

OPTIMUM ACCOUNTING
 Monica Casale
 Owner/Bookkeeper

**Are you getting the most out of Quickbooks?
 Would you like to learn more?**

QuickBooks Training & Accounting Evaluation Available

We provide any or all of the following services:
 • Full Charge Bookkeeping • Only A, P & R • Payroll processing • Financial Statements
 • Account reconciliation • Year end reporting • Accounting system setup/cleanup • On/Off-site

24 Marston Road • Orinda, CA 94563
 Office: 415-370-4517 • Fax: 925-254-3178 • optimumaccounting@comcast.com

Rosewood House
 FINE ORIENTAL FURNITURE

Complete line of handmade rosewood and solid furniture with a large selection of elegant accessories. Available for immediate delivery. Special orders welcome. Open 7 Days.

CONCORD 4700 Clayton Rd. (925) 827-9588
OAKLAND 2523 Broadway (510) 451-7373

Rosewood Hall Table
 48" x 12" x 36"
 On Sale, \$895

COMMUNICATING2CONNECT
 A LIFELINE TO YOUR TEENAGER

Learn how to initiate a productive conversation, listen and respond so everyone stays safe, sane & connected.

Skills-based communication classes for parents with children between ages 11-17. Spring classes starting soon!

FOR MORE INFO - VISIT
WWW.COMMUNICATING2CONNECT.COM
 925.954.5770 - Moraga

SMC's Weekend College is Reaching Out

By Andrea Firth
 Saint Mary's College is reaching out to the community with several new course offerings through the Weekend College. In addition to the Great Books Seminar, which has been open to the community for many years, SMC's Weekend College has shifted its focus toward non-credit courses that will appeal to many Lamorinda residents. "It's a great way for the College to get to know its neighbors better," says Grete Stenersen, the Director of the program. Although called the

Weekend College, courses are often offered on weeknights and are taught by SMC faculty or graduates of the Masters in Fine Arts Program. SMC recently launched a memoir writing class, Telling Our Stories, through the Weekend College. Every other Tuesday for twelve weeks, participants will be encouraged to flex their writing muscles and tell the tales of the roads they have traveled. Saint Mary's MFA graduate Erich Miller will support the budding mem-

oirists as they share their stories and work to preserve their memories. "Erich is very excited to guide other writers, and he has exercises planned that will invite participants to find their own voices," says Stenersen. In the summer, the Weekend College will expand to include five, six-week long courses. The memoir class will be offered again along with a continuation course, Telling Our Stories, part 2. A Great Books course taught seminar style will

feature both classical and modern readings to provide participants exposure to the range of books covered in the undergraduate program. Courses in sustainable gardening and Italian history and culture will also be offered. Your path to a great story, a great garden, or a great book may be right here in Lamorinda. For more information regarding the Weekend College, contact Grete Stenersen at (925) 631-4162 or gsteners@stmaries-ca.edu.

What's Up with Wilder?



Rows of large equipment stand motionless at the staging area of the Wilder development project, idle for the past few months. As greenery reappears on the erstwhile bald hillside, OG Property Owner LLC issued a written statement by way of its public relations firm, Keadjian Associates: "Earlier this year, Merrill

Lynch Mortgage Lending filed a notice in order to protect its position in the Orinda project. We are currently in negotiations with the lender. We continue to have confidence in the long-term value of the Orinda project and we are optimistic that we can continue to work with the lender and other economic stakeholders, including

lien holders, to achieve a mutually beneficial outcome. The project site is currently closed and erosion control measures are in place for the winter rainy season. It is our hope that we can use this period to finalize our negotiations and avoid any delays in the overall project schedule." Photo Andy Scheck

EBMUD Considers Suspending Mandatory Water Conservation and Raising Rates

The passage from mandatory to voluntary rationing means a drop in revenue for the agency, since financial penalties are only associated with mandatory reductions. Coleman persists in favoring an early breather for users in spite of the potential loss of revenue. "The difference in revenue will be from \$2 to \$3 million," he says, "we have a \$35 million reserve that I helped establish, we should use it and not penalize our clients." "We will probably reach a normal level in our reserves," says Charles Hardy, EBMUD Communication Director, "but we've had two very dry years and we can only assume what the summer usage is going to be, so the mandatory reduction could be maintained until the end of September when we get our final reserve assessment." Knowing when to end a mandatory reduction can be tricky, especially considering that a big drop in water usage has negatively impacted EBMUD's revenues.

"We used to consume 240 million gallons a day," explained Coleman, "through voluntary reduction, it dropped to 210 million gallons a day and our intention was to get that figure to 195 gallons a day with mandatory reductions." The level ultimately reached 165 million gallons a day, a level that significantly impacted EBMUD revenues. "There are different elements that explain this result," said Hardy, "the drop in construction was a big factor." When EBMUD staff recognized the significant drop in revenue, staff first proposed a Herculean rate increase of 21%. "Since this first proposal, cost reduction measures have been put into place including a hiring freeze, cut backs in travel, and reducing special event sponsorships," says Coleman. In his April 9th memo to the Board, Dennis Diemer, EBMUD General Manager proposed a 7.5% overall increase to the water rates (when compared to non-drought rates) and another

... continued from page 1 7.5% for next year. "The increase will be higher for single family users," adds Hardy, "they do not appear to be paying their fair share compared to commercial users." The staff proposal under consideration this week was 8.7% for single-family residential, 7.9% for multi-family, 5.2% for commercial and 4.9% for industrial users. **Long term water supply plan up for public review:** EBMUD has been studying the district long term water supply needs through 2040 and has identified a wide range of alternatives to satisfy these needs. It includes among other projects the conservation of our existing supplies, an aggressive water recycling program, a regional desalination project and several groundwater storage projects. The draft environmental impact report of the plan is currently available for public comment until May 4th. It can be viewed and downloaded from the website www.ebmud.com. Comments can be mailed to Thomas Francis at tfrancis@ebmud.com

Got Drugs? Safe Disposal of Medications

... continued from page 1 However, she too recommended that individuals place expired meds in the trash. Another drugstore gave similar advice, adding that an alternative would be to bring it to the Contra Costa hazardous waste disposal facility in Martinez. This kind of advice makes Paul Morsen, CCCSWA Executive Director, very nervous. "You never put medication in the regular trash," he says, "if you send medication to the land fill, through degradation and compression it will find its way into the ground and then the running water that permeates the trash will either be recycled on site or will end up in the Bay." Bringing the medication to the hazardous waste disposal is not a good idea either since this facility is not equipped to dispose of medications. One of our Lamorinda police departments offered both good and bad advice: "Just flush it down the toilet," said the person our caller spoke to. "Even if it is something more dangerous than old Tylenol?" he asked. "Yes, it's okay," was the response. Or, she said, our caller could go to a regional medical center to dispose safely of his medications.

Michael Scahill, Communication Manager for Central San, could hardly believe that flushing was suggested. "Our treatment plants are not equipped to filter substances that are in medications," he emphasizes, "flushing medication down the toilet is an absolute no-no." Last December, a five month long investigation by the Associated Press showed that a vast array of pharmaceuticals — including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones — have been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans. "Since its installation in February we have collected more than twenty pounds of medication a week," says Scahill, the box is accessible 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Walnut Creek City Hall Lobby, by the Police Department at 1666 North Main St." Gaylan Ishizu, the pharmacy manager at Long's in Moraga (Rheem), says they return the store's expired medications, but that for his customers safe disposal options are limited. He hopes that there will soon be a safe disposal facility available in Lamorinda for residents. Two other sites are available in

Martinez, at the County Regional Medical Center and the Sheriff's Field Operation Building. Cooperation with law enforcement was a logical step because proper disposal of medication prevents accidental poisoning and abuse of prescription drugs. Additionally, to be able to collect and dispose of medication a site needs a permit by the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency. After they are collected in the safe boxes, the medications are burned at very high temperature so as to leave no residue. "If the pilot continues according to plan we will expand our program to other police departments that volunteer in the area," said Morsen. After we informed him of the responses to our impromptu survey, Morsen said he would distribute information about the new disposal facility. At the Moraga Town Liaison meeting on April 10th, Moraga's Interim Chief of Police Robert Priebe said that his department had begun discussions with Central San and CCCSWA to have a disposal box installed the Moraga Police Department at 329 Rheem. We will let you know when Lamorinda gets a local safe disposal site.

SOLD in 3 days!

157 Miramonte Gardens, Moraga
 Nice middle unit with a great view of the golf course. Bright, sunny with spacious rooms. Completely updated. Three bedrooms-each with their own bath; two are Master Suites.

Joan Eggers
 Broker/Partner
 Office: 925-254-0505, Cell: 925-382-4141
 jzeggers@aol.com, www.JoanEggers.com

Village
 ASSOCIATES
 REAL ESTATE

FREE Special Report From Realtor **® Lily Wescott:**

How to Sell Your Home
 In a Buyer's Market

As a community service to benefit area homeowners, Realtor Lily Wescott has put together a special report, entitled "How to Sell Your Home in a Buyer's Market (and Get the Best Price Faster Than Anyone Else Around)". This report is filled with information homeowners need to know to bring out the best in a home and get it marketed to the right audience. "You can't control the prevailing market conditions, but you can make sure your home is marketed to attract the right buyers—critical to getting your home sold quickly, at the best price possible." Before you sell your home in the current market, be sure to get your copy of this **FREE** and informative special report.

Why do some homes languish on the market for months while others seem to attract the right buyers and the right offers? Read in my **FREE** report.

Lily Wescott
 Helping Families Make their Next Move

Call or email Lily at:
925-330-6108
 lily@LamorindaHome.com
 www.LamorindaHome.com

hediyeH
 Gift Boutique

50% OFF*

Going Out of Business Sale

Everything must go!

All Sales final

- Jewelry
- Purses
- Dishes
- Collectibles

Local Artists & European Designs

2 Theatre Square Ste #112, Orinda (925) 254-2594

*all original prices

Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club
 HOME OF THE...

SLEEPY HOLLOW LEGENDS

Sleepy Hollow is a private club offering exceptional competitive and recreational swim and tennis programs. The facility includes a 25-meter heated pool; baby pool; diving well; 11 tennis courts, with 2 lighted courts for night play; clubhouse; seasonal, poolside cafe; play structure, grassy picnic and BBQ area; and Legendland Day Camp, a supervised recreational program for kids ages 4½ and up.

Sleepy Hollow offers an array of instructional programs for members of all ages and skill levels. Our swim programs include Swim Team, Mini-Legends, Learn-to-Swim Lessons and Masters Swimming. Our year-round junior and adult tennis offerings include clinics, teams, semi-private and private lessons.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS
 Apply today and take advantage of our "Spring Special"—50% off the price of our \$2,500 Membership Initiation Fee. Apply now through June 30 and save \$1,250!

NEW & PROSPECTIVE MEMBER OPEN HOUSE
 April 26, 2:00–5:00 p.m., Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club

SLEEPY HOLLOW SWIM & TENNIS CLUB

ORINDA, CA • 925-254-1126 • SHSTC@COMCAST.NET • WWW.SLEEPYHOLLOWLEGENDS.NET