding whether several proposed secondary units could be counted by the Town towards its affordable housing requirement. Moragans may recall that the issue of affordable housing was a major component of last fall's debate between two competing land use initiatives.

The course that was embarked upon some 20 years ago should be in its final phase leading to the construction of 123 homes and possibly 30 secondary units on a piece of land being developed by the Richfield Development Corporation. The Precise Development Plan included the design plans of seven units that would have been approved if the Commission had agreed to it, allowing future homeowners to build these homes without having to submit their project to the Design Review Board.

The Commissioners were un-

certain of the magnitude of what was being asked of them that night. "What are we approving and not approving tonight?" asked Commissioner Allen Sayles.

Commissioner Lee Hays questioned the size of the homes that were included in the map, "62% of the homes are over 5000 square feet and, as you enter the development, eleven in a row have a second floor," he said, "we need staff to compare this development with the town's design guidelines before we make a decision."

"We were asked to approve a great deal in one meeting," said Margaret Goglia, Planning Commission Chair, "there was not enough information given by staff for us to make an informed decision at that time."

The Commissioners were particularly cautious having learned that one of their previous decisions had consequences that reached farther than they had anticipated. During the discussions, Richfield Development stated it had no obligation to comply with the Build it Green guidelines that the Town had passed. The vesting tentative map of the project had been approved prior to the adoption of the guidelines, thereby grandfathering the project.

Goglia said, "The fact that the developer will not have to consider the green building guidelines that the town has adopted was a surprise to us. ... continued on page 6

## ELENA HOOD GROUP PROUDLY PRESENTS:

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## Moraga Council Recognizes St. Mary's 80th Anniversary

By Sophie Braccini



Brother Ronald (center left) with the Moraga Town Council

(L to R): Mike Metcalf, Ken Chew, Dave Trotter, Karen Mendonca, Howard Harpham

Photo Tim Farley

During its February 12th meeting, the Moraga Town Council commended Saint Mary's College on 80 years of success and partnership, and recognized the contribution Saint Mary's College makes to the residents of Moraga.

Brother Ronald Gallagher, President of the College, received

the proclamation that highlights the many contributions of the college to life in Moraga, Contra Costa County and beyond.

Saint Mary's College opened on its current site in 1928. Originally, the Lasalian Liberal Arts Institution was founded in 1863 in San Francisco.

Saint Mary's is the largest

single employer in Moraga, retaining more than 1,000 full time non-student employees. The College brings more than 3,500 students to Moraga every year, with student purchasing power that contributes more than \$200,000 in local sales tax revenue which goes directly to the Moraga general fund.

## Artificial Turf on Moraga's Sports Fields?

By Sophie Braccini



Campolindo's synthetic field, by FieldTurf

Photo Sophie Braccini

Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram invites the Moraga community to an informational meeting on artificial turf on February 24th, at 6:30 p.m., at the Hacienda de las Flores (2100 Donald Drive). If the public expresses an interest, the Town will engage in further

discussions with the Moraga School District regarding the installation of artificial turf on school grounds as well as in some of the Town's parks.

"There are many arguments in favor of such a solution," explains Ingram, "once in place, the surface requires less maintenance,

less water, no pesticides or herbicides, and offers a surface that can be used year round." Ingram has invited two potential suppliers and Dave Humphrey, Acalanes Union High School District Director of Facilities and Construction, who has direct experience with artificial turf, to answer any questions the community might have.

"We have installed this type of surface at Acalanes, Campolindo, Las Lomas and Miramonte on their stadium athletic fields," explains Humphrey. "These fields are in constant use, year round from all the district needs and outside groups. Maintaining any field with such high usage is a challenge," he says. The school fields were set between 2002 and 2005, and according to Humphrey, "the fields continue to perform very well; they met our expectations and look great."

... continued on page 6



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-Sam Austin, Member

## Willow Spring Church

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3/8: "The 7 Habits Series", Habit 7

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- Mother/Son Dinner Dance 3/20
- Summer Camp information NOW available
- International Crepes, 2/24
- Asian Stir-Fries, 3/11

Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

Orinda

**Calendar**

**City Council** 7pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way  
Tuesday, March 3

**A Special Joint Meeting of the City Council and Planning Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 5:00pm in the Orinda Library Garden Room, 26 Orinda Way.**

**Planning Comm.** 7pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way  
Tuesday, February 24

**Mayor's Com. Liaison** 8:30am  
Community Room at City Hall  
22 Orinda Way  
Monday, March 2

**City of Orinda:**  
<http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us>  
Chamber of Commerce:  
<http://www.orindachamber.org>  
• local businesses  
• upcoming events

**ORINDA POLICE**

Bank Looter, 2/10/09 A 55-year-old white male entered the Bank of the West, but left precipitously after being addressed by a bank employee. The mystery fellow was followed from the bank and was seen changing his clothes before being contacted by Orinda police. A large kitchen knife and a pair of latex gloves were found in the vicinity. He had no explanation of his presence in the bank, but looking suspicious and lurking is not a crime.

Drunk in Public 2/5/09 Yes, it's actually illegal. Two men were noticed hanging out in front of Rite Aid, both displayed signs of intoxication - bloodshot eyes, odor of alcohol, slurred speech and unsteady gait. They were arrested.

Parking while stoned 2/5/09 A Livermore resident was contacted on Dalewood Drive, as a result of a suspicious vehicle incident. An officer contacted a woman sitting in the driver's seat with the engine running. According to the officer, she appeared confused and lost - a description that could be used for more than a couple drivers in town. However in her possession was a pipe commonly used to smoke drugs, at that point she admitted smoking crystal meth.

Vandalism 2/2/09 An unknown suspect(s) damaged the tires of a city vehicle and spray painted graffiti on city property. The suspects may have been a group of teenage skateboarders who had a confrontation with a city employee after he asked the youths to leave the park. Estimated damage \$1,000.



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Planning Task Force Presents Recommendations

**By Andrea A. Firth**  
Orinda's City Council and Planning Commission held a joint meeting on February 3rd to hear and discuss the recommendations of the Planning Process Review Task Force. About 30 interested residents were in attendance as the Task Force's three subcommittees outlined their suggestions to streamline planning in three areas: process, residential, and downtown development. Council members Amy Worth and Tom McCormick have facilitated the generation of the Task Force's 51 recommendations, which are the result of hundreds of meetings over the course of a full calendar year including several public workshops and are compiled in an inch-thick report. The goal of the Process Subcommittee was to streamline the planning and review

process to address residents' feedback that it is confusing and takes too long. Ninety percent of applications to the Planning Department are for single-family residences. To make the process easier for the applicants to understand and manage, the Task Force created a 15-page, color-coded guide complete with definitions, flowcharts, recommended steps, and estimated timing. One of the most interesting changes presented regarding residential development was the proposal for a Neighbor Opt-In process. For some modifications, if the applicant can obtain the consent of the surrounding neighbors, he can bypass the need for a Planning Commission hearing. The Residential Subcommittee also proposed modifications to planning

rules related to setbacks, the floor area ratio (FAR) [used to achieve a balance of the size of the house to the parcel], structure height on sloped properties, and tree management. Clark Wallace and Bruce Burrows presented the recommendations of the Downtown Subcommittee. The core element of the downtown plan was the infusion of housing to bring in more shoppers and create a pedestrian-oriented atmosphere for seniors and others. The subcommittee did not suggest expanding the perimeter of the downtown areas outward but has proposed moving upward by 20 feet to allow building heights to reach 55 feet, about four stories, in limited areas. Wallace noted that the PG&E towers in the Village present an obstacle to taller buildings but



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that the relocation of the towers required further study and was the work of another task force. Resident Ann O'Connell-Nye questioned the Task Force's plans for the Orinda Theater expressing her concern that the Theater be kept intact. "The Task Force is totally committed to the movie theater. We want that theater to be there forever," responded Burrows. Bill Judge, a former Planning Commission Member and Orinda Mayor, complimented

the Task Force on their work. "What's been put forward is a great effort." However, he cautioned that the Task Force's expert members do not necessarily represent the community, and he encouraged the Task Force to hold additional public workshops. Judge was also concerned about the proposal to change the floor area ratio guideline for residential development. "In my view the FAR has worked well. ... continued on page 7

Orinda in Action



Photo Andrea A. Firth

Mayor Sue Severson meets with Orinda residents and staff to set the plans in motion for Orinda in Action—a day of community service to be held on Saturday, April 18th. Co-sponsored by the Orinda association and the City, community groups and individuals are encouraged to volunteer to lend a hand to help to clean-up and beautify Orinda. Volunteer and project proposal forms are available at the city website (<http://www.cityoforinda.org>).

Download stories from  
<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com>  
(a pdf reader is required to view the pages.)

Charles Hill/Honey Hill/Miner Roads Poised for Makeover

**By Andrea A. Firth**  
The City of Orinda recently submitted an application to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for a \$690,000 pavement rehabilitation project for Charles Hill, Honey Hill, and Miner Roads from El Nido Ranch Road to Gardiner Court. If approved, the project will be funded through the federal economic stimulus bill. Orinda has a long list of high priority road rehabilitation projects, and the Charles Hill Road project was considered the best choice given the stringent criteria and time constraints associated with the federal funding. Qualified projects must have design complete in less than 30 days and be

ready to start construction within 90 days. The Charles Hill project was originally estimated to cost \$866,000, however, the City scaled back the project, which would have extended all the way to Tiger Tail Court, to fall within the Orinda's \$690,000 funding allocation. Under the federal stimulus package terms, jurisdictions that fail to meet the project criteria risk losing their funding allotments, and these monies may be redistributed to cities with projects that are shovel ready. The Orinda City Council strongly urged Staff to have projects ready to submit should further funding become available.



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# Life in LAMORINDA

## Budget Deficit for Moraga-Orinda Fire District

By Cathy Tyson

There's a \$1.2 million deficit in the operating fund. I would agree that's a problem," said Fire District Board Member John Wyro, echoing sentiments of his fellow board members at a recent mid-year budget review meeting. Not an insignificant sum, considering the total budget is \$19.1 million. The Board looked at expenses from \$1,350 for a new water heater for one of the stations, to county tax collection fees to grounds maintenance.

"Why do we pay for that?" said Frank Sperling, Director, regarding a mysterious increase in election expense that is currently being investigated. Other Board Members were equally concerned. "We have got to have some kind of contingency plan," said Pete Wilson. Although they went through the budget line by line, there were

no calls for mandatory reductions in anything, despite Board Member Fred Weil's comment, "every dollar that we can save, we should be saving."

It's a familiar story throughout the state, income is down, expenses are up. In the case of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, operating revenue comes almost entirely from the property taxes of Moraga and Orinda residents. Because of declining home values, property tax revenues have been adjusted downward, in addition, investment earnings have been reduced significantly. Even ambulance income is down due to tightening billing requirements of Medicare and MediCal.

Acting Fire Chief Pete Nowicki, who recently retired from his old position as District Fire Chief, noted that he has implemented a

"hard freeze" on the budget for this fiscal year. "We will avoid any unnecessary expenditures. For example, if a station needs new carpet, we're just going to live with the old carpet." He also noted that staffing levels are not mandated by law, but that district defers to National Fire Protection Association recommendations. "Anything less than three is an untenable situation," based upon the safety of firefighters and the community in his opinion.

"We had anticipated that we would be in deficit spending for the last six years out. Our long range forecasts indicate that things will turn around at some point," he said. "We are fine for the time being."

The Fire District's fiscal year runs from July of 2008 through June of 2009. This mid-year analysis examines actual revenue and expenses from July, 1, 2008 until

December 31, 2008.

By far the biggest expense is labor, according to Sue Casey, Financial Services Manager. "Salaries and benefits are expected to be \$444,014 more than budgeted (for the year) primarily because of an increase in overtime due to personnel shortages. We are currently down four fire-fighters."

There was a fair amount of discussion about the increase in overtime at the meeting. According to Casey, it is actually cheaper paying overtime than hiring additional staff, when benefits and retirement costs are included in calculations.



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## SMC Interns Gain Meaning from Community Experience

By Sophie Braccini



A work session at Moraga Parks and Rec, left to right: Kim Burrowes, Lindsey Parker, Jay Ingram, Kimberley Nelson. Photo Sophie Braccini

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching recognized Saint Mary's College last December as a leader in incorporating community engagement into the academic curriculum.

According to Marshall Welch, the Director of the Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action

(CILSA) at Saint Mary's, the many examples of students' contributions are a testimony to how the faith-based liberal arts philosophy of engaging and challenging students provides life-changing learning experiences while serving the community.

Recently, Moraga Parks and

Recreation Director Jay Ingram contacted kinesiology professor Andrea Eagleman to propose a sports marketing internship for her students.

"We really needed help for the marketing of our Treeline Triathlon on April 25th," explains Ingram. ... continued on page 10

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Jeff Joyce

With tough economic times, many motorists are choosing to postpone services on their vehicles. But we must not lose sight of the importance of regular vehicle services. Today's cars offer longer service intervals, but pushing the limits beyond recommendations may prove to be more costly than routine maintenance. Be sure to follow manufactures service intervals. At the first sign of trouble, contact your trusted local service facility for help before the concern becomes a serious breakdown.

**Dear Jeff:**  
 What's the difference between a "Service Engine Soon" light and a "Maintenance Required" light? Don't they both mean I just need an oil change? My car is running just fine but it does seem to be using more gas than usual.

*Signed, Clueless in Concord*

**Dear Clueless:**  
 Actually these are two separate concerns. Many vehicles include an oil life monitor designed to display a message when its time for routine service. This would be your "Maintenance Required" or "Change Oil Soon" light. The "Service Engine Soon" light is the same as a "Check Engine Light". This is likely related to an on board engine management malfunction. This could be something as simple as a loose gas cap to a computer control component failure. It may not always cause a car to run poorly but could lead to poor fuel mileage and excessive tailpipe emissions.

**Dear Jeff:**  
 My car has a timing belt that has never been changed. My car is still running fine and has 80000 miles. What's your advice?

**Dear Broke,**  
 Timing belts are not something you want to gamble with. They are a vital component to your engines survival and failure could result in significant internal

engine damage. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations regarding timing belt service. Visit a trustworthy shop, and you'll be able to enjoy a long, trouble free driving experience.

**Dear Jeff:**  
 My mechanic tells me I need new shocks and struts for my car, but I'm not sure that's really true. My car is only 5 years old and has only 72000 miles and still runs fine. How do know if I really need these replaced.

**Dear Frugal:**  
 Nobody likes to spend money if they don't have to these days, but your mechanic is giving you good, sound advice. The industry standard for shock and strut replacement is 50,000 miles. Worn shocks/struts can reduce braking ability and cause uneven tire wear. Handling and ride quality also can be restored to new conditions with new shocks or struts. So to keep your car performing safely and efficiently, shock and strut maintenance should not be overlooked

Jeff Joyce has been the Manager of Express Oil Change & Tire Center since 2004. He can be reached at 925-254-8989 or [jjoyce@orindamotors.com](mailto:jjoyce@orindamotors.com)

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**LAMORINDA Community**

**“Rancho” Club Almost Finished**

By Cathy Tyson



View of the “Rancho” main clubhouse, still under construction

Photo provided

Members of the Rancho Colorados Swim and Tennis Club will be able to use their new and improved club, scheduled to open in time for the swim season starting in May, according to Marketing Director Todd Mullins. “The mild winter, thus far, will help the schedule,” he added. The soon-to-be finished buildings are the culmination of years of hard work by board members and volunteers who saw the need for improvements back in 2002. Club members were supportive of the project and voted overwhelmingly, 91% in favor, to assess themselves in order to pay for the project.

Since 1961, Lafayette families have been enjoying the club

at the end of Rohrer drive in Burton Valley. But like most structures that are forty seven years old, the buildings had seen better days.

Construction of the new 2,395 square foot expanded main clubhouse building and a new tennis building started in October. The original clubhouse was a mere 831 square feet and did not have enclosed storage or ADA compliant bathrooms that the new space has. Tennis court resurfacing will be done as a separate project by a different contractor after the main project is completed, and will be scheduled to not impact the USTA season.

Early in the process there

was some friction with the neighbors over increasing the number of families that belong to the club, parking, lighting, hours of operation, and swim meets. Compromises were made to address the major concerns. In the end the conversations created a process where the collective group of neighbors could come together to agree on a Road Maintenance Agreement for the private section of Rohrer Drive.

“More than anything else, Rancho is a throwback to an era where kids can be kids in a safe and stable environment all summer long, and grown ups can hang out and enjoy time with friends and neighbors by the pool and barbeque,” said Mullins.

**Happy Ending in Happy Valley**

By Cathy Tyson



Side walk on Happy Valley Drive

Photo Cathy Tyson

In a heroic effort, Happy Valley residents came up with \$20,000 to co-fund the realignment of the sidewalk on Happy Valley Drive. Bill Bucher, President of the Happy Valley Improvement Association was very straightforward, “We don’t want promises or e-mails, we want checks.”

Approximately a dozen Happy Valley Elementary students made their case to the City Council:

“We don’t think it’s very safe with the path so close to the street. One of our very good friends got hit by a car.” One young lady mentioned that, “when trucks drive by they blow your hair.”

Mayor Tatzin said he checked it out and joked that if he had more hair it would have blown too with the passage of a speeding truck.

Back in October, residents of

the Happy Valley area asked that their newly improved pedestrian pathway from Franklin Lane to Vallory Lane be moved farther away from the street. The new pathway is, “fully compliant with current standards and practices, and is consistent with similar facilities citywide that have operated without any known history of safety issues,” according to a staff report. Still residents strongly preferred to have the pathway moved farther away from the road.

Because the city had just paid for the improvements, Council Members were reluctant to spend more money reconfiguring the sidewalk, but were concerned about pedestrian safety, so they cut a deal. If residents could come up with a substantial sum, the city would match it. The relocation is estimated to cost \$56,000; there is a \$16,000 in grant money remaining for the pathway. Generous neighbors came up with \$20,000 in donations, so the pathway got the green light.

**Planning Commission Discusses Palos Colorados**

... continued from page 3

When we adopted the vesting map, we were under the impression that specifics, such as energy conserving requirements, would be discussed at a later time in the process.”

Goglia suggested that the Commission may not have been completely informed as to the level of their approval. Town staff and legal counsel were asked to re-

search the issue and report back to the Commission on the applicability of the Town's green building guidelines.

The last surprise of the evening was the discovery by the public in attendance that the secondary units that are proposed in the project may not be of great use in helping the town reach its required share of affordable housing.

“Secondary units could count toward moderate units,” said Salamack, “the State decides.”

The commissioners asked that a joint meeting with the design review board be held to study the general compliance of the project and that staff report on it as well. That meeting was scheduled to be held on February 17th, after press time.

**Artificial Turf on Moraga’s Sports Fields?**

... continued from page 3

Moraga School District Superintendent Rick Schafer will also attend the meeting. Ingram’s project includes installation of the surface at the district’s schools, a decision that would require the approval of the School Board. Ingram has also invited local sports groups and facility users to attend the meeting.

Artificial turf is a contro-

versial issue. The cost of installation is high (\$11 to \$12 per square foot). During extremely hot days, elevated heat is transmitted from the field; in case of bleeding injuries the field needs to be cleaned to avoid the transmission of blood-borne pathogens; and according to some medical research, earlier installations have triggered more ankle and knee injuries

for athletes. (Source: “Artificial Turf: Does it Increase the Risk of Sports Injuries?” by Mark Drakos, MD, 2008 Sports Medicine Fellow, Hospital for Special Surgery).

“No decision has been made yet,” says Ingram, “the purpose of this meeting is to get the pulse of the community and have all the tough questions on the table.”

# LAMORINDA Community

## Walking Moraga First

By Sophie Braccini



Hikers on the Cindy Waxman Trail (front to back): Yvonne Lefort, Kim Burrowes and Astrid Munroe

On a recent Thursday, the walk should have been on a trail, not on a street. But Kim Burrowes, the Moraga Parks and Recreation assistant who runs the Walk Moraga First program, felt the trails might be muddy so she decided on Mulholland Ridge for the Thursday stroll.

Walk Moraga First is a program offered by Moraga Parks and Rec to encourage residents to discover the town on foot. Tuesdays are set to roam the different neighborhoods and Thursdays are geared to trail exploration. "We have a mix of abilities in our group," explains Burrowes, "some feel more comfortable on pavement, others like it rough." And exploring the Moraga back-country can be an adventure on which some would rather not go alone.

At its inception, the activity attracted seven women ranging in age from their mid-thirties to 77. "A man called me," said Burrowes, "but

when he heard he was the only male, he declined to join." The purpose of the group is to get to the area in which you live and explore places where people have never been. "I get exercise at the gym," says Yvonne Lefort, a counselor and mother of an elementary school student. "Joining the group is a way to get plenty of fresh air and explore trails and areas of Moraga I wasn't familiar with," she explains.

"I have been a resident of Moraga for 25 years," says Astrid Munroe, who is retired, "and I wanted to be out in nature with other people." And there are many ways to roam around Moraga, some very well known and traveled, such as the Moraga-Lafayette trail and others that are more secluded, like the trail that goes behind the St Mary's campus and ends up in Bollinger Canyon, or the old Moraga Trail off Rancho Laguna Park.

"For the neighborhood walks

I use a computer program to calculate the exact distance and I explore myself on foot or with my car," explains Burrowes. With its many steep hills, Moraga can present some challenging terrain to the amateur hiker.

There are always new places to discover in town, but Burrowes is also planning to take her group a bit further, up Pinehurst, to hike the Redwoods trail. "I have to time everything," she says, "the activity is planned to last 1 1/2 hour, no more."

The group is informal and not everyone comes every time. "This session will continue till the end of May and we are still accepting members," says an enthusiastic Burrowes, "this is a pleasant way to make new acquaintances, here in this group you have seven women who didn't even know each other existed a month ago." To join Walk Moraga First, call 888-7026.

Photo Sophie Braccini

## Planning Task Force Presents Recommendations

... continued from page 4

Please don't start mucking around with it," stated Judge. He felt the proposed Neighbor Consent Process took the responsibility for some residential development decisions away from the Planning Commission, which he felt might not serve the interests of the larger community. Although he felt adjusting the height allowance of downtown buildings upward might be acceptable in a large development, Judge questioned the prudence of this change.

Joyce Hawkins, another former Orinda Mayor, mirrored some of Judge's sentiments with her comments. "I think the Task Force did a great job. It's time that revisions be made," said Hawkins. But she also stated that the floor area ratio guideline had worked well for Orinda, and she worried that a change would negatively impact the diversity of housing available. Hawkins felt some of the proposed changes to the retail frontage requirements in downtown spaces were contrary to the goal of revitalization. She was also very concerned about the impact of the increase in building height to 55 feet. "I encourage you to look at the visual effect of buildings of this size. The imposing face of a 55-foot building on Orinda Way differs as compared to a similar building on the wider Mount Diablo

Boulevard," she added.

The City Council and Planning Commission will hold another meeting to discuss the

Planning Process Review Task Force recommendations on February 24th at 5 p.m. in the Garden Room of the Library.



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## Orinda's Old Bricks Pave Entrance to New City Hall



Photo Andrea A. Firth

Pictured are Ruben Gerk (Public Works), Mary Alice Keeler (Assistant Engineer), Ann O'Connell-Nye (Orinda resident), and Steve Ecklund (Public Works) standing by the newly completed display of community bricks that graces the entranceway of Orinda's City Hall. The bricks, which were purchased by and display the names of many long-time and prominent Orinda residents, were salvaged during the demolition of the former City offices almost ten years ago. Through the tireless efforts of Orinda preservationist Ann O'Connell-Nye and with the help of Parks and Recreations Director Todd Skinner and the City Engineering and Public Works staff, the 143 personalized bricks (which are actually replicas of the original bricks made to meet current building specifications) provide a trail from the old building to the new City Hall and leave some local history in their path.. A. Firth



Alice A. Martin, Happy 98th—One of many who lived a long and happy life in Orinda.

## The Joaquin Moraga Adobe: A Local Historic Treasure

... continued from page 1

Although the empty residence is in some disrepair, Long found that the building's condition was better than what he had expected. The Moraga Adobe was renovated and expanded in 1941, at which time bedrooms and a veranda were added and the adobe walls were covered. The original three rooms of the adobe retain a Spanish feel with white walls and a large-tile floor, but the newer rooms, with linoleum and shag carpet, show evidence of decorating choices in the 1970's that are inconsistent with the home's heritage. Presently, the windows of the adobe have been boarded up to deter would-be party-goers.

The Moraga Adobe has been designated as a Historical Landmark by the City of Orinda and the State of California and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, which makes it an absolute must-see to local preservationists like Orinda resident Bobbie Landers. "The communities of Orinda and Moraga are both interested in the preservation of the Moraga Adobe," states Landers, who is enthusiastic about the prospect of the adobe being accessible to the larger community. Landers recently held the first meeting of the newly established Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe in the living room of her home. Both the Mayors of

Moraga, Dave Trotter (a history buff and adobe expert in his own right) and Orinda, Sue Severson, were in attendance along with several members of the Orinda Historical Society and other interested residents. "The adobe is an important historical landmark in the Bay Area dating back to the pre-gold rush days before California established statehood," explains Landers. "It would allow people to be acquainted with very early California," she adds. The next meeting of the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe will be held on Monday, March 9th at 7:30 p.m. Those interested to attend should contact Landers at 254-8260.

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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](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: **Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570**

Dear Editor,

Loved the chicken story in the edition, Jan. 21, 2009. Of course, I loved it, having raised chickens for yummy eggs at my home on Blackhawk Rd., Lafayette since 1966.

As the story progressed, I had moments of glee, each time you mentioned a neighbor of mine, Jackie Mann, then Michelle Chan. Reading on, and learning a bit of chicken history in Lamorinda, I found another friend and sustainable advocate, Steve Richard.

Reaching the end of a fun and most useful article, I felt a little disappointed. When Steve was talking to you about Sustainable Lafayette, I fully expected mention of our web site, 'sustainablelafayette.net', and the story entitled, 'LIKE TO RAISE YOUR OWN CHICKENS AND HAVE FRESH EGGS IN THE MORNING ? Submitted by: John Kiefer, jhkiefer@comcast.net One of my avocations is to educate & encourage families to construct and raise their very own chickens. To that end, I placed my chicken story on the web site to reach a broader audience, and invite them to visit my organic, sustainable, model operation. So, I felt a little disappointed that the article didn't take the next step to inform our citizenry of the chicken story on the web. Please check the web site and enjoy the chicken story. [www.sustainablelafayette.net](http://www.sustainablelafayette.net). Menu: Home, Resident Stories, Food, "Raise Chickens and Have Fresh Eggs in the Morning".

Thanks for your help, and for your excellent writing.

John Kiefer  
Lafayette

To the Editor:

At an alarming rate, trash-collection rates in Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette are going up. The rate increases will begin on March 1, 2009.

There should be no rate increases during a time of high unemployment and economic stagnation.

Between February 2008 and March 2009, Orinda's garbage rates will rise by a staggering 24.3 percent. It is highly unlikely that the income of the average household in Orinda has gone up 24.3 percent.

Currently, Lamorinda's garbage rates are set by a governmental body, the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority. In January 2009, the authority's board of directors voted unanimously to raise rates. Sitting on the board are members of the city councils of Lamorinda, Danville, and Walnut Creek. Also sitting on the board are Gayle Uilkema and Mary Piepho, both of whom are members of the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County.

Orinda City Council member, Victoria Smith, is a board member of the waste authority. She voted for the rate hike and has some explaining to do. In her 2008 re-election bid, she accepted campaign contributions from garbage-collection companies and from the Teamsters Union. Local garbage workers belong to the Teamsters Union.

It is outrageous that garbage rates can be raised without a vote of the people. Garbage rate hikes are the functional equivalents of tax increases. Curiously, local tax increases have to go before voters while garbage rates do not.

The time has come to eliminate government from trash collection. Garbage collection should be privatized. Selecting a garbage company should be the same as picking a gardener. If a privately-selected garbage company raises rates too much, then the company can be fired.

Richard S. Colman  
Orinda

Editor:

For six years now, I have been trying to get a simple adjustment of the lot line between my two parcels in Orinda, to make them each about the same size. Orinda's planning director and city attorney and the City in general have asked me to surrender one of the lots for a scenic easement, get permits for sewer and water for both properties, get surveys, get soils reports, get reports on story pole placement if someone might someday build, and to indemnify Orinda for any lawsuit brought against Orinda by bogus complaint against the city for granting this simple internal lot line adjustment.

This is a case of Orinda's intentionally breaking state law. That law says that a city is forbidden from requiring more than zoning conformity before granting a simple lot line adjustment.

In September 2008, Superior Court Judge Barry Baskin issued an order against the City of Orinda, vacating a City Council Resolution and requiring the City to obey state law. Vogt v. Orinda, Superior Court Case No. 06-1494, tells the whole sorry story.

The judge found that the 6 giant volumes of administrative record, thousands of pages, "contains overwhelming evidence to support the Petitioner's contention" that Orinda had violated state law. Judge Baskin found that Orinda's legal counterarguments were "disingenuous at best," since Orinda had been repeatedly warned of the violation, and state law is crystal clear. This is shameful conduct by a city government in a town otherwise known for its public-spirited and educated citizens.

The Contra Costa Times recently did such an investigative report. It can be found online on that paper's site or by entering a search term "Edward Vogt and Contra Costa Times."

But rather than promptly granting the lot line adjustment (which had been approved 7-0 by the Planning Commission years ago), the city attorney and planning director now want me to start all over again and re-apply for a lot line adjustment. That's a fool's errand. The City Council has all it needs to make its decision. The City Council should review the judge's order and follow it immediately. The Council and its (private law firm) city attorney should end this 6-year outrage and pledge to obey the law in the future.

Edward Vogt  
Orinda

To the Editor:

I was offended by your description of Ayers as a "...respected education professor...". Respected by whom? One of the most radical education institutions in America? I can only bemoan the thousands of young education students whose minds have been poisoned by this anti-American close minded "professor". And then there is the lovely Mrs. Ayers, widely believed to have placed the bomb that killed a young San Francisco policeman and critically injuring another.

The Ayers are a threat to everything that is good about America. Their ideas have a 100% failure rate and have caused great pain and suffering and often death for many millions of people. It is a tragedy that Barack Obama did not have more sense than to seek them out and accept their friendship.

Please see them for who and what they are and keep them out of our community and out of the minds of our precious young people.

Thank you,

Jo Gregg  
Moraga

Dear Editor,

I almost laughed out loud when I saw the Ayers protestor (cover photo Feb 4 issue) carrying a sign which read, Terror is NOT a Catholic Value! Really? Is this person so unaware of his own religion's history that he never heard of the Crusades, the rack, burning at the stake, or the Spanish Inquisition?

If he needs more modern examples, consider the maiming and murder of people engaged in legal, constitutionally protected activities at family planning clinics. How about those nuns who beat small children with the metal edge of rulers? Terrorism has been and is part of every religion.

According to the FBI file, Ayers detonated a bomb at the Pentagon, in the middle of the night, so no one would be hurt.

A computer was disabled for 3 days. Not commendable but, compare

## Public Forum JOIN IT

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section.

Just send your letter to [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com) and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

that to say, John McCain, who, at the same time period, flew his airplane over Viet Nam. Once in position, he rained bullets, bombs and napalm on the citizens below. We now know the Vietcong were safely underground in their bunkers and tunnels. I know, I know, McCain was just following orders.

If we as a nation intend to end terrorism, we need to lead by example. Admitting our own terrorist acts, especially those perpetrated by leaders and religious groups, would be a good start.

Like a heartfelt confession, it promotes cleansing, forgiveness, and maybe the beginning of the end of terrorism.

Louise Benvenue  
Orinda

Dear Editor,

As the Lafayette City Council considers in the next week its Finance Task Force recommendations for budget cutting I hope that we can all agree that it is not wise to cut police and public works support that the City gives to put on major events. The Chamber of Commerce makes significant donations to beneficiaries through the Art and Wine Festival and especially significant funds are given to our local schools after the Reservoir Run. Beneficiaries from the Lafayette Arts and Wine Festival are, The Lafayette Arts and Sciences Foundation--\$8,500 was presented by check in December to their Board of Directors--, for a total of \$22,350 to LASF, Generations In Jazz, Town Hall Theatre, Las Trampas, Futures Explored, Trust in Education, Sr Help Line, Senior Transportation, Youth Homes, Project Second Chance, Loaves & Fishes, Shelter, Inc., Lafayette Rotary, LMO Sunrise Rotary, Acalanes Football Team, College Park Cross Country Team, and Boy Scout Troup #219. Since the Chamber began hosting the Art and Wine Festival, the Chamber has been able to give over \$127,000 back to the community through their non-profit partners.

The October Lafayette Reservoir Run, hosted by Oakland Athletic Club, the City of Lafayette and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, attracted a minimum of 2,000 runners, hikers, etc., resulting in an \$18,625 donation to Lafayette schools. The checks were sent to Springhill, Lafayette, Happy Valley, Burton Valley and Stanley Middle School PTAs. They have many uses for that money.

These events could not take place without the many sponsors and volunteers that help to cover the cost of the events and provide assistance at those events. Key amongst the assistance are the Lafayette Police Department and Dept. of Public Works to ensure public safety. We are all proud of our community and commend all of the groups who assist the Chamber of Commerce, the business community, and the City in putting them on safely.

Please support the Lafayette PD and the City's Dept. of Public Works in their contributions to these excellent functions.

Lynn Hiden  
Lafayette

Editor:

In today's tough times, the City of Lafayette is looking everywhere for new revenue sources. The City Council seems to focus on our wallets rather than cutting budgets or expenses. Unable to get voter approval for new taxes in 1998, 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2008, innovative approaches are required to shake the quarters from our pockets.

As the CC Times reported, the Council has found one: our creative Council will charge Waste Management a road use "mitigation fee" (around \$380,000) which, by design, is directly passed on to residents - i.e. a tax. Residents' fees will increase by 9% -- more than twice Waste Management's average increase. Our total garbage fees now approach twice Walnut Creek's. After the Council tried to pass the landscape and lighting tax without a vote, residents were promised there would be no new stealth taxes. This garbage fee may be clever, but it's still a new tax without a vote or even cursory community input. We don't need more taxes, we need more fiscal responsibility. Several months ago, our Council voted to give its bloated staff a 7% pay increase -- during an economic maelstrom when everyone else is cutting back. Will Lafayette notice? Do they notice when staff swells to 40+ now, nearly a 500% increase since our incorporation, while our population remains about level?

Lawrence M. Pines, Esq.  
Lafayette

### Lamorinda's Religious Services



**Willow Spring Church**  
1675-1689 School Street, Moraga  
[www.willowsspringchurch.org](http://www.willowsspringchurch.org)  
(925) 376-3550  
Sunday Service Times:  
Prayer @ 8am, Traditional @ 9am,  
Contemporary @ 10:30am

**Weekly Activities:**  
Wednesday Community Bible Study @ 10am  
REVERB (youth) @ 7pm  
Friday Night BLAST! Kids Club @ 6pm  
Saturday Night Catalyst (Young Adults) @ 7:30pm

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE**  
Church Services and Sunday School (up to age 20); 10 - 11 AM  
Informal Testimony Meeting, Wed 7:30 - 8:30 PM  
24 Orinda Way [www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)  
Visit our Reading Room and spiritual bookstore across from the Orinda movie theater.

**Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Way Orinda**  
8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service  
9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship  
9:40 a.m. Education for all ages  
10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship Service  
925-254-3422 Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

<b>Our Savior's Lutheran (ELCA)</b> 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette 283-3722 • <a href="http://www.oslc.net">www.oslc.net</a> Sunday mornings at OSLC: Classic Worship, 8:15 am Education Hour, 9:30-10:20 am Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am	Wednesday Services begin Feb 25 7pm (see website)
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**St. Anselm's Episcopal Church**  
A Loving Community  
Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM  
Active Youth Program, Childcare  
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)

**St. Giles Episcopal Church of Moraga**  
Worshipping at St. Mary's College Chapel. All are welcome at our services.  
9 a.m. Sunday Service: Holy Communion - with St. Giles' Choir.  
Child care is available all year.  
1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. 925-376-5770

## City seeks volunteers for vacancies on the City Open Space Committee



**The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to serve on a newly approved City Open Space Committee.**

This new five-seven-member body will be responsible for drafting an open space plan, identify open space opportunities, developing a strategy to acquire open space and to serve as advocates for the acquisition and preservation of open space in Lafayette.

The committee will be asked to deliver its draft plan to the City Council in October 2009.

Members of the committee will be appointed by the City Council on the basis of education, community involvement, training and experience in the fields of city government, and related fields.

Questions regarding the committee may be directed to the City Manager Steven Falk at [sfalk@lovelafayette.org](mailto:sfalk@lovelafayette.org).

Individuals interested in this volunteer position may obtain an application from

The City's website at [www.ci.lafayette.ca.us](http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us) or  
City of Lafayette Offices  
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 210 or

Call the City's Clerks Office at (925) 284-1968 and an application will be mailed  
Completed applications must be received by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 6, 2009.

**The Lafayette City Council is also soliciting applicants to serve on a newly approved City Charter and Communications Committee.**

Dear Editor

It was with real sadness I just learned from the owners, Fely and Bill Ong, that they have sold the restaurant that has been such a part of the life of our family and of many of our friends for the past fifteen years. We'll miss so many things - The times that Fely patiently walked around with the the newest Phillips grand child so the parents and grandparents could finish their dinner. Her mom's instincts were amazingly calming. The patience they had with the various dining requests as the we explored our way through their menu. Even adding a couple of them to it! Their always making you feel you were part of a family. We watched their four children become adults as they they saw us add grandchildren to our family. Here's wishing them all the best in whatever they decide to do next. I'm guessing that after the dedication they showed to their restaurant and customers they - after a hopefully real vacation - will be on to a new adventure, although maybe of a very different kind. Whatever it is - I - and Moraga - will miss them!

Maryly Phillips  
Moraga



# Letters to the Editor Continued

## ORINDA MEASURE B

Editor:

As a 31-year resident and proud Orinda teacher, I'm saddened by the misleading letters from Richard Colman and Clyde Vaughn that, through their clever use of exaggerations and misrepresentations, serve only to plant seeds of doubt.

Mr. Colman's latest is of particular interest because he at once calls for no new taxes to support education, while at the same time suggesting that teachers should get paid \$100,000 a year. Interesting to ponder; but totally unrelated to the issue our schools face today.

Measure B is needed, not because teachers should be paid more, but because the very quality of our academic programs is at risk. Measure B is about optimizing student learning through small class size, providing literacy and math support, and keeping programs such as foreign language, music, and physical education alive. As for Mr. Colman's call for accountability, I urge him to take a look at the many accountability measures our school districts have established. On every measure, Orinda performs at the very top – and, even in this rarified atmosphere, continues to make gains.

Measure B is a sound investment in the Orinda schools that have proven time and again that they are accountable and achieve results.

Gail Ronneberg  
Orinda

Dear Editor:

The Feb 4th edition had a letter concerning Measure B criticizing Clyde Vaughn opposing every measure aimed to better our community...etc. Essentially blaming Prop 13 for the lack of funds for the schools. It is not Prop 13 that is to blame but the allocation of funds. If all the signers of the letter care to help the schools, why don't they donate the difference to EOF between what they are paying in property taxes now with what they would have paid without the Prop 13 cap...probably 3 or 4 more times as much and it is a tax deductible contribution too! A \$500,000 dollar home purchased today (if you can find one in Orinda) would have a \$5000 property tax bill (disregard the additional costs of bonds, etc) but without Prop 13, it would probably have been \$15,000 or more.

Walt Bateman  
Moraga

Editor:

Orinda School Parcel Tax Should Be Rewritten Measure B Parcel Tax information documents are misleading. Measure B should be defeated and rewritten with full

disclosure of tax specifics in the Voter Information Pamphlet. The Tax should have an ending date so the tax does not go on forever, and be fair for Orinda seniors.

I have spoken with seniors who mistakenly believe age alone exempts seniors from the proposed Orinda Schools Parcel tax. Unfortunately, the senior exemption requirements are so stringent approximately only 60 Orinda seniors will qualify.

To qualify for the exemption homeowners must have an income of less than \$43,050. The School District gets this figure by using the median income of homeowners from areas outside Orinda. It is only fair the School District use the higher median income of Orinda so more Orinda seniors would qualify for the exemption. Since Orinda homeowners will pay the tax, the School District should use the median income of Orinda.

The School District documents submitted for the Voter Information Pamphlet do not disclose the \$43,050 figure, and that the School District is using the median income of homeowners from areas outside Orinda.

The School District does not give voters full disclosure in the Voter Pamphlet. This tax goes on forever without an ending date, and is unfair to seniors.

Janet Maiorana  
Orinda

Dear Friends and fellow Orindians,

Orinda schools are in serious need of additional funds to maintain the outstanding school system that we have grown accustomed to for so many decades. Low class size and focus on literature and math have always been the primary focus of the Orinda schools and it is imperative that this service to Orinda children be perpetuated.

The loss of State Funds have prompted the need for Measure B that will replace a significant portion of these lost funds. The parcel tax of \$124 per parcel is a small price to pay to afford the special local schools that so many of us in Orinda have either directly or indirectly benefited from.

Please vote yes on Measure B and be proud that you have personally contributed to maintain the best public schools in California.

Sincerely,

Peter and Darlene Hattersley  
Orinda

*Correction to Letter to the Editor regarding Orinda Measure B (issue date 02/04/09) from Sue Severson et al: The names of co-signers Penny and Ian Baird were included in error, as they did not give advance permission for their names to appear on the letter.*

## In Case of Emergency, Dial ???

... continued from page 1



Lafayette Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Russell had signage installed at the Community Center last week advising people of the number to call from a cell phone in the event of an emergency  
Photo Andy Schreck

As you know, in a medical emergency, lost minutes can be critical. This is why we urge all local citizens to program their cell phones to call the local number; it speeds up response. I would also urge readers to program cell phones with local agency numbers where they work or visit regularly, if out of the area."

Depending on where you are, the central CHP dispatch office that is reached by calling 911 from a cell phone is in either San Ramon or Vallejo, both of which receive a high volume of emergency calls and callers may experience difficulty reaching a dispatcher. If you do dial 911 from a cell phone, you must provide the dispatcher with your location.

The one exception to this advice, according to Contra Costa County Sheriff's spokesman Jimmy Lee, is if you are calling in an emergency from a cell phone while on the freeway: "In that case, 911 is the correct number, because it's the CHP that responds to incidents on the freeways."

After that, the consensus begins to break down.

Lafayette Police Chief Mike Hubbard says if you must use a cell phone, "The correct number for the Lafayette Police Department would be (925) 284-5010. An alternate number would be (925) 646-2441."

Bill French, Orinda's Chief of Police, concurs with Hubbard: "The best number from a land line is 911 and from a cell phone it is (925) 284-5010."

Moraga's Priebe said in a written statement: "This past week quite a bit of interest has been raised regarding cell phone use to emergency services. The preferred number to use, as given to me today (02/09/09) from our dispatch center is 925-228-8282. I have always encouraged citizens to use our local 925-284-5010 number instead of the 9-1-1. From now on, I will advise everyone to program their cell phones to use the above preferred number (228-8282)."

But Jimmy Lee of the Sheriff's Dept, which handles police dispatch for all three communities, says, "The problem with those two numbers (284-5010 and 228-8282) is that they are single lines (no rollover if the line is busy). The best number to call is 925-646-2441." Although this number is not officially designated as a priority line, Lee advises, "That is a direct dispatch number which will always be answered."

The Contra Costa County Fire District (CCCFD) also recommends calling 911 from a land line in an emergency. If there is no land line available, CCCFD recommends calling its

dispatch center directly for a fire or medical emergency if you only have a cell phone. That number is 925-933-1313.

But wait, there's more.

"That number (933-1313) will work from a cell phone for a fire or medical emergency," says the Moraga Orinda Fire District's Fire Marshall Mike Mentink. However, Mentink was clear and firm in stating his opinion that just as everyone should use 911 from a land line, "Citizens should be given one and only one number to dial (from a cell phone) for any type of emergency. If someone calls the Sheriff's dispatch center, the first question they are asked is, 'What is the nature of your emergency?' If it's a fire or medical emergency the caller is immediately transferred to the County Fire dispatcher; it's seamless."

But what should that one number be?

"I think we may need to work on that," concludes Mentink.

(Editor's note: After spending several days trying to track down a single best number to call from a cell phone in case of an emergency, we are inclined to agree with Mentink; Lamorinda's emergency responders should discuss this and present the public with one emergency priority number that rolls over when busy and will always be answered. We will let you know when and if that happens.)

Many of us have multiple entries in our cell phone contact lists, which are often automatically alphabetized. Hence this suggestion from Moraga's Richard Olsen, a former Fire Commissioner: "I have put 'aaa' in front of my 'Moraga Fire Emerg.' and 'Moraga Police Emerg.' entries, in order to make sure those are the first numbers that appear whenever I pull up my cell phone's Directory (perhaps there's an alternative way to prioritize the listings, but I haven't yet discovered it.)"



**Photo credit omission in our February 4th issue.**  
*Public Forum: "A sense of community was palpable on the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 20, in the Europa Hofbrau restaurant on Moraga Way, Orinda."*  
The photo was provided by Rick Konlon of Lightpath Photography, Orinda

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## MORAGA

## 1 Las Vegas Road, Orinda Irresistible Ranch Style Home with Walls of Glass

Wonderful curb appeal is just the beginning of the delightful assets belonging to this home. You will enjoy over 2,000 sq ft of light-filled rooms, a terrific yard and a Country Club location. There is a charming kitchen with an adjacent family room. The bedroom wing offers 3 generous rooms, 2 with hardwood floors. The master suite has a bonus room that is perfect for a home office, nursery, or an additional walk-in closet. The hall bath is updated and there is a bonus 1/2 bath in the laundry room off of the family room and next to the garage. The front yard has level lawn and many trees which provide privacy. The back yard has a large patio, easily accessed from the home and a terraced yard complete with a play structure.

1 Las Vegas Road is easy to live in right now and also offers you a great opportunity to enlarge/remodel and not be the most expensive house on the block. Minutes to Highway 24, BART, Lake Cascade and the Lafayette Reservoir. The school bus for Sleepy Hollow Elementary school stops at the bottom of the driveway and the buses for OIS and Miramonte are within walking distance. Simply a wonderful home and location for you and your loved ones to enjoy now and for many years to come. \$880,000.!

April Matthews  
Village Associates Real Estate  
93 Moraga Way, #103  
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**Margaret Weil Zucker**  
Realtor



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This charming, updated Ranch style home, surrounded by enchanting gardens, is the perfect place to call home. Featuring 4 bedrooms, 2 updated full baths & 2 half baths in 2735 sqft on a private .41 acre lot. This home offers a gourmet kitchen & entertainment bar w/ cherry cabinets, granite counters, Sub-Zero refrigerator & drawers, six burner gas cook top & under cabinet mounted TV so you can cook along w/ all your favorite chefs on Food Network. Living spaces extend onto patio for entertaining or simply relaxing. Spacious Master Bedroom features a large office area, walk-in closet & bath w/ spa tub. Also includes family room, formal living & dining, in-door laundry, vaulted ceilings & hardwood floors. Fourth bedroom can be used as au pair, office or guests. Located on a cul-de-sac, walking distance to club pool & tennis, near 12 years of Orinda's top rated schools, & Sunday Moraga Farmers' Market.



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**Life in LAMORINDA**

**Green and Greener**

**Reuse is not a four letter word**

**Dave Rochlin and Katy Foreman**

**Dave:** There are "three Rs" of living more sustainably: reduce, reuse, and recycle. With the economy continuing to migrate south faster than a Canadian goose in November, reuse seems to be getting some much-deserved attention as a money saver.

**Katy:** I wish reuse got more attention as a planet saver! Less trash in landfills, and less manufacturing, shipping, and packaging. Aside from not using stuff at all, it's the best everyday way to help save the planet.

**Dave:** I admit that I used to think of 'reuse' as mostly a financial decision ....like buying a used car instead of a new car because it is cheaper. But I changed my thinking after visiting a friend's newly built house. The hardwood floor was unbelievable, and as it turned out reused -- from the floor of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. They got history, uniqueness, and incredible quality, along with ecological benefits. Reuse can actually be cool.

**Katy:** Absolutely! My favorite thing about reuse is that I always wind up with something cooler than I could have gotten from the mall. Recently, I wanted to rid my kitchen of all things Teflon and found three vintage enameled cast iron pots at the Wayside Inn Thrift Shop in Lafayette. Grand total of \$17, no "Made in China", no crazy packaging, and they're super durable. I was so happy!

But reuse can be worked into even more routine purchases. Buying used books saves trees and energy, too. The Lafayette Bookstore and Canetti's are great sources, as are the local Friends of the Library book sales, or even opting for a used copy on Amazon or Pow-

ells.com. I also like visiting the up-scale clothing consignment shops in Walnut Creek (Labels and Main Street Rags). I'm sure most people consider them as a way to save cash, but I love that they're reducing waste and manufacturing. My latest reuse idea is swapping magazines with my neighbor. She and I enjoy similar magazines but have different subscriptions. We just leave past issues on each others' porches.

**Dave:** Reuse also means being a giver as well as a consumer. Remodeling? Let your neighbors know that you are going to have some extra building materials, or make sure your contractor arranges to donate the 'tear out' materials. Tim Mascheroni, whose firm Mascheroni Construction does a lot of remodeling work in Lamorinda, recommends The Reuse People, which allows you to actually take a tax deduction while giving your old materials new life.

**Katy:** Urban Ore in Berkeley is another fantastic place to both donate and find reusable materials. They have used wood, marble, old fixtures, antique fireplace mantles, anything you can imagine. I found some replacement doorknobs from the 40s that matched the others in my house there.

**Dave:** When you are done with kids' clothes, toys and furniture, you can always find some else to use them, assuming they are still in good shape. We were thrilled to pass on some of our baby furniture to friends with newborn twins...it was great to know that they were getting another go 'round. In Moraga, there is a kids clothing swap on the first Thursday of every month (contact Bev at bali42@yahoo.com

for details). We even have a massive bucket of Legos that a neighbor brought over when our kids were younger, and theirs were heading out to college. I believe that Legos, along with cockroaches, can survive a nuclear holocaust, so it's nice to keep them in use.

**Katy:** Given that your kids are six feet tall now, it might be time to pass those Legos on to another generation. There are lots of ways to market your unwanted stuff. I've gotten rid of couches and beds (probably the two most challenging giveaway items) on Craigslist, and even found a taker for a roll of bubble wrap on Freecycle. I just left it on the driveway and the person came and got it while I was at work. The UPS Store on Mt Diablo Blvd will take back Styrofoam shipping peanuts. Just bring them in a bag and they'll reuse them for another shipment.

**Dave:** Speaking of free, we are planning a free movie event at the Rheem Theater on March 12th, to celebrate the launch of www.ClimatePath.org, and in conjunction with our friends who put on the monthly Green Rheem Film night. Please email info-at-climatepath.org for details, if you'd like to join the party!

Katy Foreman is a committed environmentalist who lives in Lafayette, and Dave Rochlin is a lazy environmentalist who lives in Moraga. Together they operate ClimatePath, a website helping individuals and businesses reduce their carbon footprints by offsetting and conserving in the ways that are right for them. ClimatePath is on the web at www.climatepath.org

**SMC Interns Gain Meaning from Community Experience**

**... continued from page 5**

"Working with Saint Mary's seniors who are specializing in sports marketing was a perfect match."

Saint Mary's senior Lindsey Parker is leading the sports internship team. "They gave me the whole responsibility of marketing the event and finding volunteers for the race," explains a confident Parker. "It was a bit overwhelming, but exhilarating."

Parker is contacting all the sports clubs, swimming pools, schools and stores in the area that might have members interested in participating in the event, while classmate Alex Plain is working with all the middle and high schools.

Feeling empowered, Parker proposed new strategies including the creation of a Facebook event to promote the race. "This is education," she explains. "We are practicing what we learned in the classroom and we'll have a real impact on the event."

Although exhilarated by the experience, Parker feels greater on-the-job pressure working on this project than she does at school.

"Bad work at school means a bad grade; bad work here means that people will be disappointed, the event won't be as successful, and that would be harder to face," she says. In addition to this one

event, she is establishing a timeline that can be used for subsequent races in the future.

Welch and others at CILSA also work with chemistry professor Steve Bachofer to establish internships for his students. They are currently involved with the mapping and assessment of the Las Trampas Creek that borders the campus for the Contra Costa County Watershed Program.

"This is a great way to get your hands dirty, use interesting tools such as GPS and GIS, and contribute concretely to the preservation and enhancement of our environment," Welch says.

This is what he calls "Head, Heart and Hands" -- engaging the whole student. This real-world experience corresponds to the high expectations Welch is setting for the students that work with the community.

Among the many programs that won Saint Mary's the Carnegie recognition is the Bonner Leaders Program where 15 students take on a project for one year. One of them is E.J. Youngblood, a student from San Jose who, since high school, has been concerned with the problem of hunger in our neighborhoods. When the opportunity presented itself, he undertook the challenge of organizing the College's first 'Hunger-Banquet.'

He is also planning a "Hunger-Run" for spring 2009 where he plans to enlist Lamorinda community participation. "Everyone comes to run around the campus, and donate food or money for the cause," he explains. "It's a way to show that you care about hunger."

Affected by his work, Youngblood has reflected on the causes of hunger. "It's about power, control and money," he says.

"The grading process is part of the reflection," Welch explains. While the community becomes the beneficiary of these programs and activities, the students receive grades for their work, with Welch proposing innovative ways to evaluate the interns' performance.

"It can be done by the usual journal or paper, but it is important as well to measure the effect on the student, the change in behavior," Welch says. "This can be done through the arts, discussions or in class activities."

In the end, what counts for Welch in the pure Lasallian tradition is how students build meaning through the intern experience.

"When students take on a task they ask three questions: What? So what? And now what?" says Welch. "They reflect on what they learn, what they take away from it, and why it matters."

# Life in LAMORINDA

## Bert Monroy's Digital Art on Display at SMC's Hearst Gallery

Paintings Created with Today's Technology

By Andrea A. Firth



Damen by Bert Monroy

Photos courtesy of Hearst Gallery

As you enter the Bert Monroy Exhibit at the Hearst Gallery you feel as though you are walking directly onto the platform of the Damen Street elevated train stop on Chicago's northside. A few steps further into the Gallery you realize that you are looking at a five-foot by 14-foot hyper-realistic image of the deserted rail station, and you begin to question whether it is a photograph or a painting. *Damen*, the largest work in artist Monroy's collection, is comprised of 15,000 digital layers and serves an elegant example of the patience required to create his

photo-realistic paintings. Dubbed Mr. PixelPaint, Monroy is the preeminent pioneer of digital art. Part artist and part technician, Monroy is the master of the point and click. As Monroy creates, his canvas is housed in a Macintosh computer and displayed on two large-screen monitors. His brushes and paint are drawn from the software programs Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator.

Monroy ventured into digital art while working at his own advertising agency in New York back in 1984. His first Macintosh computer, which is also on display at the exhibit, boasts a 4-inch by 6-inch screen in a 12-inch by 18-inch box complimented by a keyboard that is a technological one-step beyond the keys of a typewriter—an antiquity of the late

20th century. Monroy embraced computer technology as an artistic medium from outset upgrading the hardware and software as each new version was released. He achieved master status and went on to teach the art of digital art to literally millions of students around the world.

At the heart of Monroy's work is his love of painting. Exhibit-goers will be fascinated by his portrayal of light in the shadows created by a deck chair and in the reflections found on signs and saltshaker caps and in mirrors and puddles. Locals will also be delighted to see many familiar scenes of Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco, and Marin County.

What is most exciting about the Monroy Exhibit is the video that explains how it is done. The source of his inspiration and the method of his execution is not a secret for the supernaturally and artistically inclined. Monroy, as cool as his Apple roots, leads the viewer through his artistic journey, taking a clear and understandable path for those with only a moderate amount of computer knowledge. Be sure to watch long enough to see him create a flock of birds that seem to fly off the screen and the leaves on a tree identical to the one in your own backyard. Or make plans to drop into see the real Monroy as he shares his digital art techniques at the upcoming digital media demonstration.

Bert Monroy's Exhibit of works, entitled *A Digital Artist Paints with Light*, will be displayed at the Hearst Gallery on the campus of Saint Mary's College in Moraga through April 5th.

The Digital Media Demonstration with the artist will be held on March 19th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Soda Center followed by a half hour Exhibit Tour. With questions, contact the Hearst Gallery (925) 631-4379, www.hearstgallery.org.



Bert Monroy Photo provided



Breakfast in Tiburon by Bert Monroy

## Taxes in California's State Budget Hit Hard

... continued from page 1

"They are the ones who have to fix and service their cars," he wrote in a recent editorial. "Upper income people buy or lease new cars regularly before they need extensive repairs or service. There is a basic unfairness here. In fact, this same deterrent effect will apply to the level of safety on the road. ASCCA members are reporting ever increasing numbers of motorists declining even safety-related repairs due to cost."

Cited as unfairly targeting specific industries, the extension was said to affect these businesses because of the "ease of implementation as these services are generally provided by entities that already have a relationship with the Board of Equalization."

"This is blatantly unfair," Pennebaker noted. "A ten percent tax on auto repairs could cause fewer older cars to be repaired and maintained correctly, causing increased pollution and greenhouse gasses. Not a very intelligent deterrent to have in place when the state is spending billions to combat exactly what these cars produce."

Even without broadening taxes to include these services, the increase in the sales tax to 9.25 percent in Contra Costa County will have an impact — especially for those on fixed incomes.

Karen Stein, an attorney in Lafayette with an estate planning and elder law practice, gives presentations at the Lafayette Senior Center and is a member of the steering

committee for the Central County Senior Coalition. She states that increased taxes on car ownership, gas consumption, and on every non-food item you buy at the store, impose a relatively greater burden on those living on fixed or low incomes.

"Higher sales taxes take up a greater percentage of a fixed income person's budget compared to someone who spends discretionary income on non-taxed services or investments," Stein said. "This inverse relationship between the tax rate and the taxpayer's ability to pay results in an increasingly regressive tax scheme that hurts fixed income people the most. Like inflation, tax increases eat away, little by little, at what fixed income seniors live on."

Although Lafayette resident Marilyn Finn says that she hasn't fully researched the budget solutions, she feels as if "those of us on fixed incomes, those of us who have lost our jobs, and those of us raising children as single parents are seemingly getting the privilege to bite the bullet pretty much alone."

"I believe that every citizen and business in California should have to bite the bullet," Finn said, "and as a senior citizen on a fixed income I want to do my part. I just don't see the wealthy having to bite very hard."

In addition to the new taxes, legislators plan to eliminate the state and federal cost of living increases for those receiving Supplemental Security Income/State

Supplementary Payment.

Stein added, "Fixed income people who already struggle to live within their means shouldn't have to shoulder the burden of a state government that has never figured out the way to live within its own."

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By Lana Reichick, a 25 year resident of Lamorinda, owner of San Ramon Irrigation & Drainage Supply. [www.linkedin.com/in/lanasan](http://www.linkedin.com/in/lanasan) Email: [lanasan@aol.com](mailto:lanasan@aol.com)

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## Are We Done Yet? The Five Stages of Remodeling

By Ken Ryerson



Ken and Linda Ryerson

Photo Andy Scheck

We thought it would never end, but here we are, back in our house after only six months. Our contractor promised we'd be in by mid-December, and he made good. He even pushed up the date by two weeks to save us another month's rent on the apartment that we had been living in.

I was in heaven knowing that we were moving back home and leaving behind the stress-filled months that we had been enduring. No more urgent decisions about cabinet knobs or what length to order the hanging ceiling fixture, no more worrying about the budget and whether to replace the garage door when our old one worked perfectly well (the answer for that one was no).

The euphoria lasted all of 24 hours. That's how long it took for my daughter to drag a large box of toys and books

from the garage through the kitchen, dining room, living room, and hall to her bedroom at the far end of the house. That box left a telltale scratch running the entire length of our beautiful brand new hardwood floors.

And it was another 48 hours before I realized that I was premature in assuming that those days of endless decision-making and even more endless shopping were over. Now we suddenly needed rugs for every room to protect those new wood floors, new bedroom furniture to replace what the movers broke, new living room furniture to replace the hand-me-downs from my parents that I had insisted on discarding to avoid paying storage fees for—the list seemed to grow by the hour as we settled in.

Right now it seems the work will never end. Furniture

to buy, boxes to unpack, window coverings to choose, not to mention new landscaping. How ironic that the beautiful new wall of windows in our family room now gives a lovely view on to the dead and torn-up backyard that was an inevitable result of the construction.

Apparently I'm not alone in feeling frustration after returning to a newly remodeled home. It takes time to adapt to the new space, to finish and furnish it, to incorporate it into your life. During this time it's not uncommon to be ambivalent about the whole renovation process. You've spent many months and much money on your house, the construction is complete and you've moved back in, and you're still not done.

But temporary frustration is just another stage of the emotional process associated with home renovation. Like other emotional processes, this one seems to have five steps:

- 1. Dreaming**—when you plan your remodel and think how nice the new spaces will be.
- 2. Anxiety**—when contractors demolish your house and pocketbook, and you must make countless snap decisions about things you know little about such as light fixtures and shades of white.
- 3. Euphoria**—when you get to move back into your new dream house. This phase may not last very long.
- 4. Ambivalence**—when you realize the work yet to be done to remake your house into your home, and set about it.
- 5. Satisfaction**—when you find out it was worthwhile in the end. It may take a few months to reach this stage.

I've not reached Stage 5 yet, but for inspiration I look to Mark and Paula Ito. They heavily remodeled their old house in 2005, and they suffered too once they moved back in. There was still so much to do, indoors and out. "Even when you're done, unless you complete everything, you're not really done," Paula said.

But by 2006 the Itos were thrilled with how their project turned out. Their old kitchen, for example, was isolated and limited their ability to entertain. The new kitchen is larger and opens right into the family room. The first Thanksgiving after renovation the Itos hosted 18 people. "The flow and the ability for everybody to be near each other, near where the cooking was and still watching the football game—it was great," Paula reports.

For me, I'm getting there. Life is slowly returning back to normal. Not every spare minute is spent directly on remodel-related activities. I got a chance to read a book over the holidays and played Wii with the kids.

Equally important, I can see that in the end it will be worth it. While there's work yet to do, my family and I now have a home that will be an oasis from the cares and stresses of the world. It's a sanctuary, which is important because your house is where you spend the majority of your time. For us, no more fights from the kids on why their room isn't clean because my son neglected to do his share. They now have their own rooms and, yes, my daughter's room does stay tidy without her little brother to throw things around. I can feel the serenity and peace descending on me even now. But wait—what's that noise? Is that the sound of another metal toy dragging across the new wood floor?

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**Lamorinda Home Sales continued**

<b>LAFAYETTE</b>	Last reported: 3
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$750,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$2,600,000
<b>MORAGA</b>	Last reported: 1
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$647,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$647,000
<b>ORINDA</b>	Last reported: 6
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$572,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,300,000

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**  
1768 La Playa Drive, \$750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2437 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 1-16-09  
1090 Marguerite Court, \$2,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 1404 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 1-27-09  
1236 Rose Lane, \$3,000,000, 2 Bdrms, 5647 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 1-12-09

**MORAGA**  
123 Cypress Point Way, \$647,000, 2 Bdrms, 1906 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 1-16-09

**ORINDA**  
66 Claremont Avenue, \$572,000, 2 Bdrms, 1451 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 1-22-09  
40 Lost Valley Drive, \$740,000, 3 Bdrms, 1744 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 1-23-09  
708 Miner Road, \$1,051,000, 3 Bdrms, 2725 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 1-23-09  
539 Miner Road, \$1,100,000, 1-9-09  
103 Oak Road, \$790,000, 4 Bdrms, 1094 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 1-16-09  
65 Overhill Road, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 3161 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 1-27-09

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The Ryerson's remodeled their house in 2008. Ken is a Lamorinda Residential Real Estate Specialist with Pacific Union in Orinda. If you have any questions or comments, he can be reached at 925-878-9685 or via email at [Ken@RyersonRealty.com](mailto:Ken@RyersonRealty.com)



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# business briefs

## ACI Relocates to Lafayette

3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Suite 395, Lafayette, www.aciho.com 283-4900 x225  
Owner and local resident, Caroline McCormick, recently relocated her business, Association Communications, Inc. (ACI), to Lafayette. "I relocated to Lafayette because I grew up in Moraga and moved back to the area from Clayton when I started a family," says McCormick, "I have two boys who attend Del Rey in 1st and 3rd grades. I love the strong sense of community and dedication to education that Lamorinda offers. After moving my family to Orinda, I had the opportunity to relocate my business to Lafayette. Can't beat the commute, the freeway is easily accessible, and Lafayette offers a nice downtown environment." ACI has been providing management services to Homeowners Associations since 1992, serving Contra Costa, Solano and Alameda counties. ACI will be having an open house Friday, March 20th from 3-6 p.m. and would like to extend an invitation to the community to learn more about what ACI can offer to Homeowners Associations.

## Petar's Gets a Facelift

2 Lafayette Cir, Lafayette, petars.com 284-7117

Petar's Restaurant in Lafayette has undergone many transformations since opening in 1954. Recently Petar's has reinvented itself again with a facelift to the main dining room that includes a new bar and new menus. The old lounge hasn't changed and patrons still enjoy the dark intimacy, congenial atmosphere and comfort food it offers. During the lunch and dinner hours Petar's caters to all ages and types of diners, but around 9:00 p.m. Wed- Saturdays, Petar's throws off its conservative mantle and guests get ready to kick up their heels. The new bar opens for business and headliner, "Diamond" Dave Hosley greets the crowd. Dave Hosley, who always performed in the tight fitting lounge, is now stationed in the larger new bar area where he can really let loose his signature style. This is the place where all generations from the young hip hoppers to baby boomers and beyond can enjoy some good clean fun. In addition to the new bar, the menu has undergone a transformation. There is more variety in selection, size and price of entrees. Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 PM you'll find Irish songstress Sinead Healy performing her haunting melodies in the old lounge area. To make the mood complete Petar's offers a special Irish Stew, available for dinner. Tuesday nights after 9:00 PM is "college night" with \$2.00 Coronas and a disc jockey, also named Dave, spinning tunes. The Rhythm Doctors round out the weekly entertainment on Sunday evenings, singing the blues.



## Diablo Rapid Print Celebrates

1014 Oakhill Road, suite C, diablorprint.com – 283 6610  
Ribbon Cutting: Thursday March 19th at 4:30 p.m.

## News From the Chambers of Commerce

Tri-Mixer with Lafayette, Orinda and Pleasant-Hill Chambers of Commerce on Wednesday March 11th from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Absolute Center, 3658 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette.

## Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

Lafayette Downtown Strategy & Specific Plan Community Workshop February 25th at 7 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. The Specific Plan needs the input of the business community, join this important meeting. If you have comments or questions email Ann Merideth - amerideth@ci.lafayette.ca.us. For more information call 284-1968 or visit the City's website at www.ci.lafayette.ca.us.

Shop Lafayette meeting on Tuesday March 10th at 8 a.m. at the Bank of the West, 3583 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

## Moraga Chamber of Commerce

Chamber mixer in the evening on Feb 24th from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Fireside room of the Hacienda de las Flores. Grant Stubblefield will talk about Community Marketing. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

## Orinda Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber mixer on Thursday, February 26th from 5:30 to 7 p.m. has been relocated to Pacific Union GMAC, 8 Camino Encinas #100, Orinda (on the corner of Camino Encinas and Camino Pablo). Cathy Lonsdale of NorCal Publishing (Orinda Chamber Directory Publisher) is sponsoring this event.

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



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## Lamorinda Residents Tap Technology for Career and Business Opportunities

By Jennifer Wake



Social and professional networking sites Photo Jennifer Wake

Lamorinda Residents Tap Technology for Career and Business Opportunities

With current economic conditions causing increased job losses and fewer business opportunities, more people are turning to technology to network within their industry, to keep up with industry trends, or to find business opportunities.

Lamorinda resident, author, radio host, and actor Cynthia Brian approaches her business much differently today than just three years ago. "We are in a different age," she said.

As an actor, Brian frequently auditions for commercials, and used to go through her agent and fly to Los Angeles for auditions. "Now, I send my profile and demo reel online, and they decide whether they want you to come in."

In addition to her personal endeavors, Brian is also founder of Be the Star You Are, a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering women, families and youth through improved literacy and positive media exposure. She currently has information about her organization posted on several networking sites, like MySpace, as well as on its own Web site. "What's important is to understand what it is you're trying to market," Brian said.

One site Brian says is exceptional is LinkedIn – a business-oriented social networking site launched in 2003. "If you're looking for an overall professional site, I think this is the best one in the United States."

Moraga resident Nick Baturin heard about LinkedIn from recruiter Jamie Bott at Barclays Global Investors (BGI), where he worked as a research officer. "She used to be at Google and is a power user of web networking tools," he said. "She encouraged me to get on LinkedIn."

With more than 30 million members, LinkedIn allows its members to not only connect with potential employers, consultants or business partners, but is by invitation only, so users have control over who they choose to connect with. It also allows users to search job listings and connect with hiring managers.

Baturin, who has a Ph.D. in physical oceanography, a master's of science in applied physics and math, and has the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation, was laid off last month after nine years at BGI, one of thousands affected by the financial meltdown. He has used LinkedIn to reconnect with former colleagues, and is building his network to include people who share his experience in the investment management industry.

"I like the network update feature. It tells you about what's been happening in your network in the last few days (e.g. who connected to whom, and who updated their profile)," said Baturin, who has received some useful job leads through the LinkedIn connections. "In the last few weeks I have been

investing time in expanding the network - mostly connecting with people I already knew, but also with some new ones."

In addition to professional networking sites like LinkedIn, some job seekers are writing blogs that are specific to their expertise or creating personal Web sites and posting resumes online. One Lamorinda resident, who asked not to be named, posted his resume on his personal Web site. He was contacted two days later by a Google recruiter regarding a job.

"They have Web spiders that are constantly trolling the Web to look for key word matches," he said.

During the past few years, there has been a proliferation of both professional and social networking sites that bring people together virtually. Additionally, new software platforms have been developed that allow users to create a network of their own.

In 2004, Gina Bianchini and Marc Andreessen (of Netscape fame) launched Ning.com – a platform that lets users (from artists to educators, journalists to scientists) develop their own unique online community.

Brian is a part of two Ning sites, one for radio hosts (radiohosts.ning.com) and the other for authors (pumpupyourbookpromotion.ning.com). "I could start my own gardening site, and invite all gardeners," said Brian, who has written a bestselling gardening book and regularly writes a gardening column for Lamorinda Weekly.

The trickiest part – whether you are creating your own site or joining an existing one – is choosing which sites are right for you.

"You can't do all of them," Brian said. "You would need an assistant to keep up with them all."

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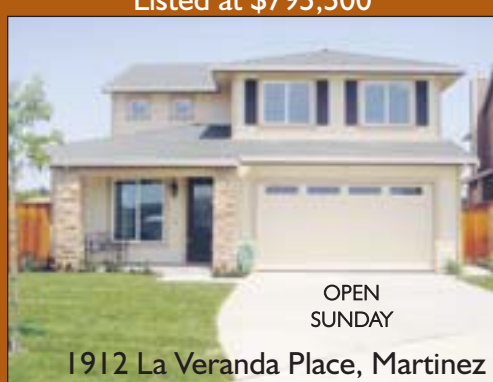
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**MUSIC**

**Afternoon Piano Jazz Café** on Friday Feb. 20, 1:30 – 2:30pm at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St Mary's Rd., featuring Members of the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society. The music varies from show tunes and jazz standards to original compositions. There is no charge, but, a small donation would be appreciated. RSVP to Lafayette Senior Services at 284-5050.

**On Feb. 23rd, the Chamber Music Recital** showcases some of Campolindo's outstanding classical musicians performing solo and ensemble pieces. Finally, on Thursday, Feb. 26th the Concert and Symphonic Bands perform "The Dream of Abraham" by Daniel Bukvich, "Concert Overture," by Keith Gates, and the West Coast Premier of "Symphony for Band," a piece by James A. Beckel, commissioned by the Campolindo Symphonic Band. All performances are free and open to the public, beginning at 7:30 in the Campolindo Performing Arts Center.

**The Campolindo Jazz Band** will be having its annual Dinner Dance on Saturday, Feb. 28, at Temple Isaiah from 6:30-10:00 PM. There will be fabulous music provided by the Campolindo Jazz Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein. There will be wonderful gourmet food, wine, friends, and even dancing. This is NOT just for Jazz Band Families, or even just for CampoMusic Families, but for the entire community. Tickets adult tickets are \$50 each, tickets for students and teachers are \$40 each, and premium wine can be reserved in advance for \$20 per bottle. Reservation forms can be downloaded at www.campomusic.org. The deadline for receipt of reservations is Feb. 20.

**Generations in Jazz Presents the 9th Annual Lafayette Jazz Festival:** Thurs March 5th – Sunday March 8th. Enjoy performances by The Rossmoor Big Band, Double Take, Stanley Middle School Jazz Messengers, Faces of Jazz, Acalanes School Jazz Band, The Ray Brown Great Big Band and Contra Costa County Honor Jazz Bands. Ticket, venues and pricing available at the Lafayette Chamber. (925) 284-7404 or www.lafayettechamber.org.

**Enjoy the 40's and 50's music of Eddie Williams** – a self-contained one-man show – a mix of vocals and instrumentation featuring Eddie on vocals, guitar and saxophone. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served while you listen to Eddie perform the music of Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby and more. Thursday, March 19 from 6:45 pm to 8:15 pm. This is event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP by March 16th to Candice Moses 925-377-7900 or e-mail to candice.moses@aegisliving.com.

**THEATER**

**Irish dancers from the Moore School of Irish Dance** in Walnut Creek will be performing award-winning Traditional Irish Step Dance and Storytelling through Irish dance drama. It promises to be great family entertainment, suitable for children and adults. Performances will be held at the Del Valle Theater in Walnut Creek. Show times are: 7:00pm on Friday, March 13th and 2:00 pm on Saturday, March 14th. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased by phone by dialing the Dean Leshner Theater at 943-SHOW.

**BREAKING LEGS, a comedy by Tom Dulack**, directed by Helen Means. The worlds of the Mafia and the theatre clash hilariously when a collage professor seeks funding to produce his new play from "the family" of one of his former students. Crossroads Theatre, 1277 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek. Fridays and Saturdays through Feb 27 at 8:15 PM. Thursdays Feb 19 & 26 at 8:15 PM. Matinees are Sunday Feb 22 and Saturday Feb 28 at 2:15 PM. TICKETS: (925) 944-9006 or onstageattheatre.org, \$18 general and \$14 seniors.

**Lafayette Town Hall Theatre presents "Rabbit Hole,"** the bittersweet 2007 Pulitzer Prize-winning play by David Lindsay-Abaire. In the story, Becca and Howie Corbett have everything a family could want until a life-shattering accident turns their world upside down and leaves the couple drifting perilously apart. Now through March 7. Contact the Town Hall Theatre Company Box Office for exact dates and times. For Tickets: 925-283-1557. Rating – PG-13. Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street at Moraga Road in Lafayette.

**ART**

**The Moraga Art Gallery** presents "The Northern Lights" in Moraga through March 14th. The show will highlight artworks by local artists Vivien Hart and Nina Tyksinski. Vivien, who lives in Orinda, creates artful cabinetry knobs and pulls from fused glass, "functional art on a glass canvas." Lafayette writer-turned-

painter Nina Tyksinski's recent paintings seek to capture the phenomenon of the northern lights using watercolor while placing them in local surroundings, including the Chapel at Saint Mary's and Mount Diablo. The Moraga Art Gallery is a co-operative gallery of 20 artists in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center, 570 Center Street in Moraga (MoragaArtGallery.com). Open Tuesday through Sunday, 12-5 pm, 925-376-5407.

**"Objects of Affection,"** the new show at the Lafayette Gallery, 50 Lafayette Circle, runs through March 7th. The viewer is treated to multiple canvases offering a fine art gift for your object of affection. For this special show, gallery artists create 12"x12" canvases with their personal interpretation of affection in all its many guises. Gallery Hours: 11-5pm Tue.-Sat., 50 Lafayette Circle, 925-284-2788.

**Illuminated Sculpture** runs through Feb. 22 at the Bedford Gallery, Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. The exhibit will showcase sculptures using a variety of forms of illumination including gases, incandescent light and emerging mediums like laser, plasma, fiber optics and light-emitting diodes (LED).

**LITERATURE & LECTURES**

**Moraga Library lecture** on Wed, Feb 25 based on current de Young exhibit through May 17, Warhol Live presents the first comprehensive exploration of Warhol's work seen through the lens of music. Music included in exhibit: Elvis Presley, Velvet Underground, Rolling Stones, Liza Minnelli, Michael Jackson et al. Exhibit includes silkscreen paintings, album covers, illustrations, and photographs inspired by music and the performing arts.

**Affordable Housing in the Suburbs:** What is it? Feb. 26, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Moraga Library. Speakers from Non-profit Housing of Northern California and Okamoto Saijo Architecture. Open to the public. Sponsored by League of Women Voters, and Social Justice Comm. of Mt Diablo U. U. Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek Info: 283-3638.

**The 9th Annual Bookies Award Dinner,** A Celebration of Books and the People Who Love Them, will be held on Thursday, March 19, at the Lafayette Park Hotel. This year's special guest author is Annie Barrows. Tickets are \$50 each and include admission, dinner, dessert and Jacuzzi Family Vineyard wines. Proceeds benefit Project Second Chance, The Contra Costa County Library adult literacy program. Tickets go on sale Monday, Feb. 9 and can be purchased with a credit card by calling Fremont Bank at 510-723-5811. Book club reading lists will be on display. If you would like your club to be included, please email the titles and authors you read this past year to darraw944@astound.net.

**PARENTS & TEENS**

**The Joys and Challenges of Parenting Boys** - PTA Parenting Book Club Discussion- Moraga - Thursday, Feb. 26, 7:00 - 8:30pm, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga. Books: "Real Boys: Rescuing

Our Sons From the Myth of Boyhood" by William Pollack and "The Minds of Boys: Saving Our Sons From Falling Behind in School and Life" by Michael Gurian. Join our facilitator for the evening, JM English teacher Mr. Don Read for a discussion of these books and share your own parenting experiences and tips. You may register at the event or on-line (course #05-6108) at www.acalenes.k12.ca.us.

**Acalanes Parent Ed Presents:** Drive Smart, Stay Safe. The California Highway Patrol offers this free class at Acalanes on Tue., Feb. 24th, 6-8 pm, Cafeteria. This program, sponsored by the CHP, is for parents and teens to attend together. It is designed to reduce the number of teenage injuries and deaths resulting from motor vehicle collisions. Space is limited, to register for the class, please sign up at: http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us Class # 056214. Or email: SENDME@SBCGLOBAL.NET.

**Healthy Bodies, Healthy Mind in High School, College, and Beyond:** Helping Your Teen Thrive With Positive Self Image, Tue., March 3rd, 7pm – 9pm, Acalanes Theatre, no fee. Topics Include: Parent Influence Weight as a Cultural Obsession, Sexuality/Social Life--How self image affects decisions, eating and exercise. What happens when they leave home? Sponsored by Acalanes Parent Ed, for more information email lgsendme@sbcglobal.net.

**The 10th Annual Sister-to-Sister summit,** open to middle-school girls, will take place on Saturday March 7th from 9 am to 3:30 pm at the Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda. The event is sponsored by AAUW and is planned and facilitated by volunteer high-school girls from the Acalanes Union High School District. Through fun activities, presentations, and small discussion groups, the middle school girls learn to become more supportive of each other, make healthy choices and develop leadership skills. The cost is \$30. It includes a lunch, beverages, and a T-shirt. Parents are invited to drop-off their girls and stay for an hour parenting workshop on raising middle-school girls. Registration is required before Feb. 28th. For more information and registration go to www.aauwoml.org or call (925) 942-0102.

**PERSPECTIVES**

**Contra Costa Midrasha** welcomes KGO talk show host, John Rothmann, on Sunday, Feb. 22 from 2:00 - 5:30 pm. at Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 25 Hilcroft Way, Walnut Creek. Rothman will discuss his views of how the Obama administration will impact U.S.-Israeli relations and education. Contra Costa Midrasha has classes, art, special events, social interaction, volunteer opportunities and mentoring for Jewish teens, 8th through 12th grade. The event is a fundraiser for the teen program. Anyone interested in U.S.- Israeli relations is invited to attend. Tickets for the event are \$36 for seniors and students and \$45 for adults. For tickets see www.ccmidrasha.org or call 925/944-4701.

**Amador Valley High School's STAND,** or human rights club, in

Pleasanton, which focuses on raising awareness about and helping to end genocide, will be hosting The Second Annual Human Rights Conference on Feb. 28th on Amador Valley High School's campus. This year's conference will focus on genocide in the Burma, Congo, and in Darfur. Doors will open at 8:30 AM, and the conference will run from 9:00 AM to noon. Breakfast and a t-shirt are included. Lunch will not be served. Tickets cost \$5, and must be purchased ahead of time by emailing the Amador STAND Club at amadorystand4hr@yahoo.com.

**How Nuclear Weapons Affect Our Lives** Jackie Cabasso, who has served as Executive Director of Western States Legal Foundation (WSLF) since 1984 and Marylia Kelley, Executive Director of the Livermore-based Tri-Valley CARES will discuss the impact of nuclear weapons on our community and the world and offer ways of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. Wednesday, Feb. 18, 7:00 pm at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Suggested donation: \$12-\$20 general, \$5 students (no one turned away for lack of funds); wheelchair accessible. For more information: 925-933-7850. Directions at www.mtdpc.org.

**OTHER**

**Movie Night @ St. Mark's PRIDE AND PREJUDICE.** See this Classic 1940 movie FREE on the Super Big Screen! Starring Greer Garson and Laurence Olivier, directed by Robert Z. Leonard, screenplay by Aldous Huxley. View a private collection of movie memorabilia presented by the grandniece of Oscar-winning director Robert Z. Leonard. Friday, Feb. 20, , DOORS OPEN at 6 pm, Screening 7 pm, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda. Movie food will be available. For more information, call 925-254-5965, or email stmarksorinda@sbcglobal.net.

**Winter Hike - Lafayette Hiking Group.** Feb. 28, 8:30 am – Valle Vista to Redwood Park. Enjoy a trail winding through the trees, crossing Indian and San Leandro Creeks before climbing steeply through the ferns and redwoods to the East Ridge Trail in Redwood Park. Distance: 6 miles, one steep hill. Email LafayetteHiking@comcast.net.

**Calling Lamorinda car collectors** of Specialty and Antique Cars to be shown as part of the third annual Moraga Community Faire, May 9, from 11 - 4 pm at the Rheem Valley Shopping Center. Register now! Show limited to 15 cars. Registration fee: \$25. Call John Anderson at 925-284-1230 for more information.

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church** will be hosting a "Community Treasures" Garage Sale on Saturday, March 7 from 8 am – 2 pm. Money raised will support the Youth Program's Mission Trip to Mississippi to assist Katrina victims. Donations to the sale will be accepted on Thursday, March 5 from 9 am – 5 pm. Please bring any gently used items including books, baby equipment, small appliances, DVDs, CDs, household items, sporting equipment and

clothing to the church parish hall located at 66 St. Stephen's Drive in Orinda. All clothes should be clean, unstained and in good condition. Please call (925) 254-3770 for info.

**3rd Annual Run for Kieran-** Sunday, March 8, at 9 am starting at Stanley Middle School. Fun run (2 miles) for all ages. Baby joggers welcome. \*For the more "competitive runners" we are offering a 7 mile run this year! Fee - \$20/participant. Kieran was 8 years old when he passed away in 2006 from a degenerative genetic disorder. His mom is Springhill Elementary Kindergarten teacher and Lafayette resident Bridget Quinn. Last year, the Run for Kieran raised over \$13,000 for the Special Education program at Springhill Elementary and the Division of Metabolic Genetics at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. For more information, contact the Quinn family at quinnsix@sbcglobal.net.

**"Get Moving, Sports Programs for the Disabled"** workshop at John Muir Medical Center- 2540 East Avenue in Concord (first floor.) Monday March 9 from 7-9 pm. Disabled Sports USA Far West will discuss Adaptive Golf Lessons held at Diablo Creek Golf Course, Concord and Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program will discuss hiking, biking, and Bay Area outings. For information, contact Ann at 925-376-6218. The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County's Meetings are free and open to the public.

**Moraga Rotary Club's Night** at the Races! Saturday March 14, Holy Trinity Hall, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Gates open 5:00pm. Enjoy a great catered dinner with no host bar. Wager play money on six video horse races, and bid on wonderful live and silent auction items. Tickets: \$40.00 per person. For ticket information or to reserve a group table, contact Vickie Devlin at 707 738-5026 or Dardoodles@aol.com. One of the goals this year will be to provide funds for the purchase of Polio vaccines to immunize children in the poorest countries, and finally eradicate to this crippling disease.

**The Moraga Women's Society** will meet on Monday, Feb. 23, at 9:30 am at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street in Moraga. Gayle Uilkema, Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, will be speaking on preventing falls. All are welcome. Contact President Roberta Klaproth, 376-0708.

**The Widowed Persons Support group** will have a luncheon Feb. 21, at 1pm at the Old Spaghetti Factory at 1955 Mt. Diablo in Concord, located at Concord's Todos Santos Square. Cost is \$12. On Feb. 23, at 7 pm there is a social program in the Davies Room of the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. The speaker is Susan Greenwald, Holocaust Survivor, who will talk about her experiences during W.W. II in Auschwitz camp, and later in Communist Russia. For information about the Widowed Persons Support, or the events, call 925/932-3448

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## Not to be missed

### CORRECTIONS FROM SENIOR CALENDAR FEB 4th

**Bi-Monthly Caregiver Support Group** is on Mondays (Feb 23 and March 9th) Licensed geriatric care manager Carol Shenson, M.A., CMC, offers a bi-monthly support group for family members who are considering or currently involved with the direct care of an older relative. To sign up, call 284-5050.

Lafayette Community Center, 500 St Mary's Rd. Drop-ins welcome.

**The next Positive Living Forum-Open Lecture and Discussion Series** will be Thu. March 12th 10:30 – noon. It is moderated by Dr. Bob Nozik, MD, Prof. Emeritus UCSF and Author of "Happy 4 Life: Here's How to Do It." Lafayette Community Center, 500 St Mary's

Rd. Drop-ins are welcome.

**A NEW TIME for Senior Services Commission**-which now meets on the 4th Thu., 3–5pm at the Lafayette Senior Services Center. Interested citizens may view meeting agendas at the City of Lafayette office or at [www.ci.lafayette.ca.us](http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us).

## Saint Mary's College

### Campus Happenings



Photo by Ken C. Young, Moraga; [www.kcyoungfineartimages.com](http://www.kcyoungfineartimages.com)

### Theater

Sandra Cisneros' critically acclaimed novel, "The House on Mango Street", comes alive on the stage of the LeFevre Theatre at Saint Mary's College in Moraga on Tuesday, Feb. 24th at 8:00pm. Told in a series of vignettes, stunning for their eloquence and elegant simplicity, this is the story of a young girl growing up in the Latino section of Chicago. Lauded by critics, beloved by teens, their parents and grandparents, taught everywhere from inner-city schools to universities across the country, and translated all over the world, it has entered the canon of coming-of-age classics. There will be a post-show discussion following the hour-long performance. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 925.631.4381 or visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu).

### Lectures & Panels

St. Mary's College's Kalmanovitz School of Education will have keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Pritchard, comedian, author and tv star, at its Distinguished Speaker Event on Saturday, Feb., 21, from 8:30am-1:00pm. Contact Lydia Wiley at (925) 631-8124 or email at [lwiley@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:lwiley@stmarys-ca.edu) for information.

The U.S. and Global Financial Crisis: Impacts and Solution- a panel discussion hosted by Saint Mary's College Center for the Regional Economy on Tuesday, Feb. 24, Soda Center 7:30am -9:30am. The event is FREE –RSVP by Feb 19th on [www.stmarys-ca.edu/financial-crisis](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/financial-crisis).

**Creative Writing Reading Series – Soda Activity Center** Wednesday, February 25, 7:30 p.m. Peter Gizzi is an award-winning poet and the poetry editor for The Nation His books include "The Outernational," "Some Values of Landscape and Weather," "Artificial Heart," and "Periplum." His work has been widely anthologized and translated into numerous languages. Wednesday, March 4, 2009, 7:30 p.m. Lee Montgomery is the editorial director of Tin House Books and the executive editor for Tin House magazine. She is the author of "The Things Between Us: A

Memoir," "Whose World Is This" and "Searching for Emily."

### Open House

BA in Leadership & Organizational Studies for working adults; hybrid online format M.A. in Leadership. Open house March 3rd 6:30-8pm and March 14th 10am-11:30; RSVP [www.stmarys-ca.edu/leadershipinfo](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/leadershipinfo).

### Hearst Gallery

Bert Monroy, Master Artist Tribute VIII: A Digital Artist Paints With Light through April 5. Bert Monroy, a world-renowned Photoshop artist and teacher, known for pioneering and innovative digital painting technique. The exhibition continues through Sun., Apr. 5. A Photoshop Demonstration with Bert Monroy will take place on March 19th. 7-8 pm demonstration, with an exhibition walk through with artist from 8-8:30pm. Free to the Public. Call (925) 631-4379 for more information. See story page 11

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>.

# Generations in Jazz Presents the 9th Annual Lafayette Jazz Festival



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## McCrary Gallery Hosts Exhibit of Local Artists

By Andrea A. Firth



Allison McCrary

Photo provided

Who says it's dead at Orinda's Theater Square? A steady flow of locals filled the Allison McCrary Gallery last Saturday night to view an exhibit of local artists' works. McCrary used her own gallery and a currently empty space across from Shelby's to display the artwork of ten artists from Orinda and Lafayette. "There are some really great artists here," states McCrary. "Many of these pieces are as good as what you find in some of the art havens like San Francisco, Carmel, and Napa. And, the prices are very reasonable," she adds. McCrary was motivated to host the exhibit and evening event to both showcase

her artist pals and to help to breathe some life into Theater Square—which she did.

Chefs Dianna Davis-Condon and Carl Drosky, the owners of Savory Affairs, a local gourmet meal and catering business, were on hand to pour the art patrons a glass of wine, white or red, and serve up dinner in a glass—a miniature version their signature dinner in a box. This night it was a bite-sized portion of braised short ribs with a merlot reduction, creamy mashed potatoes, and roasted asparagus.

McCrary, who is best known for her vibrant vineyard landscapes, met the other artists through art classes, art exhibits,

and around town. The works of plein air artists Susan Kendall of Orinda and Pam Wright of Lafayette were displayed alongside one another reminiscent of the way that their paintings were created. Kendall and Wright regularly take road trips to small towns like Crockett and set up their easels side by side to paint the local landscape.

The two artists are protégés of the Orinda-based mother-daughter art teacher team of Pam and Anne Marie Glover. Mary Spain, another plein air painter who has lived in Orinda for 25 years, displayed her scenes of the local hills, Saint Mary's, and the Mount Diablo area.

Orindans Zarmine Aghazarian, Carmel Dewies Blore, and Bonnie Fitch were also part of the local exhibit. Aghazarian, who began painting as her second career after retiring from the banking world, displayed abstracts in acrylic including one design inspired by the Valentines theme of the evening. Blore's detailed and realistic seascapes of the Carmel coastline were interesting subject matter for an artist of the same name. Fitch rounded out the Orinda art crew with oils of a farm landscape, a rooster, and a still life.

The exhibit also included the work of Lafayette residents Joe Loria, abstracts in muted lavenders and green, and Bob Wahrhaftig, paintings of women's faces. There was a bit of bling in the art mix provided by the jewelry designs of Amy Klimas. McCrary's large canvas paintings were also on display with a stormy-looking seascape providing a visual highlight of the night.

The McCrary Gallery will continue to display the work of these local artists along with Allison McCrary's artwork for others to view and purchase.

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CLASSES BEGIN IN JULY

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### School Governing Board Meetings

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Board Room AUHSD Office  
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette  
Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009 at 7:30  
Location Change: The 2/18 meeting will be held at the Las Lomas High School Theater  
Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 7:30

### Lafayette School District

LAFSD Office  
3477 School Street, Lafayette  
Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 7:00  
Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 4:00, the Board will hear public input on the budget process  
(location: Stanley Auditorium)

### Moraga School District

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium  
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
Tuesday, March 10 at 7:30

### Orinda Union School District

OUSD Office  
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda  
Monday, March 9 at 4:00



St. Perpetua Parish Salutes Scouting Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009: Cub Scouts, Brownies, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts were encouraged to attend mass in uniform and participate in the service. The Scouts took on the roles of communion gift bearers, greeters and ushers. The adult leaders are, from left to right, Marianne Brent, Don Hinton, Eagle Scout Kaid Collins and Jim Cervantes. Photo submitted by Jim Cervantes

## Restoring the Creeks at Del Rey Elementary

By Sophie Braccini



Mrs. Brasch's 4th grade class plants Santa Barbara sedge given by the Friends of the Orinda Creeks Photo Sophie Braccini

Kids frolicking in the creeks can be a pleasant and playful sight to see. When they are doing it for restoration purposes it is called environmental science, and in addition to having fun students are learning the rules of the natural world. On Tuesday, February 10th, all 4th and 5th grade students from Orinda's Del Rey Elementary School participated in a hands-on restoration project on a section of Moraga Creek bordering their school.

The project is part of a larger effort by the Friends of Orinda Creeks (FOC) and The Restoration

Trust, a non-profit organization dedicated to offering community groups assistance in creek and wetland restoration projects, to restore the natural environment of the Orinda creeks.

Class after class, the children came down to the creek with their teachers. They were assigned a part of the riverbank and the mission to remove invasive plants (such as ivy) and replace it with native sedge or willows.

The groups were having fun pulling on the strong roots, despite that morning's biting cold. Once

most of the ivy was gone on their assigned patch, the team of biologists that came to assist dug small holes in the ground where children planted the new natives.

"This completely ties our 4th grade natural science curriculum," said 4th grade teacher Terri Brasch, "we study California land forms, rivers and creeks and we work on how to protect our environment." Brasch explained that in preparation for the workday they researched water shed and the importance of what is put in the land.

The children were aware of the impact of their work: "We are removing the non-native plants and replacing it with native plants," said 4th grader Kylie. When asked about the purpose of doing so, she added that this would bring back the local critters and attract more trout to the stream.

"This is exactly the purpose," confirmed John Zentner, a member of both organizations. "The rainbow trout is the big predator of this ecosystem, it feeds on smaller fish, mosquito larva, and bugs. This fish is important for the restoration of a balanced and healthy eco-system," he explained. Following the physical activity in the creek, Zentner gave information to the children about local creek flora, fauna and animals that rely on the healthy homeostasis of this habitat.

"When you talk about wildlife to children they usually picture the rain forest or Africa," said Zentner, "but this is wildlife in their midst, like a micro rain forest."

The restoration at Del Rey is part of a large project in which the FOC and the Restoration Trust have been involved for years. They identify parts of the creek that need restoration and work with residents to gain access.

"Working with the Orinda School District and Del Rey was really easy," said Zentner, "they were really supportive." Del Rey Principal Kirsten Theurer, who came to the creek to see the work in progress, agrees: "Our school integrates as much as possible its natural environment to enrich the learning experience."

# Lamorinda Schools

## Lamorinda Schools: What's on the Chopping Block?

### Budgeting in Uncertain Times

By Andrea A. Firth

"This is the worst budget that I have seen in my 35-year career," stated Jim Negri, Superintendent of the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) at the last Governing Board meeting, which was attended by over 150 concerned parents, teachers, and students. "Every student, staff member, and family will be impacted. We will not be doing school as we have done it in the past," he explained one week later to another auditorium packed with concerned stakeholders attending a Special Meeting of the Board convened to solicit public comment.

"There is a tremendous amount of uncertainty," said Orinda Union School District (OUSD) Superintendent Joe Jaconette as he and the OUSD Board of Trustees listened to two hours of public comment on proposed program and personnel reductions at their February meeting.

"This is the worst case scenario. This is not where we want to go," declared Rick Schafer, Superintendent of the Moraga School District (MSD) as he reviewed the proposed list and prioritization of cuts planned for his district. Over 60 parents and teachers attended the Board meeting and discussed the budget problem and potential solutions into the late evening hours.

The long delay and lack of clear information regarding State education funding has put Lafayette School District (LAFSD), and districts across the state, in an untenable situation reported Superintendent Fred Brill in an communication to parents in anticipation of the upcoming LAFSD Governing Board meeting. Brill and the LAFSD Board have also scheduled a special meeting on February 25th (4 p.m. in the Stanley Auditorium) for additional public comment on the proposed budget.

School administrators across Lamorinda have spent countless hours over the past several weeks trying to set budget priorities for the 2009-2010 school year in the face of dramatic State funding cuts, the magnitude of which remained difficult to define. While answers from the State prove elusive, Superintendents from all from all four of the public school districts are planning for the worst. Lamorinda school districts will likely be spared

mid-year budget cuts due to prudent financial planning and reserves, however all four districts expect significant State funding shortfalls for the next school year. The three kindergarten through eighth grade districts estimate deficits approximating one million dollars, and the high school district faces a whopping \$5.2 million shortage. Declining enrollment in all three communities will contribute to the reduced State funding and represents \$1.3 million of AUHSD's budget gap.

Despite the many budget unknowns, districts are forced to make decisions regarding personnel cuts by March 15th in order to meet the legally mandated deadline to notice teachers and other certificated employees (e.g., librarians) who may be terminated. If the AUHSD were to act on their complete list of proposed budget reductions, the equivalent of 60 faculty members would lose jobs, and this does not include a number of classified employees, such as custodial and administrative staff, that are also on the cut list. All four districts hope that additional revenues will enable them to shorten their cut lists and save jobs. "This process is very stressful for the district's employees," states Schafer who also notes that his District faced personnel reductions last year too.

*A Multi-Year Problem.* The State education funding crisis could last through next year plus two more years—making it 2012 before school districts see the light at the end of a very dark tunnel. Districts will have to manage with the cuts that are made next school year plus a lower revenue stream. If the State economy continues to decline, further cuts will be likely unless offset by other revenue sources.

Schafer anticipates that he will recommend that the MSD Board utilize some District reserves to make up for the funding shortage this year. However, he plans to avoid the situation that several districts in California may face in the next two years when they are unable to pay their bills. The State will be forced to swoop in to salvage the bankrupted districts that will then lose local control of their budgets—a situation that Moraga parents, and other Lamorinda parents, would find unacceptable.

*Raising Revenues.* Lamor-

inda schools' budget woes are compounded by the fact that the districts are designated as low-wealth districts—an oxymoron that leaves them funded at lower levels as compared to other schools in the State. Identifying additional revenue sources has been part and "parcel" of the budget discussions. OUSD has a school parcel tax on the March 3rd ballot that could ameliorate their current budget problems. AUHSD is investigating the elements and timing of a new parcel tax. And, stakeholders have asked the MSD Board to begin to explore the idea of a new parcel tax for Moraga. Lafayette's school district passed their last parcel tax less than two years ago.

Districts are also thinking "out of the box" with respect to revenue generation. OUSD plans to consider allowing more interdistrict transfers, which could add up to \$110,000 to their bottom line. The high schools may consider increases to athletic fees and reconsider their ban on advertising in the athletic stadiums. Several parents asked about using volunteers to do the work of employees who might be terminated, however education and labor laws often prohibit this trade-off. All four districts expect to rely on their fundraising groups to help backfill their deficits.

*Federal Stimulus Package.* All Districts have their eyes on the federal stimulus package monies for education that could help to fund special education programs that have been historically underfunded by the feds. For example, MSD spends \$900K of their general fund monies on these programs. However, Districts are waiting to see how the legislation is structured to see if the funding is earmarked for the districts or siphoned off by the State before reaching the local level.

As budget discussions continued across the Districts, parents bemoaned the loss of programs that contribute the "complete and rounded student" such as Leadership at the high school and environmental education in grade school. They questioned how teachers will manage with increased class sizes and few to no aides to help. Employees and administration sought a common solution. However, there was little finger-pointing other than toward the State.

## Lafayette Elementary Celebrates International Night

Submitted by Daniela Wolff



Photo Benedikt Wolff

On January 28, 2009, Lafayette Elementary School celebrated International Night with a Global Jam that highlighted the school's commitment to cultural awareness and ethnic heritage in our community. The school wide event, sponsored by the Lafayette PTA, was held in the school's multipurpose room and was attended by more than 200 students and their families.

This year's theme, Global Jam, included an international food potluck, arts and crafts of percussion instruments from around the globe, and necklaces celebrating the

Lunar New Year. Participants of International Night were also treated to an international showcase of local talent including: Eden Aoba Taiko Drummers, Lafayette Scottish Country Dancers and the Caribbean-Neo Folk performer, Asheba, who got all the children on stage with their percussion instruments for a real global musical jam. "This event is our chance to showcase the many cultures at our school and in our community," said Daniela Wolff, PTA co-chairperson for International Night.

Local merchants also made donations of food and gift certi-

icates in honor of the event: Trader Joe's, Mangia and Kopitiam Restaurants, The Handlebar and Powell's all contributed to the evening's festivities.

"The International Night committee, Lafayette PTA and our school are very dedicated to celebrating our student's cultural identity. We just add the arts and crafts, quality entertainment, and of course great food," Wolff added. International Night is an annual event held every January at Lafayette Elementary School.

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# Lamorinda Schools

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## Drum Line Brings More Rhythm to Acalanes Sports

By Jean Follmer



Photo Robin Schoettler Fox

Acalanes High School has a new athletic club this year. The Drum Line has literally brought a new rhythm to the sports programs at Acalanes. The Athletic Department was looking for ways to further boost school spirit at games and the Drum Line seems to have accomplished that goal.

Drum Line is the brainchild of Acalanes math teacher Vicki Zalewski. When she's not teaching math, Zalewski

plays the drums semi-professionally for Community Women's Orchestra, Oakland Community Orchestra, San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and local church ensembles. "I've been playing the drums for 37 years. I was a drummer in the University of Wisconsin marching band and I was the first woman snare drummer there," says Zalewski.

Zalewski says the Drum

Line Club began soliciting members at Club Day. The Club has grown from 17 to 21 members over the course of the year. She was pleased to have two freshmen join the Drum Line last week. Only five of the Drum Line members play an instrument in the band or at home: the rest have learned this year. "The Drum Line gives students a chance to participate that may not normally participate actively. I'm working with

them on their technique. Some of them are surprised by how hard the drums are to play," explains Zalewski. She says that the Drum Line plays some pieces that are written by students. During the Acalanes-Campolindo game, the Drum Line played "Flight of the Bumble G" written by student drummer Will Prinzi. The Drum Line Club practices Monday after school and Friday during lunch. The equipment has been

paid for by the Athletic Department with funds that were set aside specifically for clubs.

Junior Clark Kami joined the Drum Line this year and is really enjoying the experience. "I've been playing drum kit at home for two years. I'm definitely continuing with it (Drum Line) next year," said Kami, adding that he believes the Drum Line has increased attendance at games. He says he has friends who didn't attend games

in the past that do now just to listen to the Drum Line.

Senior Danielle Burnstein is an experienced drummer. "I've been playing drums since the 3rd grade. I played drums in the Jazz Ensemble in middle school," she says. She agrees that the Drum Line has had a positive impact on athletics at Acalanes. "It's been great. People come to the games now just to hear the Drum Line. Also, it's just fun. We want high school to be fun," adds Burnstein.

## New Contractor for Lamorinda School Bus Program

By Jean Follmer

The Lamorinda School Bus Program's (LSBP) contract with Durham School Services will expire at the end of this school year. LSBP recently went out for bid and selected First Student to replace Durham effective August, 2009.

"First Student is a very experienced company with a great reputation and they do this all over the United States," says LSBP Program Director Juliet Hansen. First Student provided a significantly lower bid than the incumbent. They were able to offer the lower bid because they gave a simultaneous bid to the San Ramon Valley School District. San Ramon has tentatively accepted the First Student bid.

Hansen said LSBP is facing a 20-25% decline in Measure J revenue and sought competitive bids in an effort to preserve routes. Hansen says Lamorinda parents only pay about 33% of the cost to operate the buses. Had LSBP not

gone to bid, five routes would have been lost. Even with the savings from First Student, LSBP is going to have to cut one route and Hansen said they don't know which route will be eliminated.

In addition to the financial benefits of the First Student contract, Hansen says the new buses will be more environmentally friendly than the current buses and will be equipped with seatbelts. "The new clean diesel buses will meet the new 2007 emissions requirements and actually burn cleaner than our older model 1996 CNG buses," explains Hansen, adding that the newer CNG buses are both cost prohibitive and don't burn significantly cleaner than clean diesel buses do.

The buses will be equipped with lap-shoulder belts from Safeguard. California is currently the only state to require lap-shoulder belts on new buses; Texas will follow in 2010. The current school

buses adhere to compartmentalization standards established by the Federal Government in 1977. Safeguard says the current buses have "heavily padded seat backs that are designed to deform and absorb energy in frontal impacts. This passive protection works in frontal collisions, but does not protect children in rollovers or side impacts. Another limitation of compartmentalization is it does not offer adequate frontal impact protection for the third child in a school bus seat sitting in the aisle position, or if sitting improperly on the seat."

The current Durham drivers will have the opportunity to interview with First Student. In a written statement, Hansen said "We have been fortunate to have so many wonderful Durham drivers and hope that many of them will join First Student next year." For additional information, visit [www.lamorindaschoolbus.org](http://www.lamorindaschoolbus.org) or call (925)299-3216.

## Ask Doctor Harold:

### Learning Disabilities

By Dr. Harold Jules Hoyle, Ph.D.

I was recently at Amoroma and a nice lady came up to me and asked me, "My daughter is having difficulty reading and my school recommended having her tested for a learning disability. What am I getting into?"

There is a lot of information out on the internet about learning disabilities and learning problems, so it is difficult to know where to go and what to believe. I will attempt to provide a framework for understanding the world of learning disabilities.

Technically, learning disabilities did not exist until the law that created Special Education was enacted in the early 70s. A Specific Learning Disability (SLD) is a legal definition. Special education law is in the same historical line as the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education law; it is about legal access to appropriate education. With the passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 1975, SLD as a legal category was born. Special education law not only covers services for learning disabilities but also speech, gifted and talented, deaf education and many other categories.

But what does IDEA and learning disability mean for my child?

It means the school believes that there is a disconnect between how smart your daughter

is and how she is reading or learning to read. She is reading below her potential. Although there are mathematics, processing (memory and sequencing), and writing disorders, in this case the SLD would be a reading disorder. The medical term for a reading disorder is dyslexia and is different than a Specific Learning Disability.

In order for your daughter to get a SLD, a team of people that includes you would need to make that decision at a meeting called an Individual Education Plan meeting. This decision would state that your daughter "qualifies" for special education services. Once this decision is made, the team would come up with educational goals and educational services to meet those goals.

Just as the school is required to provide a ramp and orthopedic help to those students who need it, they are legally responsible to aid your daughter in getting the help she needs to learn the process of reading. Just as we would not give a failing grade to the child in the wheel chair because they couldn't make it around the track, your daughter shouldn't get a failing grade in a content course because of her difficulty in reading.

The good news is that with the right interventions many people with SLDs can learn and go

far in education. I have several people with learning disabilities in my classes every year at Santa Clara University who are getting their Masters degree. I have worked with many law students and executives who also qualified for services when younger. The key is getting good interventions and keeping a positive identity around learning.

Here is a list of helpful hints from people that I have worked with; 1) Know your rights and work with the school, 2) Fight for a strength based approach-this means that your child should be doing a lot of what they are good at during the school day. They need to feel successful and be in a well-structured reading program, 3) Understand that school takes a lot more energy for your daughter than for other kids. Imagine trying to thread a needle with a piece of yarn from 8:15 to 2:15 every day. That is how one kid I worked with described reading. 4) Get help! Whether it is friends, family, or professionals, this is a time to reach out and let people help you. If you are thinking about web resources the Council for Exceptional Children is the leading resource in the field.

[www.drharoldhoyle.com](http://www.drharoldhoyle.com)  
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# Lamorinda Schools

## Orinda Junior Women's Club Announces "Green" Youth Ink 2009

Submitted by Lisa Rodriguez



7th- and 8th-grade OIS students in the Writing Symposium course Ms. Risso teaches at OIS Photo Mary Risso

The Orinda Junior Women's Club (OJWC) recently announced details for Youth Ink 2009. The annual creative writing contest is open to all sixth, seventh and eighth grade students who live or attend school in Orinda. The middle school writing contest supports literary arts within the community and awards cash prizes of \$250, \$125 and \$75 to the top three winners as well as 10 honorable mention gift certificates.

Youth Ink Co-Chair Lisa Rodriguez said the writing contest began over a decade ago and took a hiatus before being resurrected by Rodriguez and co-chair Barbara Sullivan in 2008. "My background is in writing and journalism and PR," says Rodriguez. Rodriguez explains that Sullivan also has a writing background so it was natural for them to get involved and they "immediately received wonderful

feedback from the community." Rodriguez says "Middle school includes so many changes and so many pressures," noting that while there are numerous sports-related outlets for those pressures, there aren't as many outlets in the arts and certainly not in writing.

The Youth Ink 2009 theme is GREEN. The theme was chosen based on feedback from the middle school student community. Sponsors believe it encourages highly personal and descriptive writing and lends well to open style choice. While GREEN entries could focus on the environment, students could also choose to write about a GREEN object, feeling GREEN, or whatever they choose. "We are glad to support a contest that recognizes writers - who are at times the unsung heroes of the arts," says Maureen Brown, president of OJWC. "We were amazed by the talented young

writers who entered last year's contest, and we can't wait to read this year's submissions." A panel of four local professional writers, including reporters and best-selling novelists, will evaluate Youth Ink 2009 submissions and choose winners. The judges' names will be shared when the winners are announced at an awards ceremony at the Orinda Public Library on Thursday, April 30.

Youth Ink 2009 submissions will be accepted on an ongoing basis but must be hand-delivered to a designated school representative or postmarked by March 4, 2009 in order to be considered for an award. Youth Ink 2009 submission forms are available through the administrative offices and English departments at Orinda Intermediate School, the Orinda Public Library, St. Perpetua School, Orinda Academy, Bentley School, Saklan Valley School and Julia Morgan School for Girls. The submissions can be mailed to: Youth Ink 2009, c/o Orinda Junior Women's Club, P.O. Box 40, Orinda, CA 94563.

Youth Ink 2009 sponsors include the Orinda Junior Women's Club, the City of Orinda, Friends of the Orinda Library, Ann Sullivan of Coldwell Banker, Denning & Company, Dragonfly Studio/Allyson Furlong Photography and several other local organizations and businesses.

Jean Follmer contributed to this article.

# LAMORINDA'S

## Preschools Weigh in on Economy

By T. R. Audley

Prior to 2008, Lamorinda parents were known to register their young children on the first day of the preschool enrollment period. They willingly completed numerous applications and paid non-refundable fees to secure a spot at one of their top choice schools. Many of the preschools in Lamorinda agree that times have changed. While the importance of early childhood education is understood and valued in our communities, local preschools are feeling the effects of competition for family dollars as a result of current economic conditions.

"We have noticed quite a change. We've had decreased enrollment in our twos program by half. When I first came to this community five years ago people were placing their kids in preschool at age 2 instead of 3. Now that trend seems to be reversing," reports Connie Kellaher of The Nurture in Moraga. Due to a lack of enrollment, Kellaher had to close one of her twos classes last fall. Other preschools also report changes to their part-time programs.

Meg Taggart-Wright of The Child Day School in Lafayette sees the business side clearly. "The economy is definitely having an effect on part-day schedules. Operating margins are small and reductions to class size are felt quickly," says Taggart-Wright. Like many schools, The Child Day School belongs to professional associations which provide schools with industry information. "I've heard of possible hikes in licensing fees as well as cutbacks to state funded early education programs," reports Taggart-Wright. Such costs could be more than many schools can bear.

"It feels like I'm in quick sand," says Ruth Kaiser, owner of Tot Drop in Lafayette. Tot Drop is an appointment based center where parents pay hourly instead of monthly. "With our program, parents have free time when they need it," reports Kaiser, who grew her business to seven different locations over 15 years due to high demand for her services. "I know it will be good again, but for us to survive and serve the community, we simply need more business," says Kaiser. Kaiser closed her Walnut Creek Tot Drop center for an entire day last

week due to low enrollment.

Filling open spaces during the school year is not new for preschools. But as Marilyn Ragan of Diablo Valley Montessori School reports, "Waitlists which would traditionally have worked to fill open spots are just not as long." Nevertheless, with increased available housing in the area, new families are moving to Lamorinda and some schools are benefiting. Carol Carter at St. John's Preschool in Orinda reports a recent increase in interest. "I am shocked by how many calls I've gotten in January," says Carter. Four new children started at St. John's last month.

Other schools also give positive reports while recognizing the change around them. Dot Feist of Joyful Beginnings Preschool in Lafayette says that her school raised tuition this year and really hasn't noticed any change. "We've been really blessed," Feist admits.

Thus it may not exclusively be the cost that is prohibitive. If it were, one might see a rise in applications to cooperative preschools where program fees are low in exchange for parent participation. Time is money, however, and many families seem to have less of either to spare. Enrollment is down at The Orinda Preschool and they are considering changing classes to make up for budget shortfalls. In past years at Lafayette Nursery School, parents lined up outside to register for the small, hands-on cooperative program. This year, only two applications came on the first day of enrollment.

Statistics and studies show that early childhood education is advantageous for future success in school. However, it seems that many Lamorinda families have yielded to economic pressures when considering education for preschool aged children. Connie Kellaher says socialization is the main goal that parents have for younger preschool aged children. "I get a sense that parents are feeling they can accomplish socialization through playdates," says Kellaher. As with many of our local businesses and private schools, the economic effects of 2009 will remain to be seen.

Jean Follmer contributed to this article.

## OIS Diverse Abilities Awareness Week

By Jean Follmer



Photo submitted



Photo submitted

Orinda Intermediate School recently held its annual Diverse Abilities Awareness Week (DAAW). "The purpose of the week is to increase awareness and understanding of different disabilities, and most importantly to see beyond the disabilities and recognize the strengths and abilities of all people. Though it has evolved over the years, the week remains rich in information for the kids and parents," said Diverse Abilities Awareness Week Co-chair Susan Forman in a written statement.

OIS held activities throughout the week including hands-on stations where 6th graders had the opportunity to "experience a little of what it would be like to have a learning disability." DAAW Co-chair Anna Tague said the stations offered opportunities for auditory, visual and sensory motor experiential learning. The students rotated through the stations in groups of 30. As a visual exercise, the students were asked to read aloud from a page that contained words as seen by a dyslexic person. The experience enabled them to get a sense of the frustration that dyslexic persons can experience when trying to read.

To gain a glimpse of the difficulties people with auditory challenges face, the students participated in an exercise in which the students all wore headphones and listened to

instructions from a teacher. Some of the students could hear the teacher so could raise their hands when prompted and others just heard white noise and experienced feeling "left out" because they weren't able to hear the directions.

Finally, the students were asked to try to speak with Skittles in their mouths to gain some sense of what it's like to have a sensory motor disability that impacts speech. Through these experiences, the students learned that not all disabilities are "visible." While you can physically see that someone is in a wheelchair you can't "see" many other disabilities because they're invisible to the eye. That doesn't mean, however, that the disabled person does not have real challenges.

OIS held an evening Open House for the first time this year and parents had the opportunity to visit the sensory stations that the students had rotated through. Many location organizations, including the Center for Early Intervention on Deafness (CEID), PAWS for a Cause dog assistance, Sumakids OT and Lighthouse for the Blind hosted tables to share information about deafness, visual impairment, occupational therapy and dog assistance. There was also a wheelchair basketball game that evening: the Bay Area Outreach and Recreational Program (BORP) versus the OIS faculty (also

in wheelchairs). While BORP won 71-70, it was only because OIS was given 50 points to start and additional points later in the game. The OIS faculty only scored 5 legitimate points to the 71 points scored by BORP. Tague said the game enabled the audience to see that people with disabilities can still be competitive athletes.

The week ended with the sixth graders attending a question and answer style assembly with three disabled panel speakers: Richie Bennett, Lateef McLeod and Jessie Lorenz. Both Bennett and McLeod suffer from cerebral palsy while Lorenz is blind. Bennett is a former OIS student. A UC-Berkeley grad, Bennett is also a former world ranked wheelchair athlete. Bennett has coached wheelchair basketball with BORP since 1998 and is in his first year of graduate work at St. Mary's College in Moraga. McLeod is a writer who holds an undergraduate degree from UC-Berkeley and a graduate degree from Mills College.

Lorenz is a professional athlete who participated in both the 2004 and 2008 Paralympics on the US Women's Goal ball team. She has earned a World Championship title and numerous medals in the sport. In 2008, she carried the Olympic Torch as it made its way through San Francisco and won her second consecutive Paralympic Games medal with a gold in Beijing. Lorenz is Director of Public Policy for the Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired in San Francisco. She also helped bring accessible crossing signals to San Francisco intersections.

Lorenz told the students it's never been physical boundaries that have made her life difficult, but attitudes and misconceptions. Lateef is only able to speak through a computer. He told the crowd that people frequently judge his intelligence because he is unable to speak without the computer.

Tague said the fact that Bennett experienced life in a wheelchair in the halls of OIS really resonated with the students. After the assembly was over, 30-40 kids rushed the stage to speak to the panelists. Although they had to get to their next class, Tague said the kids "really wanted to stay and have more time with them."

OIS has been holding Diverse Abilities Awareness Week for over a decade as part of its Character Education program.



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Bright Beginnings
Child Day School
Creative Playhouse
Growing Light Montessori School
Growing Tree Preschool
Mulberry Tree Preschool
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## 5 Ways to Improve

By Theresa Tsigis, D.C. M.S.  
As a child my family's menu

In the last issue, we covered staying healthy in later years; let's begin at the beginning now. Here are 5 common challenges facing parents regarding the nutrition of toddlers, and strategies for handling them:

- 1) Food Fussiness
- 2) Food Allergies
- 3) Colic & other Digestive problems
- 4) Eczema, Asthma, or Ear Infections
- 5) Refined carbohydrate cravings

1). **Food Fussiness** - Almost every preschooler has food preferences, to the exclusion of other foods. I remember my 3 year old son shouting in a health food store, "I don't like healthy foods, I like junky foods!" While a funny memory, a toddler's food stubbornness may lack entertainment value in the moment. Surprisingly, the best approach besides patience is that old Boy Scout adage "Be Prepared." Planning a healthy variety of foods for the entire family - and presenting them creatively - will intrigue many a tot with the process. You may find your little one monopolizing the guacamole, artichokes, and asparagus. And if not, be assured that as they grow, toddlers expand their repertoire. One psychology approach that still works with my youngest is, "Taste this today, even if you don't think you like it- your taste buds are growing just like you are growing into a big boy."

2). **Food Allergies** - This issue increasingly pertains to a young child's health. For some, the prevention reaches back to pregnancy. The mother's own internal health and allergy patterns may influence the future health of her offspring. Food reactions are mediated by different antibodies, and may be delayed or acute in nature. Life-threatening al-

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Cooking is for Everyone

By Susie Iventosch



Dianna-Davis Condon teaches Del Rey students Kathryn Silveira (middle) and Riley Hummell (left) how to make apple galettes with puff pastry and crème Chantilly in her after-school cooking class Photo Susie Iventosch

Cooking isn't just for moms and dads, anymore. I am continually impressed by the number of school-aged children who are big fans of The Food Network. Every day I hear about a young foodie, who spends more time watching Iron Chef, Alton Brown and Big Daddy's House than cartoons ... and I love it! They're writing school reports about famous chefs and tagging along with mom and dad on excursions to the farmers' market. It follows that youth cooking classes are very popular offerings for after school enrichment programs these days.

Dianna Condon of Orinda is a partner in Savory Affairs, a local business that specializes in catering and personal gourmet meal services, as well as cooking classes for adults and kids alike. She says her cooking classes at Del Rey Elementary School fill up quickly.

"The kids are really interested in learning," she said. "I think the Food Network has had a huge impact on them. I love seeing the ear-to-ear grins on the faces of my clients while they are learning to cook or are eating really good food."

Orinda parent Jen Weizsmann saw the cooking class in the enrichment program last year, and since her son Kieran, 8, has always been interested in cooking, she tried to sign him up only to discover the class was full.

"Kieran was really disappointed," she said. "So, this year, I watched for it and signed him up early. Now, he's in his second

eight-week session and loving it!" Weizsmann says both of her boys are really into cooking. Cayden who is 6, is still too young for the series, but he was able to do a special kindergarten class last year around Thanksgiving. They love watching the Food Network and cooking and also enjoy raising vegetables in the family garden. They like to try to find recipes that include the produce they grow at home, too.

"Two years ago, the boys got a KitchenAid from Santa Claus and I have to ask them to use it," Weizsmann pointed out. "And for Christmas this year, they insisted we buy a deep fryer for my husband!"

Kieran's favorite Food Network shows are the Iron Chef and Alton Brown.

"They're funny and they make cooking seem like fun," he said. "My teacher, Dianna, also makes it fun. I like rolling out dough and chopping vegetables, but my favorite was the coconut macaroons ... dipped in chocolate!"

Kieran didn't even like coconut before he made macaroons in cooking class.

He really likes Tyler Florence's mashed potatoes, because "you cook the potatoes in milk and it makes them taste richer."

For his school project, he is writing a speech about Mario Batali.

"You're supposed to write a biography about someone," he explained. "It has to be three to five minutes. Someday I'd like to go to

Mario's restaurant."

When asked what piece of equipment was missing from his family's kitchen, Kieran said they don't have a food processor, which he'd like, but also he thought it would be nice if Alton Brown would come to his house and give him an outdoor kitchen, like he did for someone on television one time. That way he and his mom could hang out with guests rather than retreat to the kitchen when they're cooking for parties!

Hmmm ... maybe Alton Brown could stop by my house on the way!

Condon who changed careers midlife, began her professional culinary training seven years ago, when she signed up for a cooking externship program jointly conducted by Viking Home Chef and the California Culinary Academy. That's where she met her business partner, Carl Drosky, but it wasn't

don taught at Viking in addition to offering local classes for adults and children in the Orinda area and "cooking" birthday parties.

"Ironically, we both followed our passions to the same spot, and last year decided to collaborate in all aspects of the business," Drosky noted.

The gourmet meal service, designed for people who want a tasty, healthy, high-quality meal ready to eat when they are, offers three entrees each week in addition to several side dishes, and a weekly soup. Savory Affairs caters events from a dinner party of 12 to large events for 100. Cooking classes are conducted for youth and adults, and birthday parties for each category.

"What I enjoy about working with clients in the Lamorinda community is that they allow me to share my passion for food with them," Drosky mentioned. "When I'm teaching them cooking tips in a



Tomato Tart in progress

Photo courtesy Savory Affairs

until recently that they teamed up with Savory Affairs.

"For about 18 years I was in sales of robotic machines for the medical industry," Drosky said. "I was looking to make a career change, and since I've always enjoyed working with food, I signed up for the 12-week essential series. Every week we learned a different cooking technique."

After completing the program, Drosky began teaching at Viking Home Chef and later opened his catering business and gourmet meal service, while Con-

don taught at Viking in addition to offering local classes for adults and children in the Orinda area and "cooking" birthday parties. Whether it's children or adults, they usually become friends as well."

Dianna feels the same way about her work.

"When I have given someone a positive glimpse into cooking and sharing food it feels wonderful. I can't think of a better way to bring family and friends together. People love food!"

For more information about Savory Affairs, please visit: <http://www.savoryaffairs.com/>

Savory Affairs Tomato Tart

- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- 1 tablespoons thinly sliced chives
- 1 pound firm, ripe tomatoes of even size and shape
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoons kosher salt
- ½ teaspoons ground pepper
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup sherry vinegar
- 2 medium shallots, finely minced
- 1 sheet puff pastry

This recipe is available on our web site. Go to: <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com> Susie can be reached at [suziven@hughes.net](mailto:suziven@hughes.net)

- Preheat oven to 400.
- Whisk together sour cream and chives in a small bowl. Chill until needed.
- Core the tomatoes and slice lengthwise into quarters. Remove seeds.
- Gently and thoroughly mix together tomatoes, salt, pepper, thyme, garlic and olive oil in a medium bowl.
- In a 7 inch, ovenproof sauté pan, combine butter, brown sugar, vinegar and shallots. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to simmer and reduce by half. Mixture will be dark and syrupy. Set aside to cool.
- Arrange tomato wedges, cut side down, in a circle in the sauté pan. Fill in the center with 2 - 3 wedges. Pour remaining sauce on top.
- Return sauté pan to medium heat and cook until liquid from tomatoes has evaporated (6 - 8 minutes). Remove from heat and set aside for 5 minutes.
- Cut a 9 inch circle from the puff pastry. Place over the tomatoes and tuck the edges into the pan. The syrup and pan are hot. Be careful.
- Place pan in the oven and bake for 25 minutes or until pastry is golden brown.
- Remove from oven and let rest for 5 minutes.
- To unmold, place top side of a plate over the pan and quickly invert the pan and plate.
- Lift the pan off the tart and reposition any tomatoes that may have moved out of position.
- Cut tart into wedges and top with the sour cream mixture.
- Serve immediately. Serves 4

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--- updated February 18, 2009 ---

<b>American</b>			
Bistro	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108	
Chow Restaurant	53 Lafayette Cir, Laf	962-2469	
Quiznos	3651 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0200	
Ranch House	1012 School St, Mor	376-5127	
Terzetto Cuisine	1419 Moraga Way, Mor	376-3832	
The Cheese Steak Shop	3455 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-1234	
<b>BBQ</b>			
Bo's Barbecue	3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7133	
<b>Burger Joint</b>			
Flippers	960 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-1567	
Nation's Giant Hamburgers	400 Park, Mor	376-8888	
Nation's Giant Hamburgers	76 Moraga Way, Ori	254-8888	
<b>Café</b>			
Express Cafe	3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd # 170, Laf	283-7170	
Ferrari - Lucca Delicatessens	23 Lafayette Cir, Laf	299-8040	
Geppetto's cafe	87 Orinda Way, Ori	253-9894	
Rising Loafer	3643 Mt. Diablo Blvd Ste B, Laf	284-8816	
Susan Foord Catering & Cafe	965 Mt. View Drive, Laf	299-2469	
<b>California Cuisine</b>			
Metro Lafayette	3524 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-4422	
Shelby's	2 Theatre Sq, Ori	254-9687	
<b>Chinese</b>			
Asia Palace Restaurant	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809	
Chef Chao Restaurant	343 Rheem Blvd, Mor	376-1740	
China Moon Restaurant	380 Park St, Mor	376-1828	
The Great Wall Restaurant	3500 Golden Gate Way, Laf	284-3500	
Hsiangs Mandarin Cuisine	1 Orinda Way # 1, Ori	253-9852	
Lily's House	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd #A, Laf	284-7569	
Mandarin Flower	581 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-7839	
Panda Express	3608 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0288	
Szechwan Chinese Restaurant	79 Orinda Way, Ori	254-2020	
Uncle Yu's Szechuan	999 Oak Hill Rd, Laf	283-1688	
Yan's Restaurant	3444 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-2228	
<b>Coffee Shop</b>			
Millie's Kitchen	1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Laf	283-2397	
Squirrel's Coffee Shop	998 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-7830	
Village Inn Café	204 Village Square, Ori	254-6080	

<b>Continental</b>			
Petar's Restaurant	32 Lafayette Cir, Laf	284-7117	
Vino Restaurant	3531 Plaza Way, Laf	284-1330	
Duck Club Restaurant	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108	
<b>French</b>			
Chevalier Restaurant	960 Moraga Road, Laf	385-0793	
<b>Hawaiian Grill</b>			
Lava Pit	2 Theatre Square, St. 142, Ori	253-1338	
<b>Indian</b>			
Swad Indian Cuisine	3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9575	
<b>Italian</b>			
Giardino	3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-3869	
Knox Restaurant, Lounge	3576 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5225	
La Finestra Ristorante	100 Lafayette Cir, St. 101, Laf	284-5282	
La Piazza	15 Moraga Way, Ori	253-9191	
Mangia Ristorante Pizzeria	975 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-3081	
Michael's	1375 Moraga Way, Mor	376-4300	
Mondello's	337 Rheem Blvd, Mor	376-2533	
Pizza Antica	3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0500	
Postino	3565 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8700	
Ristorante Amoroma	360 Park St, Mor	377-7662	
<b>Japanese</b>			
Asia Palace Sushi Bar	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809	
Blue Ginko	3518-A Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9020	
Kane Sushi	3474 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-9709	
Niwa Restaurant	1 Camino Sobrante # 6, Ori	254-1606	
Serika Restaurant	2 Theatre Sq # 118, Ori	254-7088	
Tamami's Japanese Restaurant	356 Park St, Mor	376-2872	
Yu Sushi	19 Moraga Way, Ori	253-8399	
<b>Jazz Dinner Club</b>			
Joe's of Lafayette	3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Laf	299-8807	
<b>Mediterranean</b>			
Petra Café	2 Theatre Sq # 105, Ori	254-5290	
Oasis Café	3594 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8822	
Turquoise Mediterranean Grill	70 Moraga Way, Ori	253-2004	
<b>Mexican</b>			
360 Gourmet Burrito	3655 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1270	
El Charro Mexican Dining	3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-2345	
El Jaro Mexican Cafe	3563 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-6639	
La Cocina Mexicana	23 Orinda Way, Ori	258-9987	

Mucho wraps	1375-B Moraga Way, Mor	377-1203
Baja Fresh Mexican Grill	3596 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8740
Celia's Restaurant	3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8288
El Balazo	35180 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-8700
Maya Mexican Grill	74 Moraga Way, Ori	258-9049
Numero Uno Taqueria	3616 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1333
<b>Pizza</b>		
Mountain Mike's Pizza	3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-6363
Mountain Mike's Pizza	504 Center St, Mor	377-6453
Pennini's	1375 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-1515
Round Table Pizza	361 Rheem Blvd, Mor	376-1411
Round Table Pizza	3637 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-0404
Village Pizza	19 Orinda Way # Ab, Ori	254-1200
Zamboni's Pizza	1 Camino Sobrante # 4, Ori	254-2800
<b>Sandwiches/Deli</b>		
Bianca's Deli	1480 Moraga Rd # A, Mor	376-4400
Europa Hofbrau Deli & Pub	64 Moraga Way, Ori	254-7202
Kasper's Hot Dogs	103 Moraga Way, Ori	253-0766
Noah's Bagels	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0716
Orinda Deli	19 F Orinda Way, Ori	254-1990
Subway	396 Park St., Mor	376-2959
Subway	3322 Mt. Diablo Blvd #B, Laf	284-2627
Subway	Theatre Square, Ori	258-0470
<b>Seafood</b>		
Yankee Pier	3593 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-4100
<b>Singaporean/Malaysian</b>		
Kopitiam	3647 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1653
<b>Steak</b>		
Casa Orinda	20 Bryant Way, Ori	254-2981
<b>Tea</b>		
Patisserie Lafayette	71 Lafayette Cir, Laf	283-2226
Tea Party by Appointment	107 Orinda Way, Ori	254-2206
<b>Thai</b>		
Amarin Thai Cuisine	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd # B, Laf	283-8883
Baan Thai	99 Orinda Way, Ori	253-0989
Royal Siam	512 Center Street, Mor	377-0420
Siam Orchid	23 Orinda Way # F, Ori	253-1975
<b>Vietnamese</b>		
Little Hearty Noodle, Pho & Pasta	578 Center Street, Mor	376-7600

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# SPORTS

## LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### DFAL Basketball Moves Towards NCS Playoffs

By Robin Schoettler Fox



Photo Doug Kohen

early February losses to Campolindo (71-61) and Acalanes (52-49) slowed Miramonte's DFAL momentum, and energized the competition. The Lady Mats enter the last week of regulation play at 8-3, behind Dublin (9-1), whose only league loss was to the Mats, 62-61, on February 6.

With a strong finish, on paper it looks like either Campolindo (7-3) or Acalanes (6-4) could potentially catch up as well. But the Lady Matadors have already played 11 games, get that Tuesday bye, and now face only Alhambra (1-9 DFAL). Dublin, on the other hand, starts the week hosting Acalanes, a team they beat the first round (43-33) but which is on a four game winning streak. Then Friday, Dublin faces Las Lomas (1-9 DFAL).

The first time the Lady Cougars battled Alhambra, it was a blow-out, 76-46. Even if Campo can repeat the win on Tuesday they still have to face the Dons at the end of the week. Last time, the Cougars beat Acalanes, 56-42. But now there's that Acalanes winning streak and the emotions this local match-up inspires. And an Acalanes venue. Game time is 7pm.

After Friday, varsity basketball moves to NCS playoffs. Brackets should post on cifncs.org on Sunday, February 22. First round games begin Tuesday, February 24.

The DFAL boys' basketball league championship title already belongs to Miramonte, who'll be guaranteed a Division III NCS playoff berth and likely initial home court advantage. Undefeated (11-0) thus in the DFAL, the Mats have a Tuesday bye and then one last regular season game – at Alhambra on Friday.

The real battle among boys' varsity teams is being waged among the runners up, where NCS playoff berths are less assured.

Campolindo, last year's NCS Division III champs, faces Alhambra first this week, a team the Cougars beat 76-46 in the first half of DFAL play. Results of the Feb 17 game aren't available at press time but one thing is clear: The Cougars enter these final regulation games strong and confident, coming off an amazing quadruple (yes – 4) overtime 90-87 win against Dublin.

Meanwhile, Acalanes' first game this week is against Dublin, a team the Dons beat 65-61, on the Don's home court. But after losing such a tough battle to Campo, Dublin is undoubtedly hungry for a win. And it's the Dons' turn to drive down the 680.

However the week begins, everyone knows how it ends for these cross-town rivals – Campolindo and Acalanes face each other on Friday, always a hard-to-predict emotional event that can easily produce sell-out local crowds. In January, Campo beat Acalanes, a close 52-49, in the Cougar gym. Now the Dons' host

the show. Game time? 5:30 p.m.

At midseason, the girls' DFAL basketball story had a similar ring – Miramonte registered an impressive 5-1 DFAL record, seemingly on tract for another run at the NCS championship. Back to back



Lauren Kimble

Photo Jordan Fong

### Soccer Moves to NCS Playoffs



Acalanes' Ashely Borrelli advances the ball up field as Campo's midfielder, Jennifer Whitehouse, defends during Friday's stormy-night Campo win, 1-0

Photo Jamie Fox

2009 NCS 2A playoff brackets went on-line on Sunday. All three Lamorinda varsity high school girls' teams made the 12-team playoff. Acalanes (13-6-4, seeded 7th) begins play on Wednesday, February 18th, with a home game against Piedmont (15-4-2), game time 7pm. Miramonte (11-0-1, seeded 2nd) and Campolindo (12-5-2, seeded 4th) both

earned first round byes and will play 7pm home games on Saturday, February 21. Miramonte will play the winner of the Acalanes-Piedmont game. Campolindo plays the winner of a Berean Christian and Redwood Christian match-up.

On the boys side, Campolindo (9-7-3, seeded 12th) travels to Albany (17-3-3) for its February 18, first-round, 5pm

game. The Acalanes boys' varsity soccer team, seeded 2nd, earned a first round bye and plays at home on Saturday, February 21, facing the winner of a Hayward-St. Mary's High contest. The Miramonte boys' soccer team did not make playoffs.

Go to www.cifncs.org, for updated bracket results throughout the playoff.

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### Kellen Ito – Campo's New Varsity Blocking Force

By Conrad Bassett



Kellen Ito in action on January 30

Photo Doug Kohen

It feels a little like Kellen Ito, Campolindo's 6'5" starting center, came out of nowhere. Currently a junior, Ito didn't play Cougar basketball his freshman year. And he wasn't one of the four sophomores who played varsity last year, or even the fifth sophomore who moved up from junior varsity for last year's NCS playoffs.

Yet Ito leads the Cougars in several statistical categories including rebounds and blocks as well as having the second highest average per game. His 63 blocked shots (to-date) is one of the highest in the Bay Area and one of the reasons Campolindo's competitors sometimes have second thoughts about taking the ball inside.

So how did Kellen go from off the court to center court? He didn't. He's been honing basketball skills by playing on Asian basketball league courts, where his long-time team, the East Bay Rising Suns, competes. Others Kellen has competed with on the East Bay Rising Suns are starters at high schools like Albany and Head-Royce.

The Rising Suns are a newer

generation of the same teams Kellen's father, Rick Ito, once played on. Teams that taught the elder Ito basketball fundamentals that took him from Berkeley high school to a spot on the Cal State – Hayward (now Cal State – East Bay) basketball team, and such follow-on opportunities as overseas and San Francisco Pro-Am league play. Even now, Rick Ito plays in an adult off-shoot of the Rising Suns while also coaching and serving as the Rising Suns' current president.

Asian leagues have been around for decades, some as early as the 1930s, says Rick Ito. They're leagues known for grade-based play even through high school, and a focus on fundamentals. Many comprise teams that compete among local Asian churches, though there are also all-star travel leagues and tournaments.

One goal of Asian leagues, says Rick Ito, is to help prepare Asian players for high school ball, noting that he believes that 95% of the Asian players on current varsity teams played in the Asian leagues at some point. It's a statis-

tic hard to verify but there's an impressive list of names and schools on [www.risingsuns.net](http://www.risingsuns.net). Teaching basketball fundamentals, says Ito, is only one of the reasons Asian leagues exist. "The real focus is building cultural community, having fun together," says Rick Ito. Rick Ito is just half of Kellen's genetic predisposition to basketball. There's also Kathy Halpin Ito, Kellen's mother, a top basketball player at both Livermore High School and at Cal State Hayward, who became an All-American in a second sport (track) at CSUH.

Transitioning to varsity, says Kellen, has been a lesson in responsibility.

"The biggest change... is how hard I have to work because much more is expected at this level by the coaches, the fans, and my teammates," says Kellen.

Campo head coach Matt Watson says he's been pleased with Kellen's play this year, noting that Kellen "is deceptively quick--he does not look that quick but can beat you to the basket."

Against Maria Carillo High early in the season, Kellen had 22 points, nine rebounds and three blocks and held his own against the Pumas' 6'7" Justin Herold who is averaging 22 points and 15 rebounds per game. Against Las Lomas, Kellen dropped in 17 points on 8 of 9 shooting, had nine rebounds and sent five Knight shots back to where they started.

In the 90-87 four-overtime win over Dublin on February 12, Kellen corralled 14 rebounds, including nine offensive ones that he passed back out to other Cougars. He held the Dublin center, who eventually fouled out, to two points.

"Kellen is a double-double type of player which is very difficult for a first year varsity player," says Watson.

As for waiting to join Campo's basketball program until his sophomore year, Kellen said he'd been playing year-round basketball for nearly seven years at that point, and had begun to burn out. The time off reignited his interest in the sport. Says Kellen, "It allowed me to put (things) in perspective and realize how much I love basketball."

### Correction:



Photo Jordan Fong

In our February 4 story Matadors Dismantle Knights in Walnut Creek, we incorrectly identified Davis Louie as a Las Lomas player and team captain. Louie, seen in this picture, plays for Miramonte.



# SPORTS

## LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### Mills Off the Court but Still in the Game

So what if Patrick Mills' hand injury keeps him on the bench? That doesn't mean his head isn't in the game. Just ask fans who watched Mills during SMC's game against University of San Francisco on February 5, the first home game since Mills' broke his hand during the fated road trip to Gonzaga's gym.

Wearing a hot pink sweater, Point Guard Mills seemed to have become... well, "Assistant Coach" Mills, eyes intent on the court action, his body up and down from his spot sitting among the coaching staff, approaching individual players for time-out mini-talks.

After the game, Coach Randy Bennett said he thought Mills' active involvement was great, even Bennett's idea: "I told him at the beginning, he can't play but he can still help lead."

It was Diamon Simpson, though, who explained with a slight smile that, really, all this advice was just business as usual. Mills, he said, was always very "observant."

"It's not just this one game that he stepped up and said something," said Simpson.

"What he sees on the court, he's going to tell you."

And what caught Mills' eye from his new bench seat at the USF game? "Tonight he was talking about open shots, make sure that you're comfortable shooting shots."

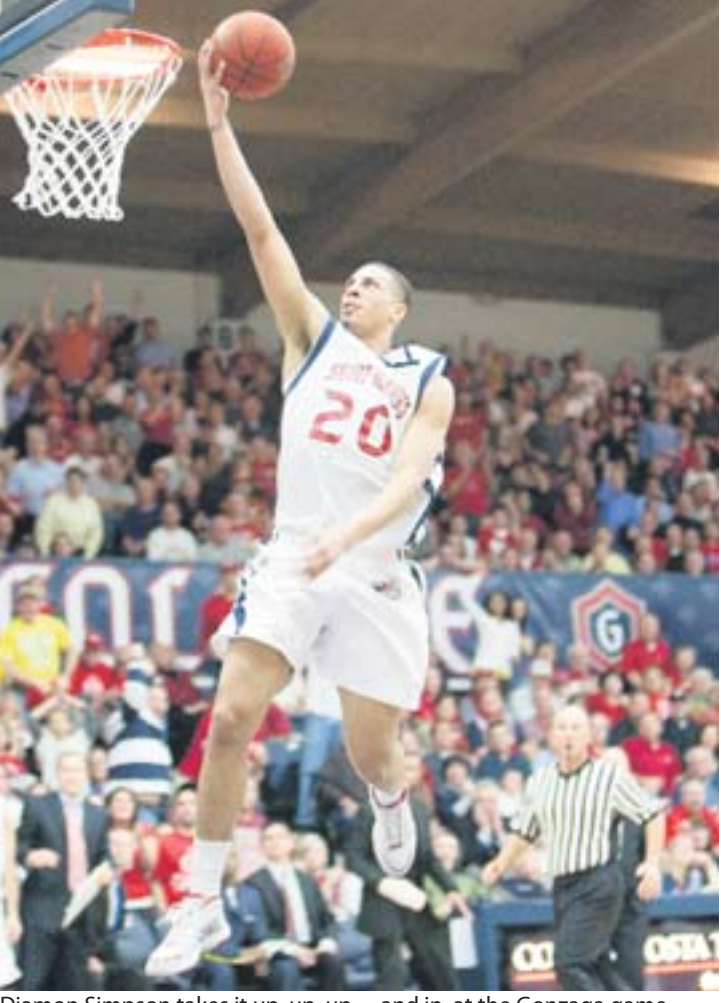
And his teammates apparently were - the game was a blowout, 79-58, leaving fans plenty of reason to be distracted by Mills, the pink sweater, and his new courtside leadership role.

RSF0x



### Saint Mary's Falls Short Against Gonzaga

By Mikaela Cowles



Diamon Simpson takes it up, up, up... and in, at the Gonzaga game  
Photo Doug Kohlen

The Saint Mary's men's basketball team lost a heart breaker on Thursday, February 13, at home to the No. 19 ranked Gonzaga, 72-70. The 3,500 capacity crowd of McKeon Pavilion was energized adding to the difficult venue of what Gonzaga's head coach Mark Few calls, "a little cracker box gym."

With 14 lead changes, 11 ties and 38 fouls, the game came down to the final seconds as Carlin Hughes scored 8 points to bring the Gaels

four of their games. Facing the Bulldogs, Bennett looked to gain a defensive advantage with three new faces in the starting five. Mickey McConnell, Wayne Hunter and Lucas Walker combined with seasoned starters Diamon Simpson and Omar Samhan to create a fast paced, highly physical game.

Steven Gray opened the scoring for Gonzaga, hitting a three pointer within the first minute of the game. Saint Mary's Wayne Hunter countered the Bulldogs attack with a three of his own and continued the game shooting 4-7 from behind the arc. Hunter, known as one of the best defensive players in the WCC, showed how formidable he is. 13 minutes into the first half he stopped the Bulldogs guard Jeremy Pargo in a one on one fast break. Hunter finished the game with 18 points.

Leading scorers Samhan and Simpson were met with strong resistance in the post during the first half, as the Bulldogs forced both players to shoot off the block and off balance. Saint Mary's stayed in the game by shooting an impressive 6-10 from three-point range, sending the Gaels and the Bulldogs to locker at halftime, tied 36-36.

Four minutes into the second half, Simpson broke the 1,000 rebound mark, making the 15th player to accomplish this in the WCC history. Simpson finished the game with 12 points and 15 rebounds.

Down to the wire Gonzaga showed their poise, fouling Wayne Hunter with 8 seconds left at half court, which due to Gonzaga's low foul count forced Saint Mary's to take the ball out of bounds at half court and Hunter to turn the ball over on his inbounds pass. As the Gaels fouled to stop the clock, Pargo hit his first of a one and one, making the score 72-70 for the Bulldog win.

The Gaels postseason dreams look rocky as they search late in the year for a new presence at point guard. Bennett said when they find that, "I think we'll start being a pretty good team again."

**Send sports stories and ideas to:**

sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
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### 3rd Grade Lady Panthers Take First in League

Submitted by Art Thoms, III



(L-R) in the front row are (standing) Grace Carlson, Kailey Meyer, Vanessa Vaisnor, Lexi Fraser, Olivia Reinecke, Ashley Thoms, Zoe Del Rosario, Olivia Heyman, and (kneeling) Cate Combi.  
Back row: Art Thoms III, Art Thoms, Jr., Rob Combi Photo Molly Meyer

League Champion title. With players from St. Perpetua School, Burton Valley, Happy Valley and Springhill, these Panthers comprised one of four St. P teams in their 10-team league.

They won their first playoff game against another St. P team, a 17-16 thriller left undecided until the final seconds. Then they beat St. Mary's (Walnut Creek), 29-10, in the championship game.

Former Oakland Raider, Art Thoms, Jr., coached the team with his son, Art Thoms III, and Rob Combi.

Said the younger Thoms: "It was a special season. We had a great group of girls and parents. It was like a big happy family and the girls had a lot of fun."

The team followed up their championship game by attending the Warrior-Spurs game and playing at halftime.

On January 31, this St. Perpetua (St. P) 3rd grade girls' basketball team completed its season by clinching the CYO West Diablo



Extreme Red Zone Photo Doug Kohlen

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

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Home Games	Time	Event	Opponent
Thurs, Feb 19	8:00 PM	Men's Basketball (McKeon Pavilion)	San Diego
Fri, Feb 20	2:00 PM	Baseball	Oregon
Sat, Feb 21	11:00 AM	Baseball	Oregon
	12:00 PM	Softball	UC Davis
	12:00 PM	Men's Tennis	Loyola Marymount
	2:00 PM	Softball	UC Davis
	2:30 PM	Baseball	Oregon
Sun, Feb 22	2:00 PM	Men's Basketball (McKeon Pavilion)	Utah State
	1:00 PM	Men's Tennis	UC Davis
Sun, Feb 22	1:00 PM	Baseball	Oregon
	1:00 PM	Women's Lacross (Saint Mary's Stadium)	UC Davis
Tue, Feb 24	2:00 PM	Baseball	San Jose State
	3:00 PM	Men's Tennis	Southeastern Louisiana
Thurs, Feb 26	7:00 PM	Women's Basketball	Pepperdine
Friday Feb 27	1:00 PM	Softball- Gael Classic	Binghamton
	3:00 PM	Softball- Gael Classic	Brown
Sat Feb 28th	12:00 PM	Men's Tennis	Gonzaga
	1:00 PM	Softball- Gael Classic	Utah Valley State
	2:00 PM	Women's Basketball	Loyola Marymount
	3:00 PM	Softball- Gael Classic	Binghamton
Sun, March 1	12:00 PM	Men's Tennis	Pacific
	2:00 PM	Softball- Gael Classic	Brown
Wed, March 4	2:00 PM	Baseball	CS Bakersfield
Fri, March 6	2:00 PM	Baseball	Sacramento
	4:00 PM	Men's Tennis	Santa Clara
	4:00 PM	Women's Lacross (Saint Mary's Stadium)	Stanford

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# SPORTS

## LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### Cougars Win League, Tie for 5th at NCS Duals

Written with information provided by Tom Renno



Campo's Vehar pins Heater 3:22 into the 160 pound match

Photo Alan Wandesforde

The Campolindo wrestling team won a decisive 55-19 home dual meet victory over Acalanes' varsity squad on Thursday, February 12, the last dual meet of the regular season.

Campolindo's single dual meet loss thus far was against Alhambra on February 5, the week prior.

"Our first 4 duals, we wrestled flawlessly, no mental or physical mistakes," Campolindo head wrestling coach Bob McLaughlin said the day before the Acalanes meet. "Last week we as a team made countless mental and physical mistakes. I have always said you never learn from winning, only losing teaches you something."

Alhambra had taught them what not to do, he said. If they avoided repeating those mis-

takes during the Acalanes dual meet, their season goal of winning the league, and getting the automatic berth to the NCS duals was within reach.

"Stay focused, six more minutes for each of you," he told his team in a group email. "Finish the job."

With the dual meet win against Acalanes, Campolindo ended the regular season as DFAL league winner with a final record of 5-1.

The Cougars traveled to Albany High School on February 14, for the 2A East Bay North Coast Section Duals where, having had an initial bye, they lost a tough initial match against Heritage High (45-31) that moved the Cougars into the consolation bracket. They then advanced twice with huge wins against Concord (64-

16) and Las Lomas (58-15). The Cougars fell from competition in a heartbreaking consolation semi-final loss to Northgate, 38-35, who eventually took third in the tournament by winning the consolation bracket. Campo tied for 5th place out of 10 teams competing.

Qualifying wrestlers from all three Lamorinda schools will be back in action at the DFAL varsity and junior varsity championships held this year at Campolindo, on February 21.

RSF/ox

<p><b>Campolindo 55, Acalanes 19</b>  <b>At Campolindo</b>                  103: Caspillo (C) by forfeit (ff)                  112: Ingersol(C) by ff                  119: Flowers(C) by ff                  125: Smith(C) by ff                  130: Toupin(C) p Feld, (0:33)                  135: Jackson(C) by ff.                  140: Rudin(A) p Kurkjian, (3:45)                  145: Galindo(C) d. Atkinson, 13-1                  152: Oherin (A) d. Robinson 15-3                  160: Vehar(C) p. Heater, 3:22                  171: Zayac(A) d. Smith 10-8 OT                  189: Angelides(C) d. Royster 7-2                  215: Rule(A) p. Schenk 2:45                  285: Field(C) by ff.  <b>Final DFAL Record:</b>  <b>Campolindo 5-1, Acalanes 2-4</b></p>
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### Miramonte Wrestlers do Well in Windsor Tournament

Submitted by Josephine Worth



Photo Josephine Worth

At the 2009 Windsor High School's "King of the Mat" tournament, held on January 17, Miramonte's Sam Worth took first at 142 pounds, having successfully won all five of his matches including the final match, shown in the picture, against Jack Kramer of Rancho

Cotate High (Rohnert Park) which Worth won, 3-0.

Worth also won the Jim Hardison Sportsman Award, given to only one wrestler in the tournament.

Sean Ericson, another Mats' wrestler competing at the tournament, took second at 154 pounds.

### Coach Ivankovich Takes Acalanes' Football Helm

By Robin Schoettler Fox  
 Coach Mike Ivankovich, the Ygnacio Valley High School (YV) 5-season head coach veteran who led the Warriors to become 2005 NCS-2A Champions then stepped down from the program in favor of family time, is at the helm again, this time leading the Acalanes Dons' football program, effective immediately.

After leaving YV's program, Ivankovich didn't stray far from the football field for long. He just took a less demanding role. An Acalanes PE and World History teacher, Ivankovich has been the Dons' freshman coach for the last two seasons.

As the Dons' new head coach, he replaces Athletic Director Randy Takahashi who stepped down from the football program in January, citing plans to apply for school administrative positions and wanting to avoid a mid-season football leadership change. In Takahashi's three seasons as head football coach, the Dons posted a 13-19 record.

"We are very excited (about Coach Ivankovich), as he is a proven coach with much success as head coach at Ygnacio Valley High School," says Takahashi, who remains Acalanes' Athletic Director.

Transition, according to Takahashi, isn't a big issue because Ivankovich was an inside pick who's already coached many of the Acalanes players, although not the rising seniors. "I have no doubt that Coach Ivankovich will lead this program in a direction that will make the Acalanes community proud," says Takahashi.

What direction is that? Old school football discipline. A program built on fundamentals and focused on core values, says Ivankovich: "Loyalty. Teamwork. Commitment. Sacrifice."

And not just for the varsity.



Coach Mike Ivankovich, Acalanes' new head football coach Photo Lee Berg

"We will run a 3-level program with consistent increases in the amount of work required," says Ivankovich.

Officially head coach for just a few days now, Ivankovich has already recruited help. While he says he's retained some existing Acalanes' coaches, astute football fans will recognize former YV talent new to the mix; people that previously played for or coached with Ivankovich, and some who did both.

Top of the list is Josh Davis, a former YV player turned coach who took over the reigns as Warriors head coach after Ivankovich stepped down. Davis decided recently to leave YV after three seasons as head coach, saying he needed change, adding he'd only played and coached at the one school. According to Ivankovich, Davis will coach varsity running backs and linebackers, and will be Defensive Coordinator.

As for offensive strategy, Ivankovich says he's still a proponent of a running game, but whether fans will see the Dons executing his signature, old-style, "double-wing" offensive set that proved so successful for YV remains to be seen.

"It really doesn't matter what you run," says Ivankovich. Success, he says, comes when everyone is committed to whatever strategy is employed.

As for improving Acalanes football stats, don't expect Ivankovich to promise win-record results. Not yet, anyway. "Winning is not a goal, it's an outcome," says Ivankovich.

An outcome, he says, that comes from a program where everyone involved successfully focuses on those core values, with "all of us moving forward together, being positive." That work, he says, is only now beginning.

Ivankovich held "informational" meetings for players last Thursday, just before the long holiday weekend. Earlier that day he said he'd be explaining this core value philosophy, outlining expectations.

Then it's on to physical training. That starts this week with players expected to begin "sacrificing time to the weight room."

After all, the clock is ticking. There's only so much time between now and the start of football season 2009.

### Bentley Falls to Orinda Academy, 56-49

Submitted by Mitch Goldman

In an exciting local private school match-up, Orinda Academy (OA) beat Lafayette's Bentley School, 56-49, on February 6, a win that brought OA's season record to 16 wins, tying the school's previous single season win record.

OA was led by twin towers, David Treas (19 points, and 10 rebounds,) and Brandon Davis (16 points, 12 rebounds). After losing senior co-captain Dylan Goldman for the season because of a knee injury in the prior week's loss to Candell Prep, OA

bounced back with the Bentley win behind the steady leadership of Chris Scott (10 pts.) and the tenacious defense of Aubrey Love (9 points, 8 rebounds, 4 steals). Dustin Swiggett, a senior, led the Bentley team stats, with 12 points and 15 rebounds.

### VARSITY HOME GAME Calendar ••• High School Varsity @ Home •••

<p><b>Wednesday, February 18</b>                  Girls Soccer - NCS Round 1                  Piedmont @ Acalanes, 7pm  <b>Thursday, February 19</b>                  Baseball                  Concord @ Campolindo, 3:30pm                  Wrestling                  Las Lomas @ Campolindo, 6pm                  Dougherty Valley @ Miramonte, 6pm  <b>Friday, February 20</b>                  Girls Basketball                  Campolindo @ Acalanes, 7pm,                  Boys Basketball                  Campolindo @ Acalanes, 5:30pm  <b>Saturday, February 21</b>                  Girls Soccer - NCS, Qtr Final                  TBD @ Campolindo, 7pm                  TBD @ Miramonte, 7pm                  Boys Soccer - NCS, Qtr Final                  TBD @ Acalanes, 2pm</p>	<p>Baseball                  Antioch @ Campolindo, 11am                  Softball                  Bishop O'Dowd @ Miramonte, 9am                  Wrestling                  DFAL Championship @ Campo, 10am  <b>Tuesday, February 24</b>                  Boys &amp; Girls Basketball, NCS Round 1                  Check cifncs.org for details                  Baseball                  Concord @ Acalanes, 3:30pm                  San Marin @ Miramonte, 3:30 pm                  Softball                  Bishop O'Dowd @ Acalanes, 3:30pm                  Boys Lacrosse                  Amador Valley @ Acalanes, 7pm  <b>Wednesday, February 25</b>                  Girls &amp; Boys Soccer, NCS Semi-finals                  Check cifncs.org for details</p>	<p>Baseball                  Kennedy @ Campolindo, 3:45pm  <b>Thursday, February 26</b>                  Baseball                  St. Mary's @ Acalanes, 3:30pm  <b>Friday, February 27</b>                  Girls &amp; Boys Basketball - NCS Qtr                  Check cifncs.org for details                  Girls Lacrosse                  Amador Valley @ Acalanes, 7pm                  Boys Lacrosse                  Northgate @ Campolindo, 7pm  <b>Saturday, February 28</b>                  Girls &amp; Boys Soccer - NCS Championship                  Check cifncs.org for details                  Baseball                  Justin Siena @ Campolindo, Noon  <b>Tuesday, March 3</b>                  Boys Lacrosse                  Monte Vista @ Acalanes, 7pm</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, March 4</b>                  Girls &amp; Boys Basketball - NCS Semi-finals                  Check cifncs.org for details                  Softball                  Albany @ Acalanes, 3:30pm                  Boys Lacrosse                  Livermore @ Campolindo, 7pm  <b>Friday, March 6</b>                  Baseball                  College Park @ Acalanes, 3:30pm                  Softball                  Piedmont @ Miramonte, TBA                  Girls Lacrosse                  Monte Vista @ Acalanes, 5:30pm                  Swimming                  Dublin @ Acalanes, 3:45pm</p>
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