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Volume 03 Issue 13

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Wednesday, September 2, 2009

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Chip Herman (standing) and Whitney Haist (driver) with Haist's fully restored 1926 Dodge Brothers Roadster which will be on display at the 5th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show
 Photos Ohlen Alexander

Orinda Classic Car Show—Five Years and Going Strong

By Andrea A. Firth

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Don't miss the opening of the Lafayette Farmers' Market, Thursday, Sept. 3rd, 4-8p.m., Lafayette Plaza Park.

"It's all about building community and giving back," says Chip Herman as he looks out the window from his seat inside Geppetto's toward Orinda Way, which on September 19th will be lined with vintage and modern exotic cars for the 5th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show. Herman, a 20-year resident of Orinda and the event founder, displays a youthful exuberance and his passion for cars as he describes the plans for this year's show. "Orinda's Car Show is unique because of the range of great vehicles we get from the community," says Herman. "Each year we have both classic cars in mint condition and others that are lovingly driven every day. We get hot rods and other custom cars, race cars, and even the oc-

casional vintage Air Stream camper. There's something for everyone," he adds. The car show has become an Orinda tradition and has grown exponentially over the past five years. The first year, the show attracted 22 cars and raised \$1,600 for Seniors Around Town, a volunteer organization that provides transportation to senior residents. Last year, there were over 125 cars on display and the show netted \$16,000 for the seniors' program. Herman expects year five to be even bigger and better. "I've been to a lot of car shows," he says, "[The Orinda Car Show] has some hidden gems, some really amazing cars. It rivals any national car show."
 ... continued on page 18

<p>72 Tappan Lane, Orinda</p> <p>Stunning Remodel with Panoramic Views! \$2,050,000</p> <p>DRE#01272382</p>	<p>43 Bear Ridge Rd, Orinda</p> <p>Sleepy Hollow Hideaway \$1,695,000</p>	<p>9 Via Hermosa, Orinda</p> <p>Beautiful Country Club Tuscan Villa 2,900,000</p> <p>Pending</p>
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Laura Abrams Cell: (510) 697-3225 laura@lauraabrams.com

MOFD Board Selects Stakeholder Group to Interview Fire Chief Candidates

By Lucy Amaral
 The Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors moved yet another step further in selecting a new fire chief. At the MOFD Board meeting held August 19, the Board announced that a committee made up of community members, local police and fire chiefs, and MOFD employees will serve as its 'Stakeholder' group (see sidebar), which will interview the candidates. The interview session was set for September 2.

Avery Associates, the executive search firm retained by the Board, was charged with submitting the top six to eight candidates to the Board and the Stakeholder group for interviews. Board President Pete Wilson said that the Board of Directors also has the option of adding any candidate from the original 56 applicants if they feel it necessary.

Once the Stakeholder group finalizes its interviews, it will make recommendations to the Board. "We hope to obtain a wide point of view as to what's important to all the dif-

ferent groups - municipalities, organizations, individuals, etc., - all those that the fire district serves," Wilson said. The Board will then conduct final interviews on September 14 and make its decision soon thereafter. Wilson said he hopes the process is complete and a new Fire Chief is hired by September 30.

The new Chief will replace Acting Fire Chief Pete Nowicki. Nowicki, who retired in December 2008, has been serving as interim Fire Chief until a replacement is found. Depending on the start date for the new Chief, Wilson said that the Board has the option of continuing Nowicki's contract on a weekly or monthly basis.

Also on the August 19 MOFD agenda was a request by Orinda resident Steve Cohn, on behalf of a community group, FAIR (Fire and Infrastructure Renewal), asking the Board for access to incident response time data that MOFD used for a 'standards of coverage' study.
 ... continued on page 8

Foreclosed Home Becomes Public Nuisance in Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



This home is at the center of the controversy
 Photo Cathy Tyson
 The City of Lafayette just wanted to see it cleaned up; easier said than done for a foreclosed home on the corner of Condit Road and Pleasant Hill Road. What originally was a request to clean up the yard has now become a \$15,000 lien on the property.

It started in 2004, when the home was purchased as an investment by Joel Barcelona. A large addition was planned in the rear of the home, so the back of the structure was opened up and framing began. Sheet rock and insulation were removed from the interior of the existing structure; what was left was a hollow shell. Unfortunately Barcelona, like many Californians, fell on hard times, and was unable to complete the remodel. The home eventually went into foreclosure.
 "The neighbors have been very patient and endured the nuisance for too long. At one point it was intended to be my family's primary residence but that fell through."
 ... continued on page 6

Orinda to Host California Independent Film Festival



By Andrea A. Firth
 What will Orinda soon have in common with Park City, Utah; Telluride, Colorado; and Cannes, France? A film festival! In April Orinda, specifically the historic Orinda Theater, will become home to the California Independent Film Festival. Read on page 5

Eat, Drink, Listen and Shop at Lafayette's Art and Wine Festival



By Cathy Tyson
 On September 19 and 20, Lafayette will hold its biggest event of the year, the Art and Wine Festival. A portion of Mt. Diablo Boulevard will be closed to cars, but open for strolling, drinking, munching and shopping - possibly even dancing. With easy parking at BART, the Festival features top notch food, wine and micro-brews, along with more than 250 booths ...Read on page 19

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Calendar

City Council 7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Monday, September 14
Planning Comm. 7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Thursday, September 17
September 3 cancelled
Design Review 7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Tuesday, September 8
Senior Services 3:00pm
Community Center, Alder Room
500 St Mary's Road
Thursday, September 24
City of Lafayette:
http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Chamber of Commerce:
http://www.lafayettechamber.org



Residential Burglary, 7/31/09 Unknown suspects broke a window in a Mariposa Road home and entered the residence. The thieves stole \$24,213 worth of jewelry and a laptop. Damage to the window is \$300. There are no leads at this time.

Drive Nicely to Avoid Fist Fights, 8/8/09 Lafayette Police were summoned to Ace Hardware on Mt. Diablo Boulevard to break up a fight between two male subjects. The fight started because Subject #1 did not like how Subject #2 had been driving. Subject #1 punched Subject #2 in the face and body several times. Both subjects fell to the ground during the fight and sustained minor injuries. The subjects refused medical attention and Subject #2 declined to press charges. Perhaps the subjects will remember to "use their words" during their next encounter.

Drunken Groper Patronizes Petar's, 8/15/09 Police were called to Petar's just after midnight to help remove an unwanted guest. The subject had a strong alcohol smell on his breath, slurred his speech, had difficulty standing upright and had an insatiable urge to touch other patrons. Perhaps this was his chaotic way of dancing to Diamond Dave's Nelly covers? Once Police determined he was unable to care for himself, he was transported to the Martinez Detention Facility where he was booked for public drunkenness.

Residential Burglary, 8/18/09 Unknown, brazen suspects entered a Los Arabis home at night while the residents were sleeping. The suspects gained access through a backyard gate and then an open screen door. Stolen were two laptops, a camera, two iPods and a purse. There are no suspects or leads at this time. Perhaps the owners will now acquire a large dog.

Lafayette

Lamorinda Community

Lafayette

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Wanted: Enchanting Art for New Library

By Cathy Tyson



Southwest corner of the new Library

Photo Cathy Tyson

As an army of construction workers complete the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, a "Call for Entry" is going out for submissions of existing artwork to put the finishing artistic touches on the 30,000 square foot structure housing more than 110,000 books and other materials. The City of Lafayette has a budget of \$60,000 for multiple purchases for the lobby, the teen study area, adult reading room, children's area and more.

Looking to create an engaging atmosphere by making art part of a visit to the Library as well as broaden the public's understanding of what art can be, anything goes for potential artists submitting work. "We wanted to do something to attract a greater number of artists, so we left the criteria open-ended," said Cherie Newell, Director of Professional Services at the Oakland Museum of California, "we wanted to leave the door open for all media." She noted that there are already two

or three Lafayette artists who have applied and that this type of request is "notorious for last minute entries." The Oakland Museum is one of many partners in the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium - a pioneering collaboration that provides diverse cultural, arts and educational resources to the community.

Once these newest artworks are selected, they will join two site-specific pieces that were commissioned last year: a unique fifteen foot tall bronze of an off-kilter stack of book pages with some pages "floating" across the Outdoor Plaza by Brian Goggin and a series of artworks for the Children's Activity Deck by Kana Tanaka.

"The City is excited to be working again with its Library Public Art Committee and Oakland Museum to select more artworks for the new Library," said Ann Merideth, Community Development Director. "As the outdoor public artworks are enhancing the Library's outdoor spaces, these small artworks will enhance the interior spaces."

... continued on page 8

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce C.E.O. Honored by Project Second Chance



Jay Lifson at the ceremony

Photo courtesy of the Contra Costa Library

For his dedication for more than a decade to Project Second Chance, an adult literacy program, the Contra Costa Library awarded Jay Lifson, C.E.O. of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the Margaret Leshner Memorial Award. "Jay is never too busy to help, and his donation of time alone makes him a million dollar donor to the cause," said Project Second Chance

(PSC) Director Laura Seaholm. "PSC is thrilled to be able to publicly thank Jay for sharing his passion for helping people change their lives in positive and meaningful ways."

Preliminary Phase of Potential Dog Park

By Cathy Tyson



Google maps

Dog owning residents will be happy to hear that the City of Lafayette is just a little bit closer to obtaining an off-leash dog park. Noting that this will be a, "long drawn out process" Jennifer Russell, Parks Recreation and Trails Director, emphasized this negotiation is in its initial stage. The City is interested in buying the Olympic Boulevard property but, "We still need to determine if the County is willing to sell it to us at a price we can afford," said Russell.

The triangular shaped parcel along Olympic Boulevard from Reliez Station Road to Pleasant Hill

Road is owned by Contra Costa County and has been officially declared surplus. It's currently leased to the East Bay Regional Park District. The basically flat, open space already has parking, water, and garbage collection.

After considering various locations staff felt that the Olympic Boulevard Staging area meets the design criteria for a dog park. Although early in the process, it may

be divided into separate small and large dog areas.

If the City and County can agree on a value, there will be public hearings, and plenty of opportunity for feedback from residents in the area and of course, dog owners. There may even be some partnering with the Park District, speculated Russell. For more information go to the Lafayette Dog Owners' Group website, www.lafayettetdog.org.

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Moraga

Lamorinda Community

Calendar	
Town Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo	
Wednesday, September 9	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Moraga Library 1500 Saint Marys Rd	
Monday, September 21 (Tuesday September 8 cancelled)	
Design Review	7:30pm
Moraga Library 1500 Saint Marys Rd	
Monday, September 14	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way	
Friday, September 11	
Town of Moraga online: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us	
Chamber of Commerce: http://www.moragachamber.org	



Rolling stop, 8/24/09 A green Volvo was stopped at Camino Pablo at Canyon Road for failing to stop at a stop sign. The juvenile driver, not immature but under eighteen, was offered a diversion program to learn the error of his ways. The parents agreed, perhaps keeping the youthful driver's record clean for insurance purposes.

Dog bite, 8/23/09 There was a report of a dog bite in front of 24 Hour Fitness. A four year old girl was bitten on the left arm and was checked and released at the scene by the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department. Her father was there and took her to the hospital. This reporter has seen a few large dogs in front of the facility, no word if they were the culprits. They seem very well-mannered.

Ammo turn-in, 8/23/09 A Laird Place resident contacted police to turn in ammunition for destruction. Police took custody of several boxes of ammunition. Yes, all the area police departments are happy to take ammunition and even firearms and dispose of them properly. Not a great idea to just throw that kind of thing in a garbage can.

Loud party, 8/22/09 Around midnight officers responded to a loud party on Ascot Drive. Police contacted the three, count 'em, residents and informed them of the complaint. Presumed roommates were given a copy of the Town of Moraga loud party ordinance, a copy was also mailed to the property owner. A neighbor reports that he often discovers empty beer cans and cigarette butts on his patio after parties. Not the first time this has happened on that street.

Rancho Laguna Project Moved Forward by Commission but Appealed by Residents

By Sophie Braccini
On August 17 a unanimous Planning Commission approved the Conceptual Development Plan (CDP) and Conditional Use Permit (CUP) of the Rancho Laguna II project, 6 years after the process began. Residents questioning the impact of the plan both visually and environmentally have filed an appeal of the decision. The Town Council will have to make the decision to either approve the CDP and CUP, or send the project back for more study.

The plans call for 27 homes located on 169 acres of empty land along Rheem Boulevard, north of Saint Mary's Road. Six of the homes would be built along the boulevard and 21 on a southern plateau.

Planning Commission Chair Margaret Goglia was the last of the Planning Commissioners to voice her opinion at the meeting and she concurred with her colleagues in approving the project, adding "(Rancho Laguna) would be an asset to the community."

Speaking earlier, Planning Commissioner Bruce Whitley recalled the past 6 years during which he watched the project evolve. "It's my opinion that it is essentially a good project," he said "we've come a long way in the six years and I will approve the project."

He nonetheless highlighted the fact that the project is highly controversial, and that whether the impact was 'below significant' was a tough judgment call.

Two of Whitley's main concerns had been voiced in the years before and were presented again by Moraga residents during the hearing. One issue is whether or not the development is located on a ridge line. The elevation of the southern plateau could be high enough to be considered a minor ridgeline.

The homes proposed for the southern plateau would not be seen from Rheem Boulevard, but Birchwood Drive residents would overlook it, and they could also be seen from part of the Bluffs and some Lafayette residences. Birchwood resident Suzanne Bare expressed her concern with the value of the home her family recently purchased. "This project would have a new adverse visual impact for current residents," she said, "and it will affect the property values along the street." She recognized that the development had positive benefits, but she was disappointed that the developer was not being sensitive to the visual impact of the project for those residents who have a direct view of it.

... continued on page 8

Private Letter to Regional Authority May Delay Approval of Housing Element

By Sophie Braccini
In a letter dated July 17, 2009, Dick Loewke asked the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) not to certify the housing element filed by the Town of Moraga. The Housing Element is a 7-year plan that details how the town will fulfill its regional obligation to build 307 new housing units. Loewke was writing on behalf of Joan Bruzzone, the owner a significant portion of the property in Moraga.

"It is not uncommon to have individuals write such letters," said Moraga Planning Director Lori Salamack, "it is called a 'third party comment' and the town's obligation is now to work with the third party to resolve the issue." Salamack added that the letter surprised her because her department had worked so well with that property owner during the process of establishing the housing plan.

In his letter to HCD Loewke stressed how Moraga had consistently failed to fulfill its regional obligation for producing housing within its boundaries, especially in the very low to moderate income categories. He strove to demonstrate that governmental and economic constraints which limit any developer's ability to work were not realistically identified in the draft housing element that the Town submitted to HCD. Loewke suggested that in order to produce a realistic housing element plan, the town should first study the entire feasibility of the Moraga Center Specific Plan, because most of the proposed housing is located within that plan. He concluded that the plan of building 307 new dwellings was infeasible in the 2007-2014 timeframe.

In her response to HCD Salamack defended the plan and the town's policy. She believes that Loewke's allegations were misleading and she invited Janet Miles, Housing Policy Division of HCD to visit the town on August 26 to get an accurate picture of the local possibilities and constraints. Salamack is establishing a working group composed of staff, planning commissioners, design review board members, and consultants that will work with the main property owners, the Bruzzone and Chi families, to finalize the ordinances for the specific plan area and the housing element over the next six to eight months.

After 35 Years at the Hacienda, Senior Bridge Players Find New Homes

By Sophie Braccini
Alex Teller never thought he would see the day when the Moraga seniors bridge club would feel forced out of the Hacienda de las Flores. Teller was around when the group was created 35 years ago (his wife's aunt was the founder of the bridge club) and he helped even before becoming a senior himself. "The group of players has consistently used the Hacienda two to three times a week in the La Sala building since the 70's," he said, "but when we were told by Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram to pay a fee to continue to use our customary location, we decided to go."

As of July, the bridge club plays at the senior housing facilities, Moraga Royale on Monday evenings and Aegis on Friday

evenings, where they are warmly welcomed.

"We never told the players that they had to go," said Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram, who manages the agenda of the public Hacienda, "but it is clear that if they were not willing to contribute financially to the cost associated with their usage, having them continuing to play here was our least favorite option."

For Teller and his friends the financial argument is not valid. "We the seniors, along with the rest of the community, have paid for the Hacienda with our taxes already," he said, "many of us were already here when the town purchased the Rheem Estate in the 70's. It belongs to us, the residents, and taxing or squeezing us seniors now is not acceptable."

Jay Ingram has his own budgetary constraints and says all groups are now required to pay a fee to use public buildings, granting no grandfathering, however ancient the custom might be. "The Council approved the fee structure and we have to apply it," he said, "I know it's a change of culture but most groups have adapted and they end up paying it."

The seniors want to continue to contribute to the town and still consider Ingram their good friend, however, "It's a sorry day when seniors can no longer have complimentary use, for six hours a week, of the building designated as a community center," said Teller, "and we will not come back to the Hacienda under the current terms."

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- Check out pages 9-13 of our fall activity guide - it's full of new and returning enrichment classes for people of all ages.

- Tiny Tumblers Gymnastics, Mad Science classes, tot soccer, barre workouts, senior stretch fitness, cooking, painting and more.

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Orinda

Lamorinda Community

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, September 15	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, September 22	
Historic Landmarks Comm.	3pm
Gallery Room, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, September 22	
Mayor's Com. Liaison	8:30am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, September 14	
City of Orinda: http://www.cityoforinda.org	
• all meeting notes	
• calendar updates	
Chamber of Commerce: http://www.orindachamber.org	
• local businesses	
• upcoming events	

Planning Process Reviewers Task Complete

By Jonathan Seclow

At their August 18 meeting, the Orinda City Council received the final report of the Planning Process Review Task Force. Upon receiving the report, the council dissolved the task force and commended their efforts.

Vice-Mayor and task force chair Tom McCormick thanked the task force members, who were all present, telling them, "Finally return to your families."

However, not everyone was happy with the task force's work. One speaker, Ann O'Connell Nye, was particularly displeased with their final report.

"I was sitting at Peet's the other day, looking at Long's and the hardware store, trying to imagine a five story building in their place. And I was horrified at the idea of a building like that obstructing the view of Orinda's hills," she said.

O'Connell Nye's comment was a reference to the task force's recommendation that the city change the maximum building height from 35 to 55 feet in selected areas.

In response to her comment, Council Member Steve Glazer reminded her and the rest of the audience that the final report still had many steps to pass through before it becomes law. He encouraged participation and input from the public during those steps, so that the final laws would best reflect their image of Orinda.

"I thought that more people would be here tonight. This is the beginning of a long process, and nothing has been decided yet. We definitely encourage more input from the public," said Glazer.

The task force report is available on the city's website, <http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us>.



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Drunk in Public, 8/25/09 A 31-year-old white male was found laying on the ground at Glorietta and Moraga Way with a bottle of alcohol, just down the block from his home. The gentleman was unable to stand without assistance. For some reason, even though presumably he was feeling no pain, he had six Vicodin tablets in his pants pocket, no prescription bottle. He was uncooperative with police who arrested him.

Residential burglary, 8/23/09 Between 8/22 and 8/23 at a home on Glorietta Boulevard, an unknown suspect entered the garage via an unlocked side window. Tools and construction equipment worth approximately \$2,000 were taken.

Drunk Grandma, 8/21/09 A woman in her seventies was involved in a collision on Acalanes Road and fled the scene. The suspect was contacted by police as she was being removed from the car by her daughter. She admitted to drinking but was too intoxicated to perform a field sobriety test. The elderly woman was arrested, but released to the custody of her daughter.

Fake Franklin, 8/19/09 At the True Value Hardware store on Moraga Way, a man came in first thing in the morning and purchased several items from the store, paying with a \$100 bill. It was later determined that the \$100 bill, also known as a Ben Franklin since his mug is on the front, was a forgery. The purchaser was long gone when the bill was discovered to be a fake.

Orinda Council Receives Bicycle, Trail and Walkway Master Plan

By Jonathan Seclow



Figure 2-2: Existing Conditions Downtown Orinda Alta Planning + Design

While Orinda's City Council and staff continue to grapple with how to improve road conditions for motorists, they have also begun to take steps to make it easier to get around town on foot and by bike. The Orinda Bicycle, Trail and Walkway Master Plan is finished and was presented to the City Council at its meeting on August 18th. The city contracted Alta Planning + Design to create the plan in April of last year. The plan was presented to the Council by Lauren Ledbetter and Bruce Wolff from Alta Planning + Design.

The primary goal of the Council in contracting the plan was to have designs for the improvement of bicycle paths, trails, and walkways on hand in order to benefit from grants and other funding sources when the opportunity arises. Therefore, the plans created are not

slated for immediate deployment, but instead represent a long term plan for path and trail improvement in Orinda.

"The goal was to create a 20-year blueprint for the future of walking, biking, and hiking in Orinda," said Ledbetter.

The improvements recommended by the plan aim primarily at improving the safety of pedestrians and bikers. By improving their safety and creating designated trails and paths for them, the City Council and Alta Planning + Design hope to promote biking and walking as modes of transportation in Orinda.

The City Council did not discuss any of the specific improvements included in the plan at the meeting. Instead, the Council will review the plan in detail during a future workshop, at a time and date to be determined.

At press time the 158-page Master Plan was not available on the city website but can be downloaded from Alta Planning + Design, <http://www.altaprojects.net/orinda/documents.html>.

The plan contains an extensive list of improvements that could be made to existing bike paths, walkways and trails, and recommends the creation of many new ones. Among non-construction items, the Bike/Trail/Walkway Master Plan recommends:

- Education and encouragement programs for residents of all ages and city employees.
- The creation of a citywide Safe Routes to Schools program, using a variety of multi-disciplinary programs aimed at walking and biking to school and improving traffic safety around school areas.
- Implementation of 'Sunday Streets', which is a community event based around a street closure to automobiles, featuring business and recreational opportunities for residents.
- A bicycle and pedestrian website offering one-stop shopping for walkers and cyclists - listing of local walk/bike clubs and organizations, area maps and information about ongoing projects.
- Employer incentives, dynamic parking meter rates and programs such as Adopt a Trail, Share the Road and Neighborhood Speed Watch. L. Borrowman

Orinda Extends Cannabis Club Moratorium

By Jonathan Seclow

The City Council voted to extend the moratorium on Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in Orinda at its meeting on August 18. The Council's decision will

prevent the establishment of any dispensaries in Orinda for another 10 months and 15 days. City attorney Osa Wolff explained to the Council that numerous pending

court cases place medical cannabis in a legal limbo. For that reason, she said, it would be best for the city to wait before allowing dispensaries to open.

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Case Sent to DA in Loudon Investigation

The Orinda Police Department announced on August 27th that the case involving the death of Miramonte High School student Joseph Loudon has been submitted to the District Attorney's Office for review and an additional person has been charged.

19-year-old Alexandra Gabrielli was charged with furnishing alcoholic beverages to a person under 21 and contributing to the delinquency of persons under 18 during an Orinda party in May where 16-year-old Loudon was found unresponsive; Loudon was pronounced dead later that evening. Gabrielli's brother, 18-year-old Patrick Gabrielli, was arrested for the same charges the night of the party. A 16-year-old boy was also arrested for furnishing alcohol.

"After three months of inter-

views and investigating, there is no evidence of a crime, nor is there any indication that Joe's death was criminal," said Orinda Police Chief Bill French. "There is nothing to indicate that a hazing was taking place or that Loudon was forced to consume any alcohol or drugs."

The Coroner found Loudon's death to be accidental. The autopsy also found the drug papaverine in Loudon's system. In a written statement, Sheriff's Department spokesman Jimmy Lee said detectives attempted to trace where it came from but were told there was not enough probable cause to secure a search warrant. In addition, according to Lee, after checking with local pharmacies police found that the last time a prescription was filled for that drug was more than three years ago. ... continued on page 10

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Life in LAMORINDA
 Orinda to Host California Independent Film Festival
 By Andrea A. Firth



What will Orinda soon have in common with Park City, Utah; Telluride, Colorado; and Cannes, France? A film festival! In April Orinda, specifically the historic Orinda Theater, will become home to the California Independent Film Festival. Held in Livermore for the past seven years, Program

Director Beau Behan is excited about the festival's move north, closer to Oakland and Walnut Creek and a BART ride from San Francisco. "The city of Orinda has embraced us wholeheartedly," says Behan. "It's a really nice feeling, and the Orinda Theater provides a great venue for the event."

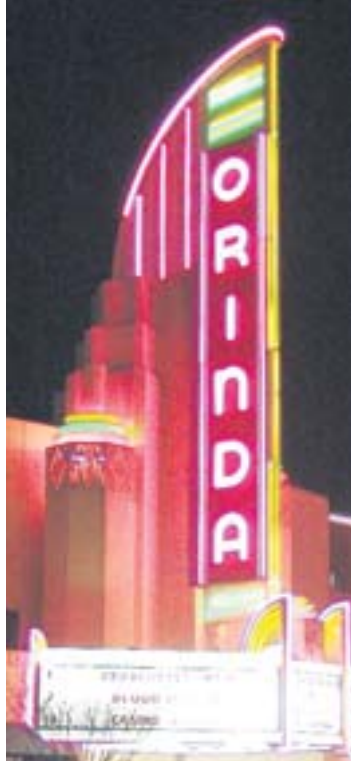
be determined, residents may find themselves dodging paparazzi this spring when the selected Hollywood A-lister makes his or her way to Orinda's semi-rural hills to accept the award.

To celebrate the festival's move to Orinda, the California Independent Film Festival Association has planned a special screening of the Alfred Hitchcock 1963 suspense film *The Birds* on Friday, September 18th at 7:00 p.m. The movie's star, Tippi Hedren, will be on hand for the screening of the film which tells the story of a small town in the San Francisco Bay area that is besieged by a series of massive bird attacks. Interestingly, it seems that *The Birds* is undergoing a revival. A remake of the Hitchcock classic is in development and slated to be released in 2011 reportedly starring George Clooney and Naomi Watts.

For more information about the film festival regarding attendance or submissions and to purchase tickets for *The Birds* screening, go to www.caiff.org or call (925) 277-1355.

The festival will be held April 22nd through the 25th of 2010 and feature a weekend filled with screenings of new comedies, dramas, animations, documentaries, shorts, and music videos. Submissions to the festival are being accepted now through the end of January. Festival attendees will have the chance to participate in seminars on film topics and question and answer sessions with directors and actors.

Like the Oscars, the festival recognizes a number of the participants with "best awards" such as best picture and best actor, along with honoring an acting luminary with a Lifetime Achievement Award—last year's winner was Dianne Ladd. Although the recipient of the 2010 Lifetime Award is yet to



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Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and town (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for length or legal considerations. email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: **Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570**

Editor:

I cannot believe what I really read about Lafayette parking in the August 19 issue. We just had several meetings discussing the town plan for the future. While there were a host of opinions on the issues, any parking structures were treated with scepticism and not considered disirable. Yet, I read that a prime property, such as the one on Mt. Diablo and Dewing is being considering for a parking structure. Whoever thought this one up needs a reality check. A new building that has added to the life in this area with restaurants and shops is still new. It would seem to me that adding to the life of this area would be to continue the fashion of this building and also playing into the future plan by creating a building that adds to the ambience of the area, not detract. Parking in such a prime location is just plain nuts! Whoever floated this balloon needs a reality check.

Leonard Dorin
Lafayette

households put up with just one leafblower's use. A couple of years ago, we told our gardener to switch to rakes and brooms. We could not in good conscience subject our neighbors to such unnecessary and intrusive noise. There's simply no justification for willfully infringing on my neighbors' right to the quiet enjoyment of their property! Friends from nearby Piedmont visited recently, and they were astonished at how loud and frequent the leafblower episodes were! Piedmont banned their use several years ago; similarly Berkeley, Santa Barbara, and numerous other communities have outlawed leaf blowers. Orinda enacted a ridiculously ineffective "noise ordinance" back in 2004, that only bans gasoline-powered leafblowers on Sunday (but permits electric blowers on Sunday, which are nearly as loud!). Orinda permits their use Monday to Friday from 8 am until 6 pm; and on Saturday from 10 am until 5 pm. We often hear them outside of these hours, particularly Saturday mornings and sometimes on Sunday afternoon. It is high time the city of Orinda moved to ban the use of these obnoxious and stress-causing machines entirely. Rakes and brooms do a fine job, don't pollute, and cost less.

To the Editor:

Since MOFD's Fire Chief Pete Nowicki's egregious pension benefits have received attention locally and nationally in the Wall Street Journal, I feel it is incumbent on the citizens of Moraga and Orinda, who will be paying the approximate \$2.4 million in spiked benefits to Chief Nowicki, to look for the root cause. The chief was only looking out for his self interest which is to say he had the opportunity to raid the cookie jar and he succumbed to the temptation. It is apparent to me that the Board of MOFD is highly culpable in this matter and in my opinion, they should resign. This would allow a new slate of board members to clean up the fiscal irresponsibility that now permeates the culture.

Sincerely,
Susan and Peter Kendall
Orinda

There are no term limits in the MOFD good old boys club. Consequently the board has been running MOFD like it was a rich man's hobby spending the tax payers money without restraint. I was a member of Orinda's Revenue Enhancement Task Force. While serving I learned that the MOFD board had a long range plan to spend \$30 million for building projects including a new administration building and a new training facility. But, very little was planned for water pipe rehabilitation which was promised to Orinda back when MOFD was formed. That they were even thinking such thoughts points out that they certainly were not thinking about ways to deliver the needed services to the community on a cost effective basis. It surely never occurred to them to ask the basic management question: Is it possible to deliver our services in a more economical way? Until such questions are asked, possible solutions vetted and appropriate actions taken, the tax payers of Orinda and Moraga are going to continue to get a bum deal.

Bill Schmicker
Orinda

Dear Editor,

Thanks Moraga-Orinda Fire District!

Any longer-term resident of Orinda would certainly notice the enormous increase in neighborhood noise caused by the widespread use of gas and electric leafblowers. We've lived in Orinda 15 years, and in the past three years or so, it seems most homeowners employ a "landscaper" who visits weekly. Every one of these mobile gardeners has the backpack leafblower, and they spend from 15 to 45 minutes spewing dust and exhaust, and broadcasting that grinding shriek caused by their machines. From inside our home, we can hear the blowers' noise emanating from homes and streets a quarter mile away! Just one single leafblower sends noise throughout the hilly topography of Orinda, permitting its uniquely irritating loudness to blanket several neighborhoods at a time. Literally dozens of


Daily we are bombarded with bad news, and so I hope that you will find fit printing this one. On July 30 at 1:10 pm, while working in my office at home, I felt that something snapped in my chest, followed by an excruciating pain. I assumed I had a heart attack and asked my wife to call 911. I don't know which station from MOFD responded, but they were at our front door within three minutes. My office is on the second floor and the crew had to carry me down in a special chair to the rescue truck. That is the last thing I remember. They must have put in on the way to John Muir Hospital an I.V. in my right hand (a real professional job the nurses in J.M. commented) and administered whatever medication they thought I would need, after which I passed out. My wife told me the rest of the story. In the Emergency Room Dr. Jacobs and her colleagues have quickly determined that I did not have a heart attack but a ruptured aorta leaving my heart requiring immediate surgery, which I found out later is much more serious than a heart attack. From the E.R. they transferred me to the Concord campus of John Muir where I underwent an extensive open heart surgery by Dr. Kamlot and his team the same night lasting nine hours. They were not sure until early next morning when I woke up in the I.C.U. if I will make it. I am now well on my way to full recovery and hope to resume my normal life within a month or so. I would like to express my sincere thanks to MOFD and particularly to the rescue team that took me to the ER for their quick and professional response. They were instrumental in saving my life.

Laszlo G. Bonnyay
Moraga

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 and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

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Foreclosed Home Becomes Public Nuisance in Lafayette

... continued from page 1

It was more than I could handle and no longer was an investment. I hope now that the bank or the new owners are able to bring the property back to its previous condition, take much better care of it, and that the neighborhood could move forward in a positive direction," said Barcelona in a recent statement.

The City became aware of the situation when building permits were filed, but expired due to inactivity. The Contra Costa Building Inspection Department and City staff sent the property owner notice that he was in violation of Lafayette Municipal Codes regarding maintenance of property. It was so deteriorated that it had become a nuisance; the owner was given two weeks to clean it up. Well, that didn't happen.

Eventually after more notices, the City did the work and billed the owner for \$4,750. This represented \$2,850 for the abatement along with costs for the City Attorney, the Code Enforcement Officer and administrative fees.

"It has not been pleasant. I have to constantly call the City about rodents, and fire hazard due to teenagers living in the abandoned home lighting candles, and the pool in the backyard attracting mosquitoes. It has been a pain," said adjacent neighbor Vivian Williams. She also worries if she sells her home this eyesore lowers the value of her property.

The \$4,750 abatement fee wasn't paid so a lien was filed with the County for that amount. A pub-

lic hearing was held adopting a resolution imposing a special assessment of \$10,000 on the property in 2008, as allowed by the Lafayette Municipal Code section 8-2105 General Property Violations. A demand for payment was sent to the owner as well as the mortgageholder at that time, Countrywide Home Loans.

Now the special assessment total is up to \$15,000 - which represents the \$10,000 fine, the \$4,750 cost of abatement and now a \$250 dollar charge has been assessed to cover cost of putting a levy on the 2009 - 2010 property tax roll.


The home went into foreclosure last year with Countrywide Home Loans. Bank of America bought the firm, so now all of Coun-

trywide's mortgages and foreclosures are the responsibility of B of A.

"Just because a special assessment is issued doesn't mean the fine is terminated. At any time I can issue another citation if they continue not to reply to correspondence or return phone calls. The owner can rack up another \$15,000 to \$20,000 in fines," said Greg Wixom with the County Building Inspection Lamorinda office.

Calls to Bank of America were not immediately returned. Concerned residents can call the City Code Enforcement Officer about homes falling into disrepair at (925) 299-3207; concerns regarding structural issues should be directed to the Lamorinda Building Inspection Office at (925) 299-0263.

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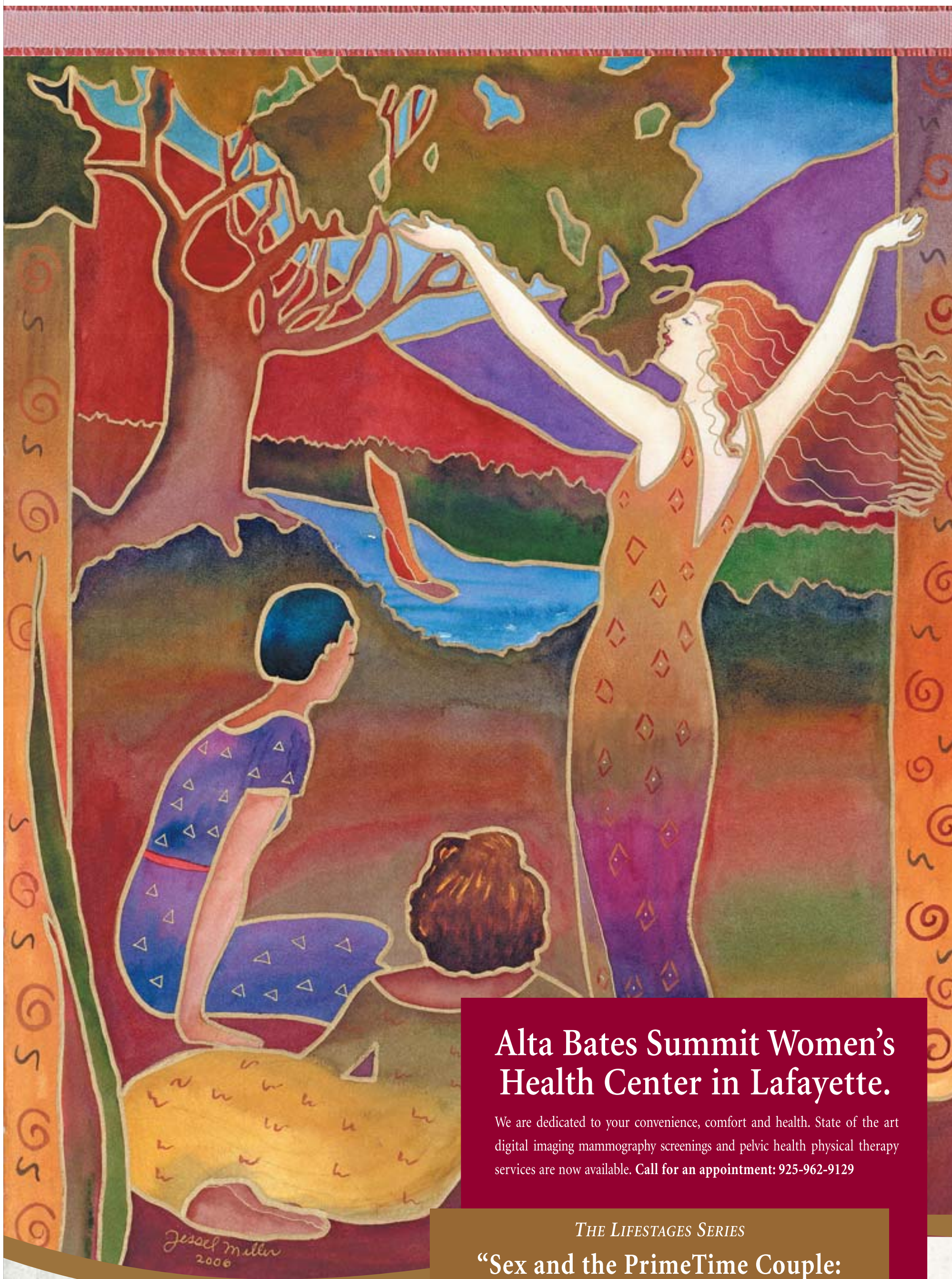
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• **Life in LAMORINDA** •

Some Music with your Watermelon?

By Cristina Kim

"Farmers' markets create communities that value diversity, honesty, locality, seasonality, and beauty." - Alice Waters, "The Art of Simple Food."



Scott and Avery Jules listening to musician Drew James jamming
Photo Cristina Kim

With a whimsical garland of feathers and flowers on her head and a guitar in her hand, Suzanne Holland fills Moraga's Farmers' Market with her ethereal voice. Like a lullaby wafting in the wind, her music provides a subtle soundtrack for the market's patrons as they shop for fresh produce and a variety of specialty foods. Holland is not the market's sole performer but one of a large group of musicians, chefs and entertainers who appear at the Farmers' Market.

Moraga resident and avid farmer's market shopper Janet Blossil feels that there is no comparison between shopping at the grocery store and farmers' markets. Blossil says she enjoys purchasing seasonal, local produce at the farmer's market but also stresses the importance the market has on building community; it's a place where

she can see people she has not seen in a while and find a moment to catch up and talk.

Scott Jules says he and his daughter Avery attend the farmer's market almost every Sunday and are big fans of the live music. "(Avery) loves the music and loves to put a dollar in the box," explains Jules. Going to the farmer's market has become a tradition of sorts where they "always get strawberries and kettle corn," Jules says, and drop by the musician area to listen to some music. "Just today she asked, 'do they have music?'" adds Jules as Avery grins.

According to Jan Taylor, the Regional Market Director for the California Farmers' Market Association and the coordinator of the music at the Moraga Farmers' Market, the music not only serves as a means for local artists to gain expo-

sure but also works to get people to view the market more like a recreational activity than the chore of buying food. Taylor schedules the musical performers on an 8-10 week rotation, in order to ensure that market-goers hear a large variety of musical genres and styles.

The Moraga Farmer's Market has other attractions for kids, such as Cesare the balloon sculptor. Cesare charges for his balloon sculptures but offers so much more than balloon art. His wide array of noise-makers and more importantly his booming personality draw many children to the little seats placed in a semicircle around him.

Bess Inzeo and her daughter Abby visit Cesare every week. They don't always purchase a balloon but Inzeo says that Abby "loves coming to say 'hi' to him." Cesare and his

wares serve not only as a source of fun but also a lesson in saving money. "Abby comes periodically because she knows she needs to save. Today she brought her own money," notes Inzeo.

The market's entertainment is not solely for kids. Live cooking demonstrations such as Lesley Stiles' lesson on grilling on August 16, 2009, entertain and educate adult market-goers as well. Stiles, an East Bay chef and caterer, offered farmer's market patrons a taste of her delicious concoctions and taught proper grilling techniques to the large crowd that gathered around her.

From music to balloons to cooking, the Moraga Farmer's Market is more than your average shopping trip. Just remember to keep your ears open and get some music with your watermelon.



Lesley Stiles teaches techniques for grilling vegetables
Photo Cristina Kim

The Moraga Farmer's Market is open year-round from 9AM to 1PM and is located at the Moraga Center between Moraga Way and Moraga Road.

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- September 13, 2009**
Eddie Williams (electric guitar and saxophone)
- September 20, 2009**
Ike Cosse (electric guitar blues)

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Case Sent to DA in Loudon Investigation

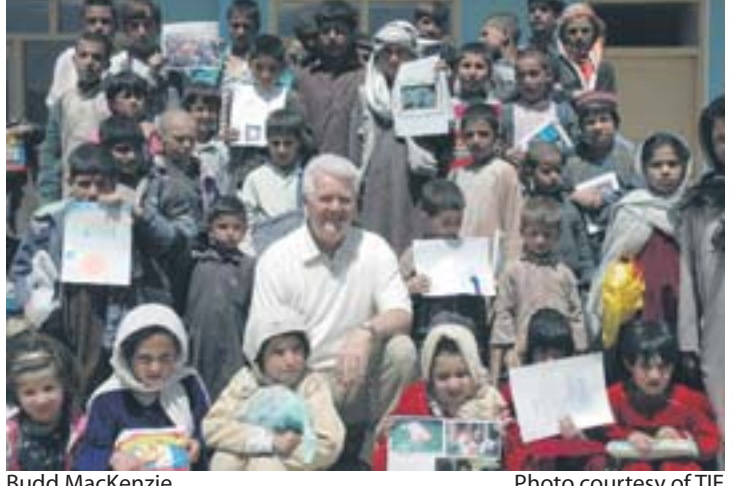
... continued from page 4

French said the investigation is complete, but added, "Our greatest frustration is that there are individuals who may have knowledge about the circumstances surrounding the papaverine, yet no one is talking." French also acknowledged ongoing concerns about unanswered questions regarding Loudon's death, saying "We have done everything we could in investigating the death. Sadly, this is a situation where we may never know some answers."

Anyone with any information on the case or on the source of the papaverine is still encouraged to contact the Orinda Police Department at (925) 284-5010.
L.Borrowman

Life in LAMORINDA
Budd MacKenzie, a Man Consumed by his Passion for Freedom

By Sophie Braccini



Budd MacKenzie Photo courtesy of TIE

From the danger zones of Afghanistan to the comfort of his Lamorinda life, Budd MacKenzie is a tireless traveler working for reconstruction and long-term development. He is a man who wants to change the world; on a more modest scale, a man who wants to bring permanent development and freedom to men and women living in regions of Afghanistan where an uncommon journey has taken the man who was President of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce in 2006 and 2003-2004 Lafayette Citizen of the Year. Over the past six years, his non-profit "Trust in Education" (TIE) has achieved results that would make any international NGO proud.

In 2004 TIE reached an agreement with the villagers of Lalander (16 miles south of Kabul) to construct a secular school for boys and girls.

Politically engaged, MacKenzie believes that no nation should topple another's government without taking on the reconstruction that follows. "Our commitment is clear," says MacKenzie. "Be part of the rebuilding effort."

MacKenzie's first cause in Afghanistan was educating women. "Even now in the villages I cannot talk directly to women, when I arrive they disappear to the back of the house," he says. MacKenzie confesses that there is no better way to appreciate women than having to deal only with men. The Afghan government has affirmed its objective of educating women, but in reality, when cuts are made it is to girls' education. Girls in school number about 1/3 of their male counterparts and most parents don't see the need for girls' education past the elementary level, if at all.

In Lalander and neighboring villages TIE pays for 27 full time teachers; more than half of the 839 students are girls and a new school has been built, with swing sets. All of this has been done with the cooperation and support of local leaders and the Afghan Department of Education. "One key to success is to in-

volve the villagers and their leaders in the process and to make the program transparent and verifiable," says MacKenzie.

The second cause is 'food-clothe-shelter.' "Once I got involved and after visiting Afghanistan, there was no pulling back," said MacKenzie. "Working for education is working for the future," he adds, "but these people have seen their country devastated, their economy ruined; it all has to be rebuilt." On these issues as well MacKenzie is working in partnership with local experts and authorities, while learning to avoid the risks of corruption.

Among other accomplishments, TIE has enabled the planting of over 22,000 fruit trees, has provided 300 sheep (5 per farmer for 60 farmers) through its microcredit program, has provided 5600 lbs of clothing, blankets and other items, funded the building of four bridges and has transferred the technology of a hydraulic ramp pump that does not require electricity or gas with the help of Solano Community College students. "The purpose is not to sprinkle emergency help, but to engage in a long term strategy of development


that will bring independence to these people," says MacKenzie.

Along the way MacKenzie and his team decided to support the Aschiana Project, a well organized and controlled program that sponsors Afghan street children and sends them back to school. For \$20 a month, parents commit to sending their child to school instead of the street. "Our permanent project managers in Kabul help follow up with every one of the kids, making sure they indeed go back to school," says MacKenzie.

MacKenzie gives regular talks to the community to present his results to those who have donated and raise the interest of new partners. His next speaking engagement is on September 9th at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church (MVPC) at 8:00 a.m. "I'd like many people to come and hear what has been done," says MacKenzie, "bring a friend, and ask questions, I'll be there just for that." MVPC is at 10 Moraga Lane and the event is open to the public. A \$3 breakfast will be served. RSVP to Bob Prindle, 631-1142. For more information go to www.trusteducation.org.

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Lynn's Top Five
LET'S TALK MUNIS (and we don't mean the buses!)

By Lynn Ballou, CFP, EA

Retirees and working investors alike are bemoaning the interest income they are earning (or should we say NOT earning) on their income oriented investments. With the recent Fed meeting just behind us calling for no interest rate hikes the rest of the year, this will continue to be true for the foreseeable future as we work our way through the government's plan for economic stimulus and recovery.

One bright spot has been the ability to earn a very decent after tax rate of return on a thoughtfully designed "Muni" Bond (Municipal Bond) laddered portfolio. To say that we could write an entire textbook on the intricacies of Muni Bonds is quite an understatement.

Since this is a column and not a textbook, (and here's where you are breathing a huge sigh of relief!) let's just focus on a few key points to consider before you begin adding them to your investment mix.

1) What are they: They are bonds issued by your state, local cities, counties and related municipalities, to raise money for projects. Typically each bond has a different reason for its existence, such as a bond that might be issued by a school district to improve its programs, or a bond that might be issued by a municipality to improve its water treatment plant. Each bond will have a coupon rate that is consistent with what the market will bear when that bond is issued. Maturities are often long-term, and interest is typically paid semi-annually (some only pay upon maturity). Many are non-callable, but be careful because a lot are also issued with an early call provision (meaning that the issuer requires you to redeem the bond prior to the stated maturity date). This allows the municipality to retire the bond early, sometimes at a premium but often at face value, or what is called "par." One of the risks to the bond owner is, if interest rates go down and the bond gets called, he or she may not be able to buy another bond at a comparable rate.

2) How can I buy them: Typically you buy Munis through your investment advisor or broker. Most often your advisor buys them in the secondary market. You can buy them in small or large quantities, depending on your purchasing power and your need for diversification. Another popular way to buy Munis is through a mutual fund. In a bond portfolio of your own individual holdings you can control the exact content, maturity dates, income and ultimately the maturity value of your portfolio. In a mutual fund you cannot, and your asset value will swing as interest rates rise and fall. However, the diversification offered

through a mutual fund is hard to replicate outside a fund, not to mention avoiding the job of buying and monitoring the bonds yourself!

3) Laddering: Many investors don't want all of their fixed income assets maturing at the same time. Picking maturity dates that reflect future personal needs or anticipated interest rate increases (or decreases) is a wise approach. For example, one investor with \$100,000 allocated to Muni bonds, might want the diversification of 4 bonds with a \$25,000 face value on each bond. Since they might be thinking of using that for their daughter's college education (let's say she starts school in 10 years), they might want one bond maturing in 10 years, another in 11, etc. Upon maturity of the bonds, you can choose to reinvest the proceeds into a new bond. The risk, however, is that there may not be bonds available that offer a comparable rate of return.

4) Safety: Many Muni bonds, especially those that are GO (general obligation) are considered to be among the highest grade (quality) fixed income investments available, aside from US Treasury bills and notes. US Treasury bills, notes and bonds are guaranteed by the US government as to the timely payment of principal and interest and, if held to maturity, offer a fixed rate of return and fixed principal value. Some Muni bonds are backed by policies written through insurance companies. The cost of this insurance will take a bit away from the yield, but might provide you with some important peace of mind and a back stop for loss of principal (but not interest) in the event of a Muni bond default (though very rare). Insurance only guarantees timely payment of principal and interest and does not eliminate market risk. Bonds are rated by independent agencies so you can have another sense of their credit worthiness. Of course none of these are absolute

guarantees.

5) After Tax Rate of Return: Most investors who buy Munis are interested in them because of the tax free income stream. These are investors who are typically in a fairly high combined state and federal income tax bracket. In this abnormally low interest rate environment a lot of investors in lower brackets are buying them, too, since they have recently been earning more than other types of fixed income investments. These investors need to be aware that when credit markets (and therefore interest rates) return to periods of normalcy, they may regret having locked in these lower rates of return for long periods of time. Although Munis can be sold daily in the secondary market, you still need to find a buyer and you can only sell them for their relative worth (based on maturity, safety and coupon rate) which may not be as much as what they were purchased for. Additionally, income from Muni bonds may be subject to alternative minimum tax.

For the right portfolio, when thoughtfully and carefully purchased, Muni bonds can offer an attractive tax-free income stream. If you aren't familiar with them yourself but would like to consider Muni bonds for your own portfolio, a trusted advisor can be invaluable.

On a different note, I've really appreciated your feedback about these columns. As I run into many of you around the community, you tell me that the focus on investments in these volatile economic times has been helpful. I'll devote a couple of additional columns to investments, and then there are some interesting estate and income tax planning issues we should chat about as well. Please let me know if there are other topics you'd like covered. Looking forward to seeing you around town!

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Lynn Ballou is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and co-owner of Ballou Plum Wealth Advisors, LLC, a Registered Investment Advisory (RIA) firm in Lafayette. Lynn is also a Registered Principal and Branch Manager with LPL Financial (LPL). As such, she is required by securities regulations to add the following information to this column: The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and not intended to provide specific advice or recommendation for any individual. Securities offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC. Reach Lynn Ballou at lynn@ballouplum.com

• COMMUNITY Service •

Backpack Project for St. Cornelius School

Submitted by Roxy Klein



Starting from the top row, left to right: St. Stephen's Church members Steve Klein, Julie Gutzwiller, Morgan Gutzwiller, Barbara Van Sickle, Rev. Mary Hudak, Dede Kerr, Gaby Blake, next row l-r starting with little girl: Mary Smith, Molly Davis, Kimi Klein, Roxy Klein, Carol Brovelli, next the kids in front starting with two boys, then the three girls l-r: James Marvel, Matt Klein, Katie Klein, Cassidy Goodman, Kelsey Wendt. Not Pictured: Julie Marvel, Court and Maddie Houseworth

This summer as vacations came to an end, days became shorter and August approached, reminding families that the new school year was close at hand, an idea came to several members of St. Stephens Church of Orinda. Realizing the expensive costs of sending kids back to school and knowing in these difficult times many people

wouldn't be able to afford new school supplies, St. Stephen's Outreach Committee started the "Backpack Project," promising to donate 100 backpacks and school supplies to St. Cornelius School in Richmond.

St. Cornelius is an elementary school that provides underprivileged children in the Richmond area

a chance to have a great education and stay safe despite living in poverty.

In order to fulfill this ambitious project, St. Stephens reached out to the community at large, and received an enthusiastic response. Many families generously answered the plea for help and countless backpacks were given to the church, the

donators expecting no thank you or recognition. Together St. Stephen's and the Lamorinda community were able to successfully give all 100 backpacks to St. Cornelius for Kindergarten through 3rd grade.

On Monday, August 17th community and church members alike gathered to assemble the backpacks and supplies and deliver them to St. Cornelius School, where the excited students came with their parents to pick out a new backpack filled with all the supplies needed for the year! This project was especially significant because it allowed families to help fellow families, and kids to help other kids. It was a heart-warming experience for everyone involved, and left a lasting impression of the generosity of our wonderful community. We hope to make this an annual event, if interested in helping next year, please call St. Stephen's Church at 254-3770 or email roxygklein@comcast.net.

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions can be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, with the subject header In Service to the Community.

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Lafayette Rotary Serves at Concert



left to right: Sandi Mitchell, Jesse Wellen, Troy Federsen

Photo Andy Scheck

Between 300-500 music fans enjoyed the Rock the Plaza concerts over the last three Fridays. Members of the Lafayette Rotary Club sold Casper's hot

dogs, grilled chicken sandwiches and beverages from Diablo Foods. The raised money will benefit local school and music programs.

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The Myth about Mortgage Rates

By Al Sanli

As a long time local mortgage professional, the two questions I have been asked the most by Lamorinda residents over the years are "What is the interest rate?" and "Will the rates go up or down?" I would like to take this opportunity to answer these questions for all of you.

Interest rates are determined on a case-by-case basis depending on each individual's credit, income, employment, reserves, equity and type of loan required. People have a tendency to compare rates. However, rates can still be different even for similar loans that are established around the same time. This is due to the fact that rates change every day—possibly even two to three times a day.

Will rates go up or down? The correct answer is that no one knows. There are a lot of predictions, but it's like the stock market—a guessing game. It's important to know that mortgage rates are tied to the treasury bond market. If there is a good demand for bonds, the rates will go down. There are so many factors affecting the bond market and the most significant impact is based on inflation and unemployment. The bond market doesn't respond well to inflation. If inflation goes up, inter-

est rates go up. It's a different story when it comes to unemployment. High unemployment means lower mortgage rates. Overall if the economy is slow and things are negative, mortgage rates will go down.

Pay attention to the important details and secure the best rate;

1) Make sure you receive a Good Faith Estimate in writing that clearly shows all the fees including the amount of compensation going to the loan agent. Please note you have less of a chance of seeing this number from retail banks because they are not required to disclose the rebate. The main difference in working with a broker versus retail bank is that with an established broker you will have access to rates from a large number of various lenders including those from your banks wholesale division.

2) Ask the loan agent what his/her fee will be and how it will be paid. Most of the time agents are paid by lenders when their clients take a certain rate. This payment is called "Yield Spread Premium" and is mostly advertised as a "No Point" loan. If the lender compensation to the broker is good enough to pay the client's closing costs and still make a reasonable profit, then these loans can become

the "No Cost/No Point" loans that you hear about on the radio.

3) Another alternative is that brokers and banks can be paid directly from a client by providing a par or below market rate (lower rate with no lender/investor compensation and borrower pays the agreed fee to the broker through escrow). This type of arrangement may become more financially beneficial to you if you are considering a long term fixed loan.

4) Be careful not to be a victim of "pocket lock." This means that when the rate goes down lower than your target rate, the agent locks the rate you agreed on and receives additional compensation without passing the benefit to you.

5) Paying your taxes and insurance with your mortgage payment as an impound account may lower your rate. Also shorter term rate locks may help you to get a better rate such as 15 days lock versus 30 days. Your loan needs to already be approved.

6) Always ask for a loan comparison sheet that clearly shows and compares all your options next to each other. That way you will know if it makes sense to pay points for a lower rate.

The reasons that I have outlined above demonstrate why it is very important to work with a mortgage professional who has a good reputation and will disclose all costs to you up front. We tell our clients from the beginning that for refinance transactions our compensation scale is set and simple based on good credit for residential properties. For conforming loan amounts up to \$417,000 is 1 point, for loan amounts between \$417,001 to \$625,000 is 0.750 of a point and any amount higher than \$625,000 is 0.5 point. There is a 0.250 of a point add on for purchases. If they choose a "No Point" loan, then lender pays us the same amount. They have peace of mind knowing that whatever happens with the market will be reflected exactly in their rates.

The bottom line is that most of these loans are sold in the secondary market to the investors. Many homeowners believe that their retail bank is their lender, but most of the time that's not the case. Banks will just be handling the servicing of the loan for an additional profit.

Now you know what's going on behind the scenes with regard to mortgage rates. It's your decision to choose how much you are willing to pay and if the cost should be built in to the rate.

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Lamorinda Home Sales continued



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HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$3,333,500
MORAGA	Last reported: 1
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$1,070,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,070,000
ORINDA	Last reported: 10
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$384,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$2,350,000

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**
- 1200 Cambridge Drive, \$1,075,000, 5 Bdrms, 2572 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 8-11-09
 - 4136 Canyon Road, \$3,333,500, 5 Bdrms, 6489 SqFt, 2005 YrBlt, 8-7-09
 - 18 Hidden Valley Road, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2811 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 7-29-09
 - 3781 Highland Road, \$1,110,000, 3 Bdrms, 2699 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 8-13-09
 - 3270 Marlene Drive, \$355,000, 3 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 8-11-09
 - 81072 Via Alta, \$900,000, 4 Bdrms, 1867 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 7-30-09
 - 21 Moraga Road, \$782,000, 3 Bdrms, 2017 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 8-12-09

- MORAGA**
- 100 Whitethorne Drive, \$1,070,000, 4 Bdrms, 3054 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 8-7-09

- ORINDA**
- 26 Claremont Avenue, \$835,000, 4 Bdrms, 1488 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 8-13-09
 - 2 Dolores Way, \$384,500, 7-31-09
 - 46 El Gavilan Road, \$945,000, 5 Bdrms, 1363 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 8-13-09
 - 33 Las Cascadas Road, \$2,350,000, 5 Bdrms, 3633 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 8-7-09
 - 29 Greenwood Court, \$835,000, 3 Bdrms, 1750 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 7-29-09
 - 19 Mariposa Lane, \$900,000, 4 Bdrms, 1559 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 8-7-09
 - 4 Nobi Lane, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 3162 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 8-12-09
 - 70 Orchard Road, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 2333 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 8-13-09
 - 47 Robert Road, \$700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1481 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 8-7-09
 - 57 Via Floreado, \$1,862,500, 4 Bdrms, 2419 SqFt, 2007 YrBlt, 8-13-09

Lamorinda Foreclosures continued

- ORINDA**
- Valencia Road, Wachovia Mortgage, 07-31-09, \$820,350, 1819 sf, 6 bd
- MORAGA**
- Carroll Drive, Wells Fargo Bank, 07-30-09, \$987,716, 1646 sf, 3 bd

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Just Released from Moraga: Juice Box Heroes

By Sophie Braccini



Coane cousins dancing to the music of their fathers, Craig and Scott (L-R): Nola (3), Lily (1), Kayla (8), Annie (4), Michael (5) Photo Sophie Braccini

Nola, Lily, Kayla, Annie and Michael Coane are fortunate cousins. The kids, age one to eight, all live in Moraga and see each other all the time because their dads are brothers and best friends. Their talented fathers have just released their first CD, "No Sugar Added" by the Juice Box Heroes, full of the 80's tunes that get kids dancing and with lyrics they have fun signing.

Once upon a time there were two daddies going to work every-day, raising their budding families with their lovely wives, and dreaming to reconcile their busy suburban lives with their love of the 80's music. Before daddy-hood they had performed at night with San Francisco bands, "coming home at 4 a.m. after playing in bars all night something how didn't seem to fit our lifestyle anymore," says Craig Coane, the older brother.

Out of singing one too many renditions of "Old Macdonald Had a Farm" came the liberating idea of mixing their favorite music with words and themes children could relate to. "We love our kids, we love music, so we had to find a way to mix the two," says Scott. After a year of work, Craig and Scott have just released their first album with 12 songs that have a bit of educational content, but mostly are for

kids to have fun.

"Living in a Cheerio World" to the beat of Madonna's "Material Girl," "Kids Just Wanna Have Fun," parodying "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" by Cyndi Lauper, and "Don't Worry Take a Nappy," to the rhythm of Bobby McFerrin's "Don't Worry Be Happy" (a personal favorite of this reporter) are some of the songs on the album.

The music was first tested on the five little cousins. And now? "Put on Juice Box Heroes," 5-year old Michael asks whenever they drive in the car, while 8-year old Kayla wonders "When are you going to be on iTunes?"

The production of the album was done at Berkeley Studio Denoise, with professional studio musicians. The brothers sing the songs, with their children and their friends joining in at times for the chorus.

The album is selling by word of mouth through their web site, www.JuiceBoxHeroes.com. "What we are hearing back from our friends and their friends are always positive comments," says Scott, "and we are starting to sell all over the country without any advertising."

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business briefs

Longs Drugs Becomes CVS
3625 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette; 50 Moraga Way, Orinda; 580 Moraga Rd, Moraga

All traces of the 70-year old Longs' Drugs company have been erased from the local stores as new owner CVS remodeled them over the summer, sometimes unsettling customers who wouldn't find things they were looking for in the places they used to find them. The move is the result of the purchase of Longs' 521 Drug Stores by CVS Caremark Corp. last October for \$2.7 billion. The change in décor, from carpet to store plan, are not the only changes. CVS brings to the plate its place as #1 in prescription drugs, and customers have already noticed changes in the generics. The challenge for the new corporation will be manage a network of stores on average 38% larger and carrying more food and general items than typical CVS stores do. This may be the reason why the local management, which has not been changed, has maintained some of the product choices they had established to meet the needs of their constituency.

Curves Offers a Week of Healthy Fun to the Community 594-A Moraga Road, Moraga

Tara and Dave Reynolds, owners of Moraga Curves, have moved their facility to the stand-alone building in the Rheem Shopping Center located across from Home Goods. They have planned a week of events between September 12 and 19 where all the community is invited, Curves members or not. "We will have different activities planned in partnership with other local businesses," explains Reynolds. On September 12 the first event is offered from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in partnership with Ravi Singh, owner of Rheem Valley Automotive. Singh will demonstrate preventative maintenance for cars, while Curves will inform on weigh management and preventative health care. On Wednesday the 16th from 4 to 6 p.m., the theme will be "healthy you, healthy environment", with a consultant, an architect, an energy conservation specialist who will give advice on what can be done around the home. For a detailed program go to www.curvesofmoraga.com, or call 376-0110.



Photo Sophie Braccini

Lori's Swim and Sun 552 Center St., Moraga

Business owner Lori Stubblefield has operated her Rheem Center business for 13 years under the name Lori's Perfect Tan, but now she wants a name that better reflects the reality of her business: Lori's Swim and Sun. "We continue to offer tanning service, but we have such a choice in sun related apparel that we wanted our name to reflect it," she said.

Knox Restaurant & Bar For Sale
Knox, on Mt Diablo Blvd in Lafayette, has closed for financial reasons.

News from the Three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

- Shop Lafayette Working Group on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 12:30 p.m. in the Lafayette Chamber Conference Room
- Monthly Mixer on Wednesday, September 9 at 5:30 p.m. at Creekside Partners, 985 Moraga Road #205
- Lafayette Art & Wine Festival on Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20 in Downtown Lafayette

Moraga

- Chamber meeting on Friday, September 25, 7:30 a.m. at the Hacienda de las Flores

Orinda

- Chamber Mixer on Thursday September 10th from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. featuring a preview vignette of "Harvey" by The Starlight Village Theater players. Meet at the Outdoor Amphitheatre, Orinda Community Park 26 Orinda Way, Orinda (across the street from Rite Aid). Just look for the balloons to guide you. Free admission.
- Orinda Restaurant Tour Tuesday, September 29, from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. The event benefits the Orinda Schools and the Chamber. www.orindachamber.org/OrindaRestaurantTour2009.htm

Lamorinda Weekly business articles are intended to inform the community about local business activities, not to endorse a particular company, product or service.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at sophie@lamorinda.com

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Science in the Kitchen ~ Easy Experiments for Kids

By Jonathan Winter



Jefferson Wake inserts ice-cream solution into bag of salted ice held by brother, Jonathan Photo Jennifer Wake

Do you love ice cream? A hot summer day is a great time to enjoy this yummy treat. Many people think that to make ice cream you need a fancy ice cream maker, but you don't even need a freezer. All you really need are a few ingredients and some patience.

1. Gather these supplies:

- Heavy Cream (Whipping Cream)
- Milk
- Sugar
- Vanilla

- Crushed Ice
- Table Salt or Rock Salt
- Quart size Resealable Plastic Bag
- Gallon Size Resealable Plastic Bag
- Towel or Gloves
- Measuring Cup
- Thermometer (optional)

2. Start your experiment:

Add ¼ cup sugar, ½ cup milk, ½ cup cream, and ¼ teaspoon vanilla to the quart-sized plastic bag. Carefully seal the bag.

Put two cups of the ice in the gallon size plastic bag. Check the temperature of the ice with the thermometer. Add ¼ cup salt to the bag and mix it in with the ice. Put the sealed small bag in the large bag and close the large bag.

Using gloves or a towel (so your hands don't get too cold), gently squish the small bag around inside the large bag. Make sure that it stays in the salt/ice mixture. Mix it for at least 10 minutes.

Open the gallon bag and measure the temperature of the salt/ice mixture again.

3. What happened?

When you added the salt to the ice, you lowered the freezing point. The salt broke up into its two parts (sodium and chloride ions). When water freezes, it forms crystals. The salt ions got in the way of the water molecules, not allowing the crystals to form. You could use other kinds of salt if you wanted, because of the same ion effect (You can try this experiment with epsom salts if you still have some from the crystal making experiment).

The salt made the slushy ice super-cold so it could freeze the whipping cream.

By gently squeezing and squishing the bag, you kept your mixture from becoming a solid. Hopefully squishing it around mixed some air into it as well. Some store bought ice creams are half air!

Are you ready to taste your experiment? You may want to try adding some fresh berries or other fruit to your ice cream. A slice of pie works too. But the thing that makes ice cream tastes best is when it's eaten with a friend!

Jonathan Winter has been a science teacher at Lafayette Elementary School in Lafayette since 2001. He lives in Moraga with his wife, children, numerous pets – and he experiments frequently in his kitchen.

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Family Focus

Dealing with a Defiant Child

Margie Ryerson, MFT

Two very loving and concerned parents called me about their six year old son, "Adam." They wanted to bring him in for therapy because he was increasingly uncooperative and difficult to handle at home. As I questioned them further, I found out that Adam performed well in his first grade class at school and obeyed his teacher. He had friends and activities that he enjoyed, and he was healthy and bright.

I set up an appointment to meet with Adam's parents and explained that we could accomplish much more in a shorter period of time if I met with them directly and bypassed seeing Adam. When a child is acting out only with his parents, we can more easily narrow down the approach for treatment. Play therapy, art therapy, and other child-oriented therapies work well in certain instances, but this situation called for some parental re-grouping.

Some children respond well to discipline and parental limits and persuasion. Others are strong-willed and enjoy having a sense of their own power as they challenge parental authority. Adam definitely was determined to get his way whenever possible. He refused to come to the dinner table, he refused to stay in his room for time-outs, he refused to go to bed, take a bath, or get ready for school. And this is just a partial list.

Adam's parents had tried carrying him back and forth to his room for time-outs and then holding the door closed. They literally had to dress him and carry him to the car for school, hold him down for baths, and drag him to the dinner table. Naturally, his parents were concerned that if they were having this many problems with Adam now, what would it be like when he became an adolescent?

Adams' parents had made a few well-intentioned mistakes in their efforts to reform their son's behavior. For instance, they tended to

overdo positive reinforcement; if Adam came to the dinner table when he was called, they made a big fuss over him. It cheapens the currency if you do somersaults whenever your child does something that is normal and expected. They also spent a great deal of time and energy trying to persuade Adam to cooperate. No wonder Adam felt in control of his parents rather than vice-versa.

The first thing we implemented was a much-needed behavioral plan. To begin with, his parents charted three expected behaviors. If Adam complied with one, he received a sticker. Five stickers added up to a small privilege, such as staying up a half-hour later on a weekend night. Ten stickers resulted in a local ice-cream outing. Twenty stickers yielded a small prize. It is important to start small and to keep it simple. Otherwise the child will continue to feel too powerful if parents cater to his natural desire for bigger and better rewards.

More importantly, Adam's parents agreed to change their own behavior. They would no longer repeat their instructions several times, nag, over-explain, or show anger and frustration. They were to remain calm, firm, and detached from Adam's negative behavior. They would make sure their body language wasn't giving them away. In other words, even if they were seething inside, they would adopt serene facial expressions and postures. In this way, Adam would no longer be able to derive power and satisfaction from manipulating his parents' emotions.

If he wouldn't get dressed for school in the morning, he would either be late for school or have to go partially dressed. If he screamed and kicked in the car, his parents would ignore him and act calm. Either way, his refusal to cooperate needed to become his problem and not his parents'. Adam's teacher was informed of the behavioral plan and cooperated by giving him

tardies and consequences if he arrived late to school.

If Adam didn't come to dinner when he was called, the family ate without him and made sure to enjoy themselves and laugh with his younger sister. If he became hungry later on, he could only have plain crackers and carrots to eat. Yes, this wasn't a well-balanced diet, but his nutritional needs needed to be subordinated for awhile.

Over a lengthy period of time, Adam's parents calmly but firmly dealt with his resistance to baths and bedtime. Gradually, as Adam didn't receive the "reward" of upsetting his parents, but could qualify for a real reward if he complied with them, he became more cooperative.

As Adam succeeded with the behavioral plan, his parents next adopted a positive incentive plan. Now Adam could also earn stickers for helping out at home with chores and with his little sister.

This process was not a short one; it took over a year for Adam's behavior to turn around at home. Happily, Adam is now entering third grade and is flourishing both in school and at home. Luckily for Adam, he has parents who worked hard to give him the training and structure he needed to become an emotionally healthy child.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a marriage and family therapist in Orinda and Walnut Creek. She can be reached at 925-376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com

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ART

"Ten Years Together, Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Lafayette Gallery," runs through October 10th. The Gallery features work in oil, acrylic and watercolor painting, pastels, printmaking, mixed media, collage, sculpture, pottery, wood-working, glass and jewelry. The new show will pair recent work with earlier work by the member artists. Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday; 11AM to 5pm. (925) 284-2788, Lafayettegallery.net.

The Moraga Art Gallery presents a new group show, **"Bold Statements"** by local Bay Area and Lamorinda artists showing watercolors, oil painting, collage, ceramics, photography, mixed media, jewelry and glass design through October 31. The Gallery is doubly featuring the work of Angelica Samame, painter and jewelry designs by Laura Paige. Moraga Art Gallery, 570 Center St, Rheem Valley Shopping Center/next to Longs Drugs. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 12-5 pm. (925) 376-5407.

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"California in Relief: A History in Wood and Linocut Prints" is on view through Sunday, Sept. 20, and features nearly 100 works of art spanning 100 years of California art history. The exhibition is curated by Art Hazelwood, who also curated the highly praised 2002 William Wolff retrospective, "Masquerade and Revelation." Public Hours: Wed - Sun, 11 AM - 4:30 pm. Admission: \$3 adults; kids 17 and under free; Gallery members free. Gallery Telephone: (925)631-4379. Website: hearstart-gallery.org.

MUSIC

Classical Music Recital, Michael Carroll, Piano-Saint Mary's College Chapel in Moraga. Sunday, September 20 at 2:00 pm. Music of Brahms, Prokofiev, Chopin, Bach, Mozart. Free admission.

On September 26th and 30th the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra will open its 2009-2010 season with Music That Tells a Story, showcasing jazz violinist Jeremy Cohen in his own electrifying compositions, Jeremy's Hot Fiddle Soup and Ellington Medley. CCCO's program also includes Prokofiev's beloved Peter and the Wolf, featuring KGO Radio personality Scott Lettieri as guest narrator as well as the performance of Beethoven's dramatic Egmont Overture, and Paul Dukas' Sorcerer's Apprentice. Saturday 9/26, 7:30 p.m. Los Medanos College Recital Hall, Pittsburg, Tickets: \$5 - \$10 Wednesday, 9/30, 7:30 p.m. Leshner Center for the Arts, Tickets: \$15 - \$18, at the door, by phone ((925) 943-SHOW), or online at www.LeshnerArtsCenter.org.

Bay Area-Based photographer Matthew Granz' work will be on display at Fastframe of Lafayette during September. His photography imparts a rare appreciation for light, space, color, filtering and staging. FAST-FRAME is located at 3571 Mt. Diablo Blvd., next to Postino's. Call 283-7620 for more information, and check out Matt Granz' website at <http://mattgranz.redbubble.com>

Leslie Swartz, a member of the Moraga Art Gallery, and Moraga resident will have a display of her paintings and drawings at the Moraga Library during the entire month of September.

"Angels, Demons or Fools?" An exhibition of provocative paintings of cultural icons by local, widely exhibited artist Karl Schonborn at the Orinda Community Church Sanctuary Art Gallery, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Artist's reception at 11.15 Sunday 6th Sept., 2009. Exhibition open by arrangement. Please call 925 254 4906.

Rheem Center Art Show: The artists of Moraga Art Gallery and Kimco Realty recently teamed up to beautify the storefronts adjacent to the Gallery by filling empty windows with original art. Fourteen artists are on display in the storefronts at 572 & 576 Center

Not to be missed

YASMINA REZA'S "ART" September 3 - October 3. For Tickets: (925) 283-1557 or online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

"Brigadoon" presented by Woodminster Summer Musicals by Producers Associates, Inc. Woodminster Amphitheater in Joaquin Miller Park, 3300 Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland, September 4-13. "Brigadoon" tells the story of a mysterious Scottish village that appears for only one day every hundred years, and the American tourists who stumble upon it. For tickets call (510) 531-9597 or www.woodminster.com, \$25-\$40 (\$2 discount for children/seniors).

LECTURES & LITERATURE

"American Idiot" Berkeley Repertory Theatre Docent Talk at the Orinda Library will take place on Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Room. It is free of charge and will last about an hour. The Orinda Library is at 26 Orinda Way. For more information, please call (925) 254-2184 or visit the library website at www.ccclib.org.

Orinda Theology Group, a new theology discussion group meets once a month to share insights from our reading. We have taken the summer off but will reconvene Tuesday, Sept 15 at 7pm. The book currently under study is Deepak Chopra's "The Third Jesus" which may be purchased at Orinda Books. Mention "Orinda Theologians" to get a discount there. If you have any questions, contact Orinda Community Church office at (925) 254-4906.

BOOK SALE - Friends of the Orinda Library - Thursday, Sept. 3 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sorting Room and Bookshop (Bookshop will remain open until 6 p.m.) This monthly sale offers quality books for all interests and all ages. Funds raised are used for new books, computers and other library materials and library programs. Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. (925) 254-1358.

Friends of the Moraga Library present their annual sale of (sorted) books, CDs, videos etc. Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.-Book Sale and bag sale from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m. Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd. (925) 376-6852.

Wednesday, September 30-2 p.m.- "Women Yesterday: living in ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome," SF Museums of Fine Arts docent lecture based on the King Tut exhibit currently at the De Young Museum through March 2010. Presented by the Friends of the Moraga Library. 1500 Saint Mary's Rd, Moraga, (925) 376-6852.

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Not to be missed Not to be missed

SEE ALSO LAMORINDA'S SEPTEMBER EVENTS ON PAGE 18-19

Need a tax deduction? Donate to the Acalanes Fall Sports Sale, to be held Oct. 3. Contact Sue Thoren at sthoren2@yahoo.com...

for all. All proceeds benefit Save Mount Diablo's land conservation efforts. Registration cost is \$55.00.

Evan Gordon of Troop 234 will have a collection bin available to collect donations for deployed soldiers/military personnel...

monthly meetings that provide information, education, support and advocacy for people who suffer from hearing loss.

Please join POISE (Parents of Orinda Individuals in Special Education) for the fall kick-off meeting.

Chinese Cooking - learn to make popular Chinese dishes with simple and easy cooking techniques.

September 10th - Green Movie Nights at the Rheem Theater-'Addicted to Plastic.' The film is a feature-length documentary...

Come play cribbage! A new cribbage club is being formed at the Sports Basement in Walnut Creek (1881 Ygnacio Valley Road).

Girl Power: Lafayette Troops Forming, Interested Girls Invited. Girl Scouts discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together...

Lafayette will host its first Farmers' Market as a trial on three consecutive Thursday evenings this September.

September 30th at 6 p.m. Moraga based non-profit Generation Green's Sustainable Contra Costa will host the First Annual Sustainable Contra Costa Awards...

GARDEN

Montelindo Club general meeting and speakers, third Friday of the month, September through May.

OTHER

Free Brain Gym Introductions for Effective Learning by, September 12, 2 - 3:30pm, 58 Van Ripper Lane, Orinda.

Muttville's Senior Dog Rescue and Adoption Outreach -Going to the Dogs (and cats) Sunday, September 13 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

CLUBS

Widowed Person's Support Meetings. Saturdays from 10 a.m. to Noon at St. Stephen's Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda.

MORAGA GARDEN CLUB MEETING - SEPTEMBER 17, 2009, 9:30 AM, Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga.

Hearing Loss Association of America-Diablo Valley Chapter, a volunteer non-profit organization, has

Mount Diablo Challenge - Sunday October 4, 2009 - a 10.8 mile timed bike ride, starting at Athenian School in Danville and climbing up Southgate Road 3,249 feet to the summit of Mount Diablo.

A Grief Recovery Workshop for widows/widowers will be held Sept. 22-Nov. 24, 7-9 pm at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church.

White House Adviser On Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Eboo Patel Visits Saint Mary's College of California

What: Saint Mary's College of California's yearlong Interfaith Initiative project will feature guest speaker Eboo Patel on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

Patel is also the author of "Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation." His lecture will address the necessity of interfaith engagement...

During the 2009-2010 academic year the Center is collaborating with the Interfaith Youth Core, the College's Mission and Ministry Center and others campus-wide...

The lecture will take place at the Soda Activity Center, Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Road in Moraga. It is free and open to the public.

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Dining Dining

Susie's recipe column will be back next time.

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LAMORINDA'S Restaurants

Table listing various restaurants with columns for American, Japanese, Mediterranean, Mexican, Italian, Thai, Vietnamese, etc. Includes names like American Bistro, Chow Restaurant, etc.

Download our Restaurant Guide from our web site at www.lamorindaweekly.com

The Lamorinda Weekly (LW) Restaurant Guide is not paid advertising, our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. We hope that we have included all Lamorinda restaurants on this page, except those that told us they did not wish to be listed.

LAMORINDA'S SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Traditional Pear Festival In Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

The eleven year old Moraga custom will return on September 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Moraga Commons. The Pear Festival is a natural offspring of Moraga's past agrarian identity as a large pear producer. Not many of the century-old orchards are left standing, but there are enough to produce the 15,780 pounds of pears that were collected last month by volunteers from the orchards at Joaquin Moraga School and Saint Monica's Catholic Church and donated to the food bank.

At 9:30 a.m., a ceremonial tree will be planted by the Mayor to commemorate Arbor Day. Then starting at 10 a.m., the Festival will offer many fun activities for children, including a "jumpy" field (sponsored by the Moraga Women's Society), 4-H petting zoo, a coloring contest, snow cones and cotton candy. Food will be served around the day by Moraga Valley Kiwanis, Lions Club, Boy Scouts, Terzetto Cuisine, Ristorante Amoroma and Loard's Ice Cream. The Lamorinda WineGrowers Association and Parkmon Vineyards will offer wine sampling.

Visitors are encouraged to cook with pears and submit their creations to the Festival's culinary contest. Those not in the mood for cooking will be able to buy pear pies on the spot.

Musical entertainment will be offered during the day, including the "Supersonics" from Campolindo High School, finalists from the Orinda Idol competition, the Willow Springs Church Rock Band and Spookie Flowers. The Desert Moon Band will perform from 1-4, thanks to a donation from the Moraga Park Foundation. Many artists and community groups will have a booth to display their creativity and/or activities.

For more information contact Festival Chair John Haffner, (925) 330-9930, johnhaffner@comcast.net.

Upcoming Events in Moraga

- | | |
|---|--|
| Books and Bands Bash Benefit
Sunday, Sept. 13th, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Live music, dancing, and more.
Holy Trinity Cultural Center
www.bethestaryouare.org | Grandparent's Day
Saturday, Sept. 19th 11a.m. to 1 p.m.
Jazz Band, Pony Rides, Games, etc
Free admission- Moraga Royal
www.bergassistedliving.com/moraga |
| Battle of the Bands
Friday, Sept. 18th, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Moraga Commons Park | Moraga Pear Festival
Saturday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Moraga Commons Park
www.moragaparks.org/pears |
| Country Western BBQ & Dance
Saturday, Sept. 19, 6 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity Cultural Center
(925) 376-6850 | Big Band Dance at the Rheem Theatre
Friday, Oct. 2nd, 7:30 p.m.
www.thebigbandofrossmoor.org |


Photo Andy Scheck

The BOOKS and BANDS BASH BENEFIT!
★ *Dancing Under the Stars* ★
Sunday, September 13th
4:00-9:00pm

Celebrating Moraga's own **Be The Star You Are!**® literacy charity's 10th anniversary and the launch of the new book, *Be The Star You Are!*® for TEENS featuring many teen writers from our community.

Place: Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga, Ca. 94556
Price: \$13.00 in advance. Tickets are limited!
Date/Time: Sunday, September 13th, 4:00pm- 9:00pm

Come party with dancing to live bands, raffles, silent auction, hula hoop contest, celebrities, writers, and fun for all.



For more information and to buy tickets call 925-376-7126, or visit www.bethestaryouare.org



Orinda Classic Car Show—Five Years and Going Strong

... continued from page 1

These amazing cars come with their own unique and remarkable stories as well. Sean Kimble brings his Ford Fairlane, an exact replica of the car featured in the old television crime drama *Dragnet*. Kimble plays the part of Sergeant Joe Friday for the day, sporting the skinny-tie style of the fifties and spouting, "Just the facts ma'am." Kirk Haley brings his 1969 Mustang Fastback—the first car he owned back in high school. Haley sold the car years ago, rediscovered it sitting in an apartment complex parking lot, decided he had to have it back, and re-bought the now classic car. And Tom Cargill, a former Orinda resident who lives in Reno, drives his 1963 Corvette back to his old hometown each year to participate in the show and visit with his daughters.

This free event is presented by Orinda Motors, which closes business for the day and transforms the auto body shop into a classic car showroom. Orinda Motors owner Allen Pennebaker, a Miramonte High School graduate, and service manager John Vanek have been great to partner with, notes Herman. "They are very committed to the

car show. It's a great example of a local business giving back to the community," he says. "And, they actually have mechanics who can work on these old, classic cars that are not completely computerized."

The Orinda Classic Car Show kicks off with a Friday night pre-party aptly named *Dancing with Cars*. Attendees enjoy drinks, including a martini bar which features the "carsmopolitan," dinner, and live music along with an expansive view of Mount Diablo from an airplane hangar at Buchanan Field where the party is held. "It's like a big post-summer reunion," says Herman. "My goal is to make it the most fun charity event to go to."

As in previous years, viewing the cars on Saturday will be complemented with food and music. Once again vintage race cars will be on display including special guest, Orinda resident Jochen Rohr, a world GTI driving champion and Daytona 24-hour event winner (1997), who will bring his winning racecar which has been faithfully restored. Herman has also incorporated some new elements into the show including a display of custom motorcycles from Dublin-based bike producer Arlen Ness along with vintage motorcycles owned by local residents. And, the Orinda Historical Society will present "Orinda Through the Years," a photographic history of the city and its cars. The show wraps up at 2:00 p.m. with a parade of cars and the opportunity for show goers to take a cruise in their favorite classic car for a \$25 donation.

For tickets to *Dancing with the Cars* on Friday, September 18th, contact Chip Herman at Chipherman@hotmail.com. For more information about the Orinda Classic Car Show or to register your car or motorcycle, go to www.orindamotors.com.



Saturday, September 19th 10-7 PM
Sunday, September 20th 10-6 PM

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For further information, please visit our Website: <http://www.lafayettechamber.org>

Battle of the Bands Raising money for a Teen Center

By Sophie Braccini

On September 18th the Lamorinda Teen Center Inc., a non-profit organization, is sponsoring a Battle of the Bands at the Moraga Commons, at the corner of Moraga Road and Saint Mary's Road. Seven teen bands from Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte high schools will compete and one will be voted #1.

The event will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. and will cost \$2 per person. All proceeds will go toward the establishment of a Teen Center in Lamorinda. "The \$2 ticket will give spectators a raffle ticket and a ballot," says Austin Controulis, a senior at Miramonte who's been instrumental in organizing the evening, "we will have cool prizes including tickets for sports events."

The young organizers have invited Top Dog, a popular Berkeley hot dog joint, to come to the party. Jamba Juice and Loard's Ice cream will provide hungry teens with nourishment as well.

The Moraga Commons is an open field, so controlling access will not be easy. "We don't think that the \$2 entry fee is excessive," said Controulis, "we will have many volunteers who will help channel the crowd and we are confident that everyone will want to contribute to the establishment of a Teen Center."

Eat, Drink, Listen and Shop at Lafayette's Art and Wine Festival

By Cathy Tyson



The Spazmatics will play at the Art and Wine Festival again

On September 19 and 20, Lafayette will hold its biggest event of the year, the Art and Wine Festival. A portion of Mt. Diablo Boulevard will be closed to cars, but open for strolling, drinking, munching and shopping – possibly even dancing.

With easy parking at BART, the Festival features top notch food, wine and micro-brews, along with more than 250 booths carrying a wide variety of one of a kind art, textiles, jewelry, glass, photography, and a special "Local Artist Alley." If that weren't enough, three stages will host musical entertainment to rock even more than the plaza for these two days.

Between Chow and Ferrari, those who really want to "Try Lafayette First" can check out the wares of artists that call Lamorinda home. The "Local Artist Alley" is located in the first row of La Fiesta Square's parking lot facing Storyteller, along Lafayette Circle. Fifteen to twenty artists, many of whom don't normally do fairs, will be displaying one of kind treasures. For example Tom Tanyehill, who lives and works just blocks away from the Festival, normally sells his artwork at galleries in Carmel and Tiburon. His paintings can be found as far away as New York, Washington D.C., London and even Scotland.

"It's the one time of year when you can meet the artist directly," said Tanyehill. Growing up in the area, he's inspired by local surroundings, for example the Lafayette Reservoir and the rolling golden hills of Mt. Diablo and Lamorinda. "I like a lot of movement in my paintings. As a kid I did a lot of sailing - the wind on tall grass is similar to waves on the ocean." In addition to local artists, both the Lafayette Art Gallery and Moraga Art Gallery will be represented.

There's art even where you may not expect it. Shelby Sexton Salon, tucked between Teacake Bake Shop and the rear of Chicos in La Fiesta Square, has recently merged with the Lisa Johnson Gallery. Original oil paintings, sculpture and blown glass are on display and are for sale throughout the contemporary salon. Champagne will be served while the salon is open for hair as well as aesthetician services. Attendees that feel the need for waxing, a facial, or perhaps just to pick up some sunscreen are welcome. Come for the art, stay for a haircut.

For the first time ever, there will be a Power of You(th) used book sale, spearheaded by Brad Green for his Eagle Scout Project. He has organized book donations at all of the Lafayette schools to benefit the new Library. Kids who donated 15 or more gently used books received a specially designed T-shirt. Look for a variety of inexpensive, previously owned books at his booth.

The Festival is presented by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce to benefit the Lafayette Arts and Science Foundation (LASF) along with other non-profits. This fundraiser could not have come at a better time for these deserving organizations.

"Without LASF, Lafayette public schools simply could not offer the top quality programs in art, music and science that contribute to our schools' top rankings. And LASF supports much more than our name suggests -- writing and technology, for example. At the high school level, this includes funding for courses that are required for entry to UC schools -- what will happen if our kids can't get the courses they need to apply to our state universities? This year LASF is raising an unprecedented \$1.5 million dollars - \$300,000 more than last year. We can only do this with the help of the entire Lafayette community," said Barbara Serwin, LASF President 2009 - 2010.

The Lafayette Art and Wine Festival: Hundreds of fine arts and crafts booths, restaurants, food vendors, wineries and microbreweries, plus a kid's area with entertainment and activities.

Saturday, September 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Downtown Lafayette
www.lafayettechamber.org/pages/artwine

FREE ADMISSION

Orinda Motors Presents 

The 5th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show

Saturday, September 19th, 10am-2pm

Benefiting the Seniors Around Town Transportation Program



Cruise in a Classic!

Donate \$25 and choose your ride for the parade

Enjoy vintage and modern exotic cars and motorcycles, food, music, and more! The show will be held in Orinda Village at Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way.

Join us as a spectator or to show your car or motorcycle!



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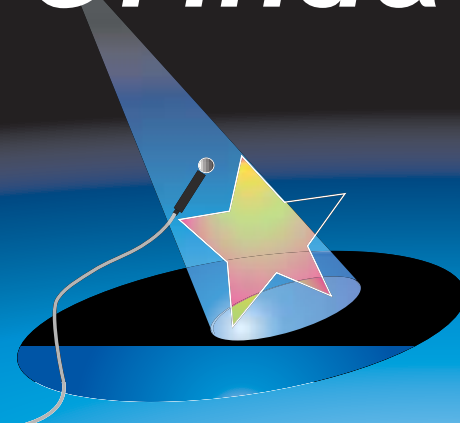
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For more information go to www.orindacarshow.com.

The Orinda Arts Council presents

Orinda Idol 2009



Orinda Theatre
Sunday,
September 13th
11:00 am - 7:30 pm

from Orinda Idol 2008 Finals:



Schedule By Grade Category:

- 11:00 am Elementary K-2 and 3-5
- 1:00 pm Middle School
- 2:45 pm High School
- 4:30 pm Groups K-5 and 6-12
- 6:15 pm Announcement of Winners

For a List of Finalists Visit www.orindaartscouncil.com

See More of the 2009 Winners & Finalists This Fall!

- 9/19 Lafayette Art & Wine Festival- KidZone 12pm
- 9/26 Moraga Pear Festival 10:15am
- 10/3 Orinda Library Book Fair 12pm

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In the Back Yard

Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia
Naked Ladies and Nasty Non-Natives

"More in a garden grows than what the gardener sows." Spanish Proverb
 By Cynthia Brian



Mixed container of herbs and flowers: dill, parsley, basil, zinnia, snapdragon Photo Cynthia Brian

Let's go into the backyard to admire the Naked Ladies," beckoned a male friend of mine. To the non-gardener, this sentence sounds like a racy pick up line, but to the avid gardener, these bulbous lilies in the Amaryllis family (*Lycoris squamigera* and *Amaryllis belladonna*) fill our senses with satisfaction. Watching these bodacious beauties sway in the breeze is intoxicating.

Native to southern Japan, Naked Lady *Lycoris squamigera*, is appropriately known as Magic Lily and Surprise Plant. Within the genus *Amaryllis*, *Amaryllis belladonna* is one of two species, hailing from the Western Cape of South Africa. In late August, early September, they suddenly sprout tall, curvaceous necks stretching towards the sunshine, boasting five to seven four inch long fragrant pink trumpets. The foliage resembles that of agapanthus appearing in the winter and dying back as soon as the weather warms. We always allow the leaves to wither and die without pruning, lest we lose the unexpected arrival

of these graceful charmers of summer. Naked Ladies appeal to my landscape longings for four reasons:

1. Once planted, they require no work with the exception of pruning their stems once the blooms are spent.
2. They are drought tolerant, pests don't bother them, and they grow in sun or shade.
3. They naturalize, coming up year after year, offering their cheery pink faces just at a time that my garden is looking worn and weary.
4. The deer don't eat them!

Writing about Naked Ladies reminds me of a story from my teenage years that I learned about a few years ago at the wedding of my niece. Growing up on the farm, my sisters, brothers, and I were responsible for cultivating the vineyards and performing numerous necessary ranch chores before we were allowed to participate in other activities. When my sisters and I had dates on Saturday night, we were still required to tractor the fields before going out. This presented a problem because we wanted to wear summer dresses and none of us wanted a "farmer's tan" (dark arms to above the elbows, white skin everywhere else) so we came upon a brilliant idea. We decided to plow the fields in our bikinis in an effort to get the work done and get a full body tan. As long as we wore our cowboy boots, my Dad had no problem with us working this way. We'd slather on the baby oil, climb aboard the Caterpillar, Ford, or John Deere, and row-by-row we'd plow the orchards. Evidently one day my Dad noticed

several pick up trucks lined up along our fence. He rode over in the Willy jeep to investigate the crowd of young men peering towards the vineyards. "May I help you gentlemen?" my Dad inquired. "No," responded one of the boys, "we're just watching those three girls over there driving tractors buck naked!" My Dad glanced in the direction of their gleaming eyes. He then glanced at his shotgun on the jeep. Looking directly at the teens, Dad said, "Well, gentlemen, those naked girls on those tractors happen to be my daughters and if you know what's best for you, you'll be moving on!" The trucks sped down the country road in a nano second. Of course, from a distance we did look like naked ladies because the dust and dirt caked to our babied oiled bodies gave us the appearance of being brown all over. My Dad never mentioned a word about this interaction to any of us and we continued to plow the fields in our bikinis until we all moved away from home. To this day, we remain naked ladies, preferring to garden in our bikinis!

The Nasty Non-Natives
 Although both the *Amaryllis belladonna* and the *Lycoris squamigera* are highly poisonous if ingested, they are welcome sparkling immigrants to our landscapes. California is home to over 4,200 native plant species and is recognized internationally as a "biodiversity hotspot." We also have over 1,800 non-native plants growing in the wilds of the state with about 200 of those becoming what I call the "nasty non natives." These invasive plants disrupt natural habitats, displace natives, and have the potential to spread explosively. Unfortunately, Lamorinda is home to many of these pest plants.

Since fall is one of the best times to improve your soil, it is also the best time to rid your ground of weeds before the seeds have an opportunity to take root. Weeds that are left standing in autumn usually return with vigor in the spring. My suggestion is to learn to identify the predators, get out the hoe, and dig deep. Don't put these in your compost pile as the seeds may germinate and spread more of the nastiness.



Happy Gardening to You!
 Cynthia Brian
 PO Box 422
 Moraga, Ca. 94556
 925-377-STAR
 cynthia@star-style.com URL
 www.GardeningwithCynthia.com
 Tune into Cynthia's weekly radio show, Starstyle-Be the Star You Are! at
 www.starstyleradio.com.

Here's a short list of the invasive nasty non-natives that you may encounter in your gardens or on hillsides nearby:

- Yellow starthistle*
- Pampas grass*
- Artichoke thistle*
- Scotch broom*
- Wild fennel*
- Himalayan Blackberry*
- Cotoneaster*
- Water Hyacinth*
- Leafy Spurge*
- Myosporum*
- Poison Hemlock*
- Purple Loosestrife*

Coming up on September 13th, Be the Star You Are!® volunteers will decorate the tables at the Books and Bands Bash Benefit with leaves from the vineyards and ripe home grown fruit. Naked Ladies, bikinis, and nasty non-natives will not be admitted. (Get tickets at www.bethestaryouare.org) "The only limit to your garden is at the boundaries of your imagination."
 Thomas D. Church



Passion Flower Photo Cynthia Brian



Naked Ladies Photo Cynthia Brian

Cynthia's Digging Deep Garden Guide for September

School is back in session. Indian Summer is approaching with warm days and cool evenings. Our summer vegetables are in their final flush while perennials stop producing buds as their growth slows. Zinnias continue to cheer us, bougainvillea blooms brightly, silk trees inspire awe with their pink puffs, and the passionflower intrigues. These are not lazy days in the garden. The coming season is ideal for preparing the soil, planting for spring, harvesting, and overall yard maintenance.

- DIG AND DIVIDE crowded perennials when they have finished flowering.
- SHARE divisions with friends.
- HARVEST your final season's crop of corn, squash, tomatoes, and peppers.
- PLANT your winter vegetables now.
- ADD color to your summer parched landscape by visiting your local nursery to find the new fall arrivals.
- WEED thoroughly and dispose of the weed seeds in your green recycle bin. Don't compost.
- FEED acid loving plants such as roses, azaleas, camellias, rhododendrons, and fuchsias.
- RAKE leaves as they fall and add to your Biostack or compost pile along with lawn clippings and other nutrient rich materials.
- PRUNE Naked Ladies as their flowers begin to wither. If you let the flowers go to seed, you won't get blooms from your bulbs next season. If you want to divide the bulbs, after blooms are spent is the only time to do it.
- BULBS are appearing in the stores. Plant daffodils, freesias, and anemones any time but refrigerate tulips, hyacinths, and crocus for at least six weeks and plant when the soil is cooler.
- BUY copies of my new book, Be the Star You Are!® for TEENS to encourage young adults to live, learn, laugh, lead, and play in nature.
- MIX herbs and flowers in containers for double duty enjoyment.
- STAKE trees for the upcoming autumn winds.
- DEADHEAD your roses weekly to encourage flowering through December.
- PICK your late harvest apples, Asian Pears, and grapes now. If you have more than you need, donate them to a local food bank. (www.foodbankccs.org)
- COME meet me in person at the 10th anniversary celebration of Be the Star You Are!® charity at the Books and Bands Bash Benefit on September 13 from 4-9pm at Holy Trinity Cultural Center in Moraga for an afternoon of dancing, chatting, and fun. I'll be happy to answer all your gardening questions and share stories of the naked and the nasty! Get your tax-deductible tickets at www.bethestaryouare.org or call 925-377-STAR.

Enjoy the splendor of September, sharpen your hoe, and we'll meet in the garden again next month for more digging deep!

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Set to Kill

Local Varsity Volleyball Prepares for Season

By Mikaela Cowles



Campo freshman Sophie Seiberth sets for junior Kim Condie; senior Mia Fair in background Photo Doug Kohlen



Miramonte Volleyball team at practice Photo Doug Kohlen

The local talent is impressive and all three varsity teams are returning from successful seasons last year. While it's anyone's season at this point, it is obvious that competition will be tough.

Miramonte

Former head coach Chris Wells has handed the reins to assistant Shannon Ross after an incredible 37-7 season last year. The Mats brought home their first Diablo Foothills Athletic League (DFAL) championship since 1999 and showed incredible consistency winning 97 of their 122 games. Miramonte's season came to an end at the North Coast Section (NCS) Division III championship game, in a hard fought loss to Bishop O'Dowd.

The Mats lost five seniors; three starters and two captains. Despite suffering the blow of losing so much talent and experience, Ross remains confident about this season. "I'm really excited about this year," Ross says.

The good news is they return seven varsity players, not the least of whom is outside hitter, Juliana Stivanicevic, DFAL MVP for 2008. Ross says Stivanicevic, "brings amazing talent and is surrounded by an excellent cast. I think she can be a completely dominant player again this year."

Miramonte will open pre-season against Amador Valley in Pleasanton on September 8th. Ross says, "We have a really tough schedule. Within our league we have some great teams." She expects the target on their back to increase their intensity on the court.

Acalanes

The Dons earned a 21-12 record for 2008 and made it to the NCS Division III semi-finals. After the loss to Bishop O'Dowd, Acalanes said goodbye to their seven seniors.

Losing seven seniors is a blow to the Dons' level of experience. Head coach Steve Siegmans says, "It's going to be at least a struggle at the start. The biggest struggle of all is going to be consistency." However, he remains positive about the teams' ultimate success. Siegmans says their younger teams last year were strong and "made up of girls who have been playing club for a few years," so they are not inexperienced. "We have a lot of tall, athletic girls who will really improve our block this year," Siegmans says.

In a league with teams such as Miramonte and Campolindo, Siegmans knows this year's schedule will be tough. He is confident the girls will step-up and show consistency on the court. The Dons will begin their pre-season schedule in a jamboree at Deer Valley on September 5th.

Campolindo

Cougars head coach Scott Bishop could not be more excited about the 2009 season. In his eighth year as head coach for Campolindo, Bishop is coming off an impressive 23-7 record in 2008. After losing the NCS Division II title to Maria Carillo, the Cougars graduated only one senior.

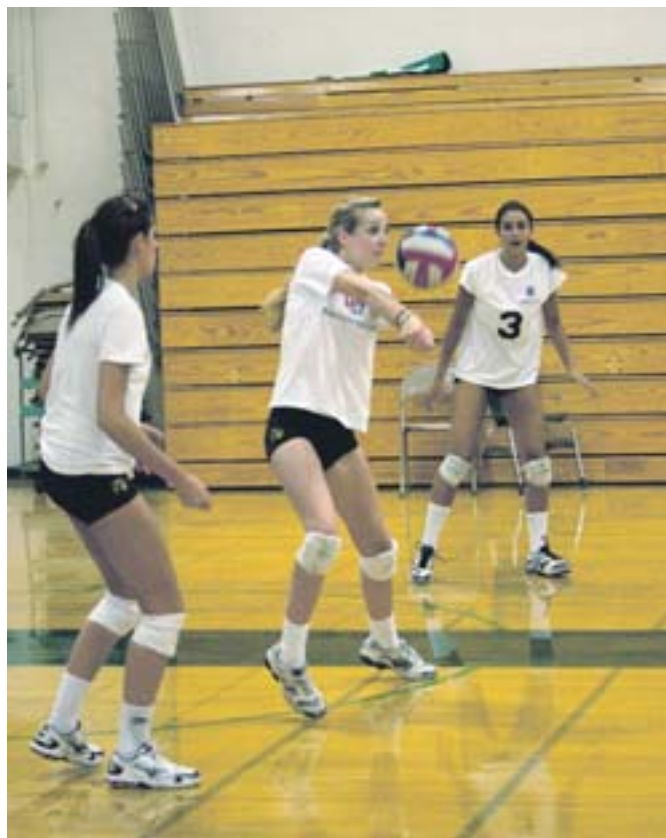
Returning nearly a full roster, Bishop says, "Experience wise we're looking pretty good. We have some excellent seniors, the juniors have a little experience under their belt and our freshmen have a ton of athleticism." Campolindo will see only a small change in their line up, as Bishop will dedicate two girls, junior Stacy Drury and freshman Sophie Seiberth, as setters.

Last year Bishop had two girls setting from the back row and hitting in the front row. "It just wasn't fair to ask that much of them," Bishop says. "With two rookie setters this year, we'll have to see what our offense looks like." He is certain the Cougars will once again be a force on the court this season.

Campolindo's schedule is impressive for 2009. Not only will they face tough talent in league, but are also entered in both the Mitty tournament and the Great 8 tournament. They will be kicking off pre-season against Bishop O'Dowd on September 9th.



Campo senior Mia Fair hits; freshman Sophie Seiberth in background Photo Doug Kohlen



Miramonte Volleyball team at practice Photo Doug Kohlen

Lamorinda U12 Win with Penalty Kicks

Submitted by Julie Morgan



United poses after Soccer by the Bay tournament victory Photo Tracy Brewer

The Lamorinda U12 Girls 1A team competed in a field of ten teams for one of the top spots in the fourth annual Soccer by the Bay Tournament the weekend of August

15th. The team finished in third place.

In their first match-up against Sonoma County Alliance (SCA) Girls 98 North, Lamorinda United

suffered a hard 0-4 loss. However, they turned the tables in their next games, beating the Peninsula Power 3-0 and the Burlingame Tornadoes 4-1.

In the consolation game Lamorinda was again matched up against SCA. The second match-up proved better for United, as they finished the game in a tie, 4-4. After two five-minute overtime periods the deadlock remained and the teams turned to penalty kicks: 1-1, 2-2, 3-2. The keeper, Jane Buckley, went 4-3, 5-4.

Total goals scored, 16: Gina Crosettie, 5; Sophia Zoller, 3; Emily Holbrook, 2; AJ Morgan, 2; Bailey Yuen, 2; Jane Buckley, 1; Kayla Hohenstein, 1.

Lamorinda Soccer Club Under 19 Finish #2

Submitted by Neal Ringquist



Photo Rick Gonzales

The Lamorinda United 91, a girls' under-19 team, finished the summer tournament season ranked #2 in Northern California after winning first place in both the Pleasanton Rage College Showcase and the Nike Mustang Stampede tournament.

Pictured from bottom left are Caroline Scofield, Mekenna deBack, Kendall Pegan, Katherine Cuyler, Lexy Gonzalez, Katherine Sander. Pictured from top left are Coach Mohamed Mohamed, Marissa Crosetti, Allegra Zoller, Katie Nied, Rachel Chazin-Gray, Bonnie Zeiger, Aly McDonald, Kaelyn Caspillo, Naomi Hetzel, Meggi Fisher, Tori Ringquist and Coach Alasdair Heath. Not pictured: Julianna Andrews, Kelly Hilck, Caroline O'Neill, Anja Simonsen and Celina Velasco

Horses not just for Cowboys

Bottomley Farm hosts Quadrille Coming Out

Submitted by Kristi Buck



left to right: Bibi Koch (16) Berkeley, on Lila; Tory Hummer (16) Orinda, on Buckwheat; Becca Buck (10) Lafayette, on Shasta; Meg Dowley (16) Lafayette, on Micah; Sally Bruce (12) Lafayette, on Clint; Cami Brisbo (19) Lafayette, on Sylvester

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Ask any Lamorinda family how they spent their summer and you'll hear the usual mix of sports including, swim team, water polo, club soccer, golf and baseball. But for those willing to venture just outside the Lamorinda border a whole other world awaits -- the realm of classical dressage and horsemanship. Dressage is an equestrian sport that encompasses both training and competitive elements to accentuate a horse's natural athletic ability. To pursue this sport one need to go no further than the hills of Briones, just behind Orinda, where you'll find numerous equestrian stables. Among those stables is Bottomley Farm, home to the Bottomley Bombshells Quadrille Team.

To the uninitiated, a Quadrille is a choreographed synchronized dressage ride, commonly performed to music. It is often compared to an equestrian ballet or drill team. Four horses are used to perform in unison, although many teams have more than four participants so that alternates are always available. Quadrille may be ridden as a performance or as a competitive test with judging.

Either way, it is a thrill to watch.

This past Sunday, under the keen eye of trainer, Corinne Burt, the Bottomley Bombshells gave a debut performance for family and friends in order to prepare them for formal competition this fall. To the members of the Bombshells team - Cami Brisbo, Sally Bruce, Becca Buck, Meg Dowley, Tory Hummer and Bibi Koch, it was not just another day at the barn. These local girls have practiced several days a week all summer to prepare for their coming out. Decked out in their team colors of black and white, the six riders and their horses performed two "tests" with grace and precision for a crowd of more than 100.

Equal credit must be given to the four legged friends. The Bottomley horses are an impressive if not eclectic team. Leading the herd was the barn's schoolmaster Buckwheat, followed by Shasta, a Quarter Horse formerly used for western riding, Sylvester a rescued Mustang, Micah the Arabian, Clint a high-stepping Thoroughbred, Chance a Paint/Arab cross, and Lila the little black pony.

Bottomley operates on "horse time." Everything is done with a simple purpose -- to provide a healthy, safe and enriching environment for the horses and their humans. Bottomley is known for its unique combination of horsemanship and dressage. The students develop their horsemanship by devoting equal time to their ground work and their riding. Burt firmly believes, "there is no dressage without horsemanship and no horsemanship without dressage." It is this guiding principle that has led to a mutual respect between the horses and their humans. Burt's goal is to teach students to be "horse people, not just riders."

Burt has over 18 years experience teaching lower-level dressage and horsemanship in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is certified by the American Riding Instructor's Association, she has published numerous articles on horsemanship, and she was named one of America's top 50 riding instructors in 2007 by American Riding Instructor's Association.

Don't miss this season's local match-ups!

- Tuesday, September 29: Campolindo @ Miramonte
- Thursday, October 1: Campolindo @ Acalanes
- Thursday, October 8: Acalanes @ Miramonte
- Thursday, October 22: Miramonte @ Campolindo
- Tuesday, October 27: Acalanes @ Campolindo
- Tuesday, November 3: Miramonte @ Acalanes

(Varsity games are scheduled to start at 6:30p.m, Frosh and JV play earlier the same day; check team websites for updates.)

SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



Not Afraid to Swim With the Fishes

Orinda Girl Wins First Place at Sharkfest

Submitted by Jack Reid



Kendall Hemming (middle)

As a Christmas present to her dad, nine year-old Kendall Hemming, of Orinda, proposed swimming an open water race in the Bay together.

When she committed to swimming Sharkfest, water temperature and possible "wildlife" encounters were her biggest fears -- and come race day, neither disappointed. Hemming and her father trained all year, swimming ever longer continuous distances to-

gether, often in the Bay or Lake Tahoe.

On Saturday August 15, Hemming competed in Sharkfest, a 1.5 mile race from Alcatraz to Aquatic Park in San Francisco. Hemming was the youngest of the 800 participants and won the 10-and-under female group in one hour, 22 minutes. While braving the cold was a challenge, the scariest part was a large harbor seal which breached within ten feet of the father-daughter team.

Photo Greg Hemming



A happy winner, Kendall Hemming

She Swam Again!

Maddy Spiering swims Sharkfest, this time with brother



Spencer, Michael and Maddy Spiering

Photo submitted

Upon the conclusion of the Sharkfest last summer Maddy Spiering, now 13, told Lamorinda Weekly she was not sure if she would swim the race again. Well, a year later she decided to take the plunge into the icy Bay once more--this time bringing along her

ten-year-old brother, Spencer, on the swim from the waters just off Alcatraz Island to San Francisco.

Maddy finished third in the 13/14 female group with a time of 58 minutes, five minutes faster than last year. The race also differed from her first experience because she

swam it alone after swimming ahead of her father and brother. "In the beginning I had gone ahead of them but not more than 20 yards. I could turn around and still see them. Then I must have gotten too far ahead and I couldn't find them," Maddy said. Not only was Maddy separated from her father, she could not see the ship or the finish line. However, she problem solved quickly, "I just stuck to large groups and followed them." Maddy said she enjoyed this race much more than the last just because she knew what to expect.

Spencer finished second in the ten and under males group with a time of one hour and 13 minutes. "It was really fun and exciting," said Spencer. Although it was his first Sharkfest, Spencer said the hardest part was getting started, "I was a little nervous about jumping off the boat but otherwise I was confident." And unlike Maddy who might have been a little hesitant to commit to another year after her first race, Spencer was on board, "I really want to do it next year!" C. Graveson



Spencer in front of Alcatraz island

Photo Michael Spiering

Flag Football the Way to Play

MOL Celebrates 40 Years

By Lou Fancher



MOL 3rd graders with their youth coaches at the Mini Camp held at JM field

Photo Ohlen Alexander

All brings football and while the sport is fun to watch, the intensity of tackling is not for everyone. The alternative is flag football, where fans can become players without the violence. The opening weekend of the Moraga-Orinda-Lafayette (MOL) flag football program starts September 19th, filling the fields at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School with 570 Lamorinda kids. "It's a sea of jerseys on Saturday mornings," says League Commissioner Bill Fraser.

The local league, established in 1969 by a group of guys who loved the game, has grown tremendously. Each year, players in third-eighth grade from Moraga, Orinda, Lafayette and Canyon pack the fields with talent and the sidelines with volunteers from all four communities.

Make no mistake: this is not a backyard-type operation. Despite its grassroots origin, the league runs with efficiency, starting with online registration. There is a mini-camp for first-time third graders, an evaluation day, draft days and preseason games. "The kids love it because they have one practice a week, games on Saturday, and it's real football to them," Fraser ex-

plains.

Parents volunteer for coaching positions. Many played in the league themselves, meaning dads and grandpas fill the staff roster. This year, there is even an energetic sports mom coach and a few girls setting a precedent for the future.

The draw of flag football is the emphasis on speed, deception, and fun, instead of violence. "You can teach kids about football without having them colliding all day long," says Fraser.

Finding a league without the bangs and brawls was a relief to parent Peter Zolantakis, who recalls succumbing to peer pressure and playing tackle football. "All my friends joined, and I was worried about being left out," he admits. Pop Warner and high school football left him with one clear memory: "I was terrified," he says.

Free from the obligation to overpower each other, kids can relax and concentrate on developing the basic skills and confidence of well-rounded athletes. Relying on a broader range of skills allows all players to stand out, not just the taller, bigger guys. "For everyone who's not the star, it's more enjoy-

able," says Zolantakis.

Andrew Zolantakis, age 13, has participated in MOL for five years. He's played wide receiver, running back, and quarterback - living proof of the league's equal opportunity profile. "My brother was playing and he seemed to like it," Andrew says of his starting days. "And it wasn't too intense, it was just fun." Still, winning is on his mind, especially because "it gives me certain bragging rights at school." But losing is also a part of competition and when disappointed, he tells himself, "You can come back next week," and his team mates, "You'll get it next time." This is the last year Andrew is eligible to play. He already helps with the mini-camp and plans to referee during the 2010 season.

Due to the efforts of Bill Fraser and others like him the league is booming, with coaches lining up, the player roster full and a waiting list established. Fraser hopes to celebrate MOL's long history with a 40th anniversary celebration on October 10th. Past players, coaches, referees and fans are welcome. Information and registration is on the website at <http://www.molfootball.org/>.



MOL 3rd graders in action

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Send sports stories and ideas to:

sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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Fri, Sep 4
MSOC Alabama A&M 4:00 PM
Sat, Sep 5
VB Texas A&M
McKeon Pavilion 6:45 PM
Sun, Sep 6
WSOC, Texas A&M
Saint Mary's Stadium 9:00 AM
Sun, Sep 6
MSOC Sacramento State vs. Alabama A&M 12:00 PM
Sun, Sep 6
MSOC UC Riverside 3:00 PM
Mon, Sep 7
VB San Diego State
McKeon Pavilion 12:00 PM

Wed, Sep 9
VB San Jose State
McKeon Pavilion 7:00 PM
Thu, Sep 10
VB Eastern Washington
McKeon Pavilion 7:00 PM
Fri, Sep 11
WSOC SMU
Saint Mary's Stadium 4:30 PM
Sun, Sep 13
WSOC California vs. SMU
at Saint Mary's Stadium 12:00 PM
Sun, Sep 13
WSOC Portland State
Saint Mary's Stadium 2:30 PM
Fri, Sep 18
WSOC California
Saint Mary's Stadium 4:00 PM

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Correction, issue date August 19, 2009,
"Look Out for Highway 24:" Nicholas Inserra, of Springbrook Swim Team, set an additional record in the boy's 11/12 free style at 23.57.

\$3 per line in bold, \$2 per regular line, 3 lines minimum (max 30 Characters per line)

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Acalanes High School

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Lamorinda's Friday Night Lights

Season Preview for Local Varsity Football Teams

By Kevin D. Shallat



Michael Hoffman (19), senior

Photo Doug Kohlen

MIRAMONTE

Miramonte is coming off a great year in which they finished with a 10-3 record, with a 4-1 record in league. The Matadors were 8-1 at home, and made it to the North Coast Section (NCS) playoffs last year. Of the three Lamorinda teams, the Matadors may have the best potential to return to the playoffs this year. Miramonte returns eight starters on defense and four players on offense. However, the Mats are inexperienced at a few key positions, with an entirely new offensive line. In addition, their quarterback will either be a junior or sophomore, depending on which player wins the starting job. "The good part is that we return our backfield, so hopefully that will take some pressure off our quarterback to do a whole lot, because I think we'll be able to run the ball pretty well," said head coach John Wade.

It has been close to eight years since the Matadors have traveled outside the Bay Area to play another team in a pre-league game. This year Wade is taking the team up to Seattle to play Glacier Peak

on September 19th, in the Best of the West Classic.

There are a few players to keep on eye on, as they look to make another big impact on this team. Third year starter and utility player James King will turn some heads this year, as well as third year starting tailback Kevin Paulsen.

ACALANES

Acalanes had a tough season last year in which they finished with a 2-8 record, coupled with a 0-5 league record. Last year's results were largely due to injuries and the Dons have reason for optimism this year. Acalanes has ten returning varsity linemen, and a tough, no-nonsense first year head coach in Mike Ivankovich. His main focus this pre-season is to keep the players healthy, and to instill his core values including hard work, loyalty, discipline, teamwork, dedication, and accountability. Senior quarterback Tyler Caldwell is the incumbent elder statesman at the position, but coach Ivankovich insists that junior Mike Leamy will also see significant playing time at the quarterback position.

Some players to look out for are junior wide receiver Trent

Schedules (* denotes DFAL game):

Miramonte:

Date	Time	Opponent
9/04/09	7:00 PM	@ Antioch (Antioch, CA)
9/12/09	2:00 PM	@ San Marin (Novato, CA)
9/19/09	11:00 AM	@ Glacier Peak (Snohomish, WA) (Memorial Stadium)
9/25/09	7:00 PM	vs. Foothill (Pleasanton, CA)
10/09/09	7:00 PM	vs. Dublin (Dublin, CA) *
10/16/09	7:00 PM	@ Campolindo (Moraga, CA) *
10/23/09	7:00 PM	vs. Acalanes (Lafayette, CA) *
10/30/09	7:00 PM	vs. Las Lomas (Walnut Creek, CA) *
11/06/09	7:00 PM	@ Dougherty Valley (San Ramon, CA) *
11/13/09	7:30 PM	@ Alhambra (Martinez, CA) *

Campolindo:

Date	Time	Opponent
9/04/09	7:00 PM	vs. Albany (Albany, CA)
9/11/09	7:00 PM	vs. Mt. Eden (Hayward, CA)
9/18/09	7:00 PM	@ El Cerrito (El Cerrito, CA)
9/25/09	7:30 PM	@ Oakland (Oakland, CA)
10/02/09	7:00 PM	vs. Dougherty Valley (San Ramon, CA) *
10/09/09	7:00 PM	@ Alhambra (Martinez, CA) *
10/16/09	7:00 PM	vs. Miramonte (Orinda, CA) *
10/23/09	7:00 PM	vs. Dublin (Dublin, CA) *
11/06/09	7:00 PM	@ Acalanes (Lafayette, CA) *
11/13/09	7:00 PM	@ Las Lomas (Walnut Creek, CA) *

Acalanes:

Date	Time	Opponent
9/04/09	7:00 PM	vs. Aptos (Aptos, CA)
9/11/09	7:00 PM	@ Justin-Siena (Napa, CA)
9/19/09	1:30 PM	@ St. Mary's (Albany, CA)
9/25/09	7:00 PM	vs. Healdsburg (Healdsburg, CA)
10/02/09	7:00 PM	vs. Las Lomas (Walnut Creek, CA) *
10/09/09	7:00 PM	@ Dougherty Valley (San Ramon, CA) *
10/16/09	7:00 PM	vs. Alhambra (Martinez, CA) *
10/23/09	7:00 PM	@ Miramonte (Orinda, CA) *
10/30/09	7:00 PM	@ Dublin (Dublin, CA) *
11/06/09	7:00 PM	vs. Campolindo (Moraga, CA) *

Baker, brother of former Don stand-out Brooks Baker. Lining up down the line of scrimmage will be senior wide receiver Kevin Mutch. Captains Mat Lewis, Brian Moss, and Ryan Bullen will all be playing on both offense and defense this year.

"We don't talk about winning...winning is an outcome of adhering to the set of core values." "I want to have a team or program that Lafayette can be proud of," said head coach Mike Ivankovich.

CAMPOLINDO

Campolindo's senior-laden team had arguably the most successful Lamorinda football squad last year, as they won the Foothill Athletic League outright, and advanced to the third round of the NCS championships. They finished with a 10-2 overall record, as well as an undefeated record in league play. This year they will lose an unprecedented 21 of their starting 22 players from last year. The consensus is that senior wide receiver Michael Hoffman must have a big year for the Cougars if they want to

compete for another league title.

All is not lost though, as the Cougars still have some pieces that will make them a tough match when league play rolls around. They return one of the better starting quarterbacks in all-league senior Tommy Stephens. They will also have home field advantage against a tough Miramonte team this year. Despite the fact that both head coaches do not think this will help or hinder either team, last year's home/away stats suggest otherwise, as Campolindo boasted a 7-0 record at home, and a 3-2 record in their away contests.

Some players that might excite the fans include wide receiver Patrick Wirth and J.T. Chritton. Chritton is a good athlete who is making the switch from rugby to football this year. Charlie Zaharoff looks to be a threat on defense.

"We are going to have some simple goals for next year, but we have a great bunch of guys, and they have been a joy to coach," said head coach Kevin Macy.

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Acalanes player at practice

Photo Doug Kohlen

LMYA Girls' Basketball Team Wins Championship

Submitted by Kevin Porep



Photo Brian Andriuzzo

Top Row: Claire Porep, Grace Bolen, Maddie Pozzo, Kelly Miller.

Bottom Row: Maddie Graham, Ali Smith, Carly Porep

The fifth/sixth grade girls' basketball team, the Cal Bears, won the LMYA championship with an 8-0 record.

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