

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Wednesday, September 29, 2010



Orinda Parties with Cars

And raises money for several worthy causes

By Lou Fancher

The sixth annual Orinda Classic Car Show started off with diamonds, dancing and 170 car lovers determined to celebrate classic cars and motorcycles. The opening night auction party, held under tents on Avenida de Orinda on September 24th, set the stage for the free, community car show the next day.

On Saturday, 152 shining examples of motor vehicle history provided plenty of excitement for the crowds. Between the oohs and aahs, people of all ages shared their knowledge and fascination with cars:

"I like this Lamborghini, because they competed with Ferrari. Lamborghini was tired of hearing Ferrari say no one could beat their cars, so he built these. I like them because you don't see them very often and,

well, they're just a beautiful car." -- Kyle Koeger (age 16), Orinda

"It's cool because it's big. It's called an Aero Racer, but they don't really know what it is. I'd like to drive it on the highway so I could show it off." -- Molly Stuart (10), Walnut Creek

... continued on page A6



John Fiero in his 1988 Pontiac Fiero



Photos Ohlen Alexander

Orinda Triathlon for Fun and Health

By Lou Fancher

The second annual NorCal Kids Triathlon, Tri 4 Health, was a sweaty affair. With temperatures on September 25th soaring into the high 80's, participants were wet from start to finish.

The triathlon, organized to benefit the Orinda Community Foundation's youth programs, offers a safe, positive atmosphere for elementary-through-high school age athletes. For many of the kids, this was their first triathlon.

The competition is structured to encourage young children to participate; allowing training wheels, flotation devices and the option to form a relay team composed of three same-age children.

At the same time, the triathlon offered middle and high school athletes a serious challenge. A quick look at the stats – swim 200-300 yards, bike 3.4-4.6 miles, and run 1.25-2 miles – leaves no doubt the event was rigorous.

Sue Severson, a coordinator of this year's race, emphasizes the triathlon's dual goals: structured fun, and lifelong health. Teams of volunteers worked as course marshals along the bike route and a medical team was on hand

in case of an emergency. The NorCal website for the event includes ample information about nutrition, physical preparation and safety regulations for the race.

On Saturday, participants, families, and spectators cheered the young athletes. The Lamorinda Weekly asked the kids about their experience, what they did to prepare, and what they might change or repeat the next time they enter a triathlon. Here is what they had to say:

"It was tiring. I swam two laps, rode my bike, and I ran. And then, my dad poured water on my head. And then, I went to get ice cream."

Kathryn Park, 7, San Ramon

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Orinda's Big Weekend

Advertising

 Joan Evans Realtor 925-260-7555	 20 Greenfield Drive, Moraga \$899,000 Spacious 5 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath, Level Yard	 53 Knickerbocker Ln., Orinda \$1,525,000 2005 Remodel, Large Level Backyard	 148 Ivy Drive, Orinda \$1,099,000 Charming 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath, Big Level Yard	 Angie Evans Traxinger Realtor Assistant
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Dollar Tree Going to Town Council

By Sophie Braccini



This photo, taken 9/24/10, shows Tuesday Morning's windows piled high with boxes and merchandise. Moraga planning staff indicated that this store had conditions placed on its permit requiring it to maintain a showroom-quality display; enforcement appears difficult.

Photo Wendy Scheck

Moraga's Town Council may have been hoping against hope that it would not have to deal with the Dollar Tree dilemma in an election year, but the dominoes are all lined up and toppling rapidly in that direction.

On September 20th the Planning Commission approved the application of

Dollar Tree Inc. to operate a retail store in the Rheem Center. The resolution included a set of conditions about the visual appearance of the store and its operations in order to mitigate potentially adverse impacts on neighboring businesses.

...continued on page A5

Election 2010: Get Informed, Lamorinda!

The 2010 General Election is coming up on November 2; the majority of Lamorinda voters will use absentee ballots to vote by mail. You may want to hold on to that ballot until you've had a chance to hear the local candidates address the important issues facing our communities – several opportunities are coming up soon:

Lafayette City Council and School Board Candidate Forum, Thursday, September 30, 7:00 p.m. in the Sequoia Room at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road. Sponsored by the Lafayette Homeowners Council.

Moraga Town Council Candidate Forum, Tuesday, October 5, 7:30 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, 1700 School Street. Sponsored by the Moraga Citizens Network with support from the Moraga Movers.

Orinda School Board Candidates Forum, Thursday, October 7, 7:30 p.m. in the Multi-purpose room at Glorietta Elementary School, 15 Martha Road. Sponsored by The League of Woman Voters of Diablo Valley, the Orinda Education Association, and the Orinda Association.

Orinda City Council Candidate Forum, Wednesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m. in the Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. Sponsored by the Orinda Association.

In this issue:

Moraga Town Council Candidates share their visions for Moraga's future, page A4

Orinda City Council candidates discuss revenue and infrastructure, page A6

Don't miss the Lafayette Community Foundation's special insert featuring the candidates for Lafayette City Council and the Lafayette School Board.

Civic News



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Sarah Edwards Lic. #01805955

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Lafayette

Public Meetings	
City Council	Tuesday, October 12, 7:00 pm Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd
Planning Commission	Monday, October 4, 7:00 pm Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd
Design Review	Tuesday, October 12, 7:00 pm Lafayette Library & Learning Center in the Arts & Science Discovery Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Lafayette: www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Chamber of Commerce: www.lafayettechamber.org

• Police Report •



Woman Threatened on El Nido Ranch Road, 9/8/10 – A woman reported she had been confronted in a threatening and violent manner on El Nido Ranch Road east of Sunny Hills Road. The woman attempted to drive away to avoid the confrontation but was unable to do so. When officers made contact with the subject, he said he was upset that the woman had parked behind him. When officers explained it was public property, the man was unable to comprehend that he had to share public areas. Although the woman insisted on being anonymous out of fear for her family's safety, the report was taken due to the nature of the public nuisance. What an understatement.

Stolen Truck, 8/13/10 – An officer noted a truck had been illegally parked on Orchard Road overnight. When the officer ran the plate, she learned the truck had been stolen on the previous day. The truck was towed and the registered owner was contacted.

What's that in the Plastic Bag? 9/15/10 – An Orinda woman entered the Lafayette Safeway and took three bottles of vanilla extract off the shelf before placing them in a plastic Safeway bag and exiting the store without paying for them. The woman was detained by security until Police arrived. They determined the woman had no money or any other means of paying for \$15 worth of vanilla. The woman was unable to walk unassisted and fell to the ground. In addition to shoplifting, she was booked for being drunk in Public. Safeway intends to prosecute. Déjà vu, anyone?

Spray Paint Bandits, 9/12/10 – A Reliez Valley Road resident reported that a number of signs and fences had been vandalized in the 1600-1800 blocks of Reliez Valley Road. The unknown vandals spray-painted the signs and fences with black and green paint in the middle of the night

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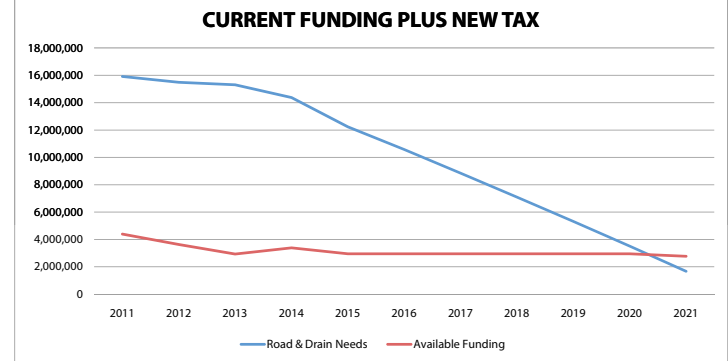
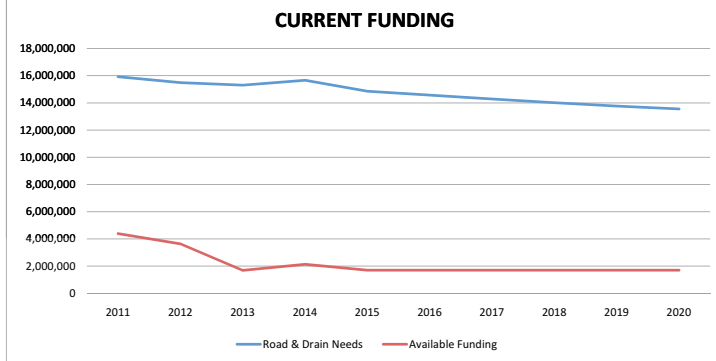
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Tuesday-Saturday 10-6

Want Roads Fixed – Need More Money

By Cathy Tyson



<http://lafayette.waterware.com/docshare/dsweb/Get/Document-4639/September%2013,%202010%20City%20Council20100908122449.pdf> (page 19, 23)

Unless a new revenue source is found, the road repair backlog will never be solved, suggested Tony Coe, Engineering Services Manager, at a recent City Council meeting discussing Lafayette's five year capital improvement program (CIP). "The status quo will not resolve the (road repair) backlog," said Coe. "Staff observes that the backlog cannot be eliminated without sustaining a higher level of capital funding on a continuous basis into the future. Even sizable one-time special revenues such as the Palos Colorados payment will only result in an initial drawdown of the backlog, but they are not large enough to solve the problem entirely over the long term." "Entering 2011 there are 97

streets awaiting reconstruction," said Coe. There is a shortfall of \$14 million to repair all of these roads, plus an additional \$2 million for associated drain repair, a grand total of \$16 million.

Several "What if" scenarios were presented to the City Council to illustrate possible road repair options. Sometimes a picture really is worth a thousand words - Coe had several charts that show a line representing current funding and a line representing road and drain needs. Bottom line - if nothing changes the failed road situation is never solved - the lines never cross.

Another scenario showed the effect of current funding plus an additional \$400,000 annually from the General Fund - in this case the projected time to eliminate the shortfall is around 29 years. At the recent Budget Workshop there was some discussion about adding \$400,000 more from the General Fund to put toward road repairs - but it couldn't be done without un-balancing the budget and dipping into City reserve accounts.

Even with current funding plus \$400,000 from the General Fund plus money from Palos Colorados, plus the Redevelopment Agency (RDA), the shortfall will take 19 years to be eliminated.

With current funding and an unspecified new revenue source that would generate \$1,250,000 per year, the shortfall will be eliminated in eleven years. The lines cross in 2021.

Finally the rosiest picture includes all possible funding sources: current funding plus Palos Colorado plus RDA plus a new tax. This combination is projected to eliminate the shortfall in nine years.

One possible very small bright spot on the horizon is Measure O - proposed by the Contra Costa County Transportation Authority, a \$10 - \$15 vehicle license fee from each car owner. If passed, the measure could bring an estimated \$175,000 per year to Lafayette. While this amount is nothing to sneeze at and would help the situation, as noted above the city needs almost ten times that amount going forward to solve the road repair problem.

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Grant Awarded to Chateau Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson

It took a few months, but the seniors at Chateau Lafayette - a non-profit senior housing facility - will soon have new energy efficient ranges and more - thanks to a County grant and a generous donation from the Lafayette Redevelopment Agency Board. Sixty inefficient aging ranges will be replaced, along with a new commercial energy efficient water heater and the roof of one of the buildings.

"This will really make life better for residents - we are extremely grateful. A win-win for everyone - we want to thank the City Council and the RDA," said Chateau representative Barry Cammer, accepting the giant check. Eighty-three low income seniors live at Chateau Lafayette on Moraga Boulevard.

The goal of the project was to improve the facility's overall energy efficiency. The old roof will be replaced with a Duro-Last Energy Star rated "Cool" roof that will use substantially less energy in summer and winter.

Part of the funds, a grant for



Noting this is a genuine smile, Barry Cammer of Chateau Lafayette accepts a check from the Lafayette Redevelopment Agency Board. Photo C. Tyson

\$28,712, came from your tax dollars at work, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) which is administered by the Contra Costa County Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.

"To improve the chances of receiving the grant, the Lafayette Redevelopment Agency Board agreed to contribute \$22,420 in

matching funds to replace the roof of one of the oldest building in the complex with an energy efficient "Cool" roof," said Sarah Allen, Planning Intern. A cool roof can deliver high solar reflectance that reduces the amount of heat that is transferred to the building. It reflects visible, infrared and ultraviolet wavelengths of the sun.



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Crowds Come Out for Art and Wine



People at the Art and Wine Festival were heading in all directions so as not to miss anything. "It was the biggest and best event ever," says Jay Lifson, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, "everything clicked." With comfortable weather and record attendance, revenue from wine sales was up 18%. Lifson estimates there were over 500 volunteers that helped everything run smoothly. Photo Andy Scheck

BART Safety Upgrades to Start Soon

By Cathy Tyson



Bart bridge over Oakhill Road

Photo Cathy Tyson

Got earthquakes? Actually yes, it's no secret that the Bay Area is expected to experience some sort of temblor in the relatively near future. To address earthquake realities the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) has been diligently working on an Earthquake Safety Program to upgrade vulnerable portions of the transit system. The goal is obviously to keep riders and employees safe, but also to keep the system up and running in the event of an earthquake with minimal delays.

With 360,000 daily travelers system wide and approximately 3,270 of those entering at the Lafayette station, keeping trains open for service in the aftermath of an earthquake is vital. According to U.S. Geological Survey analysis there is a high probability of a major earthquake here in the Bay Area within the next thirty years.

A study completed in 2002 was the most comprehensive evaluation of facilities since the original construction. It found that components of the systems most susceptible to damage, that could take years to fix after a major earthquake, are the transbay tube, aerial structures, stations and equipment.

Because the oldest parts of the BART system were built between 1972 and 1976, they are not up to the seismic standards that system extensions – which were built roughly twenty years later – share. The Earthquake Safety Program will focus resources on these older components. The \$1.2 billion price tag for upgrades comes from a variety of sources including voter-approved Measure AA bonds, the California Department of Transportation Local Seismic Safety Retrofit Program, Regional Measure 2 and other sources.

BART riders going to San Francisco can be reassured that

highest priority item was the transbay tube. Upgrades there are complete, and include Vibro-replacement to compact soil backfill, increasing seismic joint capacity and sealing around joints, and new concrete shear walls in the Oakland Ventilation Structure.

Earthquake safety work in Lafayette will be two-fold and is expected to start later this year or early in 2011. "For our elevated structures in Lafayette, the contractor is on board. We will be working where BART crosses over El Nido Ranch Rd., Happy Valley Rd., Oak Hill Rd., First St., and Brown Avenue," said Linton Johnson, BART Chief Communications Officer. The second part of the project is the Lafayette station itself, "BART expects to advertise the contract for bid in November of this year, and construction is expected to begin in early 2011," said Johnson.

Retrofit work will include strengthening the columns that hold up the trackway to withstand a maximum credible earthquake. "Impact is minimal - riders will not notice a thing," said Johnson who added that they are doing the same work right now at West Oakland and not a single customer noticed a difference in the quality of the ride. "The only impact maybe on parking, where construction to widen the base of the columns might take place on parking lot spots for short periods of time," he added.

Construction updates listed on the BART website spell out what work is completed, work that is in progress and work that is expected to start this year and next. Completion of all the upgrades is expected by 2014. The scope of work includes 17 BART stations and 22 miles of track. For more information go to www.bart.gov/earthquakesafety.

Lafayette Community Foundation Sponsors Pamphlet

Submitted by Donovan L. Jenkins

As president of the Lafayette Community Foundation I would like to thank the staff of the Lamorinda Weekly for its timely assistance in helping to gather and print the materials from each of our city council and board of education candidates who are running in the November 2nd election.

The purpose of the Lafayette Community Foundation is to "enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Lafayette and beyond". In the past a group of citizens called

Lafayette Forward regularly sponsored an election pamphlet for city elections. Our LCF board felt that with the number of candidates running for office this year in our city that we could provide a community service by sponsoring the educational material in the September 29th issue of Lamorinda Weekly. Each candidate has prepared their own material and paid their pro rata share of the magazine's cost.

We hope that LCF's efforts

to help create an informed electorate will be beneficial to all concerned citizens. Please remember to vote on November 2nd.

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Civic News



Moraga

Public Meetings	
Town Council	Wednesday, October 13, 7:30 pm Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo
Planning Commission	Monday, October 4, 7:30 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
Design Review	Tuesday, October 12, 7:00 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
Liaison	Friday, October 8, 8:00 am Fire Station, 1280 Moraga Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
 Town of Moraga online: www.moraga.ca.us
 Chamber of Commerce: www.moragachamber.org
 Moraga Citizens' Network: www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

• Police Report •



Computer swiped, 9/20/10
 Sometime between 12:30 a.m. and 4:10 a.m. someone reached through the conveniently open ground floor window of an apartment in Thille Hall at Saint Mary's and took an Apple Mac-Book computer. It had been charging on the desk next to the window when the student-owner went to bed after midnight. The victim and roommates woke up to the noise of shutters moving and a propped up guitar as it fell at just after 4:00. The charging cord was the only thing left hanging out the window.

Suspicious fire 9/20/10
 Moraga cops lent a hand to assist Moraga-Orinda Fire Department on a "suspicious" fire behind a home on Camino Ricardo. A professional fire investigator classified the fire as "suspicious, likely caused by human." Kids playing with matches? Early afternoon barbecue going rouge?

Driver surrender, 9/18/10
 At just after 2:00 in the afternoon a Moraga officer noticed a vehicle belonging to a subject with a suspended driver's license traveling on Viader, near Country Club Drive. Even though the cop did not use a siren or flash lights the car mysteriously moved to the side of the roadway. The driver knew he was busted - he had a suspended license and shouldn't have been driving. The driver was cited. Only in Moraga, a polite, drama-free infraction.

Teen Dance Confrontation, 8/28/10
 At 11:00 p.m. the parent of a 16-year-old girl told police that while his daughter was in the dance area of the New Rheem Theatre, an unknown male pushed her up against the wall and removed her skirt. The male threw away the skirt nearby. The victim had shorts on under the skirt. The concerned parent wanted to alert security staff that was monitoring the dance. This item was inadvertently left out of the last Moraga blotter.

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Jill Keimach: Moraga's New Town Manager

By Sophie Braccini



Jill Keimach addresses the Town Council on Sept. 22nd Photo Andy Schreck

The Moraga Town Council has approved the appointment of a new Town Manager. Jill Keimach (pronounce kaimæk), currently Fremont's Community Development Director, will take the helm on November 1st.

Mike Segrest, who announced last May that he intended to step down from the Town Manager post for personal reasons, said the Council made a great choice. Keimach will be Moraga's third Town Manager in two years.

The Council was unanimous in its choice, and the members spoke very positively about Keimach. "She was one of our two final candidates and even though she does not have experience as a town manager per se, she is very

knowledgeable about economic development and has a very strong financial background," said Council Member Dave Trotter.

"She is taking a very significant pay cut to come to Moraga," said Mayor Ken Chew, "but she wants to work here, already knows the community and the college, and the Council feels that she will be very good for Moraga." According to Chew, Keimach combines very strong training and experience in development, coupled with a tough but approachable personality.

Keimach made the short drive from Berkeley to attend the Pear Festival with her husband. "I applied for the Town Manager position in Moraga because I share many of the values of this commu-

nity," she says. As Fremont's Community Development Director, Keimach managed a budget much bigger than Moraga's and had a staff of over 100 people.

The extent of Keimach's experience is impressive. For example, if we can bring bikes on BART trains, we owe it to her. After working for the Association of Bay Area Governments, she moved on to BART and was in charge of the bicycle project. According to her, there was a lot of negotiating with the different stakeholders involved in that project.

Keimach is also responsible for bring Trader Joe's to El Cerrito. As that city's Community Development Director, she conducted negotiation with Regency Centers, the owner of the aging El Cerrito Plaza Shopping Center, to be able to get the tenant that the community wanted.

Keimach worked in Fremont for six years, where one of her big projects was the installation of the Solyndra solar energy manufacturing and administrative facilities that President Obama visited last May.

Public service is definitely in Keimach's blood. Most of her career was spent in that sector, but for a three-year period she worked on the other side of the fence as a development consultant. "I learned a lot in that job," she said "and it makes me sympathetic to what developers have to go through; but what I want to do is weigh the pros and cons of projects and decide

what is good for the community." From this diversity of experience Keimach developed a business-friendly attitude that was a definite asset in Fremont. "When I arrived, the city had the reputation of not being business-friendly," remembers Keimach, "business applications could take up to a year. It was not a matter of regulations, more a culture of 'we know better than the private sector how to do things.'"

Keimach says her business-friendly reputation is why Fremont approached her. "We had focus groups and interviewed previous applicants to understand where the problems came from," says Keimach. Of course she didn't change the culture overnight, but consistently worked on it. "We created a partnership-based approach where everybody would get together within 72 hours of an application, assign a staff person to it, and meet with the developer early on to understand what their vision is," she explains, "since then we got some big projects that the city is proud of."

From her career tales emerges an image of a woman who listens to what the community wants and is able to bring the different stakeholders to the table to build win-win scenarios. For a divided Moraga that has been struggling with the conflicting agendas of semi-rural feel and economic vitality, Keimach could be the catalyst for finding solutions.

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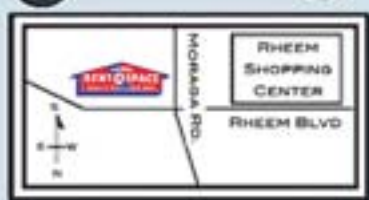
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Dollar Tree Going to Town Council

... continued from page A1

The applicant and Kimco Realty, the property owner, found these conditions objectionable. Residents opposed to the store stated after the meeting that they would appeal the decision, but Dollar Tree beat them to the punch by filing an appeal the very next day.

The Town Council will probably take up the matter at its October 13 meeting. Public attendance is anticipated, since the Council will consider the matter de novo, meaning it will be addressing the issue as if hearing about it for the very first time.

About 30 residents came to the Planning Commission meeting prepared for battle, and most of them reiterated their opposition to the project. Familiar arguments were made, such as anxiety on the part of property owners who fear further decreases in their property values. As long time resident George Atashkarian put it, "Decrepit neighborhood and Dollar Store go hand in hand; I do not know what comes first."

Opponents came armed with creative displays to support their opposition. Resident Cavan McCarthy had assembled presentation boards showing CVS and Dollar Tree products side by side. "For example, I bought a package of Doritos at a Dollar Tree at 30 cents per ounce, while at CVS a package costs 21 cents per ounce," she said,

"they are not selling anything cheap, it's just more packaging and smaller portions."

Others opponents presented arguments related to Moraga's legal documents. Resident Holly Erickson-King, referring to Lafayette's guidelines, urged, "Let's adopt a retail plan for Moraga before the Dollar Tree defines it for us."

Resident Kathy Macchi argued that the store would go against some of the principles of Moraga's General Plan regarding the retail community, such as civic and community involvement, or quality that should enhance the character of the community.

Arguments such as the above will likely form part of the basis for the opponents' appeal.

The commissioners were impressed by the volume of opposition to the store. "In all of my seven years on the Planning Commission there have only been a couple of occurrences when the public outcry has been this loud," said Commissioner Bruce Whitley.

In the end, the commissioners had to put their emotional responses aside and a majority of them felt that nothing in the Town's code justified denying the application. They decided instead to set conditions of approval, largely around conditions they felt the store needed to alleviate in order to avoid a negative impact on neighboring stores. They agreed to require

"showroom quality" fixtures, limited signage size and the height of merchandise displayed in the windows, and made general recommendations on tidiness and recycling. Planning Director Lori Salamack indicated that most of the conditions the Commission decided to apply to the new tenant have already been applied to other retail operations in the Rheem Center, such as Tuesday Morning and Goodwill Industries.

Linda Duncan, Real Estate Manager for Dollar Tree stores in Northern California, said that the conditions were unacceptable. When Commissioner Tom Richards asked what conditions were troubling her; she replied that she had been asked by her corporate lawyer not to discuss the matter.

John Welter, Director of Real Estate for Kimco Realty, who spoke in support of his potential tenant, proposed that the Town's and Dollar Tree's lawyers meet to discuss the conditions. Planning Commissioner Bruce Whitley answered, "Do we want to confer with the Dollar Tree? We do - and this is the place to do it," he stated, "but Dollar Tree was almost absent from these discussions; we never had an operations person here to discuss, for example, shelving. I am shocked that the Dollar Tree thought so little of the town that they did not want to participate in the process."



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Moraga Town Council Candidates Forum Coming Soon

By Sophie Braccini

Questions, questions, Moraga has questions. The Moraga Citizens Network (MCN) is aiming to get some answers. To that end, MCN will sponsor a forum featuring the five candidates for Town Council on October 5, 7:30 p.m., at the Holy Trinity Serbian Church, 1700 School Street.

MCN recently polled its membership to see what questions residents would most like to ask the candidates; the responses included queries into such issues as the business climate, development, revenue enhancement, the Hacienda de las Flores, and police/fire/emergency services. Since we have limited space, and to avoid duplication with our introductory article on the candidates

(www.lamorindaweekly.com/archives/issue0413/Council-Candidates-Address-the-Issues.html), we pounced on one of the many important questions that residents submitted and posed it to the candidates in advance of the forum: How do you envision our town 10 years from now?

Ken Chew (Incumbent)

Ten years hence, Moragans will continue to live in a highly desirable, semi-rural environment that remains a perfect place to raise our families. Our pristine open space, scenic landscapes, outstanding schools, and vibrant shopping centers will have made Moraga a regional jewel that is known for its sustainable and healthy lifestyle.

Our Town will have established a solid general fund reserve and maintained balanced annual budgets. It will have successfully implemented an economic development plan that recaptured much of our sales tax leakage. Additionally, it will have created a long

term infrastructure renewal program and financing plan.

Moraga's spirit of volunteerism will continue to complement and support an efficiently and effectively run Town government. It will offer an abundance of recreational opportunities for all ages and continue to be one of the safest places anywhere.

In 2020, we will be even prouder to say, "We are Moraga residents!"

Seth Freeman

Ten years from now:

- Moraga remains a highly desirable place to live and educate children.
Home prices will be 50% higher.
Parents will still dread summer swim meets
The Moraga Country Club will have a long waiting list
The "Rock" will still have kids' "messages"
Safeway will still be the only grocery store
BMW Electric cars and street-legal golf carts will be the norm
The Bruzzones will still be the biggest property owner
Kimco will have sold Rheem to a different REIT

Dave Trotter (Incumbent)

I hope to live in a Moraga that has: Retained its semi-rural values, sense of community and excellent public schools.

Preserved and protected our remaining ridgelines and open space areas from inappropriate development, in compliance with the General Plan and MOSO.

Implemented the Moraga Revenue Enhancement Committee's roadmap, and developed stable funding sources for ongoing maintenance/repair of Town roads, storm drains and infrastruc-

ture.

A track record of balanced Town budgets, and a cohesive Town Council.

Opened up a refurbished and upgraded Hacienda de las Flores to enhanced public uses benefiting the Moraga community.

Taken steps to fully implement the Moraga Center Specific Plan, and extend and beautify School Street as the new "heart of Moraga."

Approved a Rheem Park Specific Plan with a positive, financially viable vision.

Retained the Town's tradition of concerned, effective and knowledgeable volunteers working for the betterment of Moraga.

Planned for and built a community gym.

Dennis Wanken

As a first priority, I would like to see a Moraga where the deferred infrastructure maintenance has been addressed. Given the time line legally required for the bid process and construction of such projects, a decade is not unreasonable time. Without completion of these projects, the quality of life could degrade significantly.

As a second priority, the Moraga Town Council must make every effort to improve its relationship with the Moraga School District. It is essential that a true collaborative partnership be developed with the MSD, as public education is one of the cornerstones of our community.

As a third priority, promotion of a wide variety of useful and viable businesses could make Moraga increasingly pleasant to shop. However, this can only be done with a trusting relationship between the MTC, property owners, business owners, and local citizens.

In ten years, I hope historians will look back and judge any public policy I have the privilege to assist with and say "he did the right thing."

Eleni Wanken

I would like the roads to be in drivable shape without potholes.

I would like to see our schools continue to be in the top 10% of schools in California.

I would like to see more grocery stores as well as more of a variety of businesses that meet the needs of local citizens.

I would like to see a moderate growth of single family homes within the guidelines of the MOSO and recommendations from the Moraga Planning Commission. I think that smart growth can be accomplished without compromising the rural atmosphere of Moraga.

Finally, I would like to see more of a police presence in our community as well as more women on the Moraga Police Department. Given the recent spate of petty crimes as well as an armed bank robbery, more police would act as a deterrent as well as increase response time.

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Civic News

Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council Tuesday, October 5, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission Tuesday, October 12, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Orinda: www.cityoforinda.org
Chamber of Commerce: www.orindachamber.org

• **Police Report** •



Drunk in Public, 9/22/10 At roughly 3:00 a.m. where the BART trail intersects with Camino Pablo, officers noticed a gentleman stumbling as he was walking. They could smell alcohol on him and asked if he was drunk. Cutting to the chase, he said "yes." Maybe it was due to his swaying or his .17 blood alcohol level, but he was determined to be a danger to the citizens of the area and was taken to the Martinez Detention Facility for booking.

Gas leak, 9/22/10 A cement company employee was operating a backhoe on a construction project on Moraga Way when it struck a small supporting gas

line. Out of an abundance of caution, homes were evacuated.

Double dipping, 9/16/10 Not one, but two unlocked cars parked in a Hillcrest Drive driveway were broken into. A gold chain and pendant were taken from a GMC truck and three silver trays were taken from the adjacent Hyundai. Sounds like an ad for Doublemint gum, two robberies in one.

D.U.I. 9/18/10 A car was pulled over on the Camino Pablo off-ramp off of Highway 24 at just after midnight. The driver of the Toyota gave a blood sample than confirmed he was driving under the influence. Sadly the very brief police report gave no other details for this reporter to work with. Adjectives, adverbs welcomed.

Orinda Parties with Cars

... continued from page A1

"It's a 1932 Model T-Deuce [Replica]. There are only 100 made in the whole world. I've been driving it around in my yard. It's peaceful. It's joyful!" -- *Demetri Counelis (9), Orinda*

"It's a darling car. A 1958 Porsche Speedster. There's nothing like an older Porsche. Every time they come out with a new one, the old ones look better." -- *Brad Shafer, San Francisco*

"I like the simpler ones. There's a sedan with a navy blue interior over there. I'd drive it to school and show it off." -- *Sophie Belinn (14), Orinda*

"This is Jim's '38 Harley [Davidson] 45. He has special cars too—Cords—built in the 30's, with front wheel drive. One of them is collapsible...you know, what you call convertible. When I go for a walk in the morning, I go down and look at Jim's cars: they're such beauties." -- *Bill Garrison (86), Lafayette*

"I keep it in my house, [his '38 Harley], 'cause I like to look at it." -- *Jim Lawrence, Lafayette*

This year's auction and raffle raised over \$12,000 to benefit the Educational Foundation of Orinda, Seniors Around Town, and the Orinda Historical Society. Mechanics Bank sponsored the party Friday evening and Orinda Motors organized the event.

There was plenty of emotion at the car show, but the most poignant moment happened Friday evening, when Chip Herman and Steve Race put out a community appeal. "We asked people to give whatever they could for the two workers involved in the terrible accident that happened here," Herman said, referring to last June's electrocution victims. He and Race matched the donations with \$1,000 each, raising a total of \$5,500. "There's been some criticism that not enough was done for the two men," Herman said. "These guys were workers who contributed to Orinda. Last night, there was support going beyond the borders of our community; it was the best."

See more photos on page S4



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City Council Candidates Speak to Revenue and Infrastructure

By **Andrea A. Firth**

Orinda, like cities across the state of California, has struggled to generate sufficient revenue to cover expenses and preserve services which has forced the City Council to institute staff furlough days and reduce or eliminate funding to some programs over the past two years. Orinda's revenue problem is further confounded by significant infrastructure needs; specifically, road, storm drain, and water pipe repairs, which total an estimated \$100 million or more.

As part of the Lamorinda Weekly's ongoing election coverage, we asked the five candidates for Orinda's City Council to provide their answers to how to fix the City's money and road repair woes. We posed the following question:

What do you feel the City Council should be doing over the next four years to address the City's revenue problem and significant infrastructure needs?

Here's what they had to say, in their own words.

Tom McCormick (Incumbent)

During the past four years, I have worked to fix our infrastructure problems of crumbling roads, failed storm drains, and inadequate fire-water pipes by doing the following:

Seeking Federal and State grants. We have obtained more than \$5 million in funds over the past few years to help pay for roads. Current road repairs in the Theatre District are being paid for with State grants.

Cutting city expenses to make more money available for infrastructure repairs.

Dedicating excess city reserves to road repairs.

Working in partnership with neighborhoods to repair roads. All creative ideas are acceptable.

Reviewing how Orinda's property tax dollars are spent to find money to fix roads and fire-water pipes to hydrants.

Completing repairs with city workers when possible so higher-cost outside vendors are not necessary.

Looking for less expensive and environmentally friendly alternatives. Moraga Way was repaved using grant money and used ground up tires mixed with road asphalt, which also resulted in a quieter road for neighboring homes.

Stop the State from taking Orinda's money—a yes vote on Proposition 23 is appropriate.

Dean Orr

As a Council Member, I will search for all possible sources of funding to fix our roads. While we are fortunate that our City does have a balanced budget, and that staff furloughs were not required this year, we do not have the revenue to adequately repair and maintain our roads and drains. I believe we must be fiscally conservative as we review and approve future budgets as State and Federal funding continues to be short and in some cases eliminated. We need to work together in a spirit of cooperation with other local agencies, the schools, utilities, and the fire district, in order to stretch our local taxpayer dollars and to make sure that our tax dollars stay at home and are not seized by the state.

We must address our failed roads and seek every funding opportunity to obtain revenue—including grant money, bonds, and partnering with the other involved agencies-like EBMUD, PG&E, and the Central Sanitary District—to find funds to fix our roads. In the short-term we must continue prioritizing road repairs from our limited budget. We must continue to look at alternate strategies for selecting road repair projects, sequencing of the work, and bundling of projects to take the best advantage of the construction bid process and stretch our dollars.

Sue Severson (Incumbent)

Property tax is the main revenue source for Orinda providing about half the annual operating budget of approximately \$11 million. Sales tax is the next largest revenue source at about 10 percent. Orinda has little control over the fact that both revenue sources are shrinking. The best options are to maintain a balanced budget by reducing expenses commensurate with revenue declines, and find new revenue sources. Last year, Orinda cut over \$500,000 from the budget, eliminating an administrative position and instituting furloughs. The City Council will again closely evaluate the budget midyear to determine if additional adjustments are needed.

In 2008, we formed a Finance Advisory Committee of citizen volunteers with financial expertise to advise on the budget and to generate ideas for revenue enhancement. I have been integrally involved in the process and we have identified a number of revenue enhancement options.

In the near term, however, with little budget relief in sight, the only way to address the significant infrastructure needs is to efficiently use every dollar designated for road and drain repair, maximize grant opportunities, partner with neighborhoods and utilities to complete work the City cannot fund, and seek community collaboration on solutions.

Amy Worth (Incumbent)

Through the City Council's careful budgeting and prudent use of tax dollars, Orinda has been able to maintain vital services even in these times of economic hardship. To maintain these services, Orinda will need to continue to be vigilant with expenses and through our strategic planning budget process, fund those services that are the highest priority for the community.

Improving our roads and drains must continue to be a high priority of the City's, and we must allocate the maximum city resources available to pave and repair roads and drains. Unfortunately, our revenues do not begin to approach the magnitude of the problem. By prioritizing the allocation of road paving dollars, instituting the neighborhood self-help paving program and an aggressive pothole repair program, we can repair and maintain the roads that have the highest use by Orinda residents. We must continue to allocate all our garbage franchise fees and regional transportation funds towards paving roads and ac-

tively seek state and federal road reconstruction grant funds, as we used to pave Moraga Way.

Now is not a good time to increase taxes, but Orinda will need to continue to explore future long term revenue options to repair and maintain our infrastructure.

Scott Zeller, MD

Thankfully, due to the strong work and foresight of Orinda's Finance Manager Emily Hobby and City Manager Janet Keeter, the City's budget is balanced for the current fiscal year with no employee furloughs. But with a stagnant economy and decreasing tax proceeds, the City must aggressively seek new revenue opportunities to maintain our services and improve our infrastructure.


The roads clearly need repair, yet after two bond issues were defeated at the polls, our voters have said we need to look at alternatives to tax increases.

One possibility is exploring all possible avenues for government grants. Another consideration is shared-cost neighborhood assessments, as the Crestview Drive people have pioneered.

We should welcome and facilitate small businesses, which will improve our sales tax income. Orinda has somewhat of a reputation as being antagonistic to businesses. This must change.

In addition, we pay much more in tax dollars than Moraga does for our joint fire district. We should renegotiate to get Moraga to contribute their fair share, recapturing those monies towards our infrastructure—without jeopardizing our excellent fire services.

Regardless of the solution, we need to make the infrastructure repair a defined and untouchable part of our annual budget.



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Lafayette \$1,425,000 4/3.5	Lafayette \$1,075,000 3+3/4	

“The Measure of Man” to Remain

And new art is on its way to Orinda’s public places

By Sophie Braccini



The Measure of Man

Photo Ohlen Alexander

“This piece is a perfect addition to our community and represents its creativity,” said Orinda Parks and Recreation Director Todd Skinner as the Orinda City Council accepted the donation of the sculpture titled “The Measure of Man,” by artist Keith Bush. The piece has been on loan from the artist and is located on the Upper Library Plaza where it will now remain, noted Skinner. The Council also accepted the loan of seven new sculptures to the city, which are scheduled to be installed at the Library Plaza in mid-October and will be on display for about a year.

At 96’ high, “The Measure of Man” towers over passers-by. The steel structure represents three symbolic human beings, trapped in a giant measuring tool. “In this scul-

ture I have used an abstract micrometer (a precision measuring tool) as the symbol of the bureaucracies trying to impose perceived standards on individuals,” wrote the artist in his statement to the city, “The three figures are fighting off the process of being measured by someone else’s standards or ideas.”

“I love to look at children experiencing these sculptures,” said Council Member Amy Worth, “I remember seeing one child with his parents; the father was explaining what science was like for him. It is a wonderful allusion to science and men.”

“We want to thank Keith (Bush) from the bottom of our hearts,” said Skinner, who explained that Bush decided to donate his statue because he was impressed

by the art program and was pleased by the way he and his work had been treated by the city.

“The Measure of Man” joins several other publicly-displayed works that have been donated either to the City or the Friends of the Library, including Allison McCrady’s painting of Orinda, donated by the artist, that hangs in City Hall; and “Mother Reading to Child,” a bronze-work by Kevin Christison on display by the library.

“We are working with the City Council to purchase a few more pieces,” said Skinner, “the Parks and Recreation Department has set aside restricted funds that are matched by private donations for that purpose.”

Skinner noted that the city is seeing an increase in the offers of artwork to be loaned for display. “We started with seven or eight pieces and we now have more than twenty,” he said, “I believe that we are getting close to our maximum.”

Downtown Planning Workshop Set for 10/18

To provide all of Orinda’s residents with the opportunity to help to determine the vision for Orinda’s downtown, the City has planned two public workshops, says City Manager Janet Keeter. The first workshop will be held on Monday, October 18th, starting at 7:00 p.m. in Founders Hall at the Community Center. Professional facilitators from MIG Inc. in Emeryville will lead the “town hall style” meetings to allow residents to constructively discuss the merits of the recommendations presented in the downtown segment of the Planning Process Review Task Force Report. The second workshop is planned for early December. A. Firth

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9 Las Vegas Road, Lafayette
Shown by Appointment

This Orinda Country Club home combines California indoor/outdoor living and an elegant, contemporary style. Completely updated with high quality appliances & materials throughout, this home is ready for its next owner. An open floor plan, light and bright living spaces, along with a perfectly appointed chef’s kitchen make this a home for just about everyone.
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Amy Rose Smith
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8 Amanda Lane, Lafayette
Shown by Appointment

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Alan Marks
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1023 Sunrise Ridge, Lafayette
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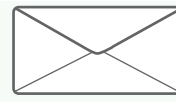
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Letters to the Editor

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

Editor:
Moraga has a new town manager, our seventh in about 15 years, if we include two interim managers. Wouldn't the public interest be better served if we could reduce that rate of turnover? Our two most recent town managers were surprised by the acrimony in our community. I believe that we can improve the situation if more Moragans will become productively engaged in public affairs instead of letting a few complainers have disproportionate impact. This will require that more citizens become knowledgeable about civic affairs.

The unfortunate pattern in Moraga is for some residents to become exercised rarely and briefly over hot-button issues. Emotions are vented, a lack of understanding is exhibited, and then those citizens return to the sidelines, not to be heard from again for a long time -- if ever. When the next controversy arises, a new batch of initiates performs on the stage before disappearing. What we need is an ongoing commitment to become familiar with laws, structures, and procedures, so that we gain over time at least a basic grasp of how things work. Emotion has its place in human experience, but knowledge and rationality are preferable in public discourse.

Many of the concerned citizens who expressed an interest in the Dollar Tree issue were of working and child-bearing age, and my comments are directed primarily at you. Regardless of how you feel about the outcome, I hope you will now transfer your energy and concern to other issues, such as whether the Town of Moraga will have enough revenue to remain an incorporated municipality. The Town Council is attempting to engage with the public on this important issue. I urge you to respond to this outreach. Read the report of the Revenue Enhancement Committee, ask questions, attend meetings, make suggestions. My generation is fading from the scene. Moraga's future requires your participation and your leadership. Build on what we have done. Make Moraga as good as it can be.

Dale Walwark
Moraga

Editor:
Baloney sandwich, anyone?
With Mayor McCormick as point man, the current Orinda City Council has publicly, or in some cases, more obtusely in this election year, advocated the support of high rise, high density, mixed use, condo village re-development of the Theatre Square district and other downtown districts, with the logic that more downtown residences mean a jump in retail sales tax revenue, which in turn, means better quality roadways for Orinda.

“Not so much”, says Steve Wahlstrom, an award-winning, independent, urban planner, with more than 200 municipal projects on his resume. At the September 7 city council meeting, Mr. Wahlstrom presented his Retail Sales Tax Leakage Report for Orinda, based on his April 2010 research. When asked how much retail sales tax revenue would jump with an influx of downtown residents, Mr. Wahlstrom held up his thumb and fore-finger in the universal symbol for a skoch, and advised that projecting a meaningful retail sales tax increase to justify the construction of high rise, high density, mixed use, condo village, re-development, was flawed reasoning. An incredulous city council proceeded to ask Mr. Wahlstrom the same question, multiple times. And they kept getting the same answer. Mr. Wahlstrom elaborated that a broader range of retail offerings, in line with national chain, box stores, would be needed to meaningfully increase Orinda's retail sales tax, but deemed such a solution as unviable. His explanation? Orinda's narrow mountain canyon topography, especially in the Theatre District, precludes a development site that could accommodate the minimum square footage and associated parking requirements, mandated by such national corporate retailers.

Clearly, the city council expected and wanted a different answer from their anticipated ally. Now, some city employee might subsequently take Mr. Wahlstrom to the woodshed, and instruct him on how to “play ball” for his \$10,000 consulting fee, but the truth is out in the open and the truth is clear. If this current city council professes that high rise, high density, mixed use, condo village re-development is the prime rib panacea for all that ails Orinda, then why does it smell so much like baloney?

And how does a city council that pleads it is too poor to be able to afford an independent, professional survey of what Orindans want from their downtown, still find the funds for a Retail Sales Tax Leakage Report, plus the facilitation firm for the upcoming workshops on the Downtown Proposed Plan? Why is this city council so intent on spending public money to sell a proposal, which is founded on erroneous assumptions, instead of scientifically surveying its citizens or putting the Proposed Downtown Plan to a vote of the citizens?

Owen Murphy
Orinda

Editor
The current Crossroads beautification project is surely the most fouled-up public service job in the history of our little town.

Thousands of man-hours and woman-hours of delays have hit us already. Worse, the job will eliminate several badly-needed parking slots in Orinda. Of course, if the City Council proceeds with the plan to tear down Crossroads business buildings we won't need those parking places anyway. The whole job of repaving Moraga Way was supposed to be complete by August 17. And it would have been, without these little islands of nonsense at the corners. Now we will be lucky if the Swisher Co finishes pouring concrete by Christmas.

Our City Council has again wasted badly needed money (for fixing roads, maybe!) on frivolities. We need a change.

Chuck McCoy
Orinda

Lafayette Candidates

Editor
“Higgle-dee-piggle-dee,” our town's not based on a grid, I used to say when giving directions to people in Lafayette. But look at us now!
The fall city newsletter got me to thinking about the thoughtful, community-driven improvements that have happened in the 27 years I've lived here. Walk the length of our town to see tangible reasons to be proud of Lafayette: The reservoir, the Veterans Memorial Building, the center medians planted with beautiful sustainable landscaping and decorated with sparkling twinkle lights, the seasonal banners, the convenient and unobtrusive BART station, the hill of crosses that represent a community that never forgets what's going on in the world, the variety of stores and restaurants indicative of entrepreneurship and excellent food.
A charming central park, the statue of Marquis de Lafayette (look closely, someone may have put a pair of sunglasses on him), our new library, its beauty embracing both the tangible and intangible, a visual and intellectual triumph, a place that came into being because of a true public-private partnership, its community hall purposely placed with its tall windows on the

major corner so that citizens can see into City meetings and feel welcome to attend and give input. The service businesses, the elegant hotel, our excellent schools, a town that loves its coffee so much that I've heard us called Latte-ette. (Instead of sunglasses, give that Marquis a latte!)
Don Tatzin's thoughtful inclusive leadership is a constant factor in helping Lafayette become the place we enjoy today. His approach to good public policy, developing community and hiring excellent city employees provide intangible reasons why Lafayette has become a “gem.”
I ask you to vote yes to re-elect Don Tatzin to City Council.

Hilma Wikander Jones
(Has anyone seen my sunglasses?)
Lafayette

Editor:
In this year's Lafayette City Council race, Don Tatzin offers years of experience and brings demonstrated commitment, innovative solutions, a history of careful land-use planning, and a prudent fiscal management style to the position.

Don knows that good schools are a critical element of a successful community and sought greater cooperation with the school districts. At the request of the Lafayette School District Governing Board, Don participated in the recent strategic planning process.

Don conceived of the first citizen Financial Review Committee in the 1990's, which resulted in the Council improving the efficiency of government services. During the past decade, the City has put more money into police services and roads while maintaining a balanced budget.

We have lived in Lafayette since 1968 and have seen the downtown become more vibrant with improved public landscaping and more shopping choices. Simultaneously, neighborhoods are protected from excessive development and the views of largely undeveloped ridgelines remain. Don chaired the Hillside and Ridgeline Committee that created enhanced protections for our most visually attractive ridges.

We support Don because he will bring four more years of thoughtful leadership to the Council.

Carol and Bob Singer
Lafayette

Orinda Candidates

Editor:
I'm supporting Tom McCormick for re-election to Orinda's City Council. In a nutshell, McCormick has the intellect, and management skills to deal with a variety of tough issues that confront Orinda—and future issues that will likely be more challenging.

As a past volunteer for the Planning Process Review Task Force (PPRTF – I was on the Process subcommittee.) and current volunteer on the Planning Commission, I worked closely with Tom over a two-year period and through dozens of meetings. He had a good understanding of the issues, and was willing to give everyone a shot at explaining different perspectives. While we did not always agree, I always felt I had a fair shake—that Tom listened, was willing to adjust, and made the task force work toward good, consensus decisions to benefit all of Orinda.

As a result of the public response over the 55' building height limit that was proposed by the PPRTF, the City, rightly so, has promised a restart of the downtown review through a series of meetings to try to find out what Orindans really want. Tom McCormick is the one that pressed for these additional meetings to get a full understanding of what Orinda wants and needs. While some may associate this upcoming review (which surely will be interesting), as a disappointment in the PPRTF, it is not. McCormick's leadership of the PPRTF was successful in establishing a vision and basis, and most of the solid recommendations from the Process and Residential subcommittees have or will be implemented. Most important, finally we have many more Orindans starting to engage their local government, and hopefully refine the vision to preserve our town's character while being mindful of the need to encourage business and services, and avoid urban decay. Listening to, developing, and implementing intelligent and workable perspectives of the local citizenry are critical roles for the City Council.

Whatever people think about the PPRTF proposal for revitalizing downtown (mostly on down sloped lots), I doubt the low-income senior housing +50' high structure across from the Fire House, (which is proceeding in isolation to the new downtown review process) on an up sloping lot, fits the “PPRTF image.” If constructed in an envelope similar to what is outlined by the current story poles, many Orindans, who objected to the PPRTF [and some who did not], will be more than surprised.

Bottom line, there are many forces trying to reshape Orinda. As a 30-year resident, count me in the camp that favors a strong local government that listens to and acts on what Orindans want—and one that is not overly influenced by special interest advocacy groups. I think Orindans need City Council members with critical skills, who listen, analyze, and do what is best for Orinda, and can make tough decisions that may not be “politically correct.” That's why I'm voting to re-elect Mayor Tom McCormick.

Chris Kniel
Orinda Planning Commissioner

Dear Editor,
My first encounter with Sue Severson was over 20 years ago. Sue held the first of many meetings for “Earthquake Preparedness” for our schools. This project was one of many commitments to the town of Orinda, where Sue has shown vision thinking and energy to match.

We now are in a much better position at each school, with food, first aide, and support equipment in the event of a natural disaster. When we started in 1990, the only items that were available were a few World War II first aide supplies. Sue has a real talent to bring ideas together with respect for everyone's opinion and then finalize the goal and move forward.
During her years on the School Board, you would find Sue walking around school sites to be available to those that wanted to talk to her about all kinds of issues.

Bonnie Jo Hodge Quist
Orinda

Editor:
We invite Orindans to join us in support of the 3 candidates who will bring Respect, Enthusiasm, Consideration, Integrity, Knowledge and the real meaning of Volunteerism to our Community.
We need proven leaders of whom we can be proud and, therefore, are endorsing: Amy Worth, Sue Severson and Dean Orr for Orinda City Council!
Join us!

Dick Heggie and Bobbie Landers
Orinda

Editor:
Fiscal Responsibility:
Sue Severson has been instrumental in keeping Orinda fiscally solvent during these rough economic times. Her personal commitment to making sure that Orinda sets priorities and plans that are fiscally sound have helped keep Orinda on budget despite increasing costs and decreasing revenues. She has also come up with creative ideas to find alternative financing for arts and community programs that the city can no longer afford to fund. Sue was instrumental in setting up the Orinda Community Foundation which organizes great events such as the Kids Triathlon and the Orinda Golf Tournament, the proceeds from which help fund other Orinda activities such as the Fourth of July Parade, Orinda Idol and arts programs. We are fortunate to have such a talented city council member working so hard to keep Orinda a great place to live. We urge you to join us in supporting Sue Severson for Orinda City Council.

Nancy & Rick Booth
Orinda

Editor:
We have been residents of Orinda for over fifty years. We remember well when Orinda was incorporated with Dick Heggie as our first Mayor. Since that time we have seen many fine men and women serve on the city council. Sue Severson is one of the most dedicated and talented workers we have ever had. We are supporting her for another term in office.

Sincerely,
Ann and Lee Sorenson

Editor:
Chairman Mao Tse-tung, describing guerilla warfare, said in 1936: "The enemy advances, we retreat; the enemy camps, we harass; the enemy tires, we attack; the enemy retreats, we pursue."

Something similar to guerilla warfare is going on in Orinda. For many months, members of the City Council and the Planning Commission have been sponsoring a scheme to construct high-rise buildings, luxury apartments, and a hotel in downtown Orinda.

Now, some City Council candidates who have supported downtown development -- such Tom McCormick, Dean Orr, and Amy Worth -- are, as Chairman Mao might have predicted, retreating.

At a recent television debate, "McCormick, Worth, and Orr offered no positions on the [downtown] recommendations . . ." (Contra Costa Times, Sept. 7).

McCormick and Worth are City Council incumbents. Orr is head of Orinda's Planning Commission.

One candidate for City Council, Dr. Scott Zeller, is opposed to constructing high-rise buildings in downtown Orinda.

Orinda's semi-rural and village-like character make Orinda an extremely enjoyable place to live. Keeping high-rise buildings out of downtown should increase the demand -- and prices -- for housing in Orinda.

Please vote for Dr. Zeller and keep Orinda from becoming the next Walnut Creek or Manhattan.

Richard S. Colman
Orinda

Editor:
Vote for Scott Zeller for the Orinda City Council. He is the only candidate strongly and openly opposed to a change in our downtown building height.

The current Orinda City Council is considering amending the Orinda General Plan to allow downtown building heights of 55 plus feet on both sides of the freeway. Our Mayor, Tom McCormick, who is running for re-election has come out strongly in favor of raising our height limit. Council Members Sue Severson and Amy Worth, who are also running for re-election, won't tell us their position on the height issue. Dean Orr, running for election to the city council, hasn't told us his position.

This is the most important issue that has faced our community since incorporation. We became the City of Orinda because of building height issues during the development of "Theater Square". To amend the general plan to allow five story buildings downtown is a major step backward. The citizens of Orinda didn't want large multistory buildings at that time and we don't want multistory buildings now. We have one of the most pleasant semi-rural towns in the U.S.

Vote ONLY for Scott Zeller. Do not cast votes for those running for election who want to change Orinda. Do not cast your vote for those who won't tell us what they think. Cast one vote only, for Scott Zeller.

Save Orinda!

Kent Hagen
Orinda

Editor:
Mayor Tom McCormick has worked diligently these past four years to earn our support for another term on the Orinda City Council. Tom will continue to work for our community and keep Orinda a wonderful place to live and thrive.

Tom passionately believes that government should be open and responsive to its citizens. He spent endless hours revamping the entire planning process and wouldn't accept anything less than a complete change--one that is kinder, simpler, more understandable, and dramatically more user-friendly. He was the driving force and deserves full credit for "making it happen." He never opted for the easy way out by just making improvements around the margins. During the numerous public hearings, Tom showed us all what he is best known for...common sense. He always asked, "Is this the best we can do to make the planning process simpler, faster, fairer, and more transparent?" He pushed the process forward until he accomplished these worthy goals, and for that and so much more, we owe Tom our acknowledgment of a job well done. I know that he will take this same common sense, can-do attitude into the next four year term which is why I am asking you to vote for Tom McCormick.

But Tom is by no means a one trick pony. Not only has he challenged the City staff to be more responsive to the needs of Orinda residents, but he has been fiscally conservative, implementing City employee furloughs in order to keep our budget in balance and re-organizing the Administrative and Financial Services departments which resulted in saving some \$75,000 of taxpayer money. Tom, as part of a more open and inclusive style of government, has expanded the Mayor's Liaison meetings to reach out to more community groups. He has also helped foster the superb Art in Public Places program in a continuing effort to improve all facets of life in Orinda. Lastly, Mr. McCormick is a strong supporter of environmental programs to make Orinda a greener city and to help residents embrace more sustainable living options.

In short, Tom is working hard for the betterment of our community. He is open, sensible, hard-working, and willing to deal with issues important to all of us in Orinda. Please return Tom to Office...he has earned our support.

Richard Westin
Orinda

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Public Forum **JOIN IT**

The Case for Open Space

A recent poll of Lafayette voters showed that preserving open space is our highest priority, even higher than improving public education or repairing our roads. We are fortunate to be surrounded by open ridges and hillsides where we still see more trees than houses. The open hills and ridges are what make highway 24 a scenic route. But the open space we experience is not just a view. Everywhere we go, we are aware of the openness around us. Our winding streets provide vistas of our hills and remind us that we live on and around them. From many of our homes and yards, we are aware not only of our neighborhood, but of the landscape beyond it. In the downtown, we don't just drive from block to block. We have the context of the topography around us – as the view changes, we understand that we are

moving through a spacious valley surrounded by a complex of hills. Many of us spend time in parks, on trails, and along our creeks. These smaller open spaces are no less critical to our sense of our community and our environment. They reinforce our appreciation that not everything is paved and landscaped, that we have a connection to the land we occupy. That same poll of Lafayette voters showed that open space was not high on the list of things we want to spend our money on. In part, this is because there are so many other important uses for our tax dollars. In part, it is because many people assume our open spaces all belong to us. In fact, much of the open space around Lafayette is still in private hands. To preserve our open spaces and the special sense of space they provide requires action on several fronts. First, Lafayette has set priori-

ties to acquire and preserve open space. Acalanes Ridge was one of those identified priorities. Lafayette, Walnut Creek, East Bay Regional Parks, and the Muir Heritage Land Trust combined our resources and experience to acquire and permanently preserve that key open space. That illustrates the second action, cooperation between agencies and organizations with an interest in preserving open space. Money for acquisitions will be tight for the foreseeable future, and cooperation is essential. Third, we need to continue to plan for the preservation of open spaces and to create opportunities to open parks, creeks, and trails so that we not only see open space, but experience it. Preserving open space will require persistence and creativity, but it is essential to maintain the identity of our communities. Brandt Andersson (Mayor, City of Lafayette)

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.

Community Service

Smoke Alarms: Up, Down and All Around

Submitted by Grace Santos

In an effort to better educate communities throughout the U.S. about smoke alarm recommendations, the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is promoting "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!" as the theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, October 3-9. The Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) will participate in the campaign. "Many homes in Moraga and Orinda may not have any smoke alarms, not enough smoke alarms, alarms that are too old, or alarms

that are not working," says MOFD Fire Marshal Michael Mentink. "We want residents to understand that working smoke alarms are needed in every home, on every level (including the basement), outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. And, if a smoke alarm is 10 years old or older, it needs to be replaced." According to Mentink, smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. NFPA statistics show that working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire nearly in

half. But they must be working properly to do so. The association's data shows that many homes have smoke alarms that aren't working or maintained properly, usually because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries. Roughly two-thirds of all home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. The MOFD will be hosting an Open House (more info at www.mofd.org) during Fire Prevention Week to promote "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live

With!" locally. Through educational, family-oriented activities, residents can learn more about the power of smoke alarms, newer options for installing and maintaining them properly, and ultimately, how to better protect their loved ones from fire. NFPA and the MOFD agree that interconnected smoke alarms offer the best protection; when one sounds, they all do. This is particularly important in larger or multi-story homes, where the sound from distant smoke alarms may be reduced to the point that it may not

be loud enough to provide proper warning, especially for sleeping individuals. The Moraga-Orinda Fire District offers the following tips for making sure smoke alarms are maintained and working properly:

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, and make sure everyone in your home knows their sound.
- If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year

batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they're 10 years old (or sooner) if they do not respond properly when tested.

- Never remove or disable a smoke alarm.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs and activities in Moraga and Orinda, please contact the MOFD at 925-258-4525. To learn more about "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!," visit the NFPA web site at www.firepreventionweek.org.

Tree Restoration Project on North Shore of Lake Cascade Nears Completion

Submitted by MJ Walburg



Photo provided

On Monday, September 13, Horticultural Services, Ltd. began the last phase of the restoration tree project along the north shore of Lake Cascade. Sponsored by the Orinda Garden Club in conjunction with the centennial celebration of the Garden Club of America and with the consent of the

Orinda Country Club, which owns the lake, the tree restoration will include pruning of over 100 trees along the lake front. Fifteen Cork Oaks (*Quercus Suber*) were planted by OGC in the early '40s. The original California native oaks, laurels, madrones, maples, alders and elders were planted by

Edward DeLaveaga when he developed the lake in 1922. In the early 40s the Garden Club received permission from OCC to enhance the planting around the lake and again in 1965 the ladies received money from Richfield 011 for civic beautification and planted more trees including weeping willows, acacias, scotch broom, oleanders, manzanitas, birch, bottle brush, toyon and climbing Banksia roses. Lake Cascade is a popular meeting place for runners, walkers and bird watchers. Protected by California Fish and Game, it has also become a popular bird sanctuary. The clearing and pruning has enhanced the area and provided greater views of Orinda's hills and wooded landscapes. Money for the project was raised by members of the Orinda Garden Club through contributions, special events and a successful silent auction.

Lamorindans Help Shelter Animals

Submitted by Cheyenne Ziermann



Cheyenne Ziermann with a small portion of the donations received. Photo provided

Over the past several months Campolindo senior Cheyenne Ziermann has been industrious in her efforts to obtain donations for her Girl Scout Gold Award Project, using school email blasts and posting announcements in local publica-

tions. Her ongoing project is to help shelter animals and she collected towels and blankets, toys, supplies and other supplies for cats and dogs at the Peninsula Humane Society. She would like to thank the Lamorinda community for all their help with her project: "The support from people in Lafayette, Orinda and Moraga to help these poor animals was just incredible," Ziermann writes. "Almost every day when I came home from school, bags had been dropped off at my home. The library in Orinda, where I was allowed to set up a drop-off box, called me because the box was overflowing. It wasn't just old towels and blankets, there were leashes, dishes, new toys and even treats from Trader Joe's! It took my mom and me three full car loads to bring everything to the Humane Society in Burlingame. At our last drop-off, the president of the Humane Society happened to be there and he helped us unload. He was overwhelmed by so much generosity. All donations were very much appreciated." Ziermann ends her letter with a heartfelt acknowledgment to the community: "Thank you for helping shelter animals and for helping with my project."

Grandparent's Day

Submitted by Jessica McCormick and Bethany Ruthnick



Kathy Fowler and granddaughter Alexandra share a frosty snow cone. Photo provided

To everything there is a season, it is an adage as simple as it is true. At Moraga Royale, residents have reached the pure enjoyment point in their lives. After years of family rearing and service to the community, these fine folks have more than earned the right to sit back and savor the fruits of lives well lived. For this very reason Moraga Royale recognizes the second

Saturday in September as Grandparent's Day. Over 400 friends and family members were in attendance for the 4th annual celebration. Kids and adults alike enjoyed many of the fun filled activities that were offered. From a petting zoo filled with goats, turtles and an albino python, to pony rides and a live jazz band...but everyone's favorite attraction was the

Dunk Tank. One dollar got you three throws and the opportunity to submerge Mike Lawrence, manager of CVS and Moraga's Business Man of The Year. Second string dunk-ees included Moraga Royale staff Al Pyne and Loto Rickman. No matter who festivity-goers opted to soak, all proceeds went to the Rescue One Foundation, a nonprofit organization assisting our local fire department. The men and women of Station 41 showed their support and made a spectacular entrance on the very fire engine they use to keep us safe. And so, as little ones scampered about with brightly painted faces and kids of all ages feasted on BBQ, savory popcorn or cool snow cones the band played on. Grandparents were everywhere you looked sharing insights, and recalling laughable anecdotes. Each of them, a reminder to the rest of us that the best is truly yet to come.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Dictionary Distribution

Submitted by Thomas Black



Photo Courtesy of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary

Thomas Peeks, president of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary (LSR), observes as a third-grader at Springhill Elementary School in Lafayette looks up a word in the personal copy of the Webster's Children's Dictionary he just received from the club. This marks the 13th consecutive year LSR has donated dictionaries to every third-grader attending public school in the city. In all, some 300 copies were distributed. Since the inception of the program in 1998, the club has invested nearly \$50,000 total in purchasing the dictionaries. Like all Rotary clubs internationally, LSR is an ardent and enthusiastic supporter of education.



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Table 24 Coming to Orinda

By Sophie Braccini



Michael Karp (left) and Victor Ivry (right) Photo provided

The current restaurant buzz in Orinda is the approaching opening of Table 24 at Theater Square. If your kids have neglected to mention it, the restaurant is on Facebook and already boasts more than 200 friends of co-owners Victor Ivry and Michael Karp.

It's not the first time that a restaurant has tried to lay down roots in the spot across from Shelby's. But what got the property owner and the City of Orinda behind the project were the personality and complementary talents of the two partners, coupled

with their vision for the restaurant: great quality family comfort food.

Ivry and Karp are both Orinda residents. It was not food that first brought them together, it was swimming. For 28 years now Ivry has been coaching kids at Meadow Swim and Tennis Club. "I have touched many kids' lives over these years and I've kept my relationship with them, their parents and now their children," says Ivry.

He met Karp at a swimming master class and the two got talking. Ivry had spent his life in the commercial real estate industry,

while Karp and his wife Lisa are hospitality professionals. "If Victor had talked to me about opening a restaurant in Walnut Creek I probably would not have been interested," said Karp, "what sold me was to start something right here where we live, in Orinda."

Ivry says his family thinks he was born for this opportunity. "I will be in the restaurant every day," he says, "I will be a goodwill ambassador and will make people feel comfortable when they walk in the door."

Community ties, a feel for what people want, and great atmosphere are certainly components of a successful restaurant, but the partners still had to attract the right Executive Chef. They found her in Mendocino; her name is Kelly Hatcher. "She is someone interested in combinations of flavors," says Karp, "she comes from a market café grocery where she helped design the whole concept, picked the menus and wines. People here will love her food."

"The tough part right now is that we have taste-testing sessions where we have to choose among all these great foods," adds Ivry, who's concerned that he'll have to step up his swim-

ming routine in order to compensate for all the tasting.

The two men confess that working on the menu is one of their favorite activities, like sampling products from local bakers to find that perfect bread for the Clam Chowder in a Bread Bowl, or the optimal slices for the signature Artisan Cage-free Egg Sandwich.

Hatcher is inclined toward local ingredients and to change some of the menu options daily, "Kelly has established relationships with local farmers and she will shop the local farmers' markets too," says Karp, "customers can expect to see soups and pizzas change daily according to what's fresh that day."

Ivry and Karp want to become a part of everyday Orinda life and are planning breakfast menus as well as kids' time after school. "Kids hang out around here after school," noted Ivry, "they can come in, drop their backpacks at the large community table, and have afternoon milk and cookies, shakes, or a Caesar salad. This will be a good, healthy environment; teens and their parents will love it." Table 24 is on the web at www.table24orinda.com.

business briefs

Custom Design and Repair in Lafayette

3385 Mt. Diablo Blvd., 899-1789
When she moved to Lafayette last December, Ruby Chen decided to open a business in town in which she schooled her four children. This September, she opened Aesthetic Jewelry Design on the east end of Mt. Diablo Boulevard (passed Leslie's Pool Supply). "My professional experience has always been in the jewelry industry," explains Chen, "I am a trained gemologist; I worked for Pave Fine Jewelry Design in Oakland, designing and consulting with clients, I worked with Tiffany & Co in Walnut Creek and am still working part time in a jewelry-and-repair store in Alamo." Chen feels that her experience allows her to offer the highest quality repairs with expertise on any jewelry/watch. Right now she shares the retail space on Mt. Diablo Blvd. with The Nails Club and is there from 10 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. and by appointment later. "As a Grand Opening special, I'd like to offer one free stringing repair for seniors, and 50% off all watch battery replacement for everybody for the first six months," says Chen, who can also train interested residents in stringing and creating their own jewelry.

Bonfire Pizzeria Coming to Orinda

A new pizzeria is scheduled to open in Theater Square this fall – Bonfire Pizzeria – more details in our next issue.

Have Fun, Train Hard, then Eat!

From now on when you show your New Rheem Theatre movie ticket stub or your 24 Hour Fitness card in many Moraga restaurants, you get a 10% discount on your dinner bill. This new business partnership was initiated by the Chamber of Commerce. "Edy (Schwartz, the Chamber President) and I thought that we should find a way to entice people, who come to the movies or to train at 24 Hour Fitness in Moraga, to stay and have dinner here," says Mary Coe, Adjunct Professor at Saint Mary's College and volunteer extraordinaire for the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. Schwartz recalls a meeting between 24Hour Fitness manager Ken Helton and neighboring restaurants to talk about parking, at which Helton reportedly said, "We have so many people coming through here daily, we should think of a way to help your marketing." Coe set to work. "I met with all the restaurant owners in Moraga and most of them agreed to join in," she explains. Although the program is brand new, Roos Pal (of Terzetto Cuisine) reports that she has already had customers present the ticket stub or membership card. "This is just a good collaborative partnership," said Schwartz.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

- Lafayette**
- Financial Round Table on Thursday, October 7 at 8:00 a.m. in the Chamber Conference Room
 - Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening Party on Thursday, October 7 for the new location of Douglah Design, 6:00-8:00pm at 3586 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite B5.
 - After Hours Mixer on Wednesday, October 13, 5:30-7:00pm at Fastframe of Lafayette, 1020 Brown Avenue. Hosted by Fastframe, Alternatives for Animals and Creative Alterations.
 - Empowerment of Women Forum on Tuesday, October 19, 5:30-7:00pm at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center Community Hall. The event is organized by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and Mechanics Bank and sponsored by the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation. The forum is designed to appeal to a variety of women. It will feature a panel of local working women, both from the profit and non-profit sectors, who will share their career stories. The forum will offer something to both currently working women and to those looking to get back into the workforce. For more information contact Barbara Gilmore at the Chamber, 284-7404.
- Moraga**
- Moraga Business Seminar: Tuesday October 19, 6:00-8:00pm at the Soda Center Saint Mary's College. The evening program and dinner are sponsored by Mechanics Bank. All Moraga businesses and Moraga Chamber of Commerce members are invited. The panel will discuss current economic conditions in the nation and in Moraga and will discuss options for businesses today.
- Orinda**
- Orinda Gala, Wine, Hors d'oeuvres, Art Exhibition & Sale on Saturday, October 2, 4:00-7:00pm in the Orinda Library Gallery, 26 Orinda Way.
 - Orinda Chamber continues its monthly "Brown Bag" Workshops: On October 12th, 'Avoid Causing Death by PowerPoint', noon-1:00pm in Orinda City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, Community Rooms. Scott Stiefvater will lead an enlightening discussion on how to make PowerPoint presentations snap. The vast majority of business presentations range from not-so-good to deadly. Not only do audiences suffer, but so do presenters' careers. Join the Orinda Chamber for this one-hour mini-seminar and learn how PowerPoint has contributed to a widespread culture of poor presentation practices. More importantly, gain a new understanding of presentation development and slide design along with a variety of practical tips and insights.

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

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Life in LAMORINDA

The Making of Jekyll and Hyde

By Sophie Braccini



Jekyll (Ryan O'Donnell left) and Hyde (Chris Hayes right) surround Elizabeth (Ginny Wehrmeister) Photo Stu Selland

Clive Worsley likes a good challenge. To open its 2010/2011 season, the Artistic Director of Town Hall Theater is presenting Jeffrey Hatcher's adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic 1886 novella, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. The new production is guaranteed to send chills down the spines of Lamorinda audiences.

We met the director and cast during one of their last rehearsals. The power of the play was already there, and it is rated PG-13 for good reason. As Worsley puts it, it is a psycho-sexual drama, and the actors carry the intensity of the emotions beautifully.

The story of *Jekyll and Hyde* is no 'chick-flick.' Amy Goodheart, a Town Hall board member, recently commented, "This is the perfect play to take the men in your life."

We all know the story of Dr. Jekyll transforming into his evil side, Edward Hyde, after ingesting a potion of his own creation. What's new in Hatcher's adaption and Worsley's interpretation is the way the seduction of the dark and dangerous side, that's been lurking in humans for all ages, is explored.

The play presents the different faces of malevolence by using four different actors to play Hyde. At one point, during an interaction

with the coveted Elizabeth, all 4 voices are there. The effect is terribly powerful. "It takes a little time for the audience to get acclimated to what is going on" admits Worsley, "but they get into it and the story just grabs you."

Costuming is minimal; the transformations happen through the acting, the voices, and the movement. For Worsley, the choice of his actors was key. "I did individual and group auditions to see how people work together, how they move," said the director. On stage, the play sometimes resemble a rhythmic dance, the light goes up on one side, then the other, and people move in space and time with precision and alacrity. "The play is both precise and physical," says Worsley, "the actors are well in their bodies, and they have an intelligence of the text and bring intensity with some of the emotions."

Ryan O'Donnell plays a very likeable Dr. Jekyll. Worsley chose him because his truthful and simple acting draws the audience to immediately trust him. O'Donnell's rendition of the emotions of the character is believable - you feel for Jekyll, you want him to win the inner battle that's overpowering him.

Charming Ginny Wehrmeister plays Elizabeth. Both vulnera-

ble and strong, she is not a helpless victim in the play. "Not anyone in this story is simply a victim," says Worsley, "each character has an agenda, they are propelling their own story forward."

Two of the actors playing Hyde (and other roles) are Chris Hayes and Dennis Marquam. "Chris is our technical director, he designed the set for the show, runs our comedy series, and is an amazing improviser, much like a chameleon; he was a clear choice for the role," says Worsley. Marquam is a Town Hall favorite who, according to Worsley, always delivers very solid and thoughtful work.

On stage, the mastery and talent of the actors succeeds in ma-

terializing Worsley's vision to have different actors play the same role, and different roles played by the same actor.

As usual at Town Hall Theater, a teen shadow cast will have two performances of its own. "The teens are doing unbelievable work," said Worsley, "I am impressed by the level of maturity and skill for actors of their age."

When the play is over, the audience does not feel that it has found the key to why we are all attracted to the shadowy side of our nature. "The difference between those who act it out and those who repress is quite thin," believes Worsley, "the play doesn't propose to give answers to those questions, but we ask ourselves those questions in a new light."

Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde runs

October 2 to October 31, with previews on September 30 and October 1. It is rated PG-13 (for adult situations) and is about two hours long. Showtimes: 8:00pm Thursday, Friday, Saturday; 2:00pm Sundays, October 10, 17, 24; 7:00pm October 31. Tickets at the Theatre Box Office at 283-1557, or online at www.TownHallTheatre.com. Town Hall Theatre is located at 3535 School St., Lafayette.

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Moraga Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors Meetings
Meetings of the MOFD Board of Directors are open to the public and take place on the third Wednesday of each month in the Board Room, Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.

Next meeting(s):

October 6, Special Meeting, time TBD

MOFD Open House, Station 41 (1280 Moraga Way, Moraga), 10am-2pm

October 20th, 7pm (go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

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MOFD Approves 2010/2011 Fiscal Budget

By Lucy Amaral

On September 15, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors approved its General Fund and Special Revenue Fund budgets for fiscal year 2010/2011. The District has been working with the budget for several months now, however the Board was required to pass a final version of the budget no later than September 30.

Fire Chief Randy Bradley presented the Board with a breakdown of expected revenues and expenses, highlighting the District's efforts to balance the budget while maintaining the current level of service. Bradley said that expected revenues for the year are \$18,100,893 with expected expenses of \$18,277,788.

Due to property tax shortfalls, MOFD originally found itself with a deficit of about \$450,000. Bradley said that with cost cutting measures ranging from renegotiating insurance premiums to cutting laundry service, the District was able to bring the deficit down to less than \$178,000. Revenue for the General Fund budget comes from property tax, earnings on investments, charges for services and intergovernmental fees.

The Chief offered two op-

tions to balance the budget: Institute furlough days and hour restrictions to administrative personnel (including the Chief and Fire Marshall) as well as shifting two full time positions to part time; or, using money from MOFD's reserve fund.

After a brief discussion as to further cost cutting options, the possible surplus from the 2009/2010 budget and the probability that conditions would improve next year, the Board voted to add reserve funds to balance the budget.

Bradley also advised that revenue for the Special Revenue Fund for fiscal 2010/2011 will be \$1,302,957. The District's Special Revenue Fund is currently used for items such as the replacement of fire-fighting equipment, building upgrades and apparatus. Revenue for this fund comes from Fire Flow Tax, earnings on investments, federal grants and insurance recovery.

Bradley said that included in the Special Revenue Fund expenses this year is the installation of a new station exhaust system and the purchase a Type 3 Wildland Engine, which replaces the District's outdated Type 4 Engine recently considered totaled from a rollover accident.

Race To Nowhere Hits the Big Screen

By Andrea A. Firth



Producer and Director Vicki Abeles
Photo by Ohlen Alexander

"This is about the health of our children," says Lafayette resident Vicki Abeles, the producer and co-director of the documentary film *Race to Nowhere*, which will be screened at hundreds of theaters and schools nationwide over the next month. Stress-related illnesses, sleep deprivation, and depression are among the negative health consequences students in the film describe experiencing as a result of the unyielding demands of school and the pressure to compete and perform in today's achievement-obsessed society. "Our kids need some balance in their lives," says Abeles, who began working on the film back in 2007 motivated by her struggle to manage the hectic schedules and academic expectations that faced her three children.

Abeles, formerly a corporate attorney on Wall Street and at Gold-

man Sachs, repurposed her skills to the movie industry, because she believed film was the best way to start a national dialogue about a school system that she found was plagued with cheating, disengagement, and the inability to adequately prepare young people for college and the workplace. "We need a paradigm shift," says Abeles.

While she acknowledges that change is going to take time, Abeles has seen examples of parents, teachers, and school administrators coming together after seeing the film and working toward alternative approaches. "The film is inspiring change wherever we go," says Abeles. "It's difficult for parents and schools to effect change individually," says the filmmaker adding, "It is easier for a community to make change when they come together."

The film's message is resonating with audiences and a grass roots effort has begun to spread the word. The release of *Race to Nowhere* at prominent theaters in New York and Los Angeles in September was met with good reviews and strong audience attendance, says Abeles. Several hundred more screenings are scheduled throughout the fall, and several thousand requests to screen the film are pending.

"The reason we are able to get the film out into the community is due to the support of motivated

parents and educators," says Abeles, explaining that schools and local organizations identify venues and co-sponsor the screenings. Reel Link Films, Abeles' production company, donates half of the ticket sale proceeds back to these groups to offset expenses. A facilitation guide to complement the film has also been developed as a resource for schools.

"It's all been good—an incredible experience," says Abeles, reflecting upon the 3 1/2 year journey from her start as a neophyte filmmaker, one that she says has helped her to grow both professionally and personally. As she manages the documentary's launch and distribution, Abeles also facilitates the parents group on Edutopia, part of the George Lucas Educational Foundation, and she has started to work on other education-related film projects. She believes the experience has been positive for her children as well. "It's been valuable for them to see me take risks and to hear about my failures during the project along with the successes," says Abeles. "I'm a different person and parent due to this work."

Race to Nowhere will be shown at Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek on Thursday, September 30th and at The New Rheim Theatre on Monday, October 4th at 7 p.m. For more information and other screening locations go to www.racetonowhere.com.

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Much Ado about Much Ado

By Lou Fancher



Emily Kitchens (Hero), Dan Hiatt (Leonato) and Andrew Hurteau (Friar) in rehearsal for Much Ado About Nothing Photo Ohlen Alexander

Cal Shakes' final Inside Scoop was a wild affair, with Artistic Director John Moscone and two actors from the cast of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* zig-zagging from esoteric lecture to quoted lines with little foreshadowing. Perhaps because Philippa Kelly, the company's dramaturg, was far away in Australia, the informal hour spun into action without the historical references and linear logic she contributes.

Lacking a road map, the nearly-full Orinda library audience dropped their collective hands from the wheel and left the steering to the three men gathered on the stage.

Joining Moscone to share insights into the production were Dan Hiatt, who plays *Leonato*,

and Nick Childress, who will appear as *Claudio*.

Moscone, after a mock self-deprecating comment about his resorting to Wikipedia in Kelly's absence, described the play as a romantic comedy. "It throws everyone into a kind of blender of love. And everyone acts insanely," he said.

The next few minutes were a jumble, with Moscone, Hiatt and Childress filling in details of the plot while fielding a phone call from a missing actor, who was stuck at the BART station. "She's from Georgia, so she probably got lost," Moscone quipped. His off-hand remark is exactly why Inside Scoop is fun: everyone eats ice cream, everyone laughs, and no one

worries about doing too much of either activity.

A common question Moscone hears about *Much Ado* is, "How can this play work?" Stocked with twists and incongruent behavior, the play's a quagmire of feuding and egotistical posturing. "I say to them: 'That's exactly how love works. Emotional turn-arounds are very quick.'" He paused, then added, "And it's a very Italian play."

The audience waited for explanation, at which point, Moscone delivered his comic *tha-thump*: "We've just hit the limit of what I know about Shakespeare..."

Hiatt chimed in, saying, "It helps so much—that Italian thing..." He left the thought floating, digressing to describe the struggle he has had with the character's fierce outbursts. "I tried for three weeks to find a way with Leonato. Finally, I figured, that's just who the father is."

Shifting to a discussion of the role of the Friar in the production, Moscone called *Much Ado* "very New Testament." He said directing the play hasn't made him want to return to church, "but it convinced me of the belief in redemption."

And with this deeper subject, the second payback for attending Inside Scoop began. The three men spoke of pride, and how it drives everything in the play. They talked of men, burdened with the respon-

sibility to "fix" situations, and women, equally weighted by a society that prevented them from taking action. "I cannot be a man for wishing," Moscone said, quoting a line the character *Beatrice* speaks in the play.

Moscone is clearly fond of *Much Ado*, comparing it to screwball comedies of the 1930's. "I love adults acting insanely ridiculous," he said. "It's about men who don't know how to behave outside of war." He used the words "succulent, stylish, witty," before lapsing into silence.

An introduction of the costume and set designs led to a confession: "[People ask,] why are you changing the words?" Moscone said, "Well, because I'd be run out of town!" The racial and ethnic terminology, unremarkable in Shakespeare's day, is no longer overlooked by today's audiences.

The closing Q and A was brief. The audience was assured that favorite actors will appear, Hiatt's new beard was grown for a single line, and *Dogberry* is in. Moscone said it's fascinating that "Dogberry, the one who's most witless, gets his job done."

Much Ado About Nothing, the final production in the outdoor theater company's 2010 season, runs September 22 through October 17. For more information go to www.calshakes.org.

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Fall Fun in Moraga

The Pear Festival is over, but Oktoberfest is yet to come

By Sophie Braccini



Trent, Madison and Kim Watkins of Moraga enjoyed the Pacific Coast Band during the Pear Festival beneath the shade of an umbrella.

Photo Lee Borrowman

As everyone in Moraga knows, the Pear Festival is as much about having a great time in the park as it is about pears. Although the harvest is long past, you can buy pear pies and set your best pear recipe against the competition, but what really counts is the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful Moraga Commons Park, listen to good music, meet old friends, eat good burgers and watch the kids jump themselves silly in the inflatables sponsored by the Moraga Women's Society.

Walking the festival this year, you might have discovered a piece of beautiful local art, or joined the

recently incorporated Lamorinda Dogs, Inc., founded to promote off-leash activities in Moraga, or met the candidates for the upcoming Town Council election; while the Pear Prince, Festival chair John Haffner, drove by in his golf cart-like vehicle. It was all good fun under a blazing sun; you could feel the pulse of the community.

Emerging at the Festival was Moraga's next hot crop, wine grapes; the Lamorinda Winegrowers Association poured wine by the glassful, giving people a taste of the local vintage.

Many seemed to enjoy the

Pacific Coast Band, composed primarily of Lamorinda residents, which played super hot 80's pop rock while parents listened from their camp chairs and kids danced joyfully on the lawn.

2010 being an election year, you may have noticed the "Pear Political Pavilion," a recent tradition in Moraga. Incumbent Council member Dave Trotter had a table where supporters were handing out an informational flyer while the council member mingled with the crowd. Challenger Seth Freeman staffed his booth himself, along with his campaign manager - his son, Matthew.



Lamorinda Dogs

Photo Ohlen Alexander

The challenger-duo, Dennis and Eleni Wanken, were expected but did not make it. "We had planned to go, but somebody ran into our security gate last night and we had to stay home waiting for the repair company," said Wanken by phone. The candidate believes that the damage was probably the result of an accident rather malevolence. Mayor Ken Chew opened the Festival and then walked around meeting residents.

Oktoberfest!

The next opportunity for genial family fun in a gorgeous setting will be the annual Moraga Oktoberfest

at the Hacienda de las Flores on Sunday, October 10, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Live music will be provided again this year by Big Lou's Polka Casserole band - the name alone piques the curiosity. Bratwurst and other sausages from Saag's, plus authentic German foods and beverages, will be available for a nominal charge. Activities for children will include inflatables, pumpkin painting, and chalk drawing.

It was the Hacienda Foundation that first envisioned the Moraga Oktoberfest; the Foundation is a volunteer organization that raises money and works for the improvement and

beautification of the historic Hacienda. "We invite the Lamorinda community to come enjoy the festivities and to see the recent improvements that have been made to the Hacienda," said Foundation president Claire Roth. "The facility is truly the Crown Jewel of Moraga, and it is wonderful to see it used so happily by the community."

The Hacienda de las Flores is located at 2100 Donald Drive. Free parking will be available in the Rheem Shopping Center on Moraga Road, and a free shuttle will take Oktoberfest visitors between the parking lot and the Hacienda.

LYNN'S TOP FIVE -

FINANCIAL PLANNING DAYS - Great planning help -- for free!

By Lynn Ballou, EA, CFP®

It is my great honor to have been appointed by the CFP® Board in Washington D.C. to be one of seven CFP® Ambassadors serving across the country. A large part of my new role involves communicating local financial planning opportunities of great benefit for Bay Area residents as they arise. One incredible opportunity is coming up soon in October: Financial Planning Days.

Over the years many of you have asked me what you can do to help your friends and family who need solid financial planning advice, but don't have a lot of resources. Whether it's our own family members, friends, or won-

derful service providers, there's no shortage of those who could benefit from great financial planning assistance. This upcoming event is an amazing opportunity for those you care about to receive some very personal and extremely knowledgeable financial planning counsel at no cost.

Four non-profit organizations --- the Certified Financial Planning Board of Standards Inc, the Financial Planning Association® (FPA), the Foundation for Financial Planning and the U.S. Conference of Mayors ---have joined together to bring this important event to our communities. This ground-breaking program is designed to unite the

collective resources of the financial planning community and city governments nationwide to assist Americans in need of financial guidance through a series of free Financial Planning Days events. Here are the Bay Area dates and locations:

- SATURDAY OCTOBER 2nd**
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Oakland City Hall
- SATURDAY OCTOBER 9th**
10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.: Sunnyvale Public Library
- SATURDAY OCTOBER 16th**
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.: San Francisco - UC Hastings College of Law

As taken from the CFP.net website about the Oakland Financial Planning Day, here are five great

reasons to attend, or to encourage someone you care about to attend, and instructions for signing up.

1) Why Attend? Personal financial planning is essential, regardless of age or income, and it is vital to meeting life goals, such as buying a home, paying for college or achieving a secure retirement. There are millions of Americans with pressing financial questions that need answers, and unfortunately, many have not had the opportunity to discuss those questions with competent and ethical financial planners.

2) What to expect? Each local Financial Planning Day will feature highly qualified CERTIFIED FI-

ANCIAL PLANNER™ professionals and experts from the Financial Planning Association®, all volunteering their time and expertise to provide free one-on-one counseling and classroom-style educational presentations addressing key personal finance topics. Best of all, there are no strings attached - volunteer financial planners will not sell products or services, give out business cards or take down names.

3) How much time can I really expect to have? So far over 100 CFP®s and FPA® advisors have signed up to volunteer just for the Oakland venue alone. According to Oakland event coordinator Leslie Biggers, a financial advisor in Benicia, over 200 folks attended last year, and they are expecting and hoping for twice that number this year. Since the Oakland event lasts 7 hours, this should provide every attendee an excellent opportunity to have one on one meaningful counseling time.

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5) How to sign up, what to bring. Free registration for Oakland Financial Planning Day, as well as the other Bay Area Financial Planning Days, is quick and easy. Simply complete the online registration form. They will not sell your e-mail address or use it for any purpose other than communications about Financial Planning Day. Walk-ins to the Financial Planning Day are welcome, but admission will be granted first to those who have registered online. Since they expect a

large crowd, I encourage you to register early. Sign up at: <http://www.financialplanning-days.org/Content/Home.aspx> Follow the directions and you can sign up on line.

So, if you, or anyone you know, could benefit from access to highly qualified financial planners, this is an event not to be missed. You can obtain more information at www.cfp.net. In the middle of these challenging economic times, it's a great chance for those who could benefit from personal assistance to receive information and ideas at no cost. I'll be attending at least one of these events. If you are there, too, please come up and say "hello!" I hope that I will become a more known voice on this topic, helping consumers seek the guidance and counseling of CFP® practitioners and other highly qualified advisors to achieve their life goals through proper management of their financial resources.



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

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Pacific Coast Band Rocks the Commons



What do you get when you mix finance, construction and teaching? In this case, it's the Pacific Coast Band. If you happened to be at Moraga's Pear Festival last Saturday morning, you probably found yourself bopping to their beat.

Band members Sid Luckenbach (drums) and Per-Olof Persson (keyboards) are from Orinda, bass player Jim Murray is a Moragan, and guitarist George Von Giese lives in Lafayette. The band got together a year and half ago when Luckenbach, Persson and Murray met through their kids' LMYA activities. Like most not-quite-famous musicians, the band members all have day jobs – Luckenbach works in the financial services field,

Murray is in construction and finance, Persson is a math professor at Cal, and Von Giese is a transportation consultant. Add in vocalists Darvin Hinkle and Cielo Voz, and you have a rockin' '80's+ cover band that was happy to play at the Pear Festival. Luckenbach says, "We are all very passionate about our music and appreciate the opportunity to perform locally. We love to play music from the 80's since that is when we all went to high school and college and we get a lot of requests for that music!"

To learn more about the Pacific Coast Band go to www.pacificcoastband.com; reach Luckenbach at 878-9974 to book the band for your holiday party. *L.Borrowman*

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Moraga Art Collective Celebrates in Orinda

By Lou Fancher



Moraga Art Gallery members

Photo Grace Chung

urer, provided recent history and her thoughts on art in the year 2010.

"There are 18 members: five are 3-D artists and the rest of us are wall artists," she said. "All 18 artists are participating in the anniversary exhibit. Since we've never done the Orinda Gallery space—and it's a large space—we have a lot of participation."

Swartz explained that members pay a one-time fee of \$80 to join the collective. There are 5 shows each year: all members contribute a \$60 fee for each show. They also work one five-hour gallery shift per month.

Facts and figures covered, Swartz moved on to the purpose of the Moraga Art Gallery: "It was started to try to be a community outreach organization. We had *First Friday's* where artists would set up and give talks about photography and other kinds of art. If we had more interest from the community, we'd start it up again, but that just hasn't happened."

Like many in the area, she mourns the changing tide, saying, "There's a private school in the Lamorinda area where the P.E. is every day, but the art is only two and a half days. And that's in a private school!"

At the same time, the gallery's location in the Rheem Center sends a reinforcing message almost daily. "Because people are depressed by the time they walk by the black, empty windows of the shopping center, when they get to us, they're so happy to see art," she said. "And we're in a good position, because Comcast rents the space and allows us to exist rent-free."

It's news worthy of special mention, in this day of dog-eat-dog commerce. Comcast uses the space for non-commercial storage and, instead of leaving the front portion vacant, makes it available to the gallery.

"But all of our publicity, insurance, phone bills, electricity and

the rest, are paid for by the artist-members," Swartz says. "We'd like to revamp our display areas," she adds, "but that will take a while."

To reach that goal, and to build upon the gallery's past, Swartz looks to the community. "I think it would be interesting for Saint Mary's College art students to be a part of the gallery. As part of their education, they could be guest artists with the gallery." Co-hosted events with Campolindo High School and local arts organizations would be welcome, too, according to Swartz.

To show its commitment to the community, the gallery recently re-joined the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. The artists continue to display work at Moraga's Terzetto Cuisine and participate in the Pear Festival and library exhibits.

The anniversary exhibit gives the public a unique opportunity to see the full breadth of the gallery's offerings. Like a farmer's market, local artistic production will be on display. And on October 9th the creators, homegrown cultivators of imagery in glass, ceramics, photography, jewelry and paint, will be on hand to meet their visitors.

The opening reception will be held on October 9th, from 3-5 p.m. For more information about the Orinda Library Gallery event, please call the Moraga Gallery at (925) 376-5407, Leslie Swartz at (925) 376-9060 or email leslieswartz@hotmail.com
 Website: www.moragaartgallery.com



Jane by Bob Wahrhaftig (acrylics on canvas)

The Moraga Art Gallery's 10 Year Anniversary celebration is so large, they're moving the party—and the art—to Orinda's spacious Library Gallery.

Eighteen member artists in the collective will begin to mount the show on October 3rd, the official start date. A public reception on the 9th of October will allow the community to meet the artists and share in the gallery's rich history.

The Moraga Art Gallery opened on September 26, 2000. At that time, there were 45 artist members. Operating under the umbrella of the Lamorinda Arts Alliance, the gallery was a collective, where members participated in the daily operations, group and individual shows, and special events. In past years, the gallery held popular gatherings, featuring demonstrations and lectures on art.

With changes in the community, the economy, and the actual membership itself, the gallery's profile is evolving. Leslie Swartz, a member and current board Treas-



Pottery by Donna Arganbright



Sushi set by Nancy Slack

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Republic of Cake at Home in Orinda

The moment we've all been waiting for – Chef Chih Fang shares a recipe!

By Susie Iventosch



Ava and Amanda enjoy cupcakes and milk on a sunny Saturday afternoon.

Photos L. Borrowman

Just the thought of cake puts a smile on my face! I am not sure if it's because it tastes so delicious, or if it's a happy reminder of cheerful celebrations, but I do love cake—especially with frosting. This is precisely the reason my friend and I wandered into Republic of Cake after a recent lunch outing.

Inside the shop, we found two more smiling faces. Proprietors Peter McNiff and Chih-Chung Fang loved the idea of cake so much, they completely changed careers to open the Orinda cupcake business last December.

When cupcake chef Chih Fang graduated from Cal with a degree in molecular and cell biology, he was pretty excited about the future. He took a job in a lab, diverting DNA into bits and pieces to study the presence of enzymes, or some such technical stuff. He had really enjoyed all of it in theory, until he found himself working in a lab eight hours a day. To make his days more enjoyable, he decided to learn how to cook and looked forward to the end of each workday, when he could scour his favorite markets for interesting things to create for dinner.

"As a molecular biology student, I didn't have much time to cook," Fang said. "I always liked to bake, but it was always out of a box, like Duncan Hines."

When he finally decided to learn to cook real food, he said he took a very scientific approach. He would pick up things like arugula and rosemary, take them home, and start experimenting.

"Half the time these experiments turned out great," he commented, "but the other half... not so good!"

One time, he says he took country style pork ribs and wrapped them in foil with rosemary, soy sauce, garlic, and scallions and cooked them for about an hour in

the oven. Success! He rather enjoyed this dish. Then, wanting to learn more about different meat cuts, he bought a London broil and threw it in a pan with handful of arugula and garlic. He sautéed the meat to an inedible, tough texture, and the arugula caused the dish to become much too peppery.

"It was terrible, so I threw the whole thing out and opened a can of soup!" he remembers.

Every night Fang tried something new. He absorbed himself in cookbooks and always enjoyed looking at glossy food photos.

"The best part of my day was looking forward to going home to cook," he said.

Eventually, he knew he had to change careers and began handing out resumes to restaurants in Berkeley.

"But no one ever called me back because I had no restaurant experience," he pointed out.

Until the day he had the good fortune of being offered a one-day try out at Rivoli Restaurant in Berkeley. He worked as a pantry chef on the salad and dessert lines. At the end of the night, they gave him dinner and sent him home.

Fang waited for a couple of weeks, but never heard any news about his try out. Then, one day, he got up the nerve to call the chef on the off-chance she had forgotten about him, and in fact, she had. The molecular biologist landed his first paid cooking stint!

Chih Fang said he was really not very good in the beginning, but after six months or so, something clicked and he knew he was on his way to becoming a bona fide chef. Still, pastries and baking called to him and while working full-time at Rivoli, he spent his days off as an intern at Chez Panisse to learn more about the fabulous world of desserts.

"Chez Panisse was great," he said. "The desserts were basic, not

complicated, but they used only the best ingredients. Because they were so basic, they wanted perfection, and I really learned to refine my skills."

Meanwhile, Peter McNiff, a longtime telecommunications consultant, was becoming disenchanted with his career and after one miserable day of work, he joked to a group of friends that some day he was going to open a cupcake shop.

"Everyone laughed," Fang said. "But soon thereafter we went to a party and I took cupcakes, which set the stage for a serious look at running a cupcake business. I was skeptical, but Peter was dead-serious."

And so, after all the regular hassles of formulating a business plan and finding a location, the molecular biologist and the telecommunications expert followed a dream that landed them in Orinda's Theatre Square. As a result, one can always see many smiling faces brushing in and out of the Republic of Cake to pick up a delectable morsel of happiness!

"Life is too short to do something you don't enjoy," Fang said. "We have really enjoyed establishing our business in Orinda, and the community has been great to us – very supportive!"

*Every month Republic of Cake selects a different children's charity to support by contributing 10 percent of the sales from Sam's Very Messy Chocolate Cake. This cupcake is dedicated to Peter's son, Sam, who passed away last year at age 12. He loved to eat and enjoyed this messy chocolate cake most of all.

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Susie can be reached at suziven@gmail.com

Many of our readers like Susie's recipes. Our website now features a link to our recipe page where you can read, print or download all of the recipes we have published. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at 925-377-0977

Chih's Orange Cardamom Cupcakes with Honey Whipped Cream

Makes about 14 servings.

CAKE INGREDIENTS

- 1 stick unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 3/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons finely grated orange zest
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cardamom
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup fresh-squeezed orange juice
- 1 tablespoon heavy cream

CREAM INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 teaspoon orange blossom water, almond extract, or vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoon orange blossom honey



Cupcake chef extraordinaire Chih-Chung Fang mixes up a batch of chocolate frosting.

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Mix butter, sugar, and zest (lightly packed) on low speed using the paddle attachment until even, then on high until light and fluffy. Scrape down with spatula periodically to even out mixture.
3. Combine eggs and vanilla in a separate container. Switch mixer to medium speed, and gradually add eggs to butter mixture, only adding more when the previous mixture is well incorporated.
4. Stop mixer, and scrape down bowl and paddle with rubber spatula. Beat on high until mixture is smooth and fluffy again. Stop mixer.
5. Put flour, salt, baking powder (sift or use a sieve to get rid of lumps), baking soda, and cardamom together in a separate bowl. Whisk by hand to combine. Combine juice and 1 tablespoon cream in measuring cup.
6. Add 1/3 of the dry ingredients to the butter mixture and mix on slow until there are just a few streaks of flour left.
7. Then gradually add in 1/2 of the juice mixture and mix until just mixed in. Stop the mixer and scrape down the bowl and paddle.
8. Repeat steps 5 and 6, and then 5 again.
9. Stop mixer and scrape down bowl and paddle one more time. Use spatula if necessary to give batter a mix to make it even.
10. Divide batter amongst 14 paper-lined cupcake molds.
11. Bake at 350 degrees for 15-18 minutes, until the tops feel firm to the touch but still soft and spongy.
12. When cooled, gently remove cakes from pan.
13. In the meantime, combine heavy cream, extract, and honey in clean bowl.
14. Whisk until the mixture forms stiff, but slightly drooping peaks. Towards the end, add more honey to taste as necessary.
15. Serve cupcakes with a dollop of the whipped cream.
16. If you'd like, you can garnish the cupcakes with a drizzle of honey, a bit of freshly grated orange zest, or a light sprinkling of cardamom.

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Lamorinda Schools

Special Needs, Special Families

By Lou Fancher



Kent Grelling and Margie Ryerson Photo Lou Fancher

Close to 40 people gathered at Orinda Books on September 20th to hear two invited guest lecturers speak about the impact of special needs children on marriage, siblings, and family balance.

Parents of Orinda Individuals in Special Education (POISE) sponsored the event. It was the fifth public evening in the organization's 18 month history devoted to the critical issues families with special needs children encounter.

After a brief introduction by Anna Tague, a co-founder and vibrant spokesperson for POISE, Margie Ryerson, a marriage and family therapist in Orinda and Walnut Creek, was the first expert to speak.

Ryerson focused on siblings, placing emphasis on open, honest communication. She encouraged parents to offer repeated, deliberate explanations to their typical children about the experiences the special needs sibling is facing. "Don't wait for your children to approach you to talk," she advised.

Ryerson said "siblings often feel they have to make up for the disabled child's disabilities." Sur-

prising many in the audience, she encouraged complaining. "We all complain," she said. "I had one client who had told her typical child, 'Stop complaining, you have a good life.' But siblings of special needs children need to be able to talk about their worries and anxieties too."

Furthermore, she instructed parents to have concrete expectations of their special needs children.

Fighting between siblings is not big news, but when one child is disabled, parents may jump in too early. "Try to let them settle their differences on their own," Ryerson said. "Your special needs child needs to learn how to be strong, to be assertive. The best arena to do that is at home, with their siblings."

True one-on-one time is key to successful parenting in any home, according to Ryerson. "But it's not watching them at piano recitals or at games. You need to get with that child and do something totally devoted to them. That's what they remember later."

If nothing else, Ryerson reminded the audience, siblings of

special needs children must have a full life, too. "They need an escape, just like you do," she said.

Kent Grelling, PhD, currently practices in Orinda and serves as the Director of Counseling and Student Support at Bentley School in Oakland. When POISE asked him to speak, he realized that although he knew a great deal about children with autism and related disorders, he didn't know exactly how autism affected marriage.

Popular, main-stream media has picked up on celebrity statements claiming that 90% of marriages with children in the autism spectrum end in divorce. Like any good researcher, Grelling studied the studies. He was surprised at the lack of studies, but referred to research showing only a 1% difference in divorce rates between two-parent homes with ASD children and those with typical children.

Despite the encouragement his comments provided, Grelling was clear that parenting a special needs child is demanding, stressful, and often leaves parents feeling incompetent. "You can get by parenting by the seat of your pants in standard situations," he said, "but when you have a special needs child, everything requires attention and a lot of forethought."

The biggest problem goes against today's you-can-fix-anything message. "You're faced with a problem that actually isn't solvable," Grelling said. And because parents are dealing with an abundance of conflict on a day-to-day basis, he said some marriages do last, but research indicates they are often less than satisfying.

"Two people can be pushed

to polar opposites by a problem that really can't be solved," he said. Couples blame each other, attributing the struggle to their partner's alternative style, instead of to the less personal, but still painful reality that life with a special needs child offers no "best way" answers.

Grelling did offer suggestions: be respectful in disputes, find time together without the kids, develop outside interests, share the management and care of your special needs child, and have a sense of humor. While the last instruction is a stretch for couples in deep trouble, Grelling says, "Without it, it's going to be hard to cope."

Questions at the end of the meeting ranged from how to be fair, in a family situation that is inherently unfair, to when to seek therapy. Ryerson advised not trying to make it fair. "Kids need to know that's impossible," she said. Calling fairness a "false premise," she said cultivating empathy between siblings is the best way to reduce competitive fighting.

Grelling said reducing the contact works too. "If I had to live with my co-workers day in and day out, I'd have trouble, too," he joked. "Give your child a systematic way to deal with the special needs child, that way, you don't have to rush in and solve every drama."

As often happens at POISE events, the Q and A eventually shifted from the guest experts to a more circular, communal conversation centered in the audience. A strong interest in forming sibling support groups arose, and the evening ended with Tague, and many in attendance, promising to continue the discussion through the network that is POISE.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Acalanes Union High School District Board Room AUHSD Office 1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette Wednesday, October 6, at 7:30pm	Orinda Union School District OUSD Office 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda Monday, October 11, at 4pm
Lafayette School District LAFSD Office 3477 School Street, Lafayette Wednesday, October 13, at 7pm	Moraga School District Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga Tuesday, October 12, at 7:30pm

Special: Orinda School Board Candidates Forum, Thursday, October 7, 7:30pm in the Multi-purpose room at Glorietta Elementary School, 15 Martha Road.



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Limited Fall Openings

Let's Set the Record Straight about Early College Applications

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Fall is the time of year when the hype about early admissions programs always begins to grow. There is so much confusion, misinformation and misuse of early admission programs that students, counselors and parents can begin to wonder whether it is wise to wait for the regular admission cycle. Let me assure you that applying regular admission is still a viable option and often preferable for the majority of students. My goal in this article is to explain the fundamentals of early programs and offer some suggestions to consider as you decide what is best for you.

There are three types of early admission programs: Early Decision (ED), Early Action (EA), and Restrictive Early Action (Restrictive EA). Most institutions that offer ED permit students to apply to only one ED program. Most schools will allow students to apply EA to other institutions, but with the agreement that if they are offered admission they will accept and withdraw their other applications. Generally, students can

only be released from their commitment if the financial aid package offered by the ED school is not sufficient to attend. One problem students and their families sometimes encounter is an ED offer of admission without a financial aid award. Families are in a bind when they withdraw their other applications only to learn that they are unable to afford the ED school.

Early Action programs allow students to apply during their early admission cycle but are non-binding—EA programs do not require the students to accept admission, and applicants can apply to other schools during regular admission, but rules vary regarding whether or not students may apply to more than one EA school. It is best to carefully review each school's policy.

Restrictive Early Action programs go by various names, but essentially they permit EA applications with limitations. Some restricted EA programs only permit students to apply early to one school, while others allow early

applications to other EA schools, but not ED schools. All restricted EA programs allow students to apply regular admission to other institutions. Students can consider all their admission options and financial aid awards and they have until May 1st to decide what college or university they will attend.

Are There Advantages?

Some institutions maintain that there is a slight advantage in the admission decision if a student applies early. A very desirable applicant may be rewarded for showing an early interest in the college. Desirable candidates exhibit some combination of strong academics and extracurricular activities as well as other qualities that are highly sought after by the institution. These can include legacy, ability to pay, student match with the mission of the university, special talents or abilities. Other institutions have maintained that it is harder to be admitted in the early pool of applicants. The rule of thumb is to know how each school views early applications. Regional admissions officers are

the best sources of information about this issue. Identify this person and ask about your chances for early admission based on your current profile. Then follow the advice you receive.

Other advantages include reduced stress during the senior year by early acceptance to one (or more) institutions and the opportunity to spend more time revisiting schools, and investigating opportunities that exist at schools where you have been admitted.

Are There Disadvantages?

Early admission procedures preclude the advantages of showing an additional full semester of coursework, submitting enhanced test scores from November or December test dates, and demonstrating other recent successes that may strengthen an application (for example, being awarded a team captain position or compiling data and results from a summer internship). Students develop at a rapid rate during the high school years and often show amazing growth in the senior year. That means many students can benefit from the extra

time they need to build successes and consider their options more carefully. No matter how exciting it may seem to envision yourself at a particular university, it is not wise to underestimate the value of this time.

Taking these considerations into account, I strongly recommend that you consider applying early only if you meet the following conditions:

- You are a top student in that school's applicant pool
- Your first senior semester will not enhance your application (think about this carefully—why would highly qualified students not want colleges to see their performance for another semester? What message does this send to your colleges?)
- You and your family are certain you do not need to compare financial aid awards and you can afford to pay the bills

Early programs were originally designed for top students in an applicant pool to hear early from their top choice schools, leading to better, more informed

decision-making in the spring. They were not created with the intent that all applicants would use the option (Boston College, 2010). Bear in mind these recommendations as you consider your application options.



Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D. is an educational consultant and certified college admissions advisor. Her goal is to help students and their families understand the admissions process, research college and career options, create a customized college list and submit a strong and cohesive application. Dr. LaScala is a member of NACAC, WACAC, and HECA and earned a certification in College Admissions and Career Planning from University of California at Berkeley. Contact her at (925) 891-4491 or elizabeth@doingcollege.com.

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Campolindo Orchestra Going to China

Submitted by Carola Ziermann



Photo submitted

The Campolindo High School Orchestra has been afforded a tremendous musical and educational experience with an invite from the Chinese Ministry of Culture and the International Fine Arts Institute to perform in Beijing, China during Spring Break 2011.

The Orchestra will perform at three different venues in Beijing, with an audience of up to 1800 people. Music Director Harvey Benstein is going to

prepare a selected western program with his students.

"I'm sure any parent whose student went on the St. Petersburg, Russia trip with our Symphonic Band in 2007 will agree what a great opportunity this is for our young musicians. This promises to be another musical and cultural experience of a lifetime," says Benstein.

Fund raising activities will be established by student committees and the Campolindo

Music Boosters organization. Students are already exploring options like Rent-A-Student and playing at the Farmers Market among other places. The Music Boosters are approaching foundations and companies with ties to China who may be willing to sponsor a student or to help cover some of the other costs associated with the trip. They are also looking for support from the community.

"The challenge here is

also the logistics of the instruments. Students who play cello or bass can't possibly take their instrument on an airplane, so we need to rent these large instruments in Beijing and get them on-site," says Sue Carlson, who heads the Music Boosters' fundraising committee for this trip.

For more information on the Campolindo Orchestra and their China trip, visit the website www.campomusic.org.

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Continued School Success in Lamorinda

By Cathy Tyson

It's that time of year again, time for the annual Academic Performance Index (API) scores prepared by the California Department of Education. Continuing Lamorinda's usual excellent educational tradition, the numbers document the quality of schools in the area, among the best in the state.

API numbers can range from 200 to 1,000 - with a California target level of 800, the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) scored 899. Of the three area high schools, Miramonte racked up 930, Cam-

polindo 920 and Acalanes 898.

"The Acalanes Union High School District remains the highest performing high school district in California," said AUHSD Superintendent John Stockton. "The continued academic success of the students of the Acalanes Union High School District is a great reflection of the commitment to a quality comprehensive instructional program by our educational community. Dedicated students, committed staff, caring parents, forward-thinking civic leaders, and our supportive communities continue to make our

district a special place for students."

Academic Performance Index numbers are compiled based primarily on the performance of public school students in grades 2 - 11 that take the California Standards Test each spring. Keep in mind these stellar scores were made against a backdrop of serious budget challenges in the 2009- 2010 school year. Educational foundations and community support helped bridge the gap.

Check out all the California test scores at www.cde.ca.gov/ta.

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Olive Festival and Auction Coming Up

Wagner Ranch Nature Area Turns Olive

By Sophie Braccini



Toris Jaeger inspects young olives

Photo Ohlen Alexander

An ancient fruit: Olive oil has been used throughout history for everything from ensuring good health to religious and cultural ceremonies, including the anointing of Olympic athletes, babies and dead people; a well-rounded fruit, the olive. Olive tree cultivation is said to predate the written language. Although native to Asia Minor, mythology has it that the goddess Athena gifted the olive to the Greeks. Franciscan missionaries brought the olive to California, planting not only missions but olive orchards as they made their way northward. Move over, California wine - California olive oil is the new hot topic. Get ready for all

things olive!

"The Wagner Ranch Nature Area's heritage olive grove was planted by California's first Surveyor General, Theodore Wagner, in the 1880s," says Kathy Barrett of the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area (FWRNA), which will host the first annual Olive Festival at Orinda's Wagner Ranch Nature Area on Sunday, October 10th from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The festival is free and will offer fun for all ages, including a silent auction to benefit FWRNA's educational program.

FWRNA has a fundraising goal of \$15,000 for this event, which will be used to preserve the 40-year tradition of offering hands-on

activities to teach Orinda children about our environment and how early residents lived in harmony with nature. Several local artists are donating enchanting works to the auction, including a hand-painted silk art quilt by well-known quilter Grace Kaplan; a Susan Kendall landscape painted exclusively for the Olive Festival; and a giant snail - a whimsical garden sculpture by Eileen Fitz-Faulkner and Susie Parr.

Brentwood's McCauley Brothers Olive Grove will bring different olives and olive oils for tasting at the festival. Cooks can enjoy demonstrations by local restaurateur Mariam Lavecchia, of Trattoria Lupetti, and Savory Affairs. For the younger audience, there will be games, olive-tasting, tree-planting, music and art, Living History skits and more.

"We will give away little olive trees to those who want to take one home," says Nature Area naturalist Toris Jaeger, who has admired the grove for years and knew of its historical value. She asked olive expert Sean McCauley (of McCauley Brothers) to take a look at the orchard. "Sean was quite impressed with the trees," she said, "he estimated they were worth a lot of money, and once pruned, the bigger ones could produce 2000 to 3000 pounds of olives a year." FWRNA's hope is to one day produce award-winning olive oil, just as the Wagner family made more than a hundred years ago.

Why an olive festival? "Olive trees are symbols of peace and prosperity, but they are also a growing agriculture resource here in California and it is time we celebrate the tree, its crop and its local history," concludes Barrett.

The Wagner Ranch Nature Area is at the southeast corner of the intersection of Bear Creek Road and Camino Pablo. For more information go to www.fwrna.org.

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October 2010 - Digging Deep

Gardening with Cynthia Brian: FALL-ING

“Stand still. The trees ahead of you and the bush beside you are not lost.” Albert Einstein



Japanese Maple is awe-inspiring

Photos Cynthia Brian

We arrived home from Lake Tahoe and couldn't get into our driveway. Half of our magnificent cottonwood tree blocked the road. About sixty feet of branches sprawled across the front yard. A herd of deer, including two bucks, nibbled on the leaves, while ten wild turkeys double-gobbed. Amazingly, it was a clean fall and nothing was broken-not the sprinklers, statuary, or other plantings. We were grateful we had not been home as this is an area where I am always gardening.

My grandfather was not so fortunate. Two gigantic American elms graced his Napa Valley landscape, both infected with Dutch Elm disease. After my uncle's new truck was crushed by a falling limb, my grandpa petitioned the city of Napa for the right to have the trees removed. He was told the trees were protected and endangered. He was not allowed to have them cut down. One clear still day as he was mowing his lawn, the giant elm decided to topple, killing him instantly.

How healthy are the trees on your property? At this time of year,

it's important to prepare for Indian summer heat as well upcoming winter storms. Inspect your trees for disease, dead branches, or split trunks. Get out the chain saw to remedy the situation and stake or anchor trees that could be uprooted or broken by wind. There are arborists in our community who know exactly how to prune, cut, or eliminate aesthetically. Check your local Chamber of Commerce for names of members you can rely on.

Trees fall in storms and trees fall on completely calm, tranquil days. The factors contributing to a falling tree are the character of the wood, moisture in the soil, depth of the roots, accumulation of dampness on the leaves and branches, and ferocity of the wind. Fast-growing trees normally have shallower roots while pines, cedars, and evergreens such as magnolia risk damage because of expansive branching. When the soil is drenched, any tree is susceptible to breakage. Safety of human life as well as the longevity of the specimen rely on arduous attention.

Fall is also the time to enjoy the kaleidoscope of colors in na-

ture's trees. The deep reds we witness are a result of an increase in the sugar content while the yellows are a diminishment of chlorophyll due to the sunny days of autumn combined with the cooler evening temperatures. Although the chilly nights do deserve some credit for the rapid foliage change, the true reason that the leaves change color is dependent on species and environment. Japanese maples, dogwoods, liquid ambers, and some species of crepe myrtle appear flaming while redbud, ginkgo, birch, apple, and larch shimmer in yellows and gold. Oaks change to russet, Chinese pistache herald Halloween with their pumpkin orange hues. If you wander the creeks or hillsides, beware of poison oak as it is one of the most gloriously colored vines of autumn melding crimson, sienna, and scarlet. As the days grow shorter and the nights linger longer, the biochemical process paints nature's landscape with a sunset palette.

October is the perfect time to buy shrubs, trees, and bushes because the soil is still warm, yet there is moisture in the air to assist with

rooting. In addition, nurseries often offer discounts as they clean out inventory before the winter season. To find the colors you want in your garden, what better opportunity than to see them in their magnificent autumn cloaked splendor? Plan for future energy savings by planting a windbreak of low-crown shrubs which can cut your heating bills by thirty percent. Keep in mind that the distance from your home foundation needs to be two-five times the mature height and that smaller bushes planted within one-three feet will act as insulation.

Gather the falling leaves for your compost pile. The decomposition replenishes the nutrients in your soil. Dispose of diseased or bug infested leaves, such as those that have peach leaf curl, rust, or aphids.

As the growing season comes to an end, collect the seedpods from companion flowers to attract beneficial insects for next year's plantings including dill, caraway, anise, alyssum, marigolds, calendulas, sunflowers, zinnias, hollyhock, and nasturtium. Dry them on cookie sheets or in plain brown paper bags providing plenty of air circulation. Store in paper bags, labeling with name and date. You'll be ready to plant the seeds next spring, and of course, be cautious with the use of pesticides. The goal is to attract beneficial insects, bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds and keep them alive and healthy.

It's also time to plant your winter crops, specifically peas, spinach, lettuce, chard, parsley, and chives, which won't require much sunlight. It's also a great idea to plant a cover crop of beans, peas, or vetch to add nitrogen to your dormant vegetable garden. Your soil will be restocked with the nutrients that were

depleted from this season's crops.

In your flower garden, dig up extra gladiola cormlets. Nick them gently or soak them in full strength bleach for a few hours which will help them sprout when planted. Place in full sun, dug into the ground about two inches deep. Divide your bearded iris rhizomes and re-plant where you need more color. Wait until November to plant daffodils, crocus, and tulips.

Fall is in full swing. Enjoy the colorful show from your hammock. Make certain the branches are healthy and strong while you watch Fall falling.



Bird feeder amidst fall brushstrokes Photo Cynthia Brian

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Cottonwood trunk split and the tree fell

Cynthia's Digging Deep Gardening Guide for October

The ancient Celtic, Christian, and Roman ritual mixed with European folklore marks our Halloween holiday, a day when the dead walk the earth again. Goblins, ghosts, and modern Druids commemorate with costumes, parades, and commercial festivities. Every year I dress up for the trick-or-treaters. Besides the typical witch, cheerleader, princess, and Dracula, I've been a firefighter, pirate, terrorist, superwoman, and Cynthiarella. This year, I am a horticulturist. Don't be too scared...I'll be digging deep!

- Here's what needs to be done in your graveyard, oops, I mean garden in October.
- **PRUNE** your berry vines after you have harvested the fruit for easier picking next season.
 - **ORDER** your spring bulbs from catalogs now for planting in November
 - **PICK** any fruit that has fallen to the ground to prevent insect attraction or disease.
 - **DEADHEAD** spent annuals.
 - **MOVE** baskets and pots to a shady area when Indian summer is hottest.
 - **THROW** two or three matchsticks into each hold before planting bulbs. The sulphur kills insects and enriches the soil.
 - **PROPAGATE** geraniums and pelargoniums by cutting back nonblooming stems and planting in damp soil.
 - **BUY** trees boasting autumn colors now.
 - **STAKE** young trees and prune dead or dried limbs from established ones.
 - **CALL** an arborist to inspect your large limbs and trunks.
 - **VISIT** nurseries to check out the fall selection of plants and bulbs.
 - **CHECK** around your house for fire hazards and flammable materials.
- October is the height of fire season.
- **FERTILIZE** begonias and roses for more blooms.
 - **FEED** your citrus.
 - **TRANSPLANT** calendulas, Iceland poppies, dianthus, forget-me-nots, primroses, Shasta daisies, agapanthus, and daylilies.
 - **FREEZE** or can your extra harvest of fruit and vegetables for winter delights.
 - **EAT** the flowers on your herbs, such as chives, garlic, basil, mint, dill, and other flowering herbs.
 - **HARVEST** the last of your grapes. Add the colorful leaves and vines for a spectacular autumn arrangement.
 - **RAKE** your leaves into a compost pile. Great soil will be ready before the holidays.
 - **PLANT** your new lawns or reseed tired ones now for the fastest, healthiest growth.
 - **DECORATE** your front porch with cornstalks from your garden
 - **PICK** your pumpkins and carve funny jack o'lanterns.



Have a haunted Halloween!
Happy Gardening to You!
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LAMORINDA SPORTS



Junior quarterback Ross Anderson (9) hands the ball off to senior running back John Coupin (33). The Mats defeated Liberty 33-0 last Friday.

Photo David DeSilva

Lamorinda Football Primed for DFAL

By Alex Kozela

With only one loss between them in preseason play, the trio of Lamorinda football teams begin their Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL) seasons with winning records and high hopes. Here's a recap of their previous games as well as a look into the first DFAL action of the season.

Miramonte: After finishing last season with a 6-7 overall (2-4 DFAL) record, the Matadors are primed to reverse last year's disappointment and have begun the new year with a 4-0 start. After defeating Anly and Fortuna 21-7 and 35-21, respectively, Miramonte went on to crush Mission San Jose 62-0 and Liberty 33-0. The Matadors open DFAL

play Friday at Acalanes. The Dons have won four of the last six meetings between the two schools. Players, coaches, and administrators from both schools will wear pink at the game, which is dedicated to breast cancer awareness. Students are encouraged to wear pink as well.

Campolindo: The Cougars also finished with a losing overall record (5-6, 3-3 DFAL) last year, but, like the Matadors, have started this year in fine fashion with a perfect 4-0 record. They defeated Albany 21-6 on September 3 to begin the season and then went on to defeat Mt. Eden 35-14. Their first league game is Friday at Dougherty Valley and comes after 34-13 and 49-

18 wins over El Cerrito and Oakland, respectively.

Acalanes: The Dons' attempt to start the season 4-0 for the first time in over 15 years was squashed by Healdsburg, who defeated Acalanes 44-13 last Friday. Nevertheless, the team still possesses a positive 3-1 record going into league play, which begins Friday at home against local rivals Miramonte. The Dons, who finished with a 5-6 overall (4-2 DFAL) record last year, will look to build on solid performances against Ygnacio Valley, who they defeated 9-0, Hayward 10-6, and San Marin 21-0, as the team only allowed six points in its first three games of the season.

The Miramonte High School Football team sponsored a local youth sports night Friday, September 24, 2010 at the game against Liberty. Youth who wore their team jerseys (OYA, OBA, MOL, and CYO sports participants along with swim club members) were admitted free to the game when they were accompanied by a paying adult. The football team was available to meet the young fans after the game. "We are hoping that the community at large will come out and support our team this season," said the Miramonte Football team marketing parent Stephanie McConnell.

Lafayette Youth Earns Medal in the Pacific Grove Triathlon

Submitted by Cathy Martensen



Like his fifth grade friends at Burton Valley Elementary School, Reider Martensen spent the summer competing on multiple sports teams including soccer, baseball, and the LMYA swim team. In addition, Martensen also trained for the Pacific Grove Sprint Triathlon. The triathlon took place on September 12, and consisted of a quarter-mile swim, 12.4 mile bike, and a two mile run. He has raced in many triathlons before, but this was the longest race he's attempted. As the youngest athlete (10) among the 630 participants, Martensen was very excited to race with his mom at such a popular event. He finished with a time of one hour and 19 minutes and is looking forward to beating his time when he races again next year.

Photo Cathy Martensen

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



Synchronized Swimming: An Inside Look

By Lou Fancher



A lift: Marisa Tashima launches off of Suying Rothrock, fellow WCA and 13-15 National Team member. Photo Miles Tashima

Marisa Tashima is a champion athlete. The Lafayette

sophomore, a 14-year-old Acalanes student, trains four hours, five days

a week—and six hours on Saturdays. She's a swimmer/runner/gymnast/dancer/water polo player-equivalent and an all-around cardio queen: she's an Aquanaut.

The Walnut Creek Aquanauts, a nationally-ranked synchronized swimming team, has produced eight Gold Medal Olympians. Started in 1968 by Sue Alf, the team has won over 200 national and world titles. This August, at the Pan American UANA Age Group Synchronized Swimming Championship in Peru, the Aquanauts placed first in the team, combo and duet categories. Tashima swam in each of those events and also won the individual silver medal in the solo competition.

"When I was little, I wanted to do gymnastics, and swimming and soccer," Tashima says, demonstrating her enormous appetite for athletic competition. "My mom went online and found synchro."

Tashima remembers her first year in training as a chaotic one. "There were a lot of people and I didn't know what I was doing. My first routine was an alley cat rou-

tine in a bright green suit." It sounds cute, until you hear the team's weekly training regimen: running, stretching, strength training, sit-ups, pull-ups, push-ups, core work, and laps in the pool. And all of that followed by drilling routines and perfecting figures, the fundamental technical skills required for the sport.

"I have to have a big breakfast," Tashima says, when asked how she fuels the daily four hour work-outs. "I eat eggs, spam, bacon, rice, hash-browns, sausage—" she pauses. "I'm hungry all the time. I have lunch at school, then I have second lunch when I get home. And a big dinner after practice too. I'm into short ribs, steak, tri-tips."

She's also into flamingoes, a position in which one leg bends to the chest, while the other extends perpendicular to the water. "Flamingoes are worth the most in competition," she explains, "so you want to do well on them." Seated on a sunny bench in her backyard, she describes the movement, then

adds, "It would be easy, if it was fast, but you're supposed to go so slow that it's hard and be so high in the water that it hurts."

If slow speed and position height are two challenging aspects of the sport, it's lung capacity that pushes synchro-swimmers into the endurance category. "I don't think people think it's that hard, because it looks so easy. But it's supposed to look easy, or we wouldn't be good," Tashima says. Like ballet dancers, synchro swimmers perform miraculous physical feats; all masked with grace and absent the grunts allowed on a football field. "But our routines have intricate patterns, matching other bodies, and precision," she emphasizes.

Solid coaching is what Tashima says has led to the Aquanauts' success. "Tammy McGregor—she coached the 2008 Olympic team—she knows how to coach. She's always positive. For me, she says, 'It's just synchro,' when I'm at a big competition. She works with me on spinning and my posture in the water."

In 2009, Tashima went to

Serbia for the Comen Cup competition. "It was my first time out of the country," she says. And this year, the Peru competition provided another opportunity to meet swimmers from 13 different countries. "There's a big trading thing at the end of the meet, and because we got first, lots of people wanted our signatures, pictures and our warm-ups. I felt a sense of national pride, because they thought of us, not as a club, but as representing the U.S."

Tashima says synchro can lead to a job with Cirque de Soleil, or work in films, like the upcoming Pirates of the Caribbean movie. She's more likely to turn her attention to a career in math, science, or medicine, but that doesn't lessen her ambition for the coming year. She plans to work on her technique, and apply her formula for staying cool and collected in competition: "I take three calming breaths, and I have three messages I tell myself. It's just synchro. You can do it. And team. 'Cause even when I'm alone in the water, my team is all around me."

Equestrian Rider Participates in Junior Olympics

Submitted by Susan Loria



Kelly Loria has been riding horses since she was seven years old. She has been training as an equestrian rider with Heidi Riddle since she was ten.

This summer her hard work paid off and she qualified for the team (Area VI California & Hawaii) – Kelly went to Kentucky to compete in the North American Junior Young Rider Championships. In a Cinderella-type story she and her off-the-track thoroughbred, Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds, won both the Individual Gold and Team Gold medals. The Championship is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as the Junior Olympics for riders ages 15-21.

Photo provided (source: Brant Gamma Photos)

Lafayette Equestrian Wins National Titles

Submitted by Shoshana Mark



Erica Mark completing her victory lap at the Canadian Nationals.

Photo provided

Erica Mark won a national title at the prestigious Arabian National Horse Show in Regina, Saskatchewan on August 17th. Erica won her title in the 13-and-under Hunter Pleasure discipline on her horse "A Time to Dance." She won another national title in a similar event and a reserve championship title (first runner-up) on her English Arabian horse, "Botox," winning against competitors in the

17-and-under class.

Mark progressed to the national level by earning local and regional qualifying points at equestrian events throughout the northwest region, the Arabian Horse Association, Region 3. Different rules and standards apply to each class of competition, depending on the event and age of rider. Mark qualified in the youth division.

Mark is a senior member of the show-team of "Earthquake Arabians," a competitive group of young equestrians located in Clayton. Although her three Arabian horses are trained and groomed by seasoned professionals, Mark spends her weekends riding, taking advanced lessons and caring for her horses.

Mark lives in Lafayette and is a freshman at Acalanes.

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Girls' Tennis Rivalry Match-Ups

9/14/10 Miramonte 8, Acalanes 1

SINGLES:

1. H Andersen (M) def. Jorgensen 6-4 6-0
2. M Andersen (M) def. Karagocev 6-0 3-6 (13-11)
3. McCollom(M) def. Landry 6-0 6-1
4. Wendt (M) def. Koyake 6-0 6-2
5. Reed (M) def. Bittner 6-1 6-1
6. Majumdar def. Chow 6-3 6-0

DOUBLES:

1. Lindsay/Lee (A) def. Alper/ B Anderson 6-3 6-4
2. Ehringer/Galindez (M) def. Grant/Yang 6-0 7-5
3. Straughn/Engstrom (M) def. Chen/Bauer 6-3 6-1

9/16/10 Acalanes 2, Campolindo 7

SINGLES:

1. Wedlake (C) d. Jorgensen 6-4 6-3
2. Karagocev (A) d. McCue 6-2 6-2
3. Shapiro (C) d. Landry 7-5 6-4
4. Faulkner (C) d. Koyake 6-3 7-5
5. Barabi (A) d. Huberts 6-4 3-6 (10-7)
6. Perrella (C) d. Bittner 6-3 6-1

DOUBLES:

1. Korich/Orwig (C) d. Lindsay/Lee 6-1 6-3
2. Hill/Stone (C) d. Chen/Bauer 6-3 6-0
3. Nefdt/Clark (C) d. Boltz/Leibowitz 6-2 6-2

Head Coach Brad Rieser commented, "Without a doubt, the future of these newcomers is certainly a bright one, bound to help take Acalanes to a new higher level"

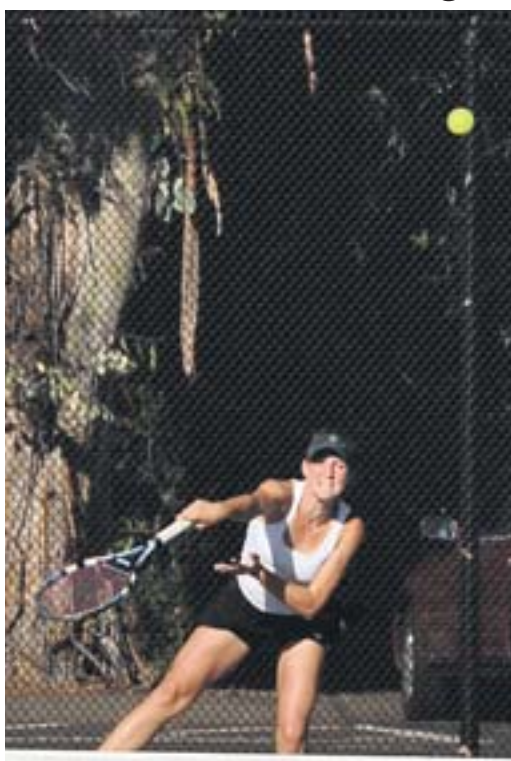
9/23/10 Miramonte 8, Campolindo 1

Singles:

- Kaiser (M) d. Wedlake 6-1, 6-3
- H. Andersen (M) d. McCue 7-6 (7), 6-2
- M. Andersen (M) d. Shapiro 6-3, 6-1
- McCollom (M) d. Faulkner 6-1, 5-7, 11-9
- Wendt (M) d. Huberts 6-4, 2-6, 12-10
- Reed (M) d. Orwig 6-3, 6-2.

Doubles:

- Korich/Hill (C) d. Alper/B. Anderson 6-2, 6-4
- Schulz/Majumdar (M) d. Nefdt/Stone 6-4, 7-5
- Galindez/Ehringer (M) d. Kelley/Perrella 6-4, 6-2



Meg Andersen, Miramonte



Nicole Wedlake, Campolindo



Emily Lindsay, Acalanes

Photos Andy Scheck

Miramonte is undefeated in league play and improves to 10-2 on the season.

"Our Lady Matadors are a very accomplished and experienced team and they bring won-

derful skill and determination to each and every one of our matches. Their focus towards excellence has been impressive so far this season and our record of 10-2 thus far is proof of that. We still

have a lot of work to do to fulfill our team goals for the season and to continue the great tradition of Miramonte girls' tennis," said coach Michael McCollom.

C. Graveson

Orinda Triathlon for Fun and Health

... continued from page A1



Arden Creson Orinda, age 11



Team Jack Matt Ryan in the transition

Photos Ohlen Alexander



Benjamin Delange Orinda, age 10

"Towards the end, I got tired on my bike on the really steep hills. Next time, I would not play a football game before [the triathlon]."

Jack Strong, 11, Moraga

"I had some trouble with my shoes, so that definitely slowed me down. I carbo-loaded: I ate pancakes and I ate 3-4 bananas an hour before to prevent cramps. I'd pace my swim next time, and train for the biking more. And I'd have a lot more water."

Pierce Haley, 18, Orinda

"This year, I tried it just for fun, but next year, I'm going to train for it. I was weak in the biking part. And my legs hurt now."

Kristen Hong, 13, Orinda

"Her legs hurt, but once she heard there were free cupcakes, she could run again."

Hong's friend, Marie-Claire Schillinger, 13, Orinda

"I ran the course with my dad and I went to bed at 7 o'clock to get ready. What was fun? Everything was fun!"

Elouise Engs, 8, Orinda

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Photos Ohlen Alexander

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 04 Issue 15 Wednesday, September 29, 2010

MCC Kitchens Shine for a Cause

By Lou Fancher



Carol and Gerry Tanner's kitchen glows warmly under natural light from the skylight above.

Photos Andy Scheck

To Carol Tanner, the Moraga Country Club Kitchen Tour is a public way to celebrate the happy ending of a total house remodeling project. To her husband Gerry, it's a chance to share the science behind a contemporary kitchen. To Dave Bruzzone, the tour is a deadline and a chance to flex his altruistic muscles. To Sue Olsen, a well-known local Broker Associate and the show's organizer, the tour is a heady-swirl of professional and personal pleasures. And for families touched by breast cancer, the Moraga Country Club (MCC) Kitchen Tour represents hope.

The tour, which takes place on October 7th, from 5:00-8:00 p.m., is a charity event, with all proceeds donated to the Susan G. Komen Race For the Cure®. The non-profit organization is the largest breast cancer charity in the world and a leader in research, education, and advocacy. In 2009, the MCC tour raised nearly \$6,000.

For Carol, the cause is as personal as the kitchen. "I have three sisters, and two of them have had breast cancer," she says.

... continued on page OH4

Do you recycle grey water?

If so, we'd like to hear from you!



Staff writer Sophie Braccini is looking for grey water recyclers for an upcoming article - reach her at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com.



A Julie Zouzounis painting adorns the Tanner kitchen.

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Lafayette - Breathtaking 180-Degree Views in Happy Valley



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Orinda - Fresh and Open in Orindawoods



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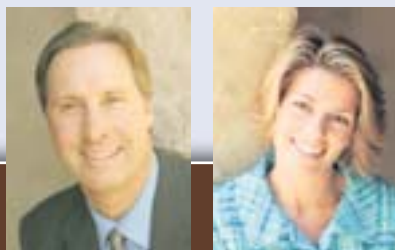
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Moraga - Redesigned and Remodeled in Moraga



This sunny Rheem Valley Orchards home, with cul-de-sac location, offers approx. 2,430 sq. ft. of living area, 4-bdrms., 2 1/2 baths, a detached bonus room, and lovely yard with patio and view.

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

CITY	Last reported:
LAFAYETTE	8
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$755,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,295,000
MORAGA	7
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$430,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,215,000
ORINDA	9
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$980,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$2,100,000

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

- 821 Avalon Avenue, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2340 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 8-26-10;
Previous Sale: \$175,000, 05-20-83
- 3137 Gloria Terrace, \$765,000, 3 Bdrms, 2862 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 8-27-10;
Previous Sale: \$1,010,000, 01-04-07
- 3483 Hamlin Road, \$1,015,000, 3 Bdrms, 2065 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 8-25-10;
Previous Sale: \$443,000, 08-22-89
- 4163 Hidden Valley Road, \$1,129,000, 2 Bdrms, 2364 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 9-2-10
- 105 James Place, \$1,295,000, 3 Bdrms, 1981 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-1-10
- 3137 Mars Court, \$1,130,000, 3 Bdrms, 2009 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 8-31-10;
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 04-20-04
- 3936 South Peardale Drive, \$755,000, 3 Bdrms, 2594 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 8-24-10;
Previous Sale: \$820,000, 12-17-03
- 1031 Windsor Drive, \$940,000, 3 Bdrms, 1915 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 8-24-10;
Previous Sale: \$250,000, 12-12-86

MORAGA

- 1923 Ascot Drive, \$435,000, 2 Bdrms, 1379 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 8-30-10
- 61 Ascot Place, \$543,000, 2 Bdrms, 1455 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 8-30-10;
Previous Sale: \$570,000, 03-03-09
- 1489 Camino Peral, \$430,000, 2 Bdrms, 1265 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-2-10;
Previous Sale: \$482,000, 07-23-04
- 245 Draeger Drive, \$890,000, 4 Bdrms, 2336 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 9-1-10;
Previous Sale: \$480,000, 01-28-94
- 41 Lambeth Square, \$1,070,000, 3 Bdrms, 2392 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 8-31-10;
Previous Sale: \$1,095,000, 05-06-04
- 75 Sanders Ranch Road, \$1,215,000, 4 Bdrms, 3574 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 8-25-10;
Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 05-27-05
- 1891 School Street, \$879,500, 4 Bdrms, 2319 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 8-25-10;
Previous Sale: \$438,000, 07-05-90

ORINDA

- 37 Candle Terrace, \$2,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 3930 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 8-25-10;
Previous Sale: \$975,000, 09-08-95
- 210 Canon Drive, \$990,000, 4 Bdrms, 1956 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 9-1-10
- 12 Charles Hill Road, \$1,050,000, 5 Bdrms, 5755 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 8-27-10;
Previous Sale: \$2,000,000, 08-06-04
- 61 Lombardy Lane, \$1,028,000, 3 Bdrms, 2550 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 8-31-10;
Previous Sale: \$1,045,000, 03-20-09
- 17 Normandy Lane, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 3908 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 8-26-10;
Previous Sale: \$1,750,000, 09-26-03
- 285 Orchard Road, \$1,025,000, 3 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 8-31-10;
Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 05-30-08
- 136 Overhill Road, \$1,100,500, 5 Bdrms, 2339 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 8-27-10;
Previous Sale: \$488,000, 05-15-98
- 109 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 1952 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 8-31-10;
Previous Sale: \$71,500, 06-29-83
- 210 Stanton Terrace, \$980,000, 4 Bdrms, 2463 SqFt, 1932 YrBlt, 8-26-10

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

none recorded



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MCC Kitchens Shine for a C

... continued from page OH4



An open archway leads to Mary and Dave Bruzzone's kitchen.

Standing in the center of her sun-splashed kitchen, she is the consummate hostess: polite, affable, and even a bit shy.

When Carol and Gerry Tanner decided to downsize, they found 171 Cypress Point Way. "We did the whole house; we didn't even live here for 7 months. When we saw the kitchen, we knew we were going to tear it all down and replace it," Carol explains.

The Tanner's are patient, diligent shoppers. "We went from store, to store, to store," she says cheerfully. She points out the double-colored cabinets, (café caramel and Hermosa) and the Brazilian Teak floor. "I do love the cabinets," she says, "it's the hinges: you give them a push and they close slowly, without that "snap!" at the end."

If hardware and appliances are the bones of a kitchen, personal touches are what give it a heart. There is a wine theme woven throughout the room; from

the decorative vine pattern incorporated in wall tiles above the stove, to the central island wine refrigerator, and especially, in the faux painting created by Julie Zouzounis. "The painting is done on canvas, and then adhered to the wall," Carol explains. "That way, you can take it with you if you move." Encouraging a closer look at the art, Carol points out one more feature: "The wine bottle – see the label? The names on it are the names of my son-in-law's relatives."

Neither Tanner claims to be a gourmet chef. "The microwave gets a lot of use," Carol admits, sounding guilty. Gerry takes a bolder approach, opening the microwave door and saying, "That's where I cook, right there."

Family, however, is a major factor in the Tanner's kitchen. Carol considers it a place to meet with the couple's children and their spouses. And it's a place to try new recipes. ... continued on page OH6

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MCC Kitchens Shine for a Cause

... continued from page OH1



The decorative tiles in the Tanner kitchen feature a vine pattern.

"I did fix Linguine with Shrimp and Lemon Oil last week," she says, sounding mildly surprised by her new-found culinary inspiration.

For Gerry, the remodeled kitchen is a laboratory. "The skylight wasn't insulated, and a wall there (now removed) was hideous, blocking all the light ..." he leaves off, allowing a visitor to imagine. It's not the cabinet color that brings out an exuberant side to his otherwise neutral descriptions; it's the R-11 windows, the "really nifty" radiant barrier, and a hot/cold EverPure water filtration system. "You can get an ionizer that makes the water more alkaline," he says, mentioning scientific studies that support alkaline's benefits to cancer patients in recovery.

Having a dream kitchen doesn't mean he must stop dreaming, after all.

The new kitchen at 479 Augusta, a second home on the tour, places the emphasis on accessibility. "It's a kitchen for everyday living," says Dave Bruzzone, who designed the room to have "a relationship with the rest of the house."

The kitchen's open architecture, like a smile, is inviting. Wide, Hickory plank flooring extends

from the kitchen into the adjacent rooms, adding to the expansive, spacious feel. High ceilings and double-sized archways keep sight lines open.

The walls are especially thick: reminiscent of historical, Mediterranean homes in Italy, or Greece.

The Bruzzone house is located in what is unofficially called "the country club extension," a new, 68-lot division in the community. "We started building the house three years ago," Bruzzone says. "Normally, we do a house in 6-9 months. It took a little bit longer because there were some diversions. What you see here is what I wanted to do. I incorporated features of a Happy Valley house I like."

Bruzzone, like the Tanners, is a humble chef. Asked if he will step up to the stove in the new kitchen, he answers, "No." Then adds, as if to right a wrong, "But I eat—and I love it." Bruzzone, still apologetic, says he and his wife, Mary, do watch the Food Channel. "She's a terrific cook," he says, finding a statement he can be proud of. "And barbecue? She's the one for the job."

The griddle in the middle of the stove and the antique bronze faucets and wall tile accents signal an attention to detail in the design. Custom, beveled counter edges and an inset frame-like feature repeated on the honey-colored cabinetry is a bonus. But it's two exquisite hanging lights that make the kitchen unique. Designed by Lights of Diablo in Martinez, their softly curving glass looks as if chocolate has been drizzled from above, and small flecks of gold – especially when the lights are not turned on – catch the sunlight.

Three other kitchens round out the MCC tour. 156 Cypress Point Way features a Wolfe range and a cabinet that opens to reveal all the appliances. 112 La Quinta is the grandest kitchen in terms of size, with a cherry island that seats eight. 585 Augusta Drive is the kitchen for cooks; the footprint is original, but every other feature has been updated.

The 2010 tour is **Thursday, October 7, from 5-8 p.m.** Tickets are \$20 and are tax deductible. Wine, appetizers and resource information will be available at each location. For more information, visit <http://www.mcchometour.com/#1>.



The Bruzzones' range sports a large griddle.

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41 Vista Del Mar

3500 sf custom 4bd/3ba with attached in-law unit on mostly lvl .58 acre in top area with privacy, grassy lawns & total convenience. Warmly styled, architect designed.

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291 Sundown Terrace

Impeccably updated contemporary 4bd/4.5ba on lovely landscaped .96 ac lot, 4396 sf open floor plan, spacious master suite, 2 family rms, 75' lap pool & spa.

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24 La Salle Drive

Fabulous pvt 1/2 acre knoll. Sheltered veranda opens to yard, sparkling pool & breathtaking views. Beaut renovated kitchen w/granite & SS appliances. 5bd incl pvt master suite.

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MORAGA



64 Sullivan Drive

Enjoy stunning 180 degree views of MCC golf course & hills from sunny 3bd/3ba 2618 sf rancher on 44 ac lot. Spacious LR/DR, fireplace, upstairs office, lap pool with spa.

Offered at \$899,000

MORAGA



794 Augusta Drive

The best of the best! Lovely 3bd/2.5ba home on 6th hole at MCC. Beaut remodel, luxurious maaster suite, great outdoor living space w/golf course views.

Offered at \$1,124,000

MORAGA



549 Augusta Drive

WOW - one of the finest fairway homes in MCC w/big, gorgeous views of the 2nd hole. 3424 sf, beaut updated, hardwood floors, new carpet, fresh paint, more!

Offered at \$1,179,000

MORAGA



471 Millfield Place

Big, beautiful traditional home. Updated & expanded w/many decorator & custom features. Andersen windows & doors, den, island kitchen, lavish master retreat, lvl yard.

Offered at \$1,575,000

LAFAYETTE



3363 No. Lucille

Best Lafayette value! Charming updated rancher on huge level lot nr end of cul de sac. Soccer field lawn! Open & sunny rooms, kit w/granite & SS appliances. Large family room.

Offered at \$629,000

LAFAYETTE



3959 Cowan Road

Down a long lane to gated entrance sits a great value for a TLC buyer. One half acre Happy Valley property in prime neighborhood. Endless possibilities.

Offered at \$659,000

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819 Las Trampas Road

Enchanting Lafayette retreat. Custom built 4bd/4.5bath 3548 sf home on gorgeous 1-acre lot in sought after Las Trampas. Country quiet yet steps to town, trail and school.

Offered at \$1,495,000

LAFAYETTE



3724 St. Francis Drive

Beautiful sgl lvl 4bd/2.5ba home in Rose Lane area of Happy Valley. Thoughtfully designed & updated. Lovely yard with vineyard, waterfall, pond, gardens, view of hills.

Offered at \$1,675,000

LAFAYETTE



3891 Palo Alto Drive

\$100,000 price reduction! Happy Valley .75 acre. Great neighborhood, walk tos school. Sgl lvl, updated stunning interior, 4bd/4ba sgl lvl, French doors, hdwd, lovely pvt yd/pool.

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