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# LAMORINDA

## WEEKLY

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Wednesday, October 13, 2010



Acalanes' senior quarterback Mike Leamy (#7) hands the ball to junior running back Joe Dreyer for a touchdown run against Campolindo last Friday. Photo Pam Alsterlind

# Local Football Rivalries Play Out

Miramonte defeats Acalanes who defeats Campolindo; the circle closes on Oct. 22 when Miramonte meets Campolindo

**Quote of the Week:**  
 "Please join us in voting for..."  
 Lamorinda speaks out about the candidates.  
 Read Letters to the Editor, pages A10-A12

By Alex Kozela

"There's nothing like it."

That's how Acalanes quarterback Michael Leamy described defeating his team's arch-rivals Campolindo, 24-20, last Friday in a make-or-break game that could end up being crucial to both team's fortunes.

After losing to their neighbors for the past two seasons and in jeopardy of falling to 0-2 in DFAL (Diablo Foothill Athletic League) play, a determined

Acalanes came from behind to win their first league game of the season and halted their two-game losing skid in the process.

"This game was about coming out and playing hard for four quarters, playing one play at a time, and getting after it from the very first play to the very last," Acalanes head coach Mike Ivankovich said. "We didn't even talk about winning. Accomplishing that is more important than the win."

Yet the Cougars (4-2, 0-2) were the team that looked the sharpest out of the gates, as they went 63 yards on three plays in only the first minute, leading to the game's first touchdown on a Joey Bertrand run.

After the Dons (4-2, 1-1) equalized in the first minute of the second quarter, Campolindo came right back when Derrick Margerum scored on a one-yard run. ... continued on page S3

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## Fire District Faces Serious Financial Pain

By Cathy Tyson

"Service delivery modification" – these three little words are the end result of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District's staggering \$12 million shortfall for the 2010/2011 fiscal year. "We simply don't have enough money in the budget to continue the same level of service," said Fire Chief Daryl Louder.

The Contra Costa Fire Protection District (District) serves 600,000 people via 30 fire stations in a 300 plus mile area from Antioch to Lafayette to Clayton and beyond. Approximately 70% of the District's 44,600 calls for service in 2009 were for emergency medical service.

The ugly truth is that without additional revenue, "There will be draconian cuts to fire service," said Louder, addressing the Board of Supervisors at a recent meeting. With 88% of the District's budget coming from steadily decreasing property taxes across the county – something's got to give.

Reserves are expected to be completely gone by next year. Having cut staff and expenditures as much as possible, the Chief believes the only other option is to reduce personnel which accounts for 85% of the District budget. ... continued on page A4

## Orinda Seeks a Vision

By Andrea A. Firth

Orinda Visioning—what the City has labeled the next step in the downtown revitalization planning process—sounds like a good way to start talking about the future of Orinda's two downtown commercial districts, The Crossroads and Orinda Village. In fact, the City has been at work on developing guidelines to revitalize the downtown for over three years.

The current City Council set the wheels in motion with the creation of the Planning Process Review Task Force (PPRTF) in September of 2007. Hundreds of meetings and report pages later, as the task force's recommendations were working their way through public

hearings held by the Planning Commission, the downtown segment of the report was sidelined by public outcry over a proposal to allow building height to increase to 55 feet in some areas. In response, the City has regrouped and planned two public workshops to provide community members the opportunity to discuss how they want to see their downtown change in the years to come.

The idea that Orinda's aging commercial districts could use a facelift is not new. The City's challenge has been to develop a rational framework to facilitate revitalization that coincides with a vision for downtown that has broad support in the community. ... continued on page A9

## Mike Segrest: An Exit Interview



By Sophie Braccini

Mike Segrest, Moraga's outgoing Town Manager, talks with us about his experience and offers his perspective on what needs to happen for Moraga to remain a great place to live. "The most dangerous thing to happen to Moraga would be that nothing happens," says Mike Segrest, who believes our community is at a turning point. Moraga is a bedroom community with an 85% sales tax leakage. ... read on page A7

## A Conversation with Abraham Verghese



By Lou Fancher

When I called Abraham Verghese for our phone interview to preview his upcoming appearance at Lamorinda's Three Communities, One Book Program on October 26th, I was expecting to wait. He's a doctor, after all, and in my experience, that meant 30-60 minutes thumbing through Psychology Today, or Oprah's O Magazine (guilty pleasure,) before hearing his caramel-toned voice. Instead, he was ready, willing, and most poetically able to answer questions about health care, ... read on page L4

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# Civic News

**Dana Green** Lic. #01482454  
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(925) 339-1918  
DanaGreen@rockcliff.com  
DanaGreenTeam.com  
Lic. 01482454

**New To Market!**

**3161 Stanley Blvd., Lafayette**

**Pottery Barn Charmer!**

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- Great location close to Springhill, Acalanes, Springbrook Pool & Lafayette Tennis Club!

**\$655,000**

*J. Rockcliff*

# Lafayette

Public Meetings	
<b>City Council</b>	Monday, October 25, 7:00 pm Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd
<b>Planning Commission</b>	Monday, October 18, 7:00 pm Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd
<b>Design Review</b>	Monday, 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](http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us)  
Chamber of Commerce: [www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org)

## Police Report

**Lafayette Sucks, 9/14/10** An incredibly articulate, yet unknown party vandalized the "City of Lafayette" sign on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. The vandal added the word "sucks" to the sign. Damage was estimated at \$50. We suggest that Vandal Sucks try to find a more suitable venue to air his apparent frustration – perhaps a Lafayette City Council meeting?

There it is! 9/26/10 A Brook Street resident called Police to let them know he found the bike that was stolen from his garage on August 28. There it was, locked to a bike rack at the BART station. Surely the new "owner" was a bit surprised to discover "his" bike had been stolen. The bike was not reported stolen a second time. We wonder how long the walk home was.

**Not One, Not Two, but Three Cars, 10/2/10** Two Safeway employees and a McCaulou's employee discovered their cars had been broken into in the rear lot behind Safeway. The three vehicles had their windows smashed, were ransacked and items were stolen. There are no suspects but a surveillance video is being reviewed. Total damage and loss to all vehicles is estimated at nearly \$1,000.

**El Charro Gets Exciting in a Bad Way, 10/5/10** After a verbal altercation with a Lafayette man in the El Charro parking lot, a Lodi man pulled a gun out of the center console of his pickup truck before driving away. The Lodi resident was apprehended in Happy Valley near the intersection of El Nido and Upper Happy Valley Road. A 38 special was discovered in his truck, the truck was towed and the man was transported to the Martinez Detention Facility for booking. A message to the gun wielder – "Hit the road Jack and don't you come back no more, no more, no more, no more."

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**New Location**

## Candidates Congregate at Community Center

By Cathy Tyson



Traci Reilly, Don Tatzin, Brandt Andersson and Dino Riggio

Photo Cathy Tyson

Although originally scheduled for the Sequoia Room, an overwhelming turnout made proceeding there impossible, so candidates and guests picked up chairs, complimentary cookies and coffee and moved to the significantly larger Manzanita Room for the candidate presentations sponsored by the Lafayette Homeowners Council.

This helpful, neighborly gesture illustrates the difference between local races and generally more divisive state-wide contests. While Jerry Brown and Meg Whitman duke it out on the airwaves, more civility is required for School Board and City Council candidates that live in the neighborhood, coach your kid's soccer team or are a member of your church.

Following School Board candidates, and presentations on Proposition 22, City Council candidates took turns at the podium highlighting their experience and their platforms if elected. Wrapping up the event were questions and answers that ranged from innocuous – changing a traffic signal on Pleasant Hill Road, to an emotional resident asking if city government is run as efficiently as possible.

Although there were no big surprises, there was a clear divide between more mature incumbents and younger contenders. As expected, well-spoken incumbents Andersson and Tatzin reviewed their qualifications and pointed out their accomplishments over the past four years. Andersson reminded

voters that The Lafayette Library and Learning Center has opened, priorities for obtaining open space have been established, and an unprecedented group effort collaborated to purchase the 22-acre Acalanes Ridge parcel. Tatzin focused on the current financial health of the city: AAA credit rating, self supporting Parks and Recreation Department and a fully-funded city employee defined contribution retirement program.

Newcomers Traci Reilly and Dino Riggio promised a fresh perspective and a new generation in leadership. Riggio, 29, was clearly nervous speaking in public and wasn't specific about what that fresh perspective translated to, but a confident Reilly made points that seemed to

resonate with the audience. She is against the Downtown Specific Plan, calling it "three years and \$2 million on something resident's don't want" and the currently off-the-table Charter City/Property Transfer Tax Measure.

In response to the question regarding running the city as efficiently as possible, none of the candidates answered yes or no. Tatzin acknowledged that the Council implemented most of the recommendations of the Finance Committee, composed of savvy Lafayette business-people. Andersson explained that they may eliminate one engineering position since there have been fewer planning applications, adding that the city is providing services that residents ask for.

Reilly commented that it is reasonable to look at staffing levels and that no one is entitled to a job for life. Riggio agreed with Reilly but also mentioned that the budget was balanced this year with \$500 to spare.

"This is your chance to view democracy in action," said moderator and Lafayette Homeowners Council President Marie Blits in her opening remarks. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 2. New voter registration cards must be post marked no later than October 18. For U.S. Citizens that are over 18 registration forms can be found at most post offices, the library and city offices or go to [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov) to register online.

## Tour of Downtown EBMUD Pathway

Possible future multi-use path

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

With stops from Risa Road to Brown Avenue, a field tour of the East Bay Utility District (EBMUD) Aqueduct Pathway illuminated the challenges and opportunities for this one and a half mile long, one hundred foot wide swath through the heart of downtown. Right now the rustic, weed filled path is unimproved, but it doesn't take an engineer to see that it has a lot of potential.

Funded by a Caltrans grant, the City of Lafayette conducted the site tour and subsequent analysis

on October 2 to determine the feasibility of a bike, stroller and pedestrian pathway with Consultant Ian Moore of Alta Planning and Design along with Leah Greenblatt, Lafayette Transportation Planner, and representatives of EBMUD.

There is an existing use agreement with EBMUD for the right-of-way; but how the pathway might be developed, along with who will pay for it, is all undetermined at this point.

... continued on page A4

# Don Tatzin for Lafayette City Council

### Don's Priorities:

- Protect Lafayette's semi-rural environment
- Fix remaining failed roads
- Maintain Lafayette's strong community spirit
- Manage finances prudently
- Support the library and provide high quality programming for all
- Solicit and respond to the views of residents, business managers and property owners
- Provide needed services to youth and seniors

### What Your Neighbors Say About Don

"Don is one of the most experienced, dedicated and knowledgeable leaders I've ever known. No matter whether the subject is about young children and parks or coordination with our schools or our senior citizens' needs for the future, Don listens so he can offer leadership. I'll be voting for Don Tatzin."

Judy Carney

Former Member, Acalanes Union High School District; Former Member, Lafayette School District Governing Board; Member, Lafayette Senior Services Commission; 2009 Lafayette Citizen of the Year

"Don knows that a vibrant business sector is part of a successful community and has encouraged projects that have made downtown Lafayette more successful and attractive."

Caesar Perales

President, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce; 2002 Lafayette Business Person of the Year; CPA; Lafayette business owner

"Don's idea for financing library operations and maintenance will save the City many millions. Without his help, the library would never have become a reality."

Anne Grodin

Former Mayor; 1999 Citizen of the Year; Founding President of the Lafayette Community Foundation

"With Don's leadership we have been able to strengthen our hillside and ridgeline protections and to move forward with acquisition of open space."

Jeanne Ateljevich

Lafayette Planning Commissioner; 2008 Lafayette Citizen of the Year

### Don's Service:

- City Council member since 1985; Mayor five times
- Co-chair of campaigns to improve roads and police
- Library development, financing, and operations
- School district strategic planning committee
- Contra Costa Transportation Authority
- Lafayette Community Foundation board member

### Join Us in Supporting Don

- |                                  |  |                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Tom Adams                        | Steve Cortese                          | Richard & Anne Jacobberger       | Cathy O'Dea                    |
| Don Anderson                     | Walter Costa                           | Matthew & Marissa Janopaul       | John Otto                      |
| Mike Anderson & Courtney Murphee | Jack Coulter                           | Paul & Deborah Jansen            | Suzy Pak                       |
| Brandt & Patricia Andersson      | Tom Courtright                         | Don Jenkins                      | Marie Parti                    |
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| Patty Battersby & Jim Cunha      | Carol & Doug Federighi                 | Wei-Tai Kwok                     | Ellen Reinjes                  |
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| Geoffrey & Sally Bellenger       | Jim Fisher                             | Gwenn & John Lennox              | Renee Rogers                   |
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|                                  |  |                                  | Peter Zolintakis               |



# Whole Foods Slowly Moves Closer to Completion

By Cathy Tyson



First Lucky's, then Albertsons, hopefully third time's the charm when Whole Foods opens in downtown Lafayette.

Residents wondering what's up with the mysterious construction trailer at the corner of the Whole Foods Market parking lot should wonder no more. Work is slated to begin on the long awaited grocery store in the near future.

"It should open in the early part of next year. We're just awaiting a final building permit from the City," said Adam Smith, Whole Foods Project Manager. "We're very excited."

To the untrained eye, it's impossible to see the massive amount of work it took to get to this point. The original proposal was referred to the City Engineer, Circulation Commission staff, City Traffic Consultant, City Landscape Consultant, Central Sanitary District, EBMUD, Fire Protection District, County Health Department, Caltrans, the Chamber of Commerce and Lafayette Police.

Then there were parking considerations. As reported in

March 2008, the Fire District had increased its space requirements for the fire lanes at the rear of the store. The loss of these twenty spaces made complying with current Municipal Code of one parking spot per 250 square feet of net floor area for retail businesses impossible. There were just not enough spots in the existing lot to accommodate shoppers and employees.

That led to the purchase of a .72 acre employee lot at the corner of Deer Hill Road and First Street. Although conveniently located near the store, the lot is bounded on three sides by roads making getting in and out a potential challenge. This led to traffic studies by both Lafayette and Whole Foods. "This has contributed to the length of the process," said Smith. When complete the lot will meet all requirements including landscaping, fencing and drainage.

Project Planner Lindy Chan

Photo C. Tyson explained the current status, "The applicant is submitting materials based on their conditions of approval and I believe we are awaiting comments from various agencies, such as the health department, central sanitary, Caltrans, etc. The City of Lafayette is also reviewing the plans and providing comments." This part of the process varies and can take up to a month; once the City has signed off on the plans, the Building Inspection Department will review them and issue permits.

In 2011 look for the store to open with its bakery, color-coded sustainability-rated seafood, ready to go take-out meals and not a plastic bag in sight. The new store will also feature outdoor tables similar to the Walnut Creek Whole Foods location. Shoppers can enjoy a slice of pizza outside and the public art that is required under the Public Art Ordinance.

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- 503 Silverado Drive, Lafayette --- Just Sold --- \$795,000
- 75 Jean Court, Moraga --- Just Sold --- \$1,544,200
- 8 Merrill Dr., Moraga --- Just Sold --- \$1,500,000
- 657 Sky Ranch Court, Lafayette --- Sale Pending --- \$1,095,000

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## RE-ELECT BRANDT ANDERSSON LAFAYETTE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor, Lafayette, 2009-present

Councilmember, Lafayette City Council, 2002, 2006-present

Director, Lafayette Community Found., 2005-07

Chair, Lafayette Public Safety Implementation Comm., 1995-97

Chair, Orinda Planning Commission, 1989; Commissioner 1987-89



"Brandt is a thoughtful, insightful councilmember. His grasp of the issues is evident at every turn. I know we can count on him to continue to provide good ideas and to make sound decisions. His gentle, wry wit is a bonus. I am grateful he is willing to serve."

-- Judy Garvens, Former Mayor and Citizen of the Year

**To preserve and enhance the quality of life in Lafayette, we need strong continuing city leadership:**

#### Fiscal Responsibility:

Lafayette balances our budgets, maintains reserves 50% above our target, and holds a AAA bond rating. We continue to provide the level of services our citizens expect.

We need to continue to provide a level of services that we can sustain over the long term;

We must prioritize our financial needs and be creative in seeking additional funding for city projects;

We will continue to balance budgets to sustain our financial reserves and maintain our top bond ratings.

#### Downtown Development:

The new Library and Learning Center has provided a focus for civic activity in downtown Lafayette.

It is critical to continue to support a vital, friendly downtown, by working with local businesses, improving infrastructure and amenities, and long term planning that respects diverse concerns and the significant constraints on our infrastructure.

#### Personal:

Lafayette Resident since 1993  
Parent of Lafayette school children, 1996-present  
Tenor, Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church Choirs  
Coach, Lafayette youth soccer (LMYA), 14 seasons  
Married to Patricia for 38 years, law partners for 13 years  
Linnea attends Campolindo High School  
Erik attends Savannah College of Art & Design

"This is a time when we need leadership that builds collaboration among community groups. Having worked with Brandt in multiple situations, I have seen him create consensus out of chaos. He is bright, cares deeply about this town, and has a vision of Lafayette that I share."

-- Kathy Merchant, Program Director, Lafayette Library & Learning Center Foundation

#### Residential Character:

Despite the economy, Lafayette homes have held their value.

Maintaining the semi-rural character of our neighborhoods and our open spaces is paramount;

We must set and enforce consistent development standards that respect neighborhood character;

We will continue to seek opportunities for affordable housing, especially for seniors.

#### Open Space Preservation:

We have permanently preserved Acalanes Ridge in collaboration with Walnut Creek, East Bay Parks, and Muir Heritage Land Trust.

We have identified open space preservation priorities.

We seek opportunities to collaborate with other agencies and organizations to preserve key open spaces;

We must incorporate hillside and ridgeline preservation and development of creeks, trails, and parks in our land use planning.

#### Professional & Education:

Attorney, 18 years  
Andersson & Andersson PC, Walnut Creek  
McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enersen, Walnut Creek  
Research Scientist, 13 years  
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
University of California, Berkeley,  
Juris Doctor  
Massachusetts Inst. of Tech (MIT)  
Master of Architecture, Bachelor of Science

**Please join your friends and neighbors supporting Brandt Andersson for City Council and give him your vote on November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Vice Mayor Carl Anduri  
Councilmember Mike Anderson  
Councilmember Carol Federighi  
Councilmember Don Tatzin

Former Mayor Tom Cleveland  
Former Mayor Judy Garvens  
Former Mayor Anne Grodin  
Former Mayor Richard Holmes  
Former Mayor Erling Horn

Barbara and Richard Abel  
Alexandra and Richard Abbot  
Don Anderson  
Ann and Peter Appert  
Forrest and Nicole Arakawa  
JoAnne Archer  
Jeanne and Jack Ateljevich  
Ruth Bailey  
Susan Barnes and Richard Dunn  
Don and Joan Beerline  
Geoff and Sally Bellenger  
Larry Blodgett  
Stephanie and Doug Bontemps

Kathy and Rick Bowles  
Conrad and Joan Breece  
Bart Carr and Surinder Kaur  
Terry and Albert Chaparro  
Tom Chastain and Renee Chow  
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Gene and Gretel Holit  
Wally and Sue Holmen  
Dick and Robin Holt  
Scott and Marilyn Honegger  
Jeanne and R. Buckley Hughes  
Don and Linda Jenkins  
Mary Ann Armstrong, Roger Johnson  
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## Lafayette Civic News continued

### Tour of Downtown EBMUD Pathway

... continued from page A2



Consultant Ian Moore addressing tour participants at the first stop behind the Veterans Memorial Building. Photo C. Tyson

The Aqueduct right-of-way is located between Mount Diablo Boulevard and Highway 24.

"Residents and community leaders have seen this site as a great opportunity with significant challenges for years and now we have the resources, thanks to a Caltrans Community Planning Grant, to ask and find answers to the tough questions including how to develop

public access along an aging drinking water pipeline, how to cross busy roadways, how to navigate steep grades, how to tie the pathway into the community, and ask who would maintain a pathway in this location," said Moore.

Back in 2006 the Lafayette Bikeways Master Plan identified studying the Aqueduct as a high priority project, as part of an overall

plan to improve safety and identify and prioritized bikeway needs.

"Our job on this study is to consider all the options and demonstrate what the pros and cons are of the various options so that residents and elected officials can make an informed decision about how to proceed," Moore explained. "We'll be talking with local business owners and residents and hosting a couple of evening workshops showcasing these options in the next several months."

Along the route of the tour, site specific design issues came up at five stops. "We heard while walking the site that folks are concerned about crossing at street level at Oak Hill Road and First Street because of traffic speed and driver inattention even if the trail crossing were to be protected with a traffic signal," said Moore.

Many of the tour participants noted a surprising amount of underutilized space under the freeway near the final tour stop at Brown Avenue. Ideas like a possible dog park, a trail head or an

opportunity for a park were suggested.

The city has a number of stakeholders in the potential project, including EBMUD, Caltrans, East Bay Regional Park District, and BART. "Let's do technical analysis to look at all the possibilities," said Leah Greenblatt, explaining the purpose of the study at the first stop of the tour.

A river runs under it - existing pipes that transport water are under the southern 50 feet of the aqueduct right of way. Moore said that EBMUD is sensitive about soil disruption directly above the large, aging pipes - describing design options as "constrained."

Later this fall there will be focus groups with adjacent property owners and a public workshop. The public is invited to send comments and concerns via the www.lafayettepathway.com website. The Bikeways Master Plan, background information and the opportunity to sign up for future emails can also be found on the website.

### Flip This House, Please

By Cathy Tyson



Interior of foreclosed home prior to floor to ceiling renovation. Photo C. Tyson

From ugly duckling and public nuisance to, many hope, Cinderella after a vigorous makeover. As reported in our July 21 issue, a vacant property near the El Curtola Bridge was so dilapidated that animals were getting inside and the County Building Inspection Department had declared the rotting back deck to be a hazard.

The property was recently purchased by Stan Wahl, a contractor, in partnership with Carolyn Lacy of Contemporary Housing Solutions LLC. They plan to quickly renovate the home and put it up for sale.

The interior has been completely cleaned out and work has begun on updating the four bedroom, three bath home. The sagging rear deck and all the yard debris have been removed.

Although there were a number of substantial liens against the property the pair now has a Quit Claim deed, along with architectural plans that keep the original footprint and roof height. They plan to re-configure the awkward entry to open up the main living space, moving the front door and providing a view straight through the home

to the rolling hills beyond.

The team anticipates the remodel from the ground up will take approximately three months. If all goes according to plan, by the first of next year the foundation will be stabilized, floors leveled, a new roof and new sheetrock installed, two completely new bathrooms and a high end kitchen will be in place - all awaiting potential buyers.

"On behalf of the City and the neighbors we are very pleased that it's progressing so quickly," said Code Enforcement Officer Mark Robbins.

### Fire District Faces Serious Financial Pain

... continued from page A1



Fire fighters leaving the Board of Supervisors meeting Photo Cathy Tyson

In a letter to the Lafayette Homeowners Council, Louder said the District has reduced expenditures by over \$6 million by eliminating 15 positions, controlling overtime, deferring capital purchases and improvements and eliminating entire programs. The International Association of Firefighters Local 1230 has deferred awarded raises until the 2011/2012 fiscal year. The cuts account for less than a 7% reduction in the total \$94,479,673 budget for fiscal year 2010/2011.

"The department is trying to improve efficiency and effective-

ness," said Louder. "It's a dynamic situation - we are trying to maintain adequate coverage," adding that neighboring communities, notably the Moraga Orinda Fire District, will provide mutual aid if a call comes in closer to one of their stations.

Although the new Chief came to simply introduce himself at the September 27 Lafayette City Council Meeting, he received a number of pointed questions about potential station brown outs in Lafayette. Residents were concerned about one of the three stations in town closing, criteria for brown outs, and specifics regarding

District finances.

Resident and municipal employee Brian Smith said, "It gets pretty frustrating and overwhelming pretty quick," explaining that civic workers are giving back 6%-7% salary and have furlough days. "I hope firefighters can make sacrifices like we do."

At a Board of Supervisors meeting the next day, Supervisor Susan Bonilla summarized the problem. "We realize we are facing a crisis here. We can all agree we'd rather not make these choices - property taxes are going down - the consequence is that revenue decreased. We have to figure out the value of safety - what we're willing to spend." To that end the Supervisors will be looking into a parcel tax for future funding.

For now there are no Lafayette fire station closures or brown outs. The Board of Supervisors did approve a contingency funding plan that uses \$8.7 million in reserves and deferred \$4 million in workers compensation. They will be scheduling a Board workshop to discuss options and strongly advocated for a dialogue between residents and the District about budget realities.



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“ Many of you have shared your thoughts on what you want from city government - a Council that listens and responds to the concerns and needs of its residents; discussions and processes that are open, transparent and available to everyone; a Council that is representative of its constituents.

That is why I'm running for Lafayette City Council. It's time to consider other voices and other views as we move into the future.”

**Traci Reilly**

“ Traci will provide a new perspective on the City Council. She is committed to protecting our neighborhoods, preventing rampant downtown development, and ensuring a fiscally prudent City government.”

~ Ivor Samson, Former Lafayette Mayor and Councilman

“ While I was Chief of Police in the City of Lafayette, Traci took an active role in working with the police department to help prevent crimes. Together we met with school and neighborhood groups to hear their concerns. I think Traci would do a great job on City Council and would continue to focus on public safety.”

~ Mike Fisher, former Lafayette Chief of Police

## The Incumbents:

### Wasteful Spending

- Over \$2M in consultant fees and staff salaries spent on the Downtown Specific Plan (DSP).
- The Redevelopment Agency (RDA) “out of business”.\*  
 NO money to revitalize existing businesses  
 NO money to repay loans to the City to fund street repairs
- Millions of dollars wasted on cost overruns on capital projects.
- Projected huge deficits in 3-5 years, in the millions of dollars.\*\*
- No reduction in staffing despite completion of 2 capital projects.
- Council awarded City staff a cumulative 21% salary increase over 3 years.
- The Lafayette City Manager paid 47% and 38% more than City Managers for Moraga and Orinda, respectively.
- City borrowing through the RDA has been with low bond ratings from BBB- to A, resulting in higher interest costs.

\*Per Lafayette Administrative Services Director  
 \*\*Based on March 2010 Staff Budget Projections

### Semi-Urban NOT Semi-Rural

- Amended the General Plan 8 times since 2002 in favor of higher density and increased height limits.
- Support the DSP process which increases the population density downtown by 19%.
  - Per the EIR (Environmental Impact Report), 6 out of 14 traffic problems cannot be mitigated by the DSP.
- One voted for high-density, multi-family/office zoning on the Christmas tree lot (corner of Pleasant Hill and Deer Hill Road) - one of the city's busiest intersections.

### Entrenched and Insular

- Lack of responsiveness to the community.
- Large, vocal opposition needed to get Council's consideration on residents' concerns.
  - Charter City / Transfer Tax
  - The Downtown Specific Plan (DSP)
  - Deer Hill Road, Christmas tree lot
  - The No Solicitation Ordinance
  - Murray Lane Trail
- Scheduling and posting of Council and Commission meetings not conducive to participation by many of our residents.
- Not enough time allowed for community response/input to meeting agendas.
- No consistent policy for Council and Commission notifications via email or postings on the city's website.

## Traci Stands For:

### Fiscal Restraint / Accountability

- Against the DSP and will end needless spending.
- The RDA should repay the \$6 million it owes to the General Fund. The money could then be used to fix roads and drains.
- Adjust staffing and employee compensation to reflect the current economic and funding environment.
- NO on the Charter City proposal and Property Transfer Tax as a way to raise funds.

### Thoughtful Growth

- Yes to the existing General Plan
- NO to a proposed 19% population growth consolidated in the downtown.
- Yes to sustainable growth without increasing height limits.
- Yes to growth in less congested areas such as the eastern end of town.

### A Fresh Voice and Greater Transparency

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I welcome your comments or suggestions. Please contact me at:  
 tracireilly@gmail.com or visit  
**www.tracireilly.com**

Paid for by Traci Reilly for Lafayette City Council 2010



**VOTE for TRACI REILLY!**



# Civic News Moraga

- Public Meetings**
- Town Council** Wednesday, October 27, 7:30 pm  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo
  - Planning Commission** Monday, October 18, 7:30 pm  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
  - Design Review** Tuesday, October 25, 7:00 pm  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
  - Liaison** Friday, November 12, 8:00 am  
Fire Station, 1280 Moraga Way

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

**Police Report**

Police Blotter will be back next time



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- AARP Drivers Safety Course - Tues/Fri, 10/19 & 10/22
- Award winning dessert pie making class – 10/4

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## Five Candidates, Two Seats

Council candidates have very different visions for Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

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Candidates' Night Forum - Tuesday, October 5th 2010  
 presented by Moraga Citizens' Network - [www.moragacitizensnetwork.org](http://www.moragacitizensnetwork.org)

The Lamorinda Weekly video taped the Forum and is offering to watch the video's from here. Depending on your internet performance it might take 15 or more seconds before the video will start.

Welcome and Introduction by John Haffner, Board Member Moraga Citizens' Network



watch video (4min 20sec)

All five Town Council candidates had 5 minutes to talk about themselves and their campaign.



Ken Chew  
watch video (4min 20sec)



Dave Trotter  
watch video (4min 20sec)



Eleni Wanken  
watch video (4min 20sec)



Dennis Wanken  
watch video (4min 20sec)



Seth Freeman  
watch video (4min 20sec)

Questions from the audience answered by all candidates

Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
Do you believe that it's achievable to preserve Moraga's semi-rural character and at the same time be a champion of growth in new residential housing and new business development? What specific things would you do to accomplish this?	What are your priorities for the Town's revenues?	Do you believe the Dollar Tree store would be a beneficial addition to the Moraga community? How would you approach reviewing the Rheem Shopping Center with local businesses?
watch video (8min 20sec)	watch video (4min 20sec)	watch video (4min 20sec)

The Moraga Town Council Candidates Forum can be viewed on our website: [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) and click the link.

There were no snappy exchanges or heated disputes when the five civic-minded residents vying for two open seats on the Moraga Town Council convened at a forum sponsored by the Moraga Citizens Network and the Moraga Movers. The candidates spoke in sequence, answered questions from the audience and made timed statements. Although there were few direct arguments, it was clear that the contenders and the incumbents have very different views on how to manage the town, find resources to fund road repairs, and promote development.

The challengers, Dennis Wanken, Eleni Wanken and Seth Freeman, expressed dissatisfaction with the way public affairs are being run; while the two incumbents, Dave Trotter and Ken Chew, took credit for a balanced budget and the approval of the new Downtown Specific Plan.

At the top of everyone's agenda are the Town's finances and where to find the \$30-\$50 million dollars necessary to maintain the town's infrastructure (roads and storm drains).

The challengers found it easy to criticize the incumbents for not tackling the road problem during their tenure. "We need to find a way to pay for these things that have been deferred not only prior to the last four-year terms, but during these last four years," said Freeman.

Responding to these criticisms, Trotter and Chew presented the work done in 2009 by the Revenue Enhancement Committee as the necessary first step in addressing the problem.

In its preamble the Committee's report notes, "Moraga does not have a spending problem, it has a revenue problem." This was not the opinion of the Wankens or Freeman, who all said that savings would be their first order of business.

"Why are we so focused on increasing revenue when we should have focused on decreasing costs?" asked D. Wanken. "The incumbents had a fantastic chance to initiate pension reform in the town by putting the new Town Manager on a defined benefit plan or a 401K-style plan..." said Seth Freeman, "these kind of pension reforms could save hundreds of thousands of dollars to the town."

According to Chew and Trotter, all possible reductions have been made and new taxes will be necessary to find the money to address the maintenance deficit. Chew emphasized the need to inform and educate the residents, and Trotter indicated that a benefit assessment district could be established, but that voters would ultimately have to decide what quality of infrastructure they want.

Freeman explained that he's not fond of taxation but does not see any way to avoid it. "A sales transfer tax can be a source of revenue to make the capital improvements we require," he said, "there is no better time than when you have a homeowner selling and a home buyer who wants to move in... the actual pain of the transfer tax is not fully felt by the buyer." He added that raising bonds could be a good solution too.

Not unexpectedly, the Dollar Tree question reared its ugly head, as did the issue of revitalizing the Rheem Center. Freeman, who claims a background in commercial real estate and community development, stated that the strategy of Kimco (which owns the Rheem Center) is clear: "their plan is to get rid of the small undercapitalized tenants and fill it (the Rheem Center) up as soon as they can with national retailers, so they can get a good appraisal, refinance it and get rid of it. But we don't control it and that's just the fact."

Trotter noted that he believes that some of Kimco's problems in that center are "self inflicted wounds," probably referring to raised rents that led tenants to leave. He would not comment about the Dollar Tree prior to the Town Council's discussion on October 13. Chew noted that government has no authority to tell an owner what store should open in their property.

Dennis Wanken said that he was "a firm believer in private property rights" and that he was in support of a store that would replace the current vacancies; his wife added that the store would be welcomed by some of the Moraga citizens. She said she talked to residents who cannot afford to buy shampoo at CVS and would be happy to have a Dollar Tree store in town.

Moraga's Specific Plan was another issue on which incumbents and challengers took dramatically different positions. The Plan allows the creation of a downtown area around School Street, the renovation of the Moraga Center, the addition of retail and office space, and the construction of single and multi-family housing.

When Trotter and Chew promised that the next four years will see the start of the plan's implementation, the three challengers begged to differ.

D. Wanken drew a laugh from the crowd when he began, "Using the yardstick of Palos Colorados, I think I stand a better chance of ending up at Moraga Royale before the Moraga Specific Plan is implemented. I don't see (the plan) happening in a four-year term."

"This plan needs a fresh look," stated Freeman, who doubts that the plan would be good in the long term, and believes that planning for workforce housing in the current real estate market is not realistic. He was not more optimistic for the development of new office space; "I see plenty of 'for rent' signs in Moraga... it's difficult to bring professional employees into Moraga."

As the evening came to an end, the candidates presented their qualifications to formulate public policy. E. Wanken highlighted the skills she has developed as a small business owner; communicating with parents, students and employees, as well as her experience on the Board of the Acalanes Union High School District. D. Wanken has a similar profile, as well as 9 years experience as an auditor with the city of Oakland, and served for 5 years on the Board of the Moraga School District. Freeman stressed how his background differs from those of the incumbents; he runs a global company based in Moraga and explained that he has a business approach to issues. He added that his company is a global leader in "ESG" factors: environmental, social and governance. The incumbents spoke of their extensive public affairs experience in Moraga. Trotter has over 20 years of combined community service on the Planning Commission, Town Council and Historical Society; an attorney by trade, he works on land use and environmental issues. Chew has also served on the both the Planning Commission and Council. He is a civil engineer with extensive engineering and project management experience.



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## Mike Segrest: An Exit Interview

By Sophie Braccini

Mike Segrest, Moraga's outgoing Town Manager, talks with us about his experience and offers his perspective on what needs to happen for Moraga to remain a great place to live.

"The most dangerous thing to happen to Moraga would be that nothing happens," says Mike Segrest, who believes our community is at a turning point.

Moraga is a bedroom community with an 85% sales tax leakage. A city like Lafayette has a zero percent leakage; meaning that although Lafayette residents may spend dollars outside of Lafayette, an equivalent amount is spent in Lafayette by residents of other areas. Moraga, with no 'destination' shopping, has to rely mostly on property taxes to finance its operations and only a little over 6% of what we pay in property tax comes back to the Town's coffers (for sales tax, the percentage is about 10%).

Moraga has big financial needs. The operating budget is balanced, but there is no money left to maintain the town's infrastructure. "We would need a few million dollars extra per year to catch up," says Segrest; Moraga's budget is in the \$5 million range.

Segrest does not see reducing expenses as a viable option.

"All the figures show that we are already at a minimum," he adds, "by number of employee per resident, by city budget per capita, we are at the bottom of the pile."

He explains that changing the retirement system for employees from a pension plan to a 401K-type of plan could reduce uncertainties in the long term, but would not change much in the short term. "It would have to be a global shift, part of the general bargaining process," he said. According to Segrest, there is no savings of any sort that will generate the kind of money we need, except perhaps for de-incorporating the town. "But I don't think that the community wants to go back to a time in which planning decisions or police protection are out of its hands," he says.

Segrest does not see a silver bullet solution. "I believe that this town cannot support two suburban shopping centers," he says. "The Specific Plan is a very exciting plan that could create a real downtown with the kind of living and shopping experience that would greatly benefit Moraga's bottom line. For the Rheem Center, a new model has to be found." Segrest thinks that one solution would be to attract a mini-Walmart and create a discount center at Rheem. "Another

solution would be to develop a headquarters center at Rheem. Moraga is a place where many CEOs live; they could headquarter their companies here, like Mycra Pac has done."

Segrest believes that the first place to start is with global outreach to determine what Moraga residents want. "From the recent focus group study we learned that many residents have little knowledge of the town's finances. The next phase is to launch an information campaign with volunteers who will proactively meet with residents, answer questions and gather ideas."

Segrest believes that ultimately measures will be put to a vote. "One possible solution would be a Benefit Assessment District for the roads, like we have for the lights." Residents on average pay \$60 a year for the lighting assessment district and the amount collected is \$250,000. To collect ten times more for the roads, ten times more would need to be asked of residents.

Another idea would be a new property transfer tax. "Right now buyers pay 1.1% tax when they purchase a home, half of it goes to the county, half stays here. We would need to become a Charter city in order to decide for ourselves what percentage we

want to collect and for all of it to stay in town," explains Segrest.

Capturing more sales tax should be a priority of the Council, according to Segrest. "Stopping the leakage would probably solve our infrastructure problem," he states, adding that one possibility could be for the town to invest the Palos Colorado money (development fees paid by Richfield Investment Corporation) in infrastructure or incentives that would foster investment in the shopping centers or attract desirable businesses. For example? "One out-of-the-box idea would be for the town to buy the parking lot of a shopping center with the agreement that the money would go into the renovation of the center," he suggests.

Segrest sees the coming years as key to Moraga's future. He is saddened that family reasons will not permit him to continue working on the projects that he has set in motion, with his staff and with the Council, but he is confident that Jill Keimach is the right person to succeed him. Come November, he will search for the right town management or consulting opportunity. "People who have a lot of experience need to continue to serve our country and help it get out of these difficult economic times," he concludes.

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## From Macro to Micro Economy, and Back

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Chamber of Commerce and Mechanics Bank invite the community to a presentation addressing the business climate in the country, and at the local level. Panelists will address the state of the economy in general, Moraga's economic situation today and the possibilities for the future, the influence of Saint Mary's College on the Town, and the impact of recent measures taken by the Obama administration regarding community banking and small businesses financing.

"I will talk about the state of the town and what the possibilities are for the future," says Town Manager Mike Segrest. "The town does not have a Re-development Agency that could give it the means to be a signifi-

cant actor in the revitalization of the town, but with the constitution of an Economic Development team (soon to be announced), we will be able to do market research and propose enhancements that will contribute to business success."

Tim Farley, Director of Community and Government Relations at Saint Mary's College (SMC), will highlight the economic benefits that the college brings to Lamorinda and probably give food for thought to business people in attendance. "We bring to this area hundreds to people who have never been here before; students, parents, who come for a brief visit or a long stay," says Farley, "they can buy a lunch and fill a tank with gas, or become members of the

community for years."

Dave Wissinger, a Senior Vice President and Portfolio manager in Mechanics Bank's Wealth Management division, where he manages investment portfolios for the bank's high net worth clients, will address the state of the economy today as it relates to Moraga. Scot Cunningham, Senior Vice President of Mechanics Bank's SBA group, will present the Obama administration's new rules as they pertain to community banks and the financing of small businesses.

The free event will be held on Tuesday, October 19th from 5:30-8:00 p.m. in the Soda Center at SMC. Appetizers and beverages will be provided by Mechanics Bank.

## Gordon Steele gsteale@rpm-mtg.com

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# Civic News

# Orinda

## Public Meetings

**City Council** Tuesday, October 19, 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

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

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
City of Orinda: [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org)  
Chamber of Commerce: [www.orindachamber.org](http://www.orindachamber.org)

### • Police Report •

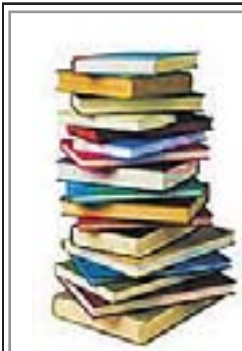


**Purse purloined, 9/26/10** A sixty-something-year-old woman left her Coach purse unattended on an outdoor table at a well known coffee shop on Moraga Way. When she came out with her beverage of choice her bag, valued at \$250 along with approximately \$200 cash, glasses, credit and bank cards had disappeared into thin air.

**Package purloined, 9/30/10** An unknown suspect took a recently delivered UPS package from a Crescent Drive residence. The parcel was last seen in an area outside the garage by the homeowner. She left to go inside for a few minutes, upon her return it was gone.

**Warrant arrest for frequent flyer, 9/23/10** A uniformed Orinda officer contacted the middle aged serial drinker at her home on Moraga Way. She was just getting out of a taxi cab when the officer advised her that he had a warrant and booked her into custody. Penal code 488/666 - petty theft and probation violation.

**Hanging out while stoned, 9/27/10** On El Nido Ranch Road near Charles Hill Road a 28-year-old female was under the influence of drugs after 11:00 p.m. After her arrest, she gave a blood sample and was transported to the Martinez Detention Facility.



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## City Council Candidates Address Development

By Andrea A. Firth

The Lamorinda Weekly asked the candidates for Orinda City Council to provide their vision for development in downtown Orinda. In 300 words, we asked the candidates to address building height, residential space, the proposed senior affordable housing development, parking, and traffic.

**Scott Zeller, M.D.**  
I fully support improving our downtown, but I am for smart revitalization rather than massive development.

Though a task force was created to find ways to "revitalize" our downtown, its report instead recommended "redeveloping" it—calling for raising height limits in certain areas to 55' (or higher depending on roof pitch)—allowing for towering condominium complexes to be built.

This would turn our quaint and convenient downtown into a Transit Village. Once so changed, Orinda will never return to the semi-rural, neighborly, hometown feel that led so many of us to move here.

The development would likely evict many of our favorite local businesses, including some that provide major portions of our sales tax revenues. Parking could be very problematic in the new designs. And though downtown's piece of Moraga Way is an artery for many to eastbound 24, there has been no study as to what redevelopment would mean to that passage, or other traffic concerns.

The current Orinda General Plan is on target, calling for low building heights, unobstructed views of the hills, maintaining a village atmosphere, and supporting local businesses that Orindans need. I believe we should maintain this Plan. We can have new development, including housing, in the downtown area, but it must be consistent with this vision.

Any major change to the Orinda General Plan should be through a vote of our citizens. I have found our residents to be exceptionally intelligent; this is their hometown and I trust them to decide its future.

I believe we can improve on our downtown by embracing what makes us so wonderfully unique - a charming, semi-rural small

town nestled in a bustling metropolitan area. With a little foresight, effort and polish, people will be much more attracted to shop in our distinctive Orinda than yet another cookie-cutter suburb.

**Amy Worth (Incumbent)**

Orinda needs a tailor-made downtown that's vibrant and serves our community's needs. So while we can learn a lot by what has worked and not worked elsewhere, what we ultimately do with our downtown will have to reflect our unique history and our semi-rural character. Most importantly, what we do downtown must be driven by a process that gives everyone an opportunity to be heard and a process that results in a consensus. From my perspective, the choice between vitality and height is a false one. I believe we can give property owners a little more flexibility on height but only in exchange for design considerations that preserve our community's character.

I do support the addition of some senior housing in Orinda and in our downtown. Too often our seniors are essentially forced to leave town because our current housing stock does not provide enough of a variety of housing types. Some senior housing, particularly downtown and close to services like the library, the community center and shopping, will help Orindans stay in Orinda, and I think that is an important goal for our families and it should be one for our city.

Parking too can be enhanced and improved in our downtown and throughout Orinda but equally important is to find ways to make our downtown more pedestrian and bicycle friendly, which can help get people out of their cars and really enhance the charm of our downtown.

**Sue Severson (Incumbent)**

I support an inclusive community process and thoughtful two-way dialogue in establishing the vision for improvements to Orinda Village and Crossroads areas of our downtown. We have all seen the constant turnover of small businesses and the many deteriorating commercial buildings in Orinda. My vision includes significant improvements with added

beautification to the downtown area, increased businesses that serve local needs and more housing options convenient to transportation. Establishing greater flexibility and unleashing creativity in making these improvements in our community by allowing some building height increase above 35 feet selectively up to 55 feet and diversity of downtown housing options can better meet community needs for increased local services providing homes for young families, working professionals and empty nesters. The proposed downtown senior housing project additionally provides for the specific need to provide more affordable housing options for our aging senior population. The same rules and process should apply to the senior housing project as part of the downtown area. The senior project, as well as all downtown projects, is subject to an additional planning review process that evaluates on aesthetic design, context and appropriateness to surrounding areas including height, landscaping, parking needs and traffic impacts. This is a reasonable approach to ensure downtown viability providing enhanced community services while maintaining the charm of Orinda.

Orinda voters have a clear choice this November ballot to select the candidate to entrust with many challenges facing our community including downtown improvements, infrastructure repairs, and balancing a strained budget.

**Dean Orr**

Orinda is a wonderful family community that I want to preserve and enhance. No one wants empty storefronts, and we all want successful businesses and restaurants in our downtown to provide amenities for Orinda residents. That is why I asked the City to schedule public workshops, so that citizens can create a community vision for our downtown, and I am very pleased that the first workshop is scheduled for October 18th.

We must balance the need for a thriving area to meet the needs of our residents, with the historic desire of Orindans to enjoy a natural environment where hills and trees are the predominant fea-

tures. I will protect our natural assets while encouraging new opportunities for businesses and restaurants to serve our residents.

I want to hear the public discussion about new housing. We have already planned for this with the development of the former school district site at Pine Grove, and it makes perfect sense; housing in that location will be close to BART, encourage increased pedestrian activity and local shopping and reduce car trips for residents. Additional housing will provide additional property tax, which is needed revenue to the city. I believe that the community will be proud of the senior housing project downtown and it will provide needed housing for seniors who wish to stay in Orinda.

Of course, we must plan for traffic patterns that take into consideration our narrow roads in need of repair, and we must provide additional parking downtown. I will continue to seek funds for traffic safety improvements and road repair. With my professional background and my experience as Planning Commission Chair, I bring skills and enthusiasm to the council as the community envisions a downtown that accentuates the natural environment and the services and restaurants that Orindans want.

**Thomas McCormick (Incumbent)**

Revitalizing downtown Orinda has been a city issue for 15 years. Prior City Councils created a task force to find a consultant to provide a revitalization plan; the task force recommended hiring the consultant that provided a downtown revitalization plan to Livermore. Money to pay the consultant was not available; therefore, the current Council created the PPRTF citizen task force. [PPRTF = Planning Process Review Task Force]

During more than 150 public hearings, the PPRTF heard many residents request downtown residential units, more parking, a shuttle bus, pedestrian walkways that unites downtown and gardens. The PPRTF took all suggestions seriously and presented a report. I support the public hearings now being held.

... continued on next page

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# Orinda Seeks a Vision

... continued from page A1

At the crux of the current debate is increasing the building height, and residents' feedback on that aspect has been contentious. But there are points of agreement. Pedestrian-friendly, adequate parking, retail that meets Orindans' needs, and retaining the City's semi-rural, village charm are tenets of a vibrant downtown environment that seem universally acceptable. However, residents' views diverge on what this revitalized downtown should look like and how to get there.

With the first Visioning Orinda workshop set for next week, the Lamorinda Weekly met with the creators of the PPRTF downtown recommendations, Bruce Burrows and Clark Wallace, and two citizen groups invested in the downtown planning process, Save Orinda and OrindaVision. Here's what they had to say about their visions for the City.

## PPRTF Downtown Subcommittee—Burrows and Wallace

"We were optimistic, we thought we could make the downtown better for the community, and this plan is the embodiment of that," says Clark Wallace as he points to his dog-eared, highlighted copy of the downtown recommendations that comprise 35 pages of the PPRTF report. Wallace, an Orinda resident for 47 years and a prominent developer in Lamorinda and the Bay Area, worked with another longtime resident, Bruce Burrows, to draft the recommendations which focus on downtown revitalization through a mix of retail, residential, cultural, and office uses.

"What impressed me about the task force was the incredible amount of experience among the members," says Burrows, who has worked in commercial real estate for almost 40 years and has specific expertise in retail leasing. Burrows, Wallace, and nine other residents, including Council Members Tom McCormick and Amy Worth, were appointed to the PPRTF by the City Council following a recruitment and interview process that was noticed and open to the public. Both men believe a revitalized business environment will result in increased sales and property tax revenues for the City.

Some residents have criticized the appointment of two local developers as inherently biased. Wallace believes these comments are directed primarily at him. As the developer of The-

ater Square, which sparked controversy when built, he acknowledges that he fell out of favor with some residents along the way; he is emphatic that he has no plans to develop anything in downtown Orinda again. Neither Wallace nor Burrows currently owns any property in downtown.

Burrows and Wallace have distilled their vision for downtown to three primary objectives: infuse residential units into mixed use housing above retail and office space; encourage redevelopment of outdated and underutilized properties with an expansion in building height; and initiate a coordinated leasing and marketing strategy among property owners.

Both men feel that the addition of buildings with four floors to accommodate two floors of residential space above first floor retail and second floor offices is essential to incentivize retail revitalization and provides housing options for residents and built-in shoppers for retailers. "The current 35-foot building height limit is an impediment to development. It's a deal breaker," says Wallace. The last commercial development in Orinda's downtown was Theater Square back in 1988, according to Burrows. "We're not insensitive to residential interests," says Wallace, and both men stress that the recommendation for increased building height is confined to select areas.

Burrows spoke with many property and business owners throughout the course of drafting the downtown recommendations. Orinda's commercial land is spread across a disparate group of 30 property owners, some managed by family trusts and many who live outside of the City. So far, neither the property owners nor small business owners have actively joined the public discussion regarding the downtown recommendations.

## Save Orinda

Save Orinda is a grass roots operation with a core group of about twenty residents who are unified on retaining Orinda's existing 35-foot downtown building height limit. Scott Zeller is a founding member of the group, which has endorsed his candidacy for City Council. "Endorsement of Scott is one of the ways we feel we can have an impact on the decision makers in these issues," says Owen Murphy, a de facto spokesperson for the group. Revitalization is a mis-

nomer according to Save Orinda's interpretation of the PPRTF report, which they feel is all about development. Collectively the group has been frustrated with the PPRTF process, and they frequently mention that any change in downtown building height should be placed on the ballot for voters to decide. They also feel that the proposal for mixed-use buildings has not been adequately evaluated to determine the impact on traffic, parking, and municipal services. Members' views vary on the viability and appropriateness of infusing residential space into downtown, but based on the retail leakage study recently conducted by the City, they do not believe residential units will bring a meaningful increase in sales tax revenue.

Preserving the City's semi-rural village character is a top priority for Save Orinda—one they feel is inconsistent with taller, higher density, transit-based, mixed-use redevelopment. "I care about the small businesses in Orinda, and I don't want to see them priced out," says Save Orinda member Kent Hagen. In lieu of what has been proposed, the group supports beautification in downtown with changes such as better streetscapes, cleaner signage, and storefront improvements. "We lean toward ad-hoc, market-driven facility modernization, to be negotiated directly between landlords and tenants, within existing building codes [including height]," explains Murphy.

Save Orinda believes a comprehensive survey of all of Orinda's citizens regarding what they would like to see happen in downtown is needed.

## OrindaVision

About a year ago, urban planner Peter Hasselman and local architect Bill Simpson started to share their vision for what a vibrant downtown Orinda could look like. Hasselman's conceptual sketches present a pedestrian-friendly cityscape with attractive public plazas and mixed-use development. Capitalizing on the BART property—reworking the space to support retail and commercial uses and as a connecting link between Orinda's two downtown districts—is a key component of their design.

Hasselman and Simpson have been joined by four other longtime Orinda residents, Ian Baird, Michael Hanneken,

## Orinda Downtown Vision Meeting on 10/18 and 12/9

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. at Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall. 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 December 9th. *A. Firth*

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## Julie Rossiter for Orinda School Board



Logo designed by Aidan Rossiter, OIS student



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### Top Priorities

- maximize school funding and ensure best use of funds
- continue improving and updating school curriculum and resources
- partner with parents, community, teachers and administrators to ensure ultimate goal: providing best possible education for all students in Orinda

### Background

- three children in Orinda schools (ages 12, 10 and 4)
- business litigation and employment law attorney
- legislative representative for Del Rey Elementary to local PTA
- Annual Fund treasurer
- leadership roles in school fundraisers
- classroom volunteer in numerous capacities
- significant experience in negotiation and building consensus to achieve results
- family involved in many community activities

### Endorsed by:

#### All Five Current Orinda School Board Trustees:

- Jack Bontemps
- Matt Moran
- Pat Rudebusch
- Riki Sorenson
- Pam West

#### Current and Former Orinda Elected Officials:

- Glenn Alper, former Orinda School Board Trustee
- Linda Landau, former Orinda School Board Trustee and 2010 Orinda Citizen of the Year

Amy Worth, former Orinda Mayor and current City Council Member

#### Current and Former Parents' Club Presidents:

- Jeanette Broad
- Courtney Chandler
- Katherine Dureault
- Kristen Fenn
- Susan Miller
- Lynn Molloy
- Yosh Neugebauer
- Carolyn Parodi
- Shauna Simmonds
- Danya Stehr
- Kirsten Whipple

Paid for and authorized by Julie Rossiter for Orinda School Board 2010, FPPC ID#1328545

# City Council Candidates Address Development

... continued from page A8

I believe the PPRTF recommendations provide the framework for a plan to create a unified pedestrian friendly downtown with a town center—all within our semi-rural nature. I support increasing the building height limit on specific downslope lots to allow four floors, so long as there are appropriate building step-backs (not boxes), residential units above, more parking, a shuttle bus, and a

pedestrian promenade. Studies show there is less traffic when residential units are above retail.

We currently do not have a plan for downtown; instead, we have an eclectic area with 1950's strip centers that do not accommodate resident's needs, parking or pedestrian walkways for people to enjoy our beautiful city. Creating a downtown plan will result in a unified village center where people can

stroll to visit shops, restaurants and others. An updated downtown will also generate much needed sales tax revenue to fix Orinda's failing roads.

A prior Council accepted money that obligated the city to build senior affordable housing at the old library site. The project needs to be reasonable in size and pushed back from the road, not like what has been proposed.

A City Council Candidate Forum co-sponsored by the Orinda Association and the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley will be held on October 13th. The Lamorinda Weekly will be on hand to cover the candidate forum and hear what the five candidates vying for three Council seats have to say. If you are unable to attend the forum, check out our website ([www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)) the next day to read all about it.

## ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 2nd!



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For City Council

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# Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and town (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less.

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

## Dollar Tree

Editor:  
Last Monday, I attended the town planning commission's meeting discussing Dollar Tree's proposal to open a store in the Rheem Shopping Center. My general impression was that the planning commissioner, Lori Salamack, was going out of her way to appease Dollar Tree (and its landlord, Kimco). The meeting concluded with a conditional approval of Dollar Tree's application — despite overwhelming dissent from the community.

Moraga citizens primarily are concerned that Dollar Tree will: 1) diminish the value of these homes, and 2) create a health hazard for its children and residents. These concerns are serious. They are valid. They are well supported. The overwhelming majority of attendees at Monday's meeting believe that opening a Dollar Tree will harm the value of their homes. One of the commissioners explained that the town would take protective measures and enact special provisions to make sure that the "unsightly" retailer adhere to the town's standards of quality. That the commission has to enact special restrictions to ensure that the Dollar Tree does not conform to its usual "eyesore" standards makes it clear that there is a perception problem for this retailer. Perception matters in real estate — and Dollar Tree is perceived as a low-end, dump of a retailer. Statistics confirm that Dollar Tree is not a store associated with affluent communities. In fact, Moraga median home values are in the very top percentile of the 287 Dollar Tree locations in California. During the meeting, a commissioner testified that there is no evidence that Dollar Tree would harm Moraga home values—however, that commissioner has not bothered to look at the evidence. The estimated paltry sum of \$13,000 in tax revenues that Dollar Tree would contribute to the town coffers would not offset the economic harm and negative perception associated with this store.

Second, a well-prepared resident presented a lengthy list of violations committed by Dollar Tree. There is an indisputable history of neglect by Dollar Tree. Dollar Tree has sold poisonous toys to children; Dollar Tree has recalled hundreds of thousands of cadmium based jewelry toys; Dollar Tree has violated health codes; and Dollar Tree will continue its pattern of seeking profit at the expense of the public. Dollar Tree consistently ranks at the bottom of consumer protection agency rankings and has a disgraceful history of indifference to its customers.

One of the few voices of support for Dollar Tree came from Rheem's landlord, Kimco. This is the landlord that has jacked up rent on two successful locally owned retailers—Lord's Ice Cream and Lori's Swim Shop—forcing them to move to Safeway's shopping center. I fail to see why Kimco's opinion should have any weight when it has demonstrated that it is focused on its own profits and not interested in furthering the interests of the community. It is in everybody's interest to support our local businesses and shop in Moraga's establishments as much as possible. The local, home-grown stores who know my family and children are an important part of the neighborhood, of the fabric of Moraga. We don't need a sub-par national chain — with a long history of product recalls — interfering with what we have here.

Sincerely,  
Jonathan Levy  
Moraga

Editor:  
So, the recent influx of discount retailers is trying to make a further stakehold in our town of Moraga. The holy grail tax of revenues from these retailers that we are opening our empty storefronts to are not to suit our own needs, but are from commuters from surrounding areas, such as Oakland. So much for minimizing traffic and taking care of our own needs, eh? On the daily needs front, Safeway has us, and we must go out of town to seek alternatives, ourselves. Our beloved Longs has gone glittery and gaudy on the outside, without any concern of what we seek for on the inside.

What are we Moragans doing about it? What is the Town Council doing about it? Are they enabling the planning commissioners to act and not follow Salamack's/developer's wishes? Is the Planning Commission without teeth to act in the best interest of its citizens? They express concern, but turn their heads in unison, and act as puppets. Is Moraga doing enough to protect its vanishing quality of life and bucolic atmosphere? Gaudy signs, empty storefronts, declining revenues, declining home values, and we want to approve more commercial/high density housing? Where is the logic here? Where is the basic common sense?

We are fooling ourselves, burying our heads in the sand, and letting others control our destiny.

We can't even take care of what we have - try taking a walk along Camino Ricardo or Woodside without encountering trash, broken tvs and recliners, and overgrown 'landscaping' encroaching onto the cracked sidewalks.

No longer proud to be a Moragan,  
Ferenc Kovac  
Moraga

Editor:  
Rheem does not need a Dollar store, what it needs is a decent grocery store that would challenge our Moraga Safeway. Trader Joe's comes to mind, with St Mary's college nearby, it would seem to be a good fit. Anywhere Trader Joe's has opened a store it brings more business. The only way I can think of pushing for it is to go to their website, click on "About Us" and go to "Contact Trader Joe's", they have a drop down option for "Location Request."

Danièle L. Meilhan  
Moraga

## MOFD Candidates

Editor:  
John Wyro, Director of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District from Division 4, has a demonstrated record of outstanding service since our fire district was formed in 1997. His experience with the fire service began even before the merger, when Orinda was an underserved unit of Con Fire.

As a member of the Board of Directors, he has been very well aware of the fiscal issues facing the fire district and our community. He has been at the forefront of the efforts to reform the pension system. In the face of falling tax revenues, he and the board have succeeded in retaining a balanced budget while maintaining full fire and medical services for our community.

I have had the dubious opportunity to experience emergency medical services both before and since the formation of MOFD, and I can state unequivocally that there is no comparison. Orinda was able to acquire paramedics trained and equipped to provide advanced life support, as well as modern ambulances and fire engines, only after the separation from Con Fire and merger with Moraga.

John Wyro played a large part in MOFD's development and its outstanding reputation today. When re-elected, he will serve as next year's president of the MOFD Board of Directors. He has that combination of experience, fine judgment and the ability to get things done that mark the ideal candidate for that position, and I urge the voters of Division 4 to re-elect him.

Gene Gottfried, M.D.  
Orinda

Editor:  
I support Bob Jungbluth for Moraga-Orinda Fire District Director. MOFD needs change and it needs a director who will strongly represent Orinda and its tax payers' interests. Orinda pays 65% of MOFD's tax revenue but only holds 2 of the board's 5 seats.

Does this make a difference? Yes it does. Right now Orinda is subsidizing Moraga with about \$1 million in the funding of MOFD. This has been going on since the district was formed. The MOFD board has contended that this was equitable because firefighters from Moraga serve Orinda with no reciprocal service. Recent analysis of district operations has determined that this is not so.

Orinda is served by 11 of the district's 19 firefighters. For this it should be paying 58% of the district's \$17.9 million of property tax revenue, or \$10.4 million. Instead it is paying \$11.5 million. Orinda is subsidizing Moraga by over \$1 million this year; it has been subsidizing Moraga since the inception of MOFD; and it is projected to continue to subsidize it by ever increasing amounts into the foreseeable future. This subsidy could triple by the time Wilder is fully built.

I believe that Bob Jungbluth will stand up for Orinda's rights which John Wyro has neglected to do for 13 years. Bob will insist that the inequity question be answered and will press for an equitable solution of the problem working with MOFD, the City of Orinda and the Town of Moraga. We cannot afford NOT to elect Bob Jungbluth.

Steve Cohn  
Orinda

## Moraga Candidates

Dear Editor,  
Dave Trotter is committed to Moraga and I encourage Moraga residents to re-elect him to another term on the Town Council. He has an excellent, 20-year record of service to our Town as a member and Chair of the Planning Commission, a director of the Moraga Historical Society and Moraga Park and Recreation Foundation, as a coach for youth sports teams, and for the past four years as a member of the Town Council and as the Town's mayor in 2009. I work with Dave on the Save Mount Diablo board of directors. He is committed to the preservation of open space and is an articulate and thoughtful advocate for it. He will uphold the Moraga Open Space Ordinance and work to protect other important open space and ridgeline areas in accordance with the Town's General Plan. Moraga needs councilmembers who not only run on a platform of protecting the Town's semi-rural character, but then vote to protect and preserve these values. Dave has consistently done this.

As our Mayor and as a former Chair of the Planning Commission, he has shown the ability to encourage full and open discussion of controversial issues, respecting the viewpoints of all speakers. Through work on the Save Mount Diablo Board of Directors, I have observed his ability to think independently and reason his way through difficult problems. These are important qualities which will continue to serve the Town well on the Council. Please vote to re-elect Dave Trotter to the Moraga Town Council on November 2.

Malcolm Sproul  
Moraga

## Orinda Candidates

Editor:  
I have had the privilege of working with Sue Severson on a regular basis often as co-chairs of philanthropic events. Sue Severson is a woman of uncommon foresight, fortitude, energy, passion who always, always, puts the well-being of our community first. We are truly fortunate to have such a talented and compassionate person willing to represent us as a member of the city council for another term.

Sue deserves to be re-elected for all that she has done to benefit Orinda in her numerous positions of leadership: as our mayor, our school board rep, president of Miramonte Parent's Club, and her endless volunteering. If you were to spend a week following Sue around observing all she does for our city you would be overwhelmed at the amount time she dedicates to our community and the passion and professionalism with which she goes about making a difference. For years, Sue and her family have donated their time and money in a magnanimous and anonymous manner to many worthwhile local organizations, all because they believe it is the just thing to do. In short, Sue has done so much for us and will continue to be there for us well into the future, it is now, our turn to reward her by doing something for her; please join me in helping to re-elect Sue Severson to the Orinda City Council.

Thanks,  
Richard Westin  
Orinda

Editor:  
For the last 6 years, I have had the pleasure of working with Dean Orr, Chair of the Orinda Planning Commission. I write to ask Orinda voters to join me in voting for Dean Orr for Orinda City Council.

Dean is smart, does his homework, and works really hard to listen to all citizens and to build consensus. His background as a community volunteer, and as a designer of both outdoor and indoor living and communal spaces, will serve Orinda well as we work together as a community to create a vision of Orinda, and our downtown, that will serve our residents well today and into the future.

Dean supports the need to work collaboratively with the other local agencies that serve our small city—the fire district and the utility districts—in order to keep our tax dollars and emergency services local and to maximize infrastructure improvements. As the father of two small children, Dean works hard to support our recreational opportunities and our local schools—and he is one candidate who has been endorsed by key school leaders, and most former Mayors.

In this election we have unfortunately seen negative campaigning in statewide races; here in Orinda, it is important to keep our focus on what unites our community, rather than what could divide us. Dean seeks no preconceived outcome, but does have the consensus-building leadership skills to bring us together and to help our city build a positive future! Please join me in voting for Dean Orr on November 2nd.

Victoria Smith  
Orinda

Editor:  
I had the great privilege of meeting Sue Severson while serving as President of Orinda Arts Council (2002-03) and was struck immediately by her depth of character, sincerity, poise, and willingness to hear every voice and concern. Sue balances her volunteerism between civic duties, work in the schools, support for the arts, and family life. Her generosity of spirit and humanity are insurmountable. Our community has been the lucky recipient of her positive presence, practical solutions, and experience. She understands and believes fiscal responsibility as priority and supports ongoing respectful communication between our community members and leaders. Sue Severson is a leader of utmost integrity who richly deserves to be re-elected for Orinda City Council. Please join me in supporting Sue Severson for Orinda City Council.

Elena Pang  
Orinda

Editor:  
The November Orinda City Council election is very important. None of the three incumbents: McCormick, Severson or Worth support a vote by the citizens on having our own fire district (the only way we will get road repair funds) or on keeping Orinda's downtown semi-rural. Let the citizens vote. Incumbent Amy Worth is trying to buy the election with expensive mailings. The incumbents have no interest in restricting the Moraga Adobe development to protect Orinda from a fire storm such as the Great Oakland Fire. Scott Zeller is running for the City Council. He is in favor of retaining Orinda's semi-rural character and opposes raising the downtown height to 55 feet (80 feet to some roofs). He is in favor of letting the citizens vote on major issues such as downtown remodeling and Orinda forming its own fire department. He is in favor of protecting Orinda's history and Orinda's safety in the Moraga Adobe development.

I recommend that you vote ONLY for Scott Zeller in the election. If you feel you must vote for two candidates include Dean Orr.

Clyde Vaughn  
Orinda

Editor:  
Experience, dedication and clear vision; these are the traits that Sarah Butler offers and why we support her for the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees. Sarah has volunteered extensively over the last 12 years at the elementary and middle school level, adding her insight and positive attitude to her positions as the Co-chair of the Las Trampas Creek PTA Legislative Council and on Glorietta and OIS Site Councils. Her personal goals are those needed to keep OUSD on track during the current financial challenges: improving communication and collaboration between parents, schools, district and community; fiscal responsibility, continuing strategic improvement; and attracting and retaining quality teachers. Sarah is a conscientious straight talker who can work on a committee in a constructive manner. She has a unique ability to analyze details while being mindful of the ultimate objective to keep excellence in education alive in Orinda's schools. She makes it her purpose to know all the money facts and instructional programs of Orinda's schools. As a leader on the Legislative team for Orinda schools, Sarah has extensive knowledge of the workings of the school budget situation in Sacramento. She has knowledge, vision and passion to lead OUSD through the financial impacts of the budget crisis on California's schools. Please join us in voting for Sarah Butler on November 2nd, 2010.

Robin Bradley and Vee Hoff  
Orinda


Editor:  
I have known Julie Rossiter in a variety of capacities for more than five years. She has been associated with my daughters' swimming teams and schools. In addition, she has been instrumental in solving school issues. She worked extremely hard on the passage of Measure A, volunteered with the Del Rey Annual Fund Committee, and is currently the Del Rey legislative representative to the Las Trampas Creek Council. Julie is organized, efficient, extremely competent (did I mention she has a law degree), and has an excellent rapport with all of the people she has worked with. Her communication skills, both verbal and written, are excellent. Her best asset may be her ability to cross the divide, and work with those with differing opinions to come to an amicable solution that will benefit the whole rather than the extreme.

In summary, I highly recommend Julie for the position of Orinda School Board trustee. She will prove to be a valuable asset to the Orinda students, teachers, and administrators.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy DeVecchi  
Orinda

... continued on next page





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# Letters to the Editor

... continued

Editor:  
What is Proven Leadership?  
I strongly urge Orinda voters to consider a PROVEN LEADER, Scott Zeller, for Orinda City Council.  
This is a critical time for Orinda. Insider forces want to change the semi-rural nature and village character of our city.  
Scott Zeller has demonstrated an uncommon sensitivity and understanding of why Orinda voters choose to live here. It's more than the excellent schools, the safe, clean neighborhoods, and proximity to a BART station. It's about a semi-rural way of life, a village character to the downtown, and all of the intangibles, which that implies.  
Scott Zeller is the ONLY CANDIDATE asking these questions. Why won't this city council conduct a wide-spread, professional survey of what Orinda citizens want in the downtown? Why does this city council tolerate a Planning Director, who should be a steward of the citizens, serve as the salesman for an insider-spawned, downtown re-development plan? What won't this city council put the Proposed Downtown Plan on the ballot for a vote by the citizens? Why won't this city council listen to Orinda's citizens?  
Scott Zeller has more actual LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE, than any of the other candidates, with more than 15 years heading up a government agency with a larger budget and more employees than the City of Orinda. Scott Zeller knows how to oversee a large organization and how to interact with various constituencies, including unions. He is also NOT a real estate, pro-developer insider. Scott Zeller has pledged not to take campaign contributions from them, and won't be beholden to them.  
Cherish Orinda, as Scott Zeller does.

Owen Murphy  
Orinda

Editor:  
One overlooked function of a city council is to support or oppose legislation in the state Legislature. On February 17, 2009, the council passed Resolution 18-09 by a vote of 5-0 to endorse Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 9 by Assemblyman Jared Huffman. That ACA would have made it easier to raise taxes on Orindans by lowering the voter threshold for approving special taxes from 2/3 to 55 per cent. I voted for McCormick, Severson, and Worth in their last bids for council, but their support for state legislation to make it easier to raise taxes on homeowners in a difficult economy has forced me to withdraw my support this November and I would urge other Orindans to not support them, either.  
Thank you for consideration of my views.

Cordially,  
William Weber  
Orinda

Editor:  
For many years, Sue Severson has brought great energy and resourcefulness to the many challenges facing Orinda. From infrastructure to the arts, Sue has worked to bring the community together to meet these challenges. Sue actively involves all interested parties in the community, listens to every point of view and attempts to build consensus to develop the best plan of action for Orinda. Her approach in public service is to maintain a respectful attitude toward all participants in the process, foster open and responsive communication, and focus intently on fiscal responsibility.  
In her current term on the City Council, she serves on several key City committees, including the Audit Committee, the Finance Advisory Committee, the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee; the Public Works Aesthetics Review and the Lamorinda School Bus Program.  
Our city has benefited greatly from all of her hard work both on our City Council and in her previous role as Orinda School Board Member. Orinda needs capable, responsible City Council members like Sue to keep our city strong. Sue believes that we succeed in maximizing the quality of life in Orinda only through a collaborative effort partnering with the community, schools and business.  
Please join us in voting for Sue Severson for Orinda City Council.  
Thank you.

Mark and Marcie Tuttle  
Orinda

Editor:  
The five of us are former mayors of Orinda and have a continuing interest in our community. Because that interest includes Orinda's future, we are enthusiastically endorsing two candidates, Amy Worth and Dean Orr for the City Council election in November.  
We served on the Council with Amy Worth and know firsthand that she is a dedicated, hard working Council member whose experience will be valuable to the Council as it moves forward with the important issues Orinda faces. Dean Orr will be a new member of the Council, but we have had the privilege to observe him on the Orinda Planning Commission for the past six years. He has been an outstanding member of the Commission and has served as its Chairman the past 3 years. We have been impressed with his fair, open minded and practical approach to the issues with which the Planning Commission deals. He has no agenda except to do what is right for Orinda. We are confident he will be an excellent member of the Orinda City Council.  
Please join us in voting for Dean Orr and Amy Worth.

Sincerely,  
Bill Judge, Joyce Hawkins, Laura Abrams, Gregg Wheatland, Allan Tabor  
Orinda

Editor:  
Voting day is fast approaching on November 2, 2010. We would like to ask the residents of Orinda to join us and give Julie Rossiter their vote of support for Orinda School Board. Julie is an ideal candidate for this important role.  
Julie has lived in Orinda for over 6 years. Her children and family love the schools and community that they have called home. Previously, Julie has

volunteered in the classrooms, as Del Rey Parents' Club Annual Fund Treasurer, Co-Chair of Operations on the school auction, Co-Chair of the annual parents gathering, Representative of the parcel tax campaign, and is the current Del Rey Legislative Representative to the Las Trampas Creek Council. Julie became an attorney and practiced as a litigator in employment law. She will work hard and serve the Orinda School Board well. She has the ability to understand complicated issues. She will negotiate with others in a style that is positive, yet effective to navigate through this difficult time when funding is immensely challenged.

We have known Julie and her family for 6 years. She is the kind of person we want representing us! She is kind, thoughtful, smart, an engaged mother, friend, wife and active member of our community.  
Julie is endorsed by all five current members of the Orinda School Board: Jack Bontemps, Matt Moran, Pat Rudebush, Riki Sorenson and Pam West. Please join us in supporting Julie Rossiter for one of the three open seats for the Orinda School Board. She will serve us all well!

Best,  
Karla and Michael Vukelich  
Orinda

Editor:  
Choose the Right...Vote for Sue  
There are lots of voices that want to be heard in Orinda on any issue, but few choose to step forward to truly and selflessly serve the people. Sue Severson is one of those.  
Sue has helped lead our community through these tight and challenging times, and no one can refute that she has had the best interests of all Orindans, especially our youth, always at the forefront of her agenda and her actions. She has demonstrated this long before her current council term through her many years of dedicated volunteer service on numerous Orinda causes, and is deserving of your vote this election to another successful term on the city council.  
Vote for fairness, honesty, and dedication. Vote for Sue Severson.

Michael & Annette Linney  
Orinda

Editor:  
I urge your vote to elect Sarah Butler to the Orinda School District Governing Board.  
Sarah has worked as a volunteer at all levels to support Orinda schools and to protect its excellent, cost-effective educational programs. For over 10 years, she has served on school site councils, Glorietta, OIS and Miramonte parent clubs, and the Education Foundation of Orinda. That work has given Sarah a broad perspective and understanding of key issues that the Orinda School Board will need to manage to maintain its excellent schools with shrinking resources.  
Having also headed the Las Trampas Education Legislation Team, Sarah is a go-to person about State budget and legislative issues that affect our schools. More than ever, the future of our public schools and budgeting will require sophisticated knowledge about what's happening in Sacramento, and Sarah is uniquely qualified to address the challenges ahead.  
Elect Sarah Butler to the Orinda School Board.

Diane Oshima  
Orinda

Editor:  
Chris Severson is an Orinda native who is passionate about Orinda and its schools. He greatly appreciates the excellent education he received here and is committed to keeping the quality of education high for all current and future Orinda students. Chris will work hard to use our limited resources efficiently and to keep class sizes small. Chris served as Chairman of the Orinda Family Science night in 2008 and has worked on numerous school fund raising projects to bring in additional funds to supplement the schools. Chris will bring great energy, intelligence and collaboration to the difficult task of navigating our schools through the upcoming challenges. In these difficult times, we need leaders like Chris who will listen to the community and work with all stakeholders to come up with the very best solutions for our children.  
Please join us in supporting Chris Severson for Orinda School Board.

Rick & Nancy Booth  
Orinda

Editor:  
I am writing to recommend Julie Rossiter, Chris Severson, and Sarah Butler for Orinda's school board. They are all well-informed community volunteers who have a good understanding of the issues the district faces. Furthermore, they all are focused on student learning and maintaining the excellence of the district.  
School board members need to have a broad view, encompassing all students and all schools. I strongly believe that Rossiter, Severson, and Butler are the best candidates to fulfill this important civic duty. They embody Orinda's values—excellent education for all students.

Linda Landau  
Orinda

Editor:  
In a town that prides itself on its schools and a longstanding tradition of community support, one candidate sees the Orinda School District as a train wreck. In trying times of severe budget cuts, electing a candidate who is angry, confrontational, and arrives with an agenda will sow distrust and disunity, and waste time that should be spent addressing the issues facing the district.  
Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert showed her true colors at the Candidates' Forum on October 7th, flaunting the fact that she is not endorsed by any current board members (nor any Orinda public officials, I note). And it is no wonder, with her abrasive attitude and negativity.  
It appears that Ms. Gilbert has spent substantial sums on her campaign, yet failed to disclose her expenditures to the county elections office by the October 5th deadline -- rather hypocritical, given that "disclosure and transparency" are central to her stated platform. When angered about yard sign limits imposed by the city, she brought in the ACLU to engage the city attorney (at Orinda taxpayers' expense).

We need officials who will roll up their sleeves and work for our kids, not throw punches. Please elect Sarah Butler, Julie Rossiter and Chris Severson for the good of our community.

Jim Landau  
Orinda

## Lafayette Candidates

Editor:  
Lafayette City Council Needs Traci Reilly!  
In the upcoming November election, Lafayette residents will vote to fill two City Council seats. I strongly encourage you to vote for Traci Reilly. One of the impressive qualities of Traci's is her commitment to community service and civic duty. I met Traci through Lafayette Juniors, a women's service organization in town dedicated to helping those in need, where she demonstrated polished leadership skills in several board and chair positions, including two terms as president. For ten years Traci dedicated countless hours that helped people in our community. Whether it was heading up one of our fundraisers for the year (Kitchen Tour and Rummage Sale) or through delivering Meals on Wheels, making comfort pillows for women with breast cancer, making blankets for foster children, and cleaning up the Community Center Tot Lot, Traci worked with enthusiasm and terrific organization.  
In recent years it is evident that Traci's involvement with city issues has taken the forefront of her efforts. Public safety is a major focus as seen through her time spent to increase police staffing, serving on the Crime Prevention Commission, and her leadership in the passing of the solicitor's ordinance.  
Traci has the ability to make everyone feel connected to the community. She is an interested listener and also an effective communicator who has a genuine understanding of the public's interests. Her interest in civic affairs and service is clearly evident and her community experience is solid. Traci is a natural fit for Lafayette City Council, and I encourage all Lafayette residents to vote for Traci Reilly!

Amy Parlett  
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

Editor:  
The Lafayette Homeowners Council Candidate's Night on September 30 ended while residents were still attempting to pose questions. This is an open letter to Brandt Andersson that states what I did not get to say then. The very character of Lafayette is under attack. It has been under attack throughout the entire Downtown Specific Plan process, and it is under attack by you. These attacks, if they succeed, will be irreversible.  
Here are my observations. You feel that in deciding the fundamental character of our town you have the right to totally disregard the views of the overwhelming majority of residents. And you are misrepresenting your record and views during this election.  
When zoning for the "Christmas Tree Lot" diagonally across from Acalanes High School was before the City Council this year, dozens of residents and their homeowners' associations voiced their views. They unanimously opposed multifamily zoning that would allow apartments and condominiums. They wanted to preserve the semi-rural character of this vital gateway to Lafayette, and wanted to avoid exacerbating traffic problems. You belittled their understanding of the measure up for vote, utterly disregarded the sentiments they were expressing, and voted for multifamily zoning.  
With respect to the DSP, repeated surveys and public statement, including from the LHC, other homeowners' associations and dozens of residents, have expressed overwhelming support for maintaining the small town character of the Downtown that is enshrined in the current General Plan. You have not. My involvement in battling the DSP was prompted in significant part by your statement that you favored urbanizing ("semi-urban," you called it) the Downtown. You have consistently supported substantially increased building heights and population densities throughout the Downtown that, if adopted, would dramatically change it.  
Your campaign hides all of these facts. Your introductory speech at the LHC Candidate's Night talked about "keeping an open mind" and listening to residents. You have not done so. You do not respect our wishes. And now, in this campaign you do not candidly state your record or your views.

Eliot Hudson  
Lafayette





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# Letters to the Editor

## ... continued from page A11

Dear Editor:

I urge Lafayette residents to vote for Traci Reilly for Lafayette City Council. There are two seats open on the five-member council. Traci would be a great addition to the Council, bringing her experience, fresh perspective, and commitment to fiscal restraint. She has a deep and broad understanding of city issues and is connected to the pulse of Lafayette residents. Traci's background includes leadership positions in the elementary and middle schools and in philanthropy. She has been Chair of Lafayette's Crime Prevention Commission and helped champion the No Solicitors Ordinance, which was adopted in 2009.

People are generally pleased with the quality of life in Lafayette. However, this past year, the city has been considering major agenda items that could immensely affect the Lafayette we love. The Charter City/Property Tax Transfer proposal and the Downtown Specific Plan both represent controversial issues. The city has deferred consideration of the Charter City proposal until after the election, and the Downtown Specific Plan continues to work its way through public hearings. Given these important issues, rather than re-electing both incumbents, Lafayette residents would greatly benefit from casting one of their two votes for Traci. She wants to see more public outreach and education on the implications of complex proposals. She understands the views of many homeowners who feel frustrated by the process or feel their voices are not being heard.

Traci is an outstanding candidate. In low-profile races, incumbents have a distinct advantage over challengers, who are not as well known. I urge residents to learn more about Traci and where she stands on issues facing Lafayette by visiting her website at www.tracireilly.com. You can also view her impressive list of endorsers, which includes leading homeowner advocates, school and community leaders, as well as former Police Chief Mike Fisher, former Mayor and Councilman Ivor Samson, and former Assemblywoman Lynne Leach. Traci is the right candidate for Lafayette City Council.

Linda Murphy  
Lafayette

Dear Editor:

This year's election presents Lafayette residents with the opportunity to elect an outstanding candidate to our City Council. Traci Reilly is a bright, articulate, and knowledgeable candidate who has much to offer to our city. At age 43, Traci is younger than the current council members, but has a wealth of experience. Her background includes leadership positions in public service and in the school and volunteer community, including PTA Executive Board positions at Lafayette and Stanley, and President of Lafayette Juniors. Traci has been Chair of Lafayette's Crime Prevention Commission since 2008 and helped champion the No Solicitors Ordinance, which was adopted in 2009. Traci is committed to having the Lafayette City Council and city staff serve its residents well. She wants transparency in city government and wants the city to do a better job of informing its residents of important proposals that it considers. People who know or have met Traci are impressed by her understanding of the complexities of the city government.

Traci has earned the endorsements of leading homeowner advocates such as Guy Atwood, Jim Cunha, George Burt, Joe Garrity, Eliot Hudson, Linda Murphy, Marie Parti, Maeve Pessis, Alida Smith, and David Van Etten. She is endorsed by leaders in the school community, including Diane Camporeale, Michelle Chan, Julie Donlan, Astrida Lalor, Francie Low, Ellen Seiler, Pam Severson, and Christine Wang, as well as current and past Lafayette Juniors leaders such as Marci Dublin, Fran Miller, Amy Parlett, and Roslyn Stenzel. She also has the backing of her fellow Crime Prevention Commissioners - Larry Belusa, Rita Charles, Kim Tejada, Tom Titmus, and John Worden - as well as former Police Chief Mike Fisher, former Mayor and Councilman Ivor Samson, and former Assemblywoman Lynne Leach. I encourage voters to elect Traci Reilly to the Lafayette City Council.

Isy Milosevich  
Lafayette

Dear Editor,

As a long-time resident of Lafayette who is frustrated by the conditions of our roads, I am thrilled that Traci Reilly is running for Lafayette City Council. Traci understands that fixing our roads is a priority for residents. She also is committed to reducing city expenditures and considering all finance committee recommendations before asking homeowners and property owners to levy additional taxes on ourselves to pay for road repair.

Last year, the street on which I live was repaved. But because our street was a low priority street on the city's list of roads needing repairs, six of us homeowners had to pay 50% of the cost of repaving. This represented a large financial burden.

Especially given the current economy, homeowners and property owners will benefit from having Traci Reilly on the City Council. In order to fund road repairs, she plans to look first to the city internally to find more efficiencies. Traci also supports repayment of the \$6 million loan from the City to the Redevelopment Agency as soon as feasible, and that it be used to repair our roads and drains. Traci will also work to restore the \$400,000 the

City took from road funding when it received a like amount from the new Waste Management fees, which resulted in no increased funding for roads from such fees. Traci understands the burden that additional taxes would impose upon Lafayette residents and businesses.

Traci Reilly has my vote.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Browne  
Lafayette

Editor:

We urge our fellow citizens to vote for our neighbor Don Tatzin for re-election to the Lafayette City Council in the November election. For the past eight years that we've lived in Lafayette, we've come to know Don as a person who works hard to preserve the best features of our community, improve those that can use upgrading, and make sure the city is managed in a fiscally responsible manner.

We both grew up in neighboring communities and always thought of Lafayette as a place we would like to live some day. After we moved here in 2002 and got to know the city better, we knew we had made the right decision. We love the residential neighborhoods, the restaurants and other downtown businesses, the reservoir, and especially the new library.

Most people probably don't know how much time the city councilors put in on our behalf. We often see Don out in his backyard playing Frisbee with his border collies with one hand and turning pages in his 100-page City Council reading package in the other. Given his long history of serving the Lafayette community, we believe Don has the depth of knowledge and problem-solving ability to help the city make good decisions for all of our benefit.

Sincerely,  
Brian and Teri Fournier  
Lafayette

Other

Editor:

I wrote a short opinion favoring Proposition 19. The first tax I've ever been in favor of. By the end of the week, I received an anonymous letter in the mail. It was 18 large words of potty-mouthed name calling. Something like the most obnoxious kid in the fifth grade would say. There wasn't an intelligent word in it. I don't know if they're mad because I'm against the enormous tax free profits in the drug trade and they are a dealer, or if they are blaming me because their child became a drug addict. Children of people like this are prone to addiction.

Several friends and a neighbor smoked themselves to death with tobacco. It's legal and heavily taxed. Same with alcohol. Cannabis should be in the same category. It's nowhere near as addictive as tobacco.

People are always brawling after drinking too much alcohol. I never hear that about Cannabis users.

A long time ago a young man told me he used heroin because it was cheaper than weed.

Cowardly, nasty letters or not, I'm voting yes on Proposition 19.

Bruce R. Peterson  
Lafayette

Editor:

Orinda's Future Hinges on 2 Nights - Oct. 13 & 18

Like most of us who live here, I truly love Orinda for so many reasons. That is why I'm protective of our city and what happens to it. I'm sure you are, too. Therefore, it is essential that every resident attends the Public Workshop about the Downtown Plan! Please mark your calendars for Monday, October 18, 7-9 p.m. at Fellowship Hall, Orinda Community Church.

The meeting is being listed as a Downtown Revitalization Workshop. It is more about major changes in Orinda's General Plan, ordinances, and zoning. This should be an opportunity for you to be heard.

The Downtown Plan is proposing a jump from the current 35 foot height limit up to 55' - 70' (depending on the pitch of the roof). Can you imagine the 18 foot high buildings on Moraga Way (across from Peets and Lupetti's) razed from existence and more than tripled in height? Where will our human scale downtown go, along with our view of the hills?

Can Orinda be beautified/updated? Sure.

Do we want traffic congestion and years of construction to result in a faux, contrived city in its place? No thanks. Santana Row wouldn't work here. Are we supporting local businesses and the Orinda Theatre? We should be. Big box stores plus Crate & Barrel and the Gap have been suggested. Orinda is unique.

Should there be downtown housing? O.K. but not high condos and offices with underground parking everywhere.

Do we want our City Council and city officials to listen to residents and have a vote by citizens on the direction of our City? Five people on a City Council should not decide for 17,000+ residents who pay the property tax.

So please be there that one night at least!! In addition, Candidates' night for Orinda City Council will be on Wednesday, October 13, 7-9 p.m., at the Library Auditorium. This is the most important election in years.

Your attendance on these two nights about our Orinda could determine its future. See you there!

Ann O'C.-Nye  
Orinda

## Public Forum JOIN IT

### Measure O Will Help Fund Improvements To Our Streets and Roads

Voters will have an opportunity on November 2nd to approve a measure that will provide additional annual funding for improvements to local transportation. Measure O proposes a Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF) of \$10 for every motor vehicle in Contra Costa County. The fees can be used only for street and road maintenance and improvements, transit to help relieve traffic congestion, and projects for the benefit of bicycles and pedestrians. Funds generated by the VRF will add considerably to the Return to Source (RTS) funds generated by Measure J, the half-cent sales tax which voters approved in 2004 to fund transportation projects and programs for 25 years. It is on these funds that cities and towns rely for basic maintenance of local streets and roads. For the three Lamorinda cities, Measure O will generate about \$435,000 new funds for street and road maintenance and improvements and for bike and pedestrian projects. For Moraga, this means an additional \$108,000 added to \$258,000 annual RTS funding generated under Measure J—more than a 40% increase. Additionally, Measure O will help fund the Lamorinda School Bus program, which is largely funded by Measure J and is suffering due to diminished county-wide sales tax revenue.

Measure O is designed to put more transportation funds under local control. None of the VRF can be taken away by the State. Every dollar will be under control of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA). Spending by cities and towns must conform to a clearly defined expenditure program, and spending will be subject to regular overview by the Authority, just like Measure J spending. Most im-

portant, allocation of funds will be under control of the CCTA regional committees. For the Southwest region (SWAT)—which includes Lamorinda—SWAT has decided that 85% of funds will be spent on street and road maintenance and improvements, 10% on transit programs (namely, the Lamorinda School Bus Program), and 5% on bike and pedestrian improvements (such as crosswalks and sidewalks). This allocation reflects current Lamorinda needs. After five years, the expenditure program can be reconsidered by SWAT to reflect needs at that time.

Why should you vote for this fee on your motor vehicles? Every vehicle using our roads contributes to wear and tear. Vehicle miles driven seem always to increase, yet our ability to maintain our roads continues to fall further and further behind as revenues fail to cover rising costs. The Return to Source funds we receive from Measure J can't possibly fund what's needed to arrest further deterioration, let alone make improvements. We desperately need additional revenues sources, and Measure O is one new source. Good roads are an important element of a wholesome community. It's in all our interests to maintain them. Please vote for Measure O on November 2nd.

For more information on Measure O, visit [www.VoteYesOnMeasureO.com](http://www.VoteYesOnMeasureO.com)

Mike Metcalf  
Moraga

*(Mike Metcalf is a Moraga Town Council member. He is a commissioner at Contra Costa Transportation Authority, the agency which is sponsoring Measure O. He represents Moraga on the Southwest Area Transportation Committee (SWAT) and on the board of the Lamorinda School Bus Transportation Agency.)*



# Life in LAMORINDA

## A Day of Labor and Celebration

By Sophie Braccini

If you missed it, you probably won't live to see another; unless you know something we don't. It comes only once every one hundred years. What were you doing last Sunday, 10/10/10?

The non-profit organization 350.org promoted a global work party on the auspicious, and binary, date 10/10/10 dedicated to celebrating solutions to the climate crisis. Several events were held in Lamorinda. In Lafayette, Siamack Sioshansi and the Urban Farmers met to spruce up 20 urban farms for the winter, celebrate together, and present the next phase of the project that will involve many more community members who are interested in growing their own food.

Last fall Sioshansi launched the Urban Farmers, a pilot program to grow food on large properties. The plan was to select 20 sites that would provide land and water, while the organization would do all the work, share the crops among participants, and give the surplus to the food bank. Many Lamorindans spontaneously volunteered to help

with the project.

"I live in Lafayette but have no garden," says volunteer Karyn Maynard, "for me, working in the garden is a great way to interact with people of all generations, work in the outdoors and learn a lot about gardening." Maynard, a physical trainer in her late 50s, adds that she enjoys interacting with the volunteers of all ages, including many college students, who come to help.

After work on 10/10/10, the volunteers gathered at Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Lafayette to celebrate with Lamorinda residents and hear about the next phase of the project. For the coming year, gardens of all sizes can be included, but homeowners will have to contribute more.

"During the first phase, the construction of the gardens, the growing of food went beautifully," says Sioshansi, "but overall we found out that the program was not sustainable, and could not be duplicated to other communities."

Sioshansi's analysis is that the structure of the program itself was faulty; there was one

person at the top, giving directions. He now believes that only a cooperative, flat structure will produce what he is looking for: a food production and delivery system that can be replicated in hundreds of communities.

"The new model is built as a cooperative, with each homeowner being a member," he explains, "most will work a few hours a week in their garden doing maintenance, and they will be helped by volunteers during the work-intensive periods." Sioshansi added that gardens will be organized in neighborhoods to establish a support system, and that the co-op will provide needed volunteers, purchasing of supplies, mentoring, and collection of surplus. "The purpose of the co-op is to give members all they need to successfully grow their own food, and possibly share with others."

This year, Sioshansi expects that a Board will form to oversee the system. He anticipates that a contribution will be asked of farmers in order to finance the hiring of Americorp members who will manage the day to day operations. "The

participation fee should be between \$15 and \$20 a week, depending on the size of the garden," says Sioshansi.

Additional presentations for interested potential members are coming soon. The next will be on October 17, with a maximum number of 25 participants; there will also be sessions on November 6 and 7. To reserve a spot and get more information, email Sioshansi at [siamack@theurbanfarmers.org](mailto:siamack@theurbanfarmers.org) or visit the web site [theurbanfarmers.org](http://theurbanfarmers.org).



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### A Special Golden Birthday

Submitted by Chris Blair  
A Golden Birthday, also called a Grand, Lucky, Champagne or Star Birthday according to Wikipedia, occurs when someone turns the age of their birthday. Julia Blair, a 5th grader at Los Perales Elementary School in Moraga, celebrated her Golden Birthday when she turned 10 on 10/10/10.

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# Community Service

## Two Local Teens Create Diaper Drive for Newborn Connections

Submitted by Kristin Rasmussen



Conor Bean (left) and Sam Larsen Photo provided

Sam Larsen and Conor Bean, both seniors at Miramonte High School in Orinda, have created a community service project to serve families in need in Contra Costa County. The boys will be collecting diapers for Newborn Connections, a division of the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County. Newborn Connections provides in-home visits and supplies to struggling families with new babies throughout the county. "Most of these families are facing hardships and diapers are expensive," says Bean. Both boys have collected diapers for Newborn Connections in the past, but adds Larsen, "We wanted to come up with a way to provide diapers to Newborn Connections on a regular basis."

The first participant in the new program is The Orinda Preschool (TOPS). The school's families will be able to donate diapers through the Newborn Connections donation bin located on site.

For more information on placing a diaper collection bin in your school or place of business, please contact Conor Bean and Sam Larsen at 925-376-9156. For more information on Newborn Connections, please contact Rose Marie Wallace, Project Coordinator, at 925-798-0546.

## Boys Swim for Cancer Research

Submitted by Jynane Wheeler



Photo Jynane Wheeler

Cole Lauritzen (10), Drew Lauritzen (8), and Michael Wheeler (10) have more than a few things in common. They all live in Lafayette. They all like to swim. Unfortunately, they all have lost a grandfather to cancer, and have grandmothers who are currently fighting cancer. And earlier this month, they all swam a mile to raise money for the Women's Cancer Research Center. Together they raised over \$1200 for the charity. The Swim A Mile For Women With Cancer annual event was held October 2nd and 3rd at Mills College in Oakland. It meant a lot to the boys to be able to swim in honor of their grandparents. This is the second time Cole has participated and the first time for Drew and Michael. The three of them are already looking forward to participating next year.

## Kiwanis Installs Officers for 2010-11

Submitted by Stan Holcenberg



(From left) Past Kiwanis Lt. Governor Ray Horton, incoming President John Haffner, and outgoing President Tim Freeman (receiving the William Dunlap award) Photo provided

The Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley held their annual Installation Dinner at the Orinda Country Club on September 23. The Club was formed in 1974, and the first President, Lafayette resident Charlie Toll, attended the event.

The Master of Ceremonies for the event was Moraga Chief of Police, Bob Priebe. Past President and Moraga Council-Member Howard Harpham, and past Kiwanis Lt. Governor Ray Horton, conducted the installation of the officers and board members.

John Haffner, Moraga Citizen of the Year in 2008 and head of the Moraga Pear Festival for years, was installed as President. Other officers include 1st Vice President Karen Reed, 2nd Vice President Graig Crossley, Secretary Mike Metcalf (member of Moraga Town Council), and Treasurer Barbara Van Sickle.

Dick Ayres was awarded the 2009-10 Kiwanian of the Year award from 2008-09 winner Stan Holcenberg. The award is presented to an individual that is very active in the Club's fundraising and service projects, and fosters the efforts of Kiwanis in the community. Dick is also a Board member of the Moraga Park Foundation.

Outgoing 2009-10 President Tim Freeman received two awards, the Distinguished Kiwanian Award as well as the very prestigious William Dunlap Award presented by the Kiwanis California-Nevada-Hawaii District Foundation.

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley recently worked on the re-furbishing of the Hacienda de Las Flores. Many are very involved in Town activities, and the local Kiwanis Club contributes a significant amount of money each year for scholarships

and with local agencies that focus on improving the lives of children.

A good example of this support of the children of Lamorinda – and the dedicated teachers that serve them – Kiwanis has given library books to the students of all of our elementary schools. To make sure the libraries get the books they want and need, teachers and librarians make their selections from The Storyteller in Lafayette, a great children's book store. This school library support program is especially important at this time of economic stress and tight budgets. The children and the teachers loved a similar gift a year ago.

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. To learn more about Kiwanis, visit the local website – www.moragavalleykiwanis.org.

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## When is the Best Time to Spay and Neuter

By Mona Miller, DVM

This topic has been revisited throughout the years, and in large part the answer depends on the person or organization providing an answer. For

many years, the standard age for spay/neuter was 6 months old, although there is minimal science reinforcing that this is the optimum. In the late 1980s, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals spearheaded a movement to perform early spays/neuters, at 8 weeks old, in order to decrease the nation's overpopulation problem. No detrimental effects were documented in performing anesthesia and surgery on these young puppies and kittens. There's no question that releasing already spayed/neutered pets from shelters has helped lower the number of unwanted animals euthanized each year. This prompted most veterinarians in urban areas to swing the pendulum to 4 month old spays and neuters.

For cats, I still recommend neuter and spay at 4-6 months.

can be quite annoying!  
 In the past several years, however, there has been more

cant reasons to spay are the high chance of unplanned pregnancy and the increased risk of malignant mammary cancer if spayed any time after the second heat cycle. Additionally, intact female dogs have close to 25% chance of developing a life-threatening uterine infection by the age of 10 years old (a 4 year old dog has a 15% chance of this) – this is considered a surgical emergency.

My reasons to wait until after 6 months old to spay/neuter dogs come from some protective benefit of physical development under the influence of reproductive hormones (estrogen and testosterone). Some of the following diseases have multiple causes, and most can be associated with obesity. To complicate matters, the most common risk factor for obesity is spay/neuter. These other problems include increased risk for knee cruciate ligament rupture, urine incontinence in females, certain malignant tumors in some breeds, and possibly faster progression of senility in males. My rec-

ommendation for a male dog is to neuter when he is 1-2 years old, and to spay a female dog just before her first heat cycle. The best indicator for a female dog's heat cycle is when her mother went into heat for the first time. If this information is unknown, then I'll subtract a month from the average age at first heat for the breed of the dog.



There is no reason to wait to neuter a male cat – the exposure to testosterone in an intact male cat will increase the chance of aggression and urine spraying. For female cats, a major detriment to spay is the risk of obesity, although it is unclear whether age at time of spay correlates with fat development. However, the benefits to young spay include avoidance of multiple pregnancies during the heat season (cats can ovulate while lactating), and decreased chance of malignant mammary cancer. Additionally, it will prevent the behavior the cat exhibits during heat, which



Dr. Mona S. Miller lives in Lafayette with her 4 year old son, yellow Labrador Retriever and grey cat. She has worked at Four Seasons Animal Hospital in Lafayette since moving here in 2001. She attended Cal as an undergrad, and received her DVM from U.C. Davis. She can be reached at Four Seasons, 938-7700, or by email to MonaSDVM@aol.com.

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## A Conversation with Abraham Verghese

While Lamorinda Reads, the author of *Cutting for Stone* reflects

By Lou Fancher



Abraham Verghese  
Photo (c) Joanne Chan

When I called Abraham Verghese for our phone interview to preview his upcoming appearance at Lamorinda's Three Communities, One Book Program on October 26th, I was expecting to wait.

He's a doctor, after all, and in my experience, that meant 30-60 minutes thumping through Psychology Today, or Oprah's O Magazine (guilty pleasure,) before hearing his caramel-toned voice.

Instead, he was ready, will-

ing, and most poetically able to answer questions about health care, medical training, being a physician and writing.

Although Verghese will appear at Lafayette's Veterans Memorial building to speak about his third book, *Cutting for Stone*, he was first, a doctor. An outspoken advocate on matters related to "bedside care," he continues to chair in the Department of Internal Medicine at Stanford University.

We began speaking about universal health care coverage.

"It's an industry that's huge. What people must understand is that every dollar spent on health care is a dollar of income for someone. It's going to be slow and painful to change the system. But we are a country with 40 million uninsured: we have to address it."

In addition to universal coverage, Verghese says there must be payment reform. "Right now, you get paid for services done to a patient, but not for what you do for a patient. We have bizarre structures, like free-standing flu and MRI centers. Have you ever seen a free-standing geriatric center? No, you

haven't, because it's not profitable."

Verghese has treated AIDS patients extensively. He says the issue having dropped from front page headlines is "a phenomenon of the wonderful treatments that have developed. We're in a completely different place than 1994, but we're still a long way from a cure—and from dealing with AIDS in developing countries."

He refers to practicing medicine as a "spiritual calling," and explains: "You're not transacting business. You're meeting people at their most vulnerable moments. There should be an awe and appreciation at being permitted such access."

"Medical students don't need to be taught compassion," he continues. "They come to the profession with all the right qualities. We shift the focus from the person to the disease in medical training. We need to guard against that."

Verghese says the biggest challenges to medical students are the amount of information they have to digest, the length of schooling required, and the considerable debt graduates carry. The greatest

difficulty for practicing physicians is that procedures are tied to profits. "An internist, such as I am, has to see 25 people a day, just to keep up with the overhead."

A man of science might turn to a less-cerebral challenge for stress relief, but Verghese fills his limited "spare time" writing. We talk about his process.

"Research is terribly important, because so often, I've stumbled upon things, not where I intended, but so useful for the book. It's often a great excuse not to write, so there is a time to stop, and get to the writing."

"My full-time job precludes a schedule. I write haphazardly and take what time I can get. I compose on the screen, but edit on the page. Since attending the Iowa Writer's Workshop, and benefitting from it, I care only about my editor's and my readers' feedback. You have to trust your editors and be willing to take what they say and not be crushed by it."

Matters of faith, death and dying emerge in *Cutting for Stone*. I wonder if Verghese is conscious of these themes prior to writing, or

if they appear as a surprise. "You develop a story and push it out. I'm certainly impressed by people who are faithful to a calling, to their families. But I was not conscious of it as I wrote this."

About death, he says, "In the West, it is a bit of a surprise because we haven't developed enough rituals around it. I feel privileged to have taken care of people who were dying, to be entrusted."

Verghese says his interest in stories is natural. "It's surely a part of being a person: to be curious about the human experience. I have a fascination with fiction because it resonates with one's own story."

If he were restricted to only one book for the rest of his days, Verghese would immediately choose *Love in the Time of Cholera*, by Gabriel Garcia Márquez. "It's a gorgeous story and, more than that, every sentence and paragraph is musical."



### An Evening with the Author

Abraham Verghese, the author of *Cutting for Stone*, will discuss his award-winning book on Tuesday, October 26th, 7:00 p.m., at the Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. Space is limited - first come, first seated. Book signing to follow; books will be available for purchase.

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## Cal Shake's Closes Season with Much Ado

By Lou Fancher



Danny Scheie (center) nearly steals the show as Dogberry (pictured) and Don John. Photo Ohlen Alexander

Cal Shakes 2010 season, now in the midst of its final production at Orinda's Bruns Amphitheater, could be compared to a meal. Opening with the earthy starter, Steinbeck's *Pastures of Heaven*, the 10th anniversary season kept audiences well-fed with Shaw's spicy *Mrs. Warren's Profession* and an expectedly meaty *Macbeth*, directed by Minnesota's innovate, Joel Sass. Artistic Director John Moscone's frothy, decadent *Much Ado about Nothing*, playing now through October 17, is the perfect ending, with spectacular

performances by the cast. Moscone calls the play "succulent, stylish, and witty," in pre-show talks. While that might predict a pumped-up production, his *Much Ado* is clever and sophisticated. As a director, he has a delicate touch: knowing when to mock, when to charm, and when to just have a rousing good time. The play begins where *Macbeth* ends: with a sword fight. A bookend in direct counterpoint to the previous production, this sword fight is a fake, a "pretend joust" between friends.

Dan Ostling's set, in a bright, economic maneuver, takes the Scottish play's claustrophobic structures and strips them clean. The characters' lies and deceptions may be veiled, but the stage design is transparent, with wide-plank wood floors and little else to obscure the view. Piped terraces and a slender tree center stage provide no place to hide, a fact Moscone exploits with satisfying comic purpose, especially in a scene involving *Beatrice*, played by Dominique Lozano. Lozano, in a role requiring

humor, intelligence and a touch of nasty, is impeccable. Like her director, she knows when to toss off a line, when to add or subtract a gesture, and how to make the whole thing look like fun. *Benedick*, the man *Beatrice* loves to hate, and vice versa, is captured with ease and great physical humor by Andy Murray. One scene, in which Murray assumes a humble posture in fragmented, sequential movements, is unforgettable. Dan Hiatt places another notch in his actor's belt with his performance as *Leonato*. Hiatt's often cast as a gentleman, albeit one with dark undercurrents, so it's a particular pleasure when he appears in Act II as the dim-witted George Seacole. The trajectory Hiatt must then follow, when he subsequently returns as *Leonato* and goes from proud father to distraught, egocentric man, is no less moving for having played the part of a buffoon only moments before. Nick Childress, Emily Kitchens, Catherine Castellanos and Andrew Hurteau assume their roles with convincing, individual sincerity. Danny Scheie, however, is magnetic. His Act I *Don John*, is elaborately savage. Scheie is able to express more content with a simple "hmm," than most actors convey with extended monologues. Amidst a swirling waltz scene, with the cast filling the stage, Scheie draws the

eye to the top of the stairs, where he stands, surveying the scene with obvious scorn. It's impossible to look away, even if it means missing the boisterous action below. Although Moscone, at an Inside Scoop event, referred to the character of *Dogberry* as an "eek," Scheie makes it all worthwhile. His second act *Dogberry* reveals the cunning joy Shakespeare has with language and sets the audience laughing with guilty pleasure. If anything is reminiscent of the screwball comedies of the 1930's, this is surely it and Scheie is in full command of the role's self-sacrificing humor. The laughter and gaiety at the close of *Much Ado* is a good set-up for next year. The 2011 season will include new versions of Shaw's *Candida* and *The Taming of the Shrew*. Joel Sass returns to direct the company's first production of Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*. Rounding out the summer with a musical production inspired by *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, is a new play, *The Verona Project*. Shakespeare's romantic comedy *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Jonathan Moscone, plays at Cal Shakes September 12 - October 17. Tickets start at \$20; call (510)548-9666 or go to [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

## Around the World in Two Hours

By Sophie Braccini



The students of the SMC International Club.

Feel like taking a trip around the world on your lunch break? If so, Saint Mary's College is your first stop on Tuesday, October 19. Get to know 20 different countries; sample the foods, enjoy the art and music, and meet the natives - all for free at Global Faire in the Ferroggiaro Quad. An SMC tradition for over 20 years, the Global Faire is organized and staffed by SMC's International Students Club. Proving that SMC is not just a place for Americans and Aussies, most of the Club's 40 or so members come from across the globe - from Asia, Europe, the Middle East, South America and South Africa. "This is an annual opportunity for our students to celebrate their heritage and culture, as well as educate others through the promotion of understanding and unity," says Keith Annis, International Student Coordinator for the Center for International Programs at SMC. "We want to show others what our countries are about, beyond stereotypes," explains Batsaikhan Purevbaatar, an SMC student from Mongolia. Visitors to Purevbaatar's table at the Faire will find him

dressed in Mongolian attire and serving up Mongolian food. Some of the Club's members are US-born but have an interest in discovering other cultures. "I had little exposure and no involvement with non-Americans growing up," said Joe Murphy, an SMC student from Arizona, "I am a member of the club and part of the organizing team because I'm interested in learning and reaching out to different cultures." The Modern Language and Anthropology departments will also tables at the Faire, as will other international clubs such as the Middle Eastern Club and Hermanas Unidas. Music from all over the world will be played and the Women's Resource Center will dance "Rhythm of Change" at around 1:00 p.m. The fair trade non-profit, "Just Hearts" will offer international artifacts for sale. "We are an example of what you get when people from different countries can actually meet and get to know each other," says SMC student Zu Goh, who is from Hong Kong, "we are our own little version of the United Nations; we talk, we listen, we exchange, and

want one day to be active in building a more peaceful world."

To reach the Ferroggiaro Quad, park in the visitor parking found to your right as you

enter the campus, then walk straight toward the center of the college, past the library.

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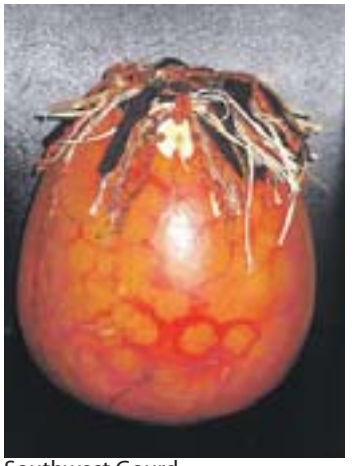
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**ART**

**The Lamorinda Arts Alliance is pleased** to invite you to our 15th Annual Open Studios Tour on October 16 and 17. Meet the artists, drop by their studios, learn what motivates and inspires them to create. During this free showcase for the arts, you can visit over 30 artists in 15 venues who open their homes and studios for this exciting event. Venues on the Open Studios Tour will be open October 16 and 17 from 11am to 4pm. Maps are available at the Moraga Art Gallery (570 Center St., Moraga) or online at www.laa4art.org/openstudios.html. A kick-off reception will be held on Friday, October 15 from 6-8pm at the Moraga Gallery.

**The Hearst Art Gallery at Saint Mary's College** presents Gifted Hands: the Fine Art of Craft, featuring 90 objects by 15 major contemporary Bay Area artists, through Dec 12. On view are both functional and decorative objects: furniture, wearable art, jewelry, pottery, quilts, turned wooden bowls, and fabric and metal sculpture. Gallery Hours: Wednesdays to Sundays, 11 am - 4:30 pm. Suggested adult donation is \$4; free for K-12th grade students. www.hearstartgallery.org.

**The Lafayette Gallery's latest show, "Southwest Inspired"**



Southwest Gourd by JoAnn Lieberman

runs from October 12 through October 30. The public is invited to a Southwest themed reception on Friday, October 22 from 6:30-8:30pm. Located at 50 Lafayette Circle in downtown Lafayette. Gallery artists show work in many mediums including printmaking, oil and acrylic paintings, mixed media works, jewelry, wood, ceramics, photography and pastel. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 11am-5pm. Phone (925)284-2788.

**Moraga Art Gallery is presenting "Favorites,"** featuring local artists showing watercolor, acrylic and oil paintings, ceramics, photography, mixed media, jewelry and glass designs. The show runs through October 23 and features the work of John Diestler and fused glassworks by Nancy Slack. The Moraga Art Gallery is located at 570 Center St in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center next to CVS Drugs. Hours: Tuesday - Sunday, 12-5pm. Phone: (925) 376-5407.

**Oakland Museum of California presents:** Days of the Dead Community Celebration, a special community celebration slated with an opening ritual, music, dance, food, entertainment, gallery tours, and an arts and crafts market Saturday, October 23, from noon-4pm at the Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak Street, Oakland. Registration \$6-\$12.

**The exhibit "Fresh Paint" brings two** hundred new paintings to the collection available at Walnut Creek's prestigious art venue, Valley Art Gallery. This semi-annual juried exhibition features a huge variety of work from over 100 Bay Area artists. "Fresh

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**LECTURE & LITERATURE**

**A Literary Conversation for Dog Lovers:** Thursday, October 28, 7:30pm at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Bruce Cameron, author of the current NY Times bestseller, A Dog's Purpose, and Steve Winn, author of Come Back, Como! will discuss their love of dogs, the art of writing about them and the challenges of capturing their voices (or barks). In recognition of the fact that October is National Adopt-a-Dog Month, the authors will be accompanied by a couple of therapy dogs from Tony La Russa's ARF.

**MUSIC**

**Big Band Ball Room Dance, Friday, Oct 15, 7-10pm,** Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Come swing with your friends and neighbors-or just listen! Free dance lessons by Gail Enright at 7pm. Dance begins at 8pm. There will be a no-host bar open throughout the evening. Tickets \$10 per person available at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce-call 284-7404 for reservations.

**Under the direction of David Morales,** the 100-voice Cantare Chorale begins its 24th season with I GOT RHYTHM, a concert for the entire family featuring Broadway tunes, Gershwin favorites, spirituals, and Irving Berlin's Give Me Your Tired and God Bless America. An après-concert ice cream social will cap off the season opening event. Sunday, October 17th, 4:30pm at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, 94549 Tickets: \$10 youth, \$25 general, \$50 per family. (510) 836-0789. For more info and tickets: www.cantarecon-vivo.org.

**San Francisco Chamber Orchestra presents:** SFCCO's Very First Concerts: Meet the Orchestra, October 24, 11-11:20am, 11:40am-12pm, & 12:20-12:40pm at the Crowden School, 1475 Rose St, Berkeley. These delightful 20-minute concerts for ages 0-6 teach musical concepts, offer hands-on activities, and encourage lots of movement and dancing. Three performances, all during Crowden's Community Music Day. Free admission.

**Concert Pianist Christyna Kaczynski-Kozel** presents a recital at 7pm Saturday, October 23 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. A musician possessing both technical power and passionate expressivity, Ms. Kaczynski-Kozel will perform works of Scarlatti, Beethoven, Chopin and Debussy. Free admission, freewill offering. www.oslc.net.

**Organ Recital, Sunday, October 17,** at 3pm, Chapel, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Legendary organist Dr. Gerre Hancock, Professor of Organ and Sacred Music at The University of Texas at Austin, will present a recital on the college's unique instrument. Admission is free. All are welcome. For more information: Contact Brother Martin Yribarren at (925) 631-4325.

**THEATER**

**Town Hall Theatre's 2010-2011 Main Stage** is currently presenting the exciting and frightening Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher from the Robert Lewis Stevenson novella. This unusual adaptation brings all of the tension and thrills of the legendary story with a cast of only six actors, each playing multiple characters that create foggy Victorian London in the heart of Lafayette through Halloween. For exact times, more information and to buy tickets contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office at (925) 283-1557, or purchase online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

**Not to be missed**

two, invite the family and friends, and come enjoy this family-friendly movie, as a great way to celebrate Halloween Eve. Popcorn and hot chocolate will be available. Come in costume! Raffle tickets will be available for purchase with prizes awarded that evening. Please note that the screening will be cancelled in the event of rain.

**Museum of Children's Art Halloween crafts:** Saturday, October 23: Jack-O'-lantern Carving and Decorating, 1-4pm, \$8 per child  
Turn your plump pumpkin into a magical lantern or fanciful Halloween decoration using paints, spoons, and simple carving knives. Bring your own hefty squash or try one of our samplers. Saturday, October 30: Create a Costume, 1-4pm, \$8 per child  
The Museum of Children's Art, MOCHA, 538 9th Street, Oakland, (510) 465-8770. www.mocha.org

**HALLOWEEN FUN**

**A treasured establishment for over 40 years,** Glorietta Elementary school's annual Funfest is a wonderful carnival with all the charms of a traditional Fall Festival. There are games for all ages, prizes, pumpkins, great music, and a raffle with a Grand Prize iPad! Located at 15 Martha Rd Orinda, October 23, 10am-3pm.

**Haunted House, Friday, Oct. 22** and Sunday, Oct 24 at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 Saint Mary's Road, Lafayette. "Not too Scary" from 5-7pm and "Very Scary" 7:30-9:30pm (8+). Ages 7 & under: \$3; ages 8 & over: \$5. Sponsored by the Lafayette Youth Commission.

**Everyone is welcome to the 34th Annual Halloween Carnival,** Sunday, October 24 10am-2pm at Campolindo High School, 300 Moraga Road. Halloween Carnival is a perfect event for children ages 2 to 8. Participants will be able to choose a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch, enjoy carnival games with prizes for all and a festive art center with hands on crafts. Pizza, snacks and refreshments will be sold at the Leaky Caldron Cafe. Admission is \$5 per child, plus a small charge for game tickets and food. All children are encouraged to come in costume.

**Witches & Goblins. Trick or Treat** at Rheem Center on Friday, October 29, 3- 5pm. Costumed children must be accompanied by an adult. Enjoy free trick or treat bags and Halloween goodies while supplies last. Located at the corner of Rheem Blvd and Moraga Road in Moraga.

**Sleepy Hollow Halloween Fall Carnival,** Saturday, October 30th,



10am-3pm, 20 Washington Lane, Orinda. Featuring a Magical Harry Potter Haunted House; a wild and wacky cakewalk; giant slide and jumper, a petting zoo with miniature horses, ducks, geese, pigs, sheep; a rock wall & obstacle course, delicious food from Top Dog, Jamba Juice & Wood Fired Pizza, and homemade treats.

**Lafayette's first Outdoor Movie Event** will screen Pixar's Monster's, Inc. on Saturday, October 30 at 7pm at the Lafayette Plaza (corner of Mount Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Road). The movie is free of charge. All are welcome to attend! Residents are encouraged to pack a picnic, grab a blanket or

**Students and their families are invited** to Orinda Academy's Open House on Saturday, October 30 from 1-4pm. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet faculty, staff and students, as well as learn about the school's extracurricular offerings including arts, sports, travel and technology. Orinda Academy is located at 19 Altarinda Road in Orinda, California. For more information, call Orinda Academy at (925) 254-7553, or visit www.orindaacademy.org.

**KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS**

**The Special Parents for Special Kids Lafayette (SPSK)** October meeting will be held at the Lafayette Library on October 14 at 7pm in the Homework Room. We will have Dana Sassone, Director of Student Services for the Lafayette School District as our guest. SPSK Parent and SEED Foundation Head, Nancy Wallace Ishii, will also be speaking about SEED (Special Education and Enrichment Development) to give an update on the past, present and future SEED funded programs. SPSK is a group of parents of children with special needs or learning differences who reside in the Lafayette school district and came together to form a support, education and advocacy group. For more information about SPSK and to RSVP to this event, please visit our website at www.spsklaf.org.

**Saint Mary's college presents a super chemistry magic show,** presented by Marvin Lang and Don Showalter, professors at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. It will be held in the Soda Center at Saint Mary's on Monday October 18, at 7pm. Drs. Lang and Showalter have received world wide acclaim for their programs and ingenuity as chemical educators. Limited seating but these chemistry professors are famous for this show.

**The co-ed crew of the S.S.S. (Sea Scout Ship)** Sea Witch invites teens 13-18 to join them for Safety At Sea Training by the Coast Guard on Saturday Oct. 23rd on Yerba Buena Island. No experience required! Training will include hands on use of emergency equipment like fire extinguishers, flares, life rafts, fire hoses, and ocean survival in gummy suits. Cruise over from Martinez on the ship Friday Oct. 22 or drive over for the day. Sea Scout ships & crews from all over the Bay Area will be participating. Advanced registration required. For more info. contact Communications Officer Rolf Lindenhayn at 917-0573 lindenhayn@sbc-global.net and www.seascout.org.

**Events:** calendar@lamorindaweekly.com  
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◆ **Not to be missed** ◆

**OTHER**

**Serbian Food Festival, Saturday, October 23, 12-10pm.** Featuring authentic Serbian cuisine and pastries, live Serbian music and dancing. Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. (925) 376-5982.

**Las Trampas, Inc. is a non-profit organization** serving adults with developmental disabilities in the East Bay. We are having our 1st annual "Walk n' Roll" on Saturday October 23 from 8:30am-12noon. This family friendly event is a 1mile or 5K walk/roll or run on the beautiful Lafayette-Moraga Trail. Fee is \$25 per person and includes: t-shirt, gift, refreshment and live entertainment. Register at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). For more information visit our website at [www.lastrampas.org](http://www.lastrampas.org).

**Join Lafayette Historical Society** on Tues, Oct. 26 for a special guided tour of the Suisun museum, and for a ride on an interurban car, over five miles of restored Sacramento Northern Railway tracks. Bring lunch to enjoy in the museum's picnic area. Meet at 9:45am in front of Whole Foods store to catch the bus, which departs at 10 a.m. and will return around 3pm. \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members. Please send check made out to: LHS, P.O. Box 133, Lafayette, CA 94549. For more information, call (925) 283-1848.

**The Lafayette Reservoir Run** will take place on Sunday, October 31. This race is a "family affair," involving kids, parents, grandparents, and hundreds of serious runners from throughout the Bay Area. 2200-2500 participants compete in a 10k, 5k or 2 mile race through the heart of the downtown, around the reservoir and back. Sprinters, walkers, the "stroller brigade" and many of Lafayette's top four legged residents share the streets on that festive Sunday morning. For more info or to register: Phone: (925) 284-7404, Email: [info@lafayettechamber.org](mailto:info@lafayettechamber.org), Website: [www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org).

**Do you like working with people?** Are you good with numbers? Contra Costa County AARP Tax-Aide is looking for volunteers to become members of a team providing free tax preparation for individuals of all ages. Volunteers are trained by Tax-Aide and become IRS Certified tax counselors. Other volunteer positions are available. If interested, call LaVerne Gordon, District Coordinator, at (925)405-5135 for information and to apply. Orientation is in November 2010 and classes for tax counselors start in January 2011.

**Our Savior's will host Lara Mendel, Co-Founder** of the Mosaic Project, on Saturday, October 30 at 7pm for a discussion on cultural diversity in our changing world where stereotypes survive because we have little or no exposure to those different from ourselves. The community is invited to come to this free event. Wine and tapas will be served before the program. Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. (925) 283-3722.

**The Lafayette Garden Club is happy** to announce that grant applications are currently being accepted for funds generated by the 2010 Gardens for Gardeners Tour. Proceeds from this fundraiser have been designated to benefit area schools and Lafayette Seniors' garden education projects. Approximately \$8,000 will be available for distribution. The Lafayette Garden Club is a non-profit, volunteer organization which strives to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to encourage home and community beautification, to improve the knowledge of horticulture and to encourage civic planting and conservation programs. Grant applications should be consistent with the club's objectives. For more information or a grant application please contact: Janet Tittiger: (925) 284-2380 or [janet.t@comcast.net](mailto:janet.t@comcast.net).

**Xenophon, the Therapeutic Riding Center in Orinda,** invites you to a lovely event on Saturday, October 23 at 4pm at the Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall at 10 Irwin Way in Orinda. Food, music, and wine to benefit Xenophon. For RSVP and more info check the Xenophon website at [www.xenophontc.org](http://www.xenophontc.org).

**Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (LARC)** sponsors a free Caregiver Support Group the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Facilitated by Dr. Ruth, this group offers education, guidance and hope for those caring for loved ones who suffer from memory loss disorders. Lamorinda Adult Respite Center, 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563. (925) 254-3465. Everyone is welcome!

**Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (LARC)** is sponsoring a free Transfer Training: open to all, Friday, November 5, 9-11am, and Monday, November 8, 6-8pm. It's important to learn how to safely transfer those persons needing extra assistance moving from sitting to standing, standing to lying, moving into and out of cars, and other transfer challenges. 433 Moraga Way, Orinda.

**Empowerment of Women Forum.** When: Tuesday, October 19 Time: 5:30 -7pm. Where: Lafayette Library & Learning

◆ **Not to be missed** ◆

Center Community Hall. This forum is designed to appeal to a variety of women. We will feature a panel of working women, from both the profit and non-profit sectors, who will share their career stories with us. This forum will offer something for the current working woman as well as the woman who is looking to get back into the workforce. Come and enjoy an evening of shared experience. Information: Barbara Gilmore, (925) 284-7404. [Barbara@lafayettechamber.org](mailto:Barbara@lafayettechamber.org) Sponsored By: Mechanics Bank, Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

**POLITICAL GATHERINGS**

**On Tuesday, Oct. 19th the Lamorinda Branch of AAUW** will sponsor a meeting at the Serbian Orthodox Church, 1700 School St., Moraga starting at 9:30am to inform ourselves and the public on the issues raised by the nine initiatives on the ballot. Members and guests will be randomly seated at round tables, each of which is provided with materials from the League of Women Voters and other non-partisan sources concerning a single ballot measure. At the end of the discussions each table will report its observations and viewpoints to the entire group. General materials on all of the ballot measures will also be available. This meeting is free and open to the public.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

**The American Cancer Society** is looking for committee volunteers to help bring Relay For Life to the city of Lafayette for the first time. Relay For Life is a fun-filled, overnight event that mobilizes communities throughout the country to celebrate survivors (anyone who has ever been diagnosed with cancer), remember loved ones and raise money for the fight against cancer. Committee volunteers are needed to help organize and recruit teams, seek community support, coordinate logistics, find refreshments, plan entertainment, and lend their support in a number of ways. If you're interested in volunteering or learning more about Relay For Life, please contact Karen Faber at [Lafayette.Relayforlife@gmail.com](mailto:Lafayette.Relayforlife@gmail.com), or call (925) 232-1101.

**Campolindo Orchestra's Rent-A-Student** program has been launched in Lamorinda. Students will be doing odd jobs, like Babysitting, Petsitting, Home Repairs, Painting, Cleaning, Gardening, Tutoring, etc.. Funds earned will be used to help send Campo's String Orchestra to China, having been invited by the Chinese Ministry of Culture and the International Arts Institute to perform in Beijing in the spring. Call 925-360-9635 and they will send a

student with the skills you need at the time requested. For more info, visit website [www.campomusic.com](http://www.campomusic.com).

**CLUBS**

**The Moraga Garden Club meets** at 9:30 a.m. on the third Thursdays monthly through May. On October 21, join us for a program on how to combine edible plants, ornamental plants, native plants, sustainable practices and your favorite "art style" in your personal garden by Shelley Somerset, a member of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. Location: Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Membership: Linda (925) 376-2809.

**Montelindos Garden Club meetings** and speakers are every third Friday of the month, September through May. Located at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Refreshments and plant sale will be at 9am, and meetings at 9:30. The meeting is free and welcomes guests and new members. Friday, October 15, Julia Lojo, owner of Bloomies, an Oakland/Rockridge florist shop, will speak about "Decorating from your Garden."

**The Moraga Women's Society** will meet on Monday, October 18th at 9:30am at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The speaker will be Dale Walwark, a resident of Moraga and member of the Kiwanis Club. His presentation will be of his trip to Turkey. Visitors are welcome. Contact Judy Butler, President, (925) 372-7760.

**The Suburban Woman's Club of Lafayette** is holding their next meeting on Oct 21 at the Lafayette Community Center in the Elderberry Room at 11:30am. Lunch is provided by the members and we invite all women over the age of 55 to join us. The speaker this month will be someone from PG&E who should give us some interesting information about the company in light of recent events. The Club meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month. For further information on the club and our activities contact Jean Cappa at [Jeane43821@aol.com](mailto:Jeane43821@aol.com) or please join us at the next meeting.

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## Social Media for Small Businesses

By Sophie Braccini



Robin S. Fox presenting at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center

Photo Sophie Braccini

Last month the Lafayette and Orinda Chambers of Commerce sponsored lectures on new electronic ways for small businesses to reach their customers. Orinda offered a 'brown bag lunch' presentation on blogging with Marissa Berger, and Lafayette invited the community to a morning presentation on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn given by Robin S.

Fox. Some local success stories are indicative of a trend that is likely to grow.

According to Marissa Berger, a consultant with MB/I, blogs for businesses can have different spins. It can be a product blog; "That type has soft sale spin, answering questions about the product," said Berger. Other types of blogs can get visibility for the brand. "Microsoft, on the community part of their web site, has hundreds of blogs," she said. "It helps to interact with the market, raises the awareness in the community." Blogs can also serve as an after-sale tool or knowledge base. Berger believes that a blog can be a real plus in terms of credibility. "If a company has a blog with a lot of interaction and interesting information, it gives it an edge," she said.

Berger demonstrated that blogs appear at the top of the list in a Google search. "Google loves blogs," she said, "it's content that's fresh, updated frequently and relevant." For example, she searched for the terms, "what is 'flash' used for," and her company's blog showed up in fourth position in the Google listing, way before some much larger companies. "We use our blog to constantly offer tips to the public," she says, "a blog is not a tool to sell things, it's a place to

increase your presence in people's minds."

Robin S. Fox, the Social Media Coach invited by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce to talk about Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, sought to demystify the electronic tools for the audience.

Fox, an entertaining speaker, offered a snappy and fun presentation. During the short hour she delivered three messages: Social media is an opportunity with a low cost factor; you can do this; and small steps are okay. Fox explained that social media is all about communicating your story, creating your social network, and building awareness.

Several Lamorinda businesses have been using social media tools very successfully. "We definitely use Facebook for advertising our events," says New Rheem Theatre manager Beau Behan, "we have a following of fans on our Facebook page, where we post updates about tickets and events."

Teenagers are certainly big Facebook users but they are not the only ones. New restaurant Table 24, in Orinda, had over 200 fans before it even opened – and not all of them were Miramonte students. According to restaurant co-founder Michael Karp, the restaurant will

use Twits to send 'specials' to kids in the area and attract them to the restaurant.

But Twitter is not everybody's tool of choice. "I am not very active on Twitter, it is very momentary news," says Dave Simpson, owner of the Lafayette Bookmobile, "Facebook is good to indicate what we will be doing the next week." Simpson says that he has about 400 'fans' of his business on Facebook, which he uses to inform people of where the bookmobile will next be located.

For these business owners, becoming good at using this media

had a learning curve. "Like anything else there are trials and tribulations at the beginning," says Behan, "it's just a matter of finding out how to entice your customers; you have to have the pulse of your market."

"I did not get Facebook marketing at first," adds Simpson, "the power of Facebook is when people interact with it, so your postings have to ask a question or be provocative or fun, and then people will comment."

For Behan, Facebook is a tool to reach the younger market segment that does not read newspa-

pers or newsletters, "it's allowed us to cover all our bases," he concluded.

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce says it may repeat the 'Blogging for Business' presentation because of its very informational content. Fox will offer a class, called Facebook for Business 101, during two Wednesday sessions on October 20 and 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 Saint Mary's Road. The cost is \$42 for both days. Sign-up are through the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department, www.lafayeterec.org.

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

## business briefs

### Winery Receives Sustainability Award

Captain Vineyards of Moraga has received a Sustainability Award from the non-profit Sustainable Contra Costa; the award "honor[s] businesses, government programs, community groups, non-profits, and individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to sustainable practices," according to the organization's website. Captain Vineyards was selected from a group of ten business nominees, and received formal recognition from the California Senate and Assembly for its efforts in utilizing green and sustainable practices in its operation. "We feel a responsibility to produce the highest quality wines, and respect our neighbors and environment," says co-owner Susan Captain, whose business also recently became the first and only certified green winery in Contra Costa County and received the Water Smart Business award given by EBMUD (recognizing the vineyard's dry-farming efforts). "We are doing what we believe in, namely conserving our precious resources, and we're fortunate enough to be recognized for those efforts," says co-owner Sal Captain. For more information go to www.captainvineyards.com.



(From left): Susan Captain, Sal Captain and Matt LeBel receive Contra Costa Sustainability Award Photo Gustavo Fernández

**Local Businesswoman Wins Award** 3451 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette - 962-9177 - www.vivaelespanol.org Margaret Grover-Roos, founder and director of the local non-profit organization ¡Viva el Español!, has been named 2010 Entrepreneur of the Year for Lafayette/Orinda by bay area non-profit Women's Initiative for Self-Employment. The organization recognizes female business owners who have been successful despite the barriers that exist for women, exemplify how business ownership and leadership is beneficial for women, have a positive impact on the local community, and advance their business through innovation. A total of 587 women were nominated throughout the Bay Area and nearly 50 women were honored with the award. The Lafayette school offers classes in Spanish language and culture for ages 1-adult.

**Fastframe Relocates 1020 Brown Avenue, Lafayette** 283-7620, email fastframe229@astound.net Fastframe of Lafayette, a mainstay in downtown Lafayette for 19 years, recently joined the many small businesses who call Brown Avenue home. Fastframe opened in 1991 on Moraga Road, moved to the Clocktower Building in 1997, and was purchased in 1999 by original employee Anthony Ruiz. "Management of the Clocktower opted not to renew our lease, which turned out to be a blessing in disguise," says Ruiz, "We found a wonderful new location on Brown Avenue, across the street from The Forge Building and Artisan Bistro. We have our own parking lot and are easily accessible from Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Deer Hill Road." Ruiz, an art lover, hopes to plan exhibitions with local artists in his new location.

**Hudson & Axelrode Orthodontics** recently held their annual client event faire in their parking lot at 1016 Country Club Drive. The event was a huge success, attracting elementary school children as well as teenagers. The partners offered fun activities for all of their young clients, with jumpies of all shapes for the youngest ones, a climbing wall and huge elasto-trampolines for the older ones. The annual event is a way for Drs. Doug J. Hudson, Mark G. Axelrode and Eric L. Axelrode to thank the community for their continuing support. More information at www.hudsonandaxelrodeortho.com.



Hudson & Axelrode Orthodontics hold their annual client event faire in Moraga Photo Sophie Braccini

### News from the three Chambers of Commerce Lafayette

- October 15, Big Band Dance at the Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. Tickets are available at Lafayette Chamber Office, cost is \$10.00. For more information call 284-7404.
- October 16, ribbon cutting at the re-grand opening and customer appreciation day at the Wells Fargo branch at 3525 Mt. Diablo Blvd from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- October 20, Optimizing LinkedIn for Local Business Networking Workshop from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center. Presented by Robin Fox, Social Media & Inbound Marketing Coach. Reservations recommended by email at workshops@lafayettechamber.org or call 284-7404.
- October 20, open Green Committee Meeting at noon in the Chamber Conference Room.
- October 21, Entrepreneur's Club at 8:30am in the Chamber Conference Room.
- October 21, ribbon cutting ceremony for Fastframe of Lafayette's new location, 1020 Brown Avenue, starting at 5:00pm.
- October 22, Business Issues-Governmental Affairs Meeting at 8:00 a.m. in the Chamber Conference Room.
- October 31, 18th Annual Lafayette Reservoir Run. Registration online available on the Chamber web site at lafayettechamber.org/events/reservoir-run/.

### Moraga

October 19, evening program, "The Pulse of the Moraga Business Climate" from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Soda Center, Saint Mary's College. Abundant appetizers and wine included. No charge to participants. Sponsored by Mechanics Bank. (See article page A)

### Orinda

October 21, City Time Capsule Ceremony & Community/Council Reception at City Hall, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. This community event is part commemoration of the City of Orinda 25th Anniversary.

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

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# Lamorinda Schools

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## Lafayette School Board Candidates

Share Thoughts on Finances and Transfer Students

By Jean Follmer

We recently asked the candidates for the Lafayette School District Governing Board to answer the following questions on issues facing the district:

1. What financial vehicles do you feel could be most effective in dealing with the financial challenges in the district and why?
2. What are your thoughts concerning the acceptance of students from outside the district? Are you for or against and why?

Here are their answers, in their own words:

**Teresa Gerringer (Incumbent)**



**Finance**

As you know, the financial problems of the District are really due to the inability of the State to solve its budget problems and fulfill its responsibility to adequately and consistently fund public education. Our choices of specific financial vehicles are shrinking, but I believe we have a number of avenues to explore:

The District should continue to efficiently manage its existing resources. We have already trimmed a lean District office, grounds and maintenance and we'll continue to look for other cost saving opportunities. I look forward to hearing the findings of our "green" energy audit due to our solar installations. We need to work with teachers and other staff to identify ways to keep cuts away from the classrooms and continue to support the innovative work that is taking place in the District and maximize our students' outcomes using established partnerships.

The District should identify additional revenue sources through grants and by sharing resources with other entities: AUHSD, surrounding districts, the City of Lafayette and the Lafayette Library & Learning Center. We need to fully develop our relationships with LASF, the Parent Organizations, local businesses and the community at large to support District programs and programs at the individual school sites. Although continued support of our schools through parcel taxes and bonds is critical, everyone needs to advocate at the State and Federal level to make funding our public schools a priority.

**Transfer Students**

Our first responsibility is to the students who are residents of Lafayette. Many of us moved to Lafayette because of the schools and we support our schools in many ways – including financially. Even with declining State revenue, I believe that we need to be very thoughtful about opening our doors to inter-district transfers, including Allen Bills, as a revenue source. It might seem like an easy revenue source, but we should balance that with the related costs, and the value Lafayette places on smaller class sizes. I am in favor of considering employment-related transfers if we have classroom capacity, but not of loosening our policy on inter-district transfers.

**David Gerson**



**Finance**

Traditionally the term "public school" meant a school that was wholly financed by public revenues. Today, school financing is accomplished through a public-private partnership that is now critical to maintaining the quality of Lafayette schools. I believe the State will continue to fail in its obligation to provide adequate funding, so it is in the self-interest of every parent, property owner, and business to financially support our schools. I believe the health of our community is directly tied to the health of our school system. The first step is to increase funding from the parents of the children the schools educate. My goal is to increase direct parent participation to over 90% at every school in the district. The second step is to support LASF and other education foundations that support the district's mission. And the last step is to finance the remaining shortfall through parcel taxes and general obligation bonds to maintain the quality and direction of our schools. On the expenditure side of the equation, the district must continue to tighten its belt and be good stewards of every dollar it receives.

**Transfer Students**

The first responsibility of the district is to maintain the quality of education for the students that live in the district. Although I support Allen Bill and inter-district transfers in concept - because they increase the amount of money the District receives from the State and, in many cases, provide a well-deserved benefit to many of our public and business employees who do not reside in the district - transfers must be considered primarily based upon the impact on the quality of the educational experience our children receive. This is a difficult process but it is incumbent upon our elected officials to do the analysis and make the tough choices. Part of this process should also include better enforcement of the residency rules so that all nonresidents use the same process to apply for admission to our schools.

**Art Kapoor (Incumbent)**



**Finance**

The district faces an ongoing financial challenge brought on by a lack of appropriate and stable funding from the State. We are already over a month into the school year and we really have no idea much funding the State will provide for this year since the State has yet to pass a budget.

The most effective financial vehicle in dealing with the District's financial challenges would be for the citizens of California to demand that the State and Legislature meet its primary obligation under the State Constitution – to adequately and appropriately fund California's public schools. But, we can't wait for the State to get its act together because we have kids in school today and they need and deserve the best education we

can give them. Other than direct funding from State and Federal government, the main revenue sources are local. This includes the generosity of our parents and community who contribute a substantial amount of money to the District through LASF and Parent Clubs. The other method is through a local parcel tax that requires a 2/3-majority vote. (Lafayette currently has a parcel tax of \$332 per parcel). Without the parcel tax funding and the parent contributions, our district would be in much worse condition. We need to continue to evaluate the District's expenses and continue the excellent programs in our District while looking to additional revenue sources to address the continual State budget cuts.

**Transfer Students**

The number of Allen Bill transfers is low - this year we admitted 33 students under the Allen Bill and only 19 enrolled. Our total enrollment is 3,173 students. Since the parents of Allen Bill transfers work a minimum of 35 hours per week within the District boundaries, we see these parents every day in Lafayette's offices, stores and schools. They are part of our community and often contribute to our District through their businesses and through LASF. The Board has policies regarding inter-district transfers and many students are already in the District but for some reason they have moved out of Lafayette. In other cases, a child is having difficulties in their home district or a caregiver may live within our boundaries. All inter-district transfers are reviewed on a case-by-case basis whereas Allen Bills are accepted on an "all or nothing" basis. All of these decisions are always considered in light of what is best for our kids.

**Berch Parker**



**Finance**

Due to the large amount of dollars the District depends on to operate, our community needs to spend a lot of energy passing both parcel taxes and bond measures. Because of the fiscal crisis at the State level, both parcel taxes and bond measures are critical to the continued success of the District. In addition, our community can't ignore the availability of grants and the District needs to find ways to incentivize our teachers and our community members at large to research and apply for these grants themselves (in lieu of spending additional money to hire a grant writer). We need the community to continue to find new ways to bring revenue to our District.

**Transfer Students**

We need to make sure our classroom capacity is fully used. I do support accepting transfer students as a means of increased revenue to our District. I think the Allen Bill transfers are important because those who work here in Lafayette support our community and their children deserve to be here too.

All transfer students (including Allen Bill transfers) should be considered as a revenue source and to fill vacant classroom seats as long as the acceptance of those students does not adversely impact the needs of our students who are already here.

**Saveth Soun**



**Finance**

The parcel tax is one solution, but I don't think we should just focus on that. In addition to the parcel tax, we should be pursuing a grant writer for the District. Even if the grant writer costs \$100,000, an effective grant writer could bring in 20-30 times that amount in revenue to the District. A good grant writer could address all programs, including Character Counts -and all strategic priorities –.

We need to ensure sustainability of our programs through capacity building throughout our schools. We must make sure there is enough training throughout the District and we need to fully utilize the "Train the Trainer" model. The trainer could be a principal or a teacher who becomes the "go to" person who trains the other teachers and the parents (in their area of expertise). This would result in a huge savings across the District because hiring consultants costs anything from \$2,000 to \$10,000 per day.

I'm definitely not against the parcel tax, but I'm wondering if all people without children will always want to pass the parcel tax. I would like to let the voters know that we have other innovative, proactive and dedicated approaches to deal with our fiscal challenges and preserve programs for our students.

**Transfer Students**

My concern about accepting transfers is they will impact our small class sizes. I think we should be as tough as possible on the criteria for accepting a transfer student. We need to let Lafayette students thrive and the decision (to admit transfer students) shouldn't be based on Average Daily Attendance dollars from the State.

I'm wondering if we should admit Allen Bills and want to explore admitting employment-related transfers as inter-district transfers (on a case-by-case basis). We should really revamp and tighten our (transfer student) admission requirements.

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# Lamorinda Schools

### SCHOOL CALENDAR

<b>Acalanes Union</b> High School District Board Room AUHSD Office 1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette Wednesday, October 20, at 7:30pm	<b>Orinda Union School District</b> OUSD Office 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda Monday, November 15, at 4pm
<b>Lafayette School District</b> LAFSD Office 3477 School Street, Lafayette Wednesday, October 13, at 7pm Wednesday, November 17, at 7pm	<b>Moraga School District</b> Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga Tuesday, November 9, at 7:30pm



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### Limited Fall Openings

## How to Survive Being the Parent of a College Freshman: Two Simple Rules

Submitted by Janice Wood

(Janice Wood of Orinda read the article entitled *After the Dorm Drop*, submitted by Jamie Anderson, in our September 15th issue and it struck a chord with her – in this article, she continues the dialogue.)

So you've dropped your brand new college freshman off at her/his new school. You might think that your job is done. In truth, it's just begun. To help you make it through, there are a few simple guidelines for your own responses to your college freshman's problems.

They will have issues adjusting to academic rigor, creepy roommates, and general troubles while learning how to live on their own for the first time. Remember they are young, strong, and smart or they wouldn't be there. It's you I'm concerned about, you and those sleepless nights you will spend worrying about your kid's well being.

When my son and my daughter (now in their 30s) first went to college I was so excited for them. We bought really cool, colorful sheets, pillows, comforters, little refrigerators, fans, extension cords, and nice new clothes; everything they needed to make them happy and comfortable in their new environment. The hardest thing for me was to change the way I parented. It took me a long time to come to the conclusion that I needed to figure out how I could both help them and keep my sanity.

I developed two rules. One for them and one for me. The first is for the student: "The Call Back Rule." And for the parent, "The Reassurance Rule."

Don't be surprised when your young adult calls you at 10:00 p.m., unloads all her worries (which may include financial aid, unreasonable

professors, dire predictions of flunking out, roommates bringing in boys, and illness). My kids would talk, cry, or whine for an hour or so.

I'd get to bed at 11:30 p.m., unable to let go and sleep. Their troubles firmly clutched to my heart, I would lie awake for hours. But here's the kicker. I'd call them three or four days later to see how things were going. The usual response was, "Oh, I talked to the professor two days ago (or the R.A., or the counselor, etc.) and everything is okay."

This is when you tell them "The Call Back Rule." As soon as the issue is resolved, they must call to tell you. Otherwise, you are dragging around your kid's problems, when they themselves have already stopped thinking about it. And remember this: At 10:00 p.m. when you are settling down for the evening, college students

are just getting ready to go out for the night.

The other rule, "Reassurance," is what they need. No matter the problem (except for incarceration, pregnancy, or entering rehab), the answer is "I know you can do this," or "What do you think you should do?" Also in some extreme cases, "I have some advice. Do you want to hear it?" That covers most everything. What they really need to hear is that you know they can solve the problem. If it's extreme, most colleges have great counseling departments that are virtually free. Let them know you are there, but encourage your student to solve it himself.

My mother used to say, "No one every listens to me. I've got all this wisdom and no one listens." I feel the same way, but a parent's job is to help them get through it, not to fix it for them. That's their job.

## Can AUHSD Afford to Be a Leader in Green Technology?

By Diana Stephens

The Acalanes Unified High School District's Governing Board was informed of changes that may impact its decision to install solar panels at Acalanes, Campolindo, and Miramonte high schools. Neal Skiver, an energy and power financial advisor for Bank of America, reviewed the original lease agreement option and explained that it was no longer feasible due to market confusion as tax benefits have proven

smaller than expected. He proposed a second option using Build America Bonds, which allows tax-exempt entities to save on borrowing costs. The bottom line is an increased cost of nearly \$1 million to the school district.

Option Two was presented in general terms, but included the benefit of the District owning the equipment at the end of the 16-year financing term. When the conversation turned

to manufacturer's warranty protections, and the installation contractor's maintenance agreements, the Board expressed its discomfort with the changes and lack of specific information.

Underlying much of the presentation was a sense of urgency. Tax benefits are expected to change after the first of the year, and it is anticipated that they will be less beneficial.

Tom Mulvaney was the first board member to express his skepticism. While he voted to move forward on the project last spring, he said, "I feel uncomfortable obligating the community to 2026." He asked for a presentation that details the bidding, financing, and possible construction changes.

Kathy Coppersmith was relieved to hear fellow board members state their concerns, as she has been uncomfortable with certain issues all along. She pointed out that at Acalanes High School, the solar panels were to be installed on platforms in the parking lots, which she felt could impact the al-

ready overcrowded situation and lead to more fender benders as students negotiate around the structures. The negative visual impact and the community's reaction to the structures were additional concerns.

In general, the Governing Board was supportive of the idea of renewable energy, protecting the District from rising energy costs and the impact of potential peak day pricing. The consensus was, however, that there was too much information to process and more due diligence is needed. Board President Vanessa Crews asked for the community to be given an opportunity to give its feedback and an independent consultant to provide additional expertise.

The consultants asked for and were granted another opportunity to present their plan. Richard Whitmore concluded the discussion by saying, "We let time structure pressures influence us the first time, we need more time for subcommittees to study these issues thoroughly."

## Girl Scouts Climb 40 Flights of Stairs to Fight Cystic Fibrosis

Submitted by Heidi Felt



Pictured with members of the Cal Rugby team are (from left): Olivia, Emilie, Katrina, Madeline, Asiana, Adriel, and Cecelia. Photo Virginia Price

The Girl Scouts of Lafayette Troop 32790 recently participated in the Cystic Fibrosis Climb for Life. The girl scouts organized their own team and joined with over 100

other climbers, including the Cal Rugby team, to climb up the 40 floors of One Sansome Street in downtown San Francisco. Funds raised by the climb went to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to help find a cure for the nation's number one life-threatening genetic disease. Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is an inherited disease that affects the lungs and digestive systems of about 30,000 children and young adults in the United States. The girls selected this particular charity because CF is a disease that affects other kids. Climbing the stairs was hard work and put the girls out of breath, but all agreed that it gave them an appreciation for what it must be like to have this terrible disease. Although tired after the climb, the girls felt good about making a difference in the lives of the kids who live everyday with CF.

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- Girls' Tennis Rivalry Match-Ups
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## Troop 30378 Moraga Girl Scouts Appreciate Nature

Submitted by Jenny Moreau



Troop 30378, (front row, left to right): Paige, Abby, Remi; (Back row, left to right): Lauren, Jacqueline, Fiona, Amanda, Ally, Emma, Isabel, Carolyn, Sophie. Photo provided

Moraga Girl Scout Troop 30378, composed of 5th graders from Camino Pablo Elementary School, explored a fabulous East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) trail. On September 22, 2010, the girl scouts met at nearby Rancho Laguna Park to begin their hike on EBMUD's Kings Canyon trail. This is a wide, fairly flat trail--

easy for a first-time hiker. Along the way, they saw and took pictures of a flock of pelicans, a lizard, a small snake, and flowers. At the half way point, the girls sat down to eat apples and draw in observation journals. Local trails enable scouts to connect with nature, observe wildlife, and learn about watershed and reservoirs. Family per-

mits are easy to obtain on EBMUD's website: <http://www.ebmud.com/recreation/trail-use-permit/east-bay-trails>. The hike offered the opportunity for scouts to practice Leave No Trace principles and fulfill the Girl Scout slogan, "do a good deed daily," by picking up trash.

## Long-awaited Upgrades at Two District High Schools

By Diana Stephens

The Acalanes Unified High School District's Governing Board approved construction projects at Campolindo and Las Lomas high schools. Financed through Measure E funding, the projects will include upgrades in technology, electrical systems, and energy management.

Phase One of the construction at Campolindo will include the conversion of three classrooms, storage areas made into office space, the modernization of the Video Production

classroom, and the renovation of a women's restroom.

Las Lomas will have its plumbing upgraded and add two bathrooms, replace aging canopies, repair siding and some roofing, while also expanding its 3D Art classroom, as well as renovating the Culinary Arts classroom and the tennis courts.

According to Dave Humphrey, the Director of Facilities and Construction for the District, these projects will be completed during the summer

of 2011. In addition, the community can anticipate a new roof to be installed at Campolindo High School in the summer of 2012, and the multipurpose room/cafeteria/choral area to be renovated in the summer of 2013.

The current improvements to Campolindo High School are anticipated to be in excess of \$3.5 million while the improvements to Las Lomas High School are expected to come in just under \$3 million. Let the bidding begin.

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## OUSD Candidate Forum

By Andrea A. Firth

Sarah Butler, Tyson Krumholz, Julie Rossiter, Chris Severson, and Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert, the five candidates for Orinda Union School District's Board of Trustees, met before an audience of about 70 residents, teachers, and administrators last week to answer questions posed in a forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley. Three of the five will replace departing Board members Jack Bontemps, Riki Sorenson, and Pam West.

The three female candidates presented resumes replete with volunteer experience in the classroom and parent clubs; the men had more limited on-site school involvement. The candidates' responses were consistent on some issues including the support of small class sizes, the need to improve communication, and the problem of bullying and the need to address it.

The candidates did not, however, agree on everything.

In response to why they want to serve on the Board: Butler and Rossiter stressed their experience as legislative representatives and their focus on the budget process. Krumholz cited his professional background as a civil engineer and desire to encourage participation and listen as he leads. Severson, who was typically concise in his answers, said he was invested in the tradition of excellence in the OUSD school system, which he attended and will educate his five children. Van Voorhis-Gilbert identified herself

as a new voice, one that was ready to infuse a little more debate. She described the addition of three new members as an opportunity to change the complexion of a board that has had a number of the same trustees for a long time.

On curriculum decisions: Van Voorhis-Gilbert was supportive of more teacher input and control in driving the curriculum, noting that her impression has been that the District administration has taken a top-down approach and provided limited ways for teachers to provide feedback on what is working in the classroom. Krumholz felt teachers should be using technology in a more integrated way. Butler, Rossiter, and Severson agreed that teachers are a valuable resource to curriculum enhancement and identified open communication as the answer.

On budget cuts: Krumholz and Van Voorhis-Gilbert both supported incremental reductions across the budget versus the elimination of entire programs. Van Voorhis-Gilbert added that she would support the elimination of administrative bonuses over other budget cuts. Rossiter stated the current school board has done an amazing job of handling the cuts given the significant budget shortfalls, and she anticipated more difficult budget decisions in the future. Butler concurred that further budget reductions by the State were likely and emphasized that she has followed the budget issue closely, adding that the decision between incremental reductions

and eliminating a program can be difficult and multi-factored. Severson would look to first go leaner with support staff and maintenance and work to keep cuts away from the classroom.

On changing the Board's meeting time: Van Voorhis-Gilbert was outspoken, stating, "A 4:00 meeting is a staff meeting, not a Board meeting. It's inconvenient to both working and stay-at-home parents." She advocated moving the meeting to the evening. Butler, Krumholz, and Severson were amenable to a meeting time change; Rossiter said she was not sure that a later time would work well for teachers and staff who live outside of Orinda.

On a new parcel tax: Severson stated that parent contributions already cover 30% of the OUSD budget, and he would not be in favor of an additional parcel tax at this time. Krumholz was not sure residents would accept another parcel tax and felt the District needed to explore other options. Rossiter noted that the community is very generous to the schools and a survey to gauge residents' views was needed. Butler felt that the potential for budget reductions was quite real but that consideration of a new parcel tax required a thorough review process. Through her own informal survey, Van Voorhis-Gilbert said she believed that residents would support a parcel tax if they believed the District was spending well, but that a new tax should have a two to three-year sunset.

Submit stories to [schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

### Family Focus

## Date Rape

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

Date rape is a difficult, uncomfortable topic for many reasons. It involves a violent act, usually perpetrated on a young person. The victim experiences an enormous sense of betrayal and personal self-loathing because she actually knows her assaulter and usually feels responsible for getting herself into a bad situation. Too often the victim does not report the rape to anyone. She is fearful that she will not be believed and is too ashamed to acknowledge what happened. Sadly, the victim doesn't obtain the compassion and vindication she desperately needs to deal with the rape and to eventually have some closure.

Date rape is all too prevalent on college campuses. In one study at Cornell University, twenty percent of women claimed they had sex forced on them. According to another survey, four out of five college students who were raped knew their attackers. Usually drugs, alcohol, or both are contributing factors. Some experts estimate that only about ten percent of all rapes are reported to police. Fewer still make it to court.

Unfortunately, most local therapists see victims of date rapes from our high schools. Fifteen years ago I saw an 18-year old girl who hadn't told anyone that she had been raped a year earlier. When "Caroline" was a high school junior, she was at a

party where everyone got drunk. She went off into a bedroom with a boy she knew casually, just to "fool around." However, the boy forced himself on her despite her loud protestations and attempts to physically escape from him.

After this incident, Caroline became depressed and bulimic. She didn't realize all the implications of the date rape until a few years later when she heard about the subject during her college orientation. She joined a rape support group on campus and told her parents. When she came to see me for treatment Caroline was embarrassed, guilt-ridden, and depressed. Caroline had thought highly of the boy who raped her because he was an athlete and popular. She blamed herself as much as him. But being drunk and going into a bedroom with someone did not at all excuse the fact that she was raped, a criminal act. Ultimately, Caroline was able to realize that the rape was not at all her fault. As we worked together, she was able to become angry that someone violated her in this way. Her depression lifted as she stopped turning her anger inward towards herself.

Another teenage girl I saw several years ago, "Julia," did report her date rape to her parents and the police. She stood up for herself admirably. The problem was that the perpetrator and his

family and friends tried to turn the situation around to make Julia into a liar and a troublemaker. The boy's reputation and future was on the line, and his supporters closed ranks around him. Most of Julia's close friends wouldn't support her for fear of reprisal. As Julia said, it felt like an attack all over again since she was so deeply hurt by so many in her community. Her trust in people was severely damaged. She did get to see who her true friends were, but it took Julia many years to recover from this trauma.

All too often friends fail to rally behind victims of date rape. These friends are often torn between loyalty to the victim and concern about their social standing with their peers. They usually experience guilt and anxiety if they fail to support their friend in her ordeal. To a much lesser degree than the rape victim, of course, her friends may also go through a great deal of torment.

One particularly horrifying situation was the case of a 29 year-old client whom I was seeing for depression. "Shelley" and some female friends went to a bar in San Francisco one evening and met some cute guys there. They talked and flirted and then went to one of the guy's apartments to continue partying. Unbeknownst to Shelley someone drugged her by putting something into her wine. She didn't

remember much after that. She later thought that she must have drunk too much and passed out. Unfortunately her friends were too inebriated to know what was happening to her.

A month later Shelley discovered that she had a case of gonorrhea. Several weeks after that, she found out that she was pregnant. Naturally, she was horrified. Shelley was Catholic and the idea of an abortion went very counter to her beliefs. She had no idea who the man was who raped her, and no one could remember where the apartment was located.

Some people would judge Shelley harshly for her actions - drinking too much and then going to a stranger's apartment with her girlfriends. But the fact is that she was raped. She did not consent to having sex, and didn't even know anything was happening to her at the time. Shelley acted stupidly, but the person who did this to her acted criminally.

Unlike Shelley, most victims of date rape know their attacker and often have some kind of relationship with him. They can be friends, casually dating each other, or romantically involved. Women need to know how to protect themselves from the possibility of date rape. They can avoid drinking too much and make sure that they have one or more designated friends who will watch out for them. They

need to be sure to keep any alcoholic beverages under their control. They need to give clear signals to males at all times, and establish their boundaries ahead of time. They must avoid putting themselves into compromising situations where there is no escape.

Males need to respond appropriately when they hear the word "no" from a date or a girlfriend, even if they think they received prior encouragement. Too often in these situations, males are inebriated and irrational. They need to realize the critical implications of their behavior.

It is important for rape victims to tell those close to them and to seek help and support. Our community has services available through the Rape Crisis Center in Concord, a 24-hour rape crisis hotline, and the Contra Costa County Crisis Center. Supportive individual therapy is also an essential part of the recovery process.

What can parents do to help prevent their children from experiencing this devastating situation? When your child reaches puberty, it is time to discuss sexual issues, including date rape. You will need to explain things on a level in accordance with your child's age and maturity. Young girls need to be taught to always say "NO" and "STOP" loudly if they are uncomfortable in any situation and to avoid let-

ting potential embarrassment interfere. They can benefit from self-defense classes in case they need to use physical force to protect themselves.

Young boys need training in responding to girls saying "no" to them. Even if he receives a mixed signal from a girl that she may want him to, say, kiss her, if she says "no" or "stop" in the process, he needs to immediately respect her wishes.

Parents need to repeat these messages periodically until they are well-established guides for behavior. It is never too early to discuss the issues associated with date rape, but unfortunately it can sometimes be too late.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a marriage and family therapist in Orinda and Walnut Creek. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or [margierye@yahoo.com](mailto:margierye@yahoo.com). She is also available for parenting consultation.



• Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining •

# 3Bs Recipes (Bridge, Books and Bunco)

By Susie Iventosch

Exciting news ...it's Bunco night! Distressing news ... it's your turn to host. Yikes!

The perpetual problem possesses your thoughts: What, oh what to serve? It has to be delicious, it should be attractive, and it's best if prepared ahead—with minimal effort once the guests arrive. After all, you want to play too!

A couple of weeks ago, I received an email requesting some main dish ideas for just such gatherings.

"Many Lamorinda ladies are involved in Book, Bridge and Bunco groups," wrote Constance Clayburn of Moraga. "I would love to see some 'main dish' ideas and serving suggestions published in the Lamorinda Weekly, that are apropos to the season."

Clayburn said that these types of groups normally meet on a monthly basis, and the gatherings are anywhere from eight to 12 people. The hostess generally prepares the entire meal when it is her turn to host the event, but prefers dishes that can be prepared ahead of time,

so she, too, may join in the fun! "Everyone is thinking 'healthy' and 'low calorie', yet still tasty and attractive," Clayburn added. "It's the age-old 'what to serve' dilemma!"

Pouring over recipes, I came up with all sorts of rich, calorie-laden ideas, like lobster-Gruyere macaroni and cheese (heavenly), or homemade chicken pot pies, divine, but tough to make low-cal. Then I thought of a recipe a friend gave me long ago, that combines orzo pasta with Ortega chilies and cheese. Everyone I've ever served it to has absolutely loved it. And, it can be made in a low-cal version by using non-fat sour cream and reduced calorie cheese. Add a seasonal touch by serving an arugula-roasted pumpkin salad, garnished with pomegranate seeds, nuts and blue cheese. By adding roasted turkey or chicken, this salad can become a healthy and festive main course, too.

Then, there is always the amazing Chicken Marbella from the Silver Palate cookbook. This dish, made with olives, prunes, capers and brown sugar, is baked in a lovely marinade of wine, olive oil, herbs and wine vinegar, is really best served at room temperature, anyway!

For vegetarians, a stuffed eggplant with a walnut-wheat-germ-Parmesan crust is to die for—and a meal in itself. And, for crisp fall evenings, pumpkin bisque served in individual hallowed out pumpkins is an especially fun treat, too! You just need a short "time-out" for everyone to ladle their own pumpkin-ful. Actually, come to think of it, the arugula salad and pumpkin soup would team up for a delicious dinner pair, too.

I'll keep looking for more ideas, but here is a start! If anyone has a great recipe for the 3Bs they'd like to share, please email me and I will try to publish it!

## Baked Orzo-Ortega Chile Casserole

Makes one 9x13 casserole  
My friend Shawn made this dish for us before we ever had kids. Now, some 25 years later, it is still one of our family's favorite pasta dishes. My son used to think this dish was the absolute definition of the word "casserole." It wasn't until he was in his teens that he realized that "casserole" was a type of dish, not orzo pasta with chilies and cheese!

It can be made with brown or brown/wild rice, too, for those who prefer grains to pasta, but it is just a little more dense and slightly less puffy.

- Ingredients**
- 1 ½ cups orzo (rice-shaped pasta) or rice
  - 1 ½ cups grated Monterey Jack cheese, or Pepper Jack (can use low-calorie version)
  - ½ cup diced, mild Ortega chilies
  - 1 red bell pepper, diced
  - 1 cup sour cream (can use non-fat or low-fat sour cream)
  - ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

**Directions**  
Preheat oven to 400°. In a large pot of boiling water, cook orzo to al dente. Drain and place in a large bowl. Mix cooked orzo with one 1 cup of the Jack cheese, red bell pepper, chilies and ½ cup of the sour cream. Stir well. Spread into greased 9x13 inch baking dish. (You can certainly do individual ramekins, if you prefer.) Spread remaining sour cream in a thin, even layer on top and sprinkle with remaining Jack and Parmesan cheeses. Bake for approximately 20 minutes, or until slightly puffed and cheese is browned. If there are any leftovers, which is unlikely, they make a terrific lunch to take to work or school, or it can be frozen for another busy day.



Photo Susie Iventosch

## Arugula salad with roasted pumpkin, toasted hazelnuts or pecans, pomegranate seeds, bleu cheese and Blood Orange Vinaigrette

- Salad Ingredients**
- 4 cups rocket-leaf arugula
  - 1/3 cup pomegranate seeds
  - ¼ cup crumbled blue cheese
  - 1 cup cubed, roasted pumpkin\*
  - 1/3 cup toasted hazelnuts or pecan halves
- Blood Orange Vinaigrette**
- 1/3+ cup extra virgin olive oil (add a little more or less, depending upon your tastes)
  - 2 tablespoons Blood Orange vinegar (Cuisine Perel makes this)
  - 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
  - 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
  - ½ teaspoon onion powder
  - ½ teaspoon garlic powder
  - ½ teaspoon white pepper
  - ½ teaspoon sea salt

**Directions**  
Place arugula, pumpkin, pomegranate seeds, blue cheese and pecans in a glass salad bowl. (This is a very pretty salad, so a glass bowl makes a nice presentation.) Toss with vinaigrette and serve at once!  
\*To cook pumpkin, heat oven to 375° and spray roasting pan with cooking spray or brush with olive oil. Cut baking pumpkin in half, scoop out seeds and drizzle inside of pumpkin halves with olive oil. Place, cut side down, in roasting pan and bake for approximately 15-20 minutes, or until a knife will easily pierce through skin and meat. Remove from oven. Cool and remove skin. Cut pumpkin into bite-sized pieces and toss with salt and pepper to season. Refrigerate until ready to use.



Photo Susie Iventosch

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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



LAMORINDA's Restaurants		... updated July 7, 2010 ...	
<b>American</b>	Bistro, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-7108	China Moon Restaurant, 380 Park St, Mor, 376-1828	Michael's, 1375 Moraga Way, Mor, 376-4300
	Chow Restaurant, 53 Lafayette Cir, Laf, 962-2469	The Great Wall Rest., 3500 Golden Gate Way, 284-3500	Pizza Antica, 3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 299-0500
	Quinzos, 3651 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 962-0200	Hsiangs Mandarin Cuisine, 1 Orinda Way # 1, Ori, 253-9852	Mountain Mike's Pizza, 504 Center St, Mor, 377-6453
	Ranch House, 1012 School St, Mor, 376-5127	Lily's House, 3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd #A, Laf, 284-7569	Pennini's, 1375 Moraga Rd, Mor, 299-8700
	Terzetto Cuisine, 1419 Moraga Way, Mor, 376-3832	Mandarin Flower, 581 Moraga Rd, Mor, 376-7839	Round Table Pizza, 361 Rheem Blvd, Mor, 376-1411
	The Cheese Steak Shop, 3455 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-1234	Panda Express, 3608 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 962-0288	Village Pizza, 19 Orinda Way # Ab, Ori, 254-1200
<b>BBQ</b>		Szechwan Chinese Restaurant, 79 Orinda Way, Ori, 254-2020	Zamboni's Pizza, 1 Camino Sobrante # 4, Ori, 283-0404
	Bo's Barbecue, 3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-7133	Uncle Yu's Szechuan, 999 Oak Hill Rd, Laf, 283-1688	
<b>Burger Joint</b>		Yan's Restaurant, 3444 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 284-2228	<b>Sandwiches/Deli</b>
	Flippers, 960 Moraga Rd, Laf, 284-1567	<b>Coffee Shop</b>	Bianca's Deli, 1480 Moraga Rd # A, Mor, 376-4400
	Nation's Giant Hamburgers, 400 Park, Mor, 376-8888	Millie's Kitchen, 1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Laf, 283-2397	Europa Hofbrau Deli & Pub, 64 Moraga Way, Ori, 254-7202
	Nation's Giant Hamburgers, 76 Moraga Way, Ori, 254-8888	Squirrel's Coffee Shop, 998 Moraga Rd, Laf, 284-7830	Kasper's Hot Dogs, 103 Moraga Way, Ori, 253-0766
<b>Café</b>		Village Inn Cafe, 204 Village Square, Ori, 254-6080	Noah's Bagels, 3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 299-0716
	Ferrari-Lucca Delicatessens, 23 Lafayette Cir, Laf, 299-8040	<b>Continental</b>	Orinda Deli, 19 F Orinda Way, Ori, 254-1990
	Geppetto's cafe, 87 Orinda Way, Ori, 253-9894	Duck Club Restaurant, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-7108	Subway, 396 Park St., Mor, 376-2959
	La Boulanger, 3597 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 284-1001	Petar's Restaurant, 32 Lafayette Cir, Laf, 284-7117	Subway, 3322 Mt. Diablo Blvd #B, Laf, 284-2627
	Manoumia Express Cafe, 3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd # 179, Laf, 299-1372	Roy's Garlic Garden, 3576 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-3007	Subway, Theatre Square, Ori, 258-0470
	Rising Loafers, 3643 Mt. Diablo Blvd Ste B, Laf, 284-8816	Vino Restaurant, 3531 Plaza Way, Laf, 284-1330	<b>Seafood</b>
	Susan Food Catering & Cafe, 965 Mt. View Dr., Laf, 299-2469	<b>French</b>	Yankee Pier, 3593 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-4100
<b>California Cuisine</b>		Chevalier Restaurant, 960 Moraga Road, Laf, 385-0793	<b>Steak</b>
	Artisan Bistro, 1005 Brown St, Laf, 962-0882	Fuz, 3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 299-9930	Casa Orinda, 20 Bryant Way, Ori, 254-2981
	Metro Lafayette, 3524 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 284-4422	<b>Hawaiian Grill</b>	Tea Party by Appointment, 107 Orinda Way, Ori, 283-2206
	Shelby's, 2 Theatre Sq, Ori, 254-9687	Lava Pit Hawaiian Grill, 2 Theatre Square, St. 142, Ori, 253-1338	<b>Thai</b>
	Table 24, Theatre Sq, Ori, 254-0124	Mangia Ristorante Pizzeria, 975 Moraga Rd, Laf, 385-0658	Amarin Thai Cuisine, 3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd #B, Laf, 283-8883
<b>Chinese</b>		<b>Indian</b>	Baan Thai, 99 Orinda Way, Ori, 253-0989
	Asia Palace Restaurant, 1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor, 376-0809	Swad Indian Cuisine, 3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 962-9575	Royal Siam, 512 Center Street, Mor, 377-0420
	Chef Chao Restaurant, 343 Rheem Blvd, Mor, 376-1740	<b>Italian</b>	Siam Orchid, 23 Orinda Way # F, Ori, 253-1975
		Giardino, 3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-3869	<b>Vietnamese</b>
		La Finestra Ristorante, 100 Lafayette Cir, #101, Laf, 284-5282	Little Hearty Noodle, Pho & Pasta, 578 Center St., Mor, 376-7600
		La Piazza, 15 Moraga Way, Ori, 253-9191	
		Mangia Ristorante Pizzeria, 975 Moraga Rd, Laf, 284-3081	
		<b>Mediterranean</b>	
		Petra Cafe, 2 Theatre Sq # 105, Ori, 254-5290	
		Oasis Cafe, 3594 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 299-8822	
		Turquoise Mediterranean Grill, 70 Moraga Way, Ori, 253-2004	
		<b>Mexican</b>	
		360 Gourmet Burrito, 3655 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 299-1270	
		Casa Gourmet Burrito, 3322 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 284-4415	
		El Chorro Mexican Dining, 3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-2345	
		El Jaro Mexican Cafe, 3563 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-6639	
		La Cocina Mexicana, 23 Orinda Way, Ori, 258-9987	
		Mucho wraps, 1375-B Moraga Way, Mor, 377-1203	
		Baja Fresh Mexican Grill, 3596 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-8740	
		Celia's Restaurant, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-8288	
		El Balazo, 3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 284-8700	
		Maya Mexican Grill, 74 Moraga Way, Ori, 258-9049	
		Numero Uno Taqueria, 3616 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 299-1333	
		<b>Pizza</b>	



# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Acalanes Lady Dons Dominate Dublin

Young Team Comes Together in Win

By Abby Klinkenberg



Seniors Natalie Chan (#4) and Gaby Gaubert (#7) watch teammate spike the ball.

The Acalanes girls' varsity volleyball team has extended their interleague win streak to three games in an impressive exhibit at home over Dublin on Tuesday, October 5. After a bleak start to the season, falling to both Miramonte and Campolindo, the Lady Dons now improve to 3-2 in DFAL play and 4-6 overall.

Acalanes is a team budding with young talent; of the fourteen players, nine juniors dominate the list in addition to three sophomores. Senior co-captains, outside hitter Natalie Chan and setter Gaby Gaubert, along with senior Jessica Henry, provide leadership and experience for the team.

The first set against Dublin was tightly contested, as Acalanes

just scraped by to win the 26-24. The Lady Dons served first but dropped the point, setting the tone for what would turn out to be a rough beginning. Despite getting down 1-5 and trailing for much of the set, they turned on their focus to even the score at 15-15. After trading points in an intense rally, they fell behind 23-24. After that, Acalanes buckled down went on a run to finish out the set.

Acalanes lost the second set 21-25. This set was close as well. There were many long rallies and some difficult calls. However, the Lady Dons' lack of communication left a problematic hole in the middle that lead to their downfall. Due to their strong offense, Acalanes stayed in it until the end; the teams



Megan Daziel (#3) looks for a kill

were tied, 20-20, but after some miss-hits, Dublin went on a 5-1 run to seal the set.

With new vengeance, the Acalanes took to the court for the third set, eager to redeem themselves. At one point, dominating 19-9, Acalanes was clearly in control. After letting four points in a row slide past them, acting coach Jennifer Moore called a time out. The Lady Dons quickly recovered and finished off the third set strongly, winning 25-17. In this last set, 72 percent of their points came off kills or aces.

Junior opposite hitter Tyanna Roy had a set-high five kills in an overpowering performance. Sophomore middle Lila Schoenfield came off the bench and impressed

fans by contributing four kills and two aces.

Acalanes rode the momentum of the third set to close out the match, finishing the fourth set 25-17. Continuing their dominant offense: 68 percent of their points came off kills or aces in the set. Gaubert played an integral role in the win by contributing sets. She applauds her teammates for their morale: "We didn't get down on ourselves and stayed positive," she notes.

Coach Moore is also optimistic about the season and although hoping to establish more "focus coming into the [matches]," she anticipates continued "communication and intensity," characteristics exhibited by the Lady Dons in their impressive win.



Junior hitter Tyranna Roy had five kills in the third set. Photos Doug Kohen

## Lamorinda Petanque Hosts National Tournament

By Sophie Braccini



Photo Gilbert Sonet

During the weekend of October 9th-10th, the Lamorinda Petanque Club hosted a national competition at the Lafayette Community Center's beautiful petanque courts on Saint Mary's Road, across from S. Lucille Lane.

"More than 75 people from

all over California came to compete and have a great time at our beautiful location," said Lafayette resident and petanque player Gilbert Sonet, "they fought hard on the sunny courts, then relaxed and had a picnic under the ancient pear trees that make our location so special."

Singles men's and women's were played on Saturday, and the mixed triplets on Sunday. The winners of the men's singles was By Vang of Fresno, the winner of the women's single was Liza Vaughan from San Francisco. Carolina Jones from Lamorinda

Petanque came in second.

"Lamorinda has in the past been privileged to host Regionals and Nationals since moving to its new field in 2007," said club president Mary Albright. The field is open to everyone; Club members can be found at the courts every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. and every Thursday afternoon at 2:30 p.m., and are happy to introduce new players to the sport.

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## Bridge-to-Bridge Run

Submitted by Daniel Mader



Photo Daniel Mader

Jack Mader, a Del Rey fifth grader, placed first in his age group and 453rd out of 2,320 total 12k runners on October 3rd in San Francisco at the Bridge

to Bridge run. The event benefitted Northern California Special Olympics. His chip time was 1:03:46 and a pace of 8:34/M for the seven mile race.

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# SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



## SMC Women's Soccer Confident

Gaels Shutout Dons in WCC Opener

By Bryant West



Jordan Marada (#10) offered SMC's best first-half chance for a goal. At the 26:59 mark she had a 20 yard shot that hit the far post. Photo Tod Fierner



#4 Caroline Shelin Photo Tod Fierner

In an October 2nd matchup against #18 Cal, the Saint Mary's Gaels women's soccer team found themselves down 2-0 in the second half. For Gaels' teams in the past, it could have been just another day. But the Gaels powered past the Golden Bears in the final minutes, scoring twice and finishing with a 2-2 tie.

"They (Cal) are a very talented team that have won a lot of big games," Gaels coach Kia Edwards said after the game, "and we're still coming into our

own – and for that group to be down two-zero to a team like that... it's exciting."

Four years ago, the Gaels were 3-11-4 and won just one in-conference game. Fast forward to the present, where Edwards is now in his second year as head coach of the Gaels, and his team sits at 7-3-3 and won their first conference game on Sunday.

"I think our kids are starting to learn" he said on Sunday, "that this isn't the program of old, when you're just happy to

get through the day and the season. Their job is to win games... I think our kids need to understand, life is fun in college soccer, and all that, but there is also the business part of it – your job is to win."

The Gaels first conference win was against San Francisco; Saint Mary's held the ball for most of the game and took 20 shots while holding the Dons to nine. In the fiftieth minute, Jordan Marada's deflected pass found freshmen forward Briana

Campos who smacked it in.

For Edwards, it's all business. "To only have three losses in thirteen games is solid, but to win and shut out a team, the confidence is there," he said. He reiterated that is the team's "job" to win these games, especially games against local rivals like San Francisco, Santa Clara and Berkeley.

The Gaels played a strong preconference schedule and Edwards cites the tough play in

helping build his team's confidence. "(The schedule) allowed us to get more players on the field," he said, noting the example of freshman defender Melinda Madden. Madden was named a starter after an injury to senior Caroline Shevlin, and played a combined 200 minutes in the Gaels road games against Arkansas and Southern Mississippi University. "It allowed a lot of our kids to get confidence," Edwards said, "and for us to get confidence in them."

As the Gaels move fully into the conference schedule – with home games against WCC powerhouses #15 Santa Clara and San Diego – Kia hopes the confidence build up from a strong start can continue for the Gaels. "Our greatest strength is our team effort," he said. "Our team is competitive, very competitive, and they work hard together."

The Gaels take on #15 Santa Clara at home on Friday, October 15 and San Diego on Sunday.

## Lamorinda 15U Boys' Soccer Wins Weekend Shootout

Submitted by Kelly Wood (written by Chris Banard)

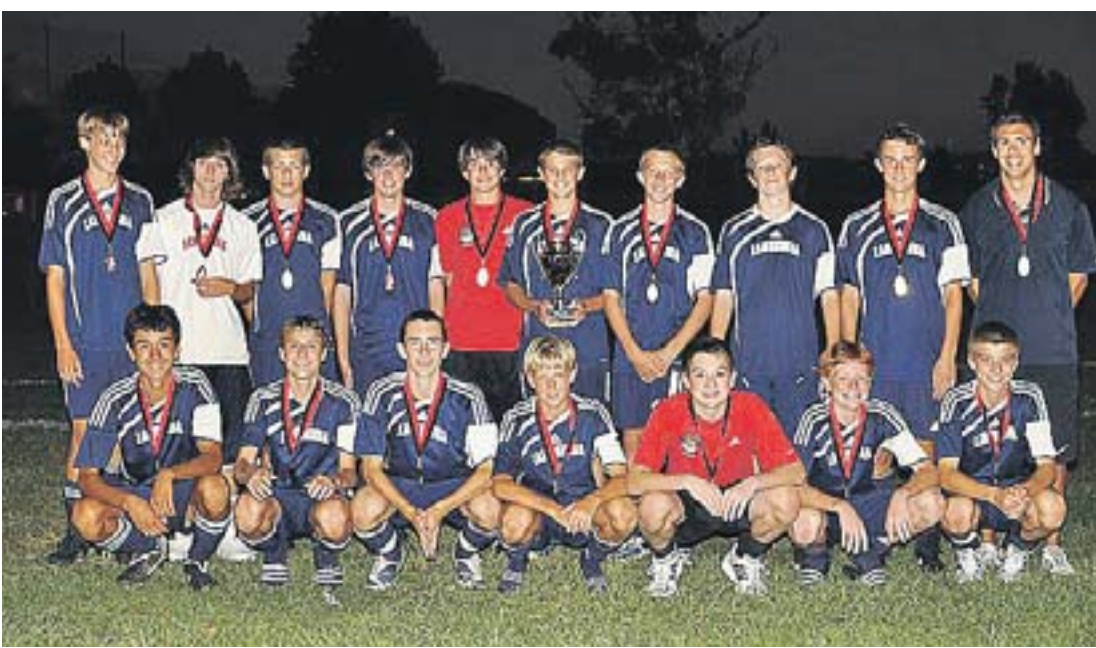


Photo provided

The Lamorinda Soccer Club's U15 FC 95 boys' team enjoyed an undefeated run

through the HK Shootout in Fremont on September 25-26, capturing first place with a 2-0

win over Mustang United 95 in their final game. FC 95 started the weekend's pool play with a

hard-fought victory over host Mission Valley United followed by a well executed 4-0 win over Bay Oaks Arsenal where FC 95's possession game was at its best. In a spirited 2-1 victory over South San Jose Elite SC FC 95 scored the only goals that South San Jose conceded all weekend. In combination with a stingy defense and sterling keeper play, the win proved to be the key contest of the weekend. In the championship game, FC 95 controlled the game with a goal in each half while goalkeepers Jeffrey Lefcourt and Keegan Murphy tallied their second clean sheet of the weekend. Afterwards, Coach Pedro Osorio presented Gus Keeble with the team trophy as FC 95's most valuable player of the tournament.

## LYMA Soccer

Submitted by Gint Federas



Lafayette's LYMA 5/6th grade boys team, Italy, beat Brazil 4-1 on Saturday, September 25. Photo Gint Federas

## Campo Volleyball Goes Undefeated in Christian Brothers Tournament

Submitted by Gint Federas (Story credit Eric Standing)

On Saturday, October 2 the Campolindo girls' varsity team went undefeated in the Chris-

tian Brothers Great 8 Tournament. The team attributed the win to excellent serving and good passing.

Strong defensive efforts from Sophie Smith and Kim Condie also contributed to the win.



Back Left to Right: Chandler Moore, Anisa Smith, Annie Shurtz, Brooke Standing, Sophie Seiberth, Abbie Noland, Mary Vaccaro, Mallory Loomis, Coach Scott Bishop  
Front Left to Right: Lena Olufson, Cassidy Abel, Kit Koelzer, Kim Condie, Sophie Smith

Photo Michael Condie

## Dive Meet Results

Submitted by Steve Sherman



Brenna Certone doing a forward one and a half somersault in the pike position from the 1M board. Photo provided Sherman Dive School competed in the Dos Rios Invitational Diving Meet on September 25 in Folsom.

Event	Place	Name	Hometown
16-18 Boys 3M J.O.	First	Ascher Litchtig	Lafayette
FC Level 2 Girls 3M	Fifth	Katherine Seperack	Lafayette
FC Level 2 Girls 1M	Third	Katherine Seperack	Lafayette
11&under Girls 3m J.O.	Second	Brenna Certone	Orinda
11&under Girls 1M J.O.	Second	Brenna Certone	Orinda
14-15 Girls 3M J.O.	Third	Alyssa Parsons	Moraga
14-15 Girls 1M J.O.	Fourth	Alyssa Parsons	Moraga





# SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

## Local Football Rivalries Play Out

... continued from page A1



Senior captain Lucas Levine (#11) takes on former Stanley teammate, now rival, Derick Margerum (#7). Photo Pam Alsterlind

Acalanes, however, showed their resilience by scoring just before the half thanks to an Aaron Edwards run.

The Dons went ahead for good late in the third quarter when

running back Joe Dreyer broke and ran for a 72-yard touchdown.

"We noticed they were shifting to our wing, so we put the wing on the opposite side of where we ran it, and it just worked perfectly,"

Dreyer said.

Campolindo surged late in the fourth quarter after an Acalanes field goal and got a touchdown from Erik Baker, but it was too little too late as time ran out, prompting an elated celebration from the players and coaches to the away fans.

"We had two horribly brutal weeks and we had to come back and play the kind of football we knew we were capable of," Ivankovich said. "Sometimes when it goes away you forget what it feels like, and they got that back tonight."

Leamy echoed those sentiments.

"If you get two losses in league, you really don't get a shot at winning, but hope is still alive, and this is a good push going into the rest of the season."

The big win was, naturally, sweeter when defeating a local rival.

"These kids grow up together, so when we play each other, we want to get it done," Ivankovich said. "We got it done tonight."

Acalanes will look to build on the win Friday when they travel to Alhambra, while Campolindo will look to reverse their fortunes and halt their skid at Dublin.



Acalanes #32 Carson Gardner, Campolindo #2 Thorsten Karl Photo Andy Scheck

## Miramonte Remains Undefeated



Meanwhile, Orinda's Miramonte kept their perfect record intact, now 6-0, defeating Acalanes 44-21 on October 1, and Dougherty Valley (DV) 38-20 on October 8. In last Friday's game against DV the Matadors went into the halftime interval up 24-0 after a wild last minute of the first half that saw Miramonte cover 80 yards in three plays. Mats' junior quarterback Ross Anderson scored on a 24-yard run that effectively sealed the win for the home team. Anderson finished with 115 yards and a touchdown while running for 157 yards with three scores, leading all rushers. The Mats will look to stay undefeated this Friday at Las Lomas, and will host Campolindo on October 22nd.

In the 44-21 win over Acalanes on October 1, Miramonte quarterback Ross Anderson (9) ran up the middle for a 40 yard gain in the first play of the game. Photo Jordan Fong



The Matador's Christian Thatcher (2) ripped the ball out of the hands of Acalanes running back Aaron Edwards (19) and headed to the endzone for a touchdown. Photo Jordan Fong

## Passion Helps Drive

By Lou Fancher



Elizabeth Schultz Photo provided

A little over one year ago, 14-year old Elizabeth Schultz swung a golf club for the first time. A little over two weeks ago, she shot an eagle on a par 4.

The Acalanes High School freshman is turning heads and holing putts in a stunning second year of golf. Schultz became interested in the sport while attending eighth grade at Stanley Middle School. Playing there in her debut season, her team went on to become the Contra Costa Middle School champions.

"Dan, our family friend, showed me how to play golf," Schultz says, remembering her first experience with a club. "The Masters was on TV and I

asked him to show me how to hit a ball. We got some cotton balls and went out in the backyard."

Three hours later, Schultz was still going at it. "I was swinging hard and fast. I was having a good time," she remembers. She even remembers the equipment she was using: a Momentum swing trainer, a driver and a 9-iron. "And we putted right here on the hardwood boards," she adds, pointing at the living room floor in her family's Lafayette home.

Golfing at home merely whet her appetite for the real deal. "Next, I wanted to try hitting an actual golf ball. When I did, even though I wasn't hitting

well yet, it was fun to see the ball go somewhere."

Schultz has been able to make the ball go, not just "somewhere," but exactly where she wants it to go. At the Northern California Junior Golf Association's tournament this summer, Schultz played the #1 rated Hannah O'Sullivan. Schultz shot a 79. At another event at Lone Tree Golf Course, she shot an 80, taking first place.

Tim Scott, the Acalanes girls varsity golf coach, said: "I have never met a young lady so into golf. She works at it every day." And he notes her potential: "I know she will become a great golfer. Her greatest strength now is her driving. She hits long and straight. [I] do not know at this stage how big she will make it, but she has more focus than most players her age."

"My driver," she says, when asked what is the strongest part of her game. "I can naturally hit far. I have a strong back and I'm flexible. I create more head speed and I get more shoulder turn." Years of swimming contribute to her forceful swing and add to the upper-body flexibility golf requires.

And the weakest part? "I'm working on my long putts," she says. "My distance control is weak. I tend to leave them short. But 7 footer in—I'm really good at those."

The last comment, delivered without arrogance, is why Schultz, especially at 14, is remarkable. Her focus is intense, but not destructive. She buys all her own clubs, including a cherished \$300 Scotty Cameron putter, saying, "A lot of kids, their



parents push them, but I love golf and put my own money into it. It's cool; I have a passion. Unless you have a passion [too], you don't understand it."

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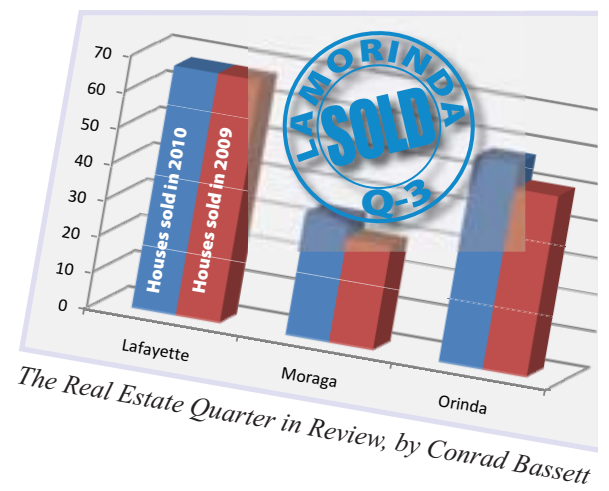


# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 04 Issue 16 Wednesday, October 13, 2010

## Back Yard Bocce

By Lou Fancher



Alissa and Bill Scanlin play Bocce on their home court; their vineyard rises in the background.

Photos Andy Scheck

Italians, Romans, and even the Pope have played Bocce; and now, the sport with a touch of Italy is arriving in many Lamorinda back yards.

Constructing a home bocce court is not just a matter of pulling a few weeds, spreading a layer of sand, and inviting the neighbors over for a frame or two. Home courts involve landscaping, construction, design, and an experienced professional who understands your yard. Climate, sun and shade, drainage, maintenance, and the final touch, aesthetics, all weigh in to the equation.

This year, Alissa and Bill Scanlin embarked on a large landscaping project behind their sprawling Lafayette home. The Scanlins have had a vineyard since 1998, but wanted to expand the operation. Working with Mike McLane, of Michael's Landscape Construction, the couple decided a bocce court would be the perfect solution for the northeast corner of their yard.

"Whenever we played bocce, we always enjoyed it. Drinking a glass of wine and playing bocce: it's good entertainment," says Bill. "You can be talking about other things and still keep playing."

The sport's increasing popularity means many guests already know how to play, and even for the novices, the rules are simple, points out Alissa.

"The biggest challenge we had was making sure it didn't slide," Alissa says. "Because it's at the base of a hill." "We had drainage problems, with mud coming over the path before," Bill says, "but now, even the big rains don't cause trouble."

McLane says bocce courts are inherently simple, in terms of construction. "It's basically just building a rectangle. The most difficult part is to maintain a very fine level across the court." Most courts, without extensive grading issues like the Scanlins', can be completed within one week.

... continued on page OH4





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93 Moraga Way, Orinda

## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

<b>LAFAYETTE</b>	Last reported: 7
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$959,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,800,000
<b>MORAGA</b>	Last reported: 7
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$410,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,544,500
<b>ORINDA</b>	Last reported: 7
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$630,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,830,000

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

- 3356 Betty Lane, \$595,500, 3 Bdrms, 1377 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 9-10-10
- 3548 Herman Drive, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 2839 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 9-3-10;  
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 06-25-04
- 38 Jennifer Highlands Court, \$1,225,000, 5 Bdrms, 4163 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 9-8-10;  
Previous Sale: \$632,000, 01-02-96
- 10 Julie Highlands Court, \$1,259,000, 4 Bdrms, 3813 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 9-15-10;  
Previous Sale: \$630,000, 04-15-98
- 7 Lincolnshire Court, \$650,000, 3 Bdrms, 2595 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-8-10
- 1195 Pleasant Hill Circle, \$770,000, 4 Bdrms, 2089 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 9-16-10
- 725 St. Marys Road, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 3211 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 9-13-10

### MORAGA

- 4 Benedita Place, \$410,000, 2 Bdrms, 1211 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 9-15-10
- 39 Buckingham Drive, \$740,000, 4 Bdrms, 1840 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 9-10-10;  
Previous Sale: \$87,000, 09-15-76
- 4 Canning Court, \$450,000, 3 Bdrms, 1454 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 9-10-10;  
Previous Sale: \$843,000, 04-24-06
- 1615 Del Monte Way, \$940,000, 5 Bdrms, 2592 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 9-10-10
- 7 El Camino Flores, \$715,000, 5 Bdrms, 2342 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 9-8-10
- 75 Jean Court, \$1,544,500, 4 Bdrms, 4080 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 9-3-10;  
Previous Sale: \$2,000,000, 03-29-06
- 32 Maison Court, \$1,275,000, 4 Bdrms, 3163 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 9-15-10;  
Previous Sale: \$1,272,500, 06-15-01

### ORINDA

- 24 Camino Sobrante, \$1,028,000, 4 Bdrms, 2394 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-15-10;  
Previous Sale: \$546,000, 12-08-99
- 70 Hillcrest Drive, \$630,000, 4 Bdrms, 1778 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-9-10
- 201 Ivy Drive, \$940,000, 4 Bdrms, 2275 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 9-3-10;  
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 06-30-06
- 134 La Espiral, \$990,500, 4 Bdrms, 3728 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 9-8-10;  
Previous Sale: \$1,355,000, 04-14-06
- 461 Moraga Way, \$712,000, 3 Bdrms, 1811 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 9-15-10;  
Previous Sale: \$515,000, 08-01-01
- 20 Tarry Lane, \$1,830,000, 5 Bdrms, 3209 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 9-16-10;  
Previous Sale: \$1,016,000, 12-16-03
- 311 Village View Court, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 2165 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 9-9-10;  
Previous Sale: \$645,000, 02-28-97

## Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

### ORINDA

- 618 Moraga Way, 94563, Deutsche Bank, 09-13-10, \$783,000, 2146 sf, 5 bd
- 76 Acacia Drive, 94563, First Horizon Home Loan, 09-17-10, \$745,960, 2220 sf, 4 bd

### LAFAYETTE

- 3015 Bradbury Drive, 94549, ING Bank, 08-20-10, \$1,034,955, 2205 sf, 3 bd



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**September 2010**

Days on Market  
Average Sold Price  
Number of detached homes sold

	Lafayette	Moraga	Orinda
Days on Market	60	37	85
Average Sold Price	\$1,122,000	\$961,000	\$1,035,000
Number of detached homes sold	20	11	17



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## Back Yard Bocce

... continued from page OH1



*A French Drain, on the right, prevents drainage problems.*

But selecting the correct materials and knowing where to save and where to splurge, has a dramatic affect on the bottom line. "Oyster shell materials are wickedly expensive," says McLane. "I used track fines—or "decomposed granite," which is the generic term—as the base material."

The fines, the sand-like material topping the Scanlin bocce court, is spread over compacted base rock. The border is a versalock block wall: a gravity wall system with no mortar. Decking material forms the inside frame, reducing the wear and tear on the bocce balls.

There's no way McLane could "construct" the court's fabulous view of Mount Diablo. But a strategically placed gazebo offers spectators an unobstructed view of both the court and the sweeping vista.

Jeanne HuangLi and Nathan Ogle moved to Orinda in August of 2009. Their home, built by architect Paul Hamilton in 1951, is nestled in a nearly-vertical hillside just north of Highway 24. On approach, it's difficult to picture anything being flat, let alone the fine-tuned leveling a bocce court requires.

Looking down from the balcony, the back yard court extends away from the house. Unlike the Scanlins, the HuangLi-Ogle family's court was already in place when they purchased the home.

"My first instinct was whether we could dig it up and make it a wading pool," HuangLi says. "But actually, it's been really popular."

The couple has discovered bocce adds to any gathering, from birthdays to the large alumni parties they host. HuangLi is the Senior Director of Development and Alumni Relations at the Haas School of Business in Berkeley. She's also the president of the University of Michigan's Bay area alumni chapter, boasting 15,000 members.

"We've hosted send-offs for new U of M students—all kinds of events. It's not

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dependent on athletic ability, so anyone can participate and be competitive," she says.

Ogle believes the court was installed in the early 1980's, when the water systems were moved from the yard to the road. "The leech field, where the sewer system went, was right there," he says, pointing to the court.

The entire family gets into the action when son Paul, 11 and daughter Luzia, 6, join in. Because the court has lights, evening play is frequent. "Paul here, he'll be a ringer," says HuangLi. "We have to say, 'Let the other guests play,' because he's so competitive. And Luzia, she likes to throw out the little white ball (also called the "jack," "boccino" or "pallina," depending on who you're playing with) to get things started."

Although they've now purchased a good supply of balls, their first balls were found amidst the overhanging oaks on the hills surrounding the court. The trees provide shade and make play more enjoyable, HuangLi says. And provide plenty of opportunities for raking, adds Ogle, with a laugh.

All four family members say having a court has added to their social life. They're planning a recruiting bocce party for a local boy scout troop and Ogle says being on the court reminds him of his beloved Virginia roots. "I've thrown a lot of rocks at a lot of critters in my day, and almost as good."

The response to the Lamorinda Weekly's call for home bocce court stories was overwhelming. Scott Bronsteen left a phone message about his experience, saying, "We've got 4 young kids and it just seems like the kind of thing where both sexes and all ages can participate. It's a good family thing, and entertaining for when you have couples over. Ours is smack under Redwood trees, so it gets more needles on it than I'd like to see on there, but otherwise, we really enjoy it."

Thank you to all who emailed or called. With the sport's booming popularity, we may even have to run a sequel.

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# The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS

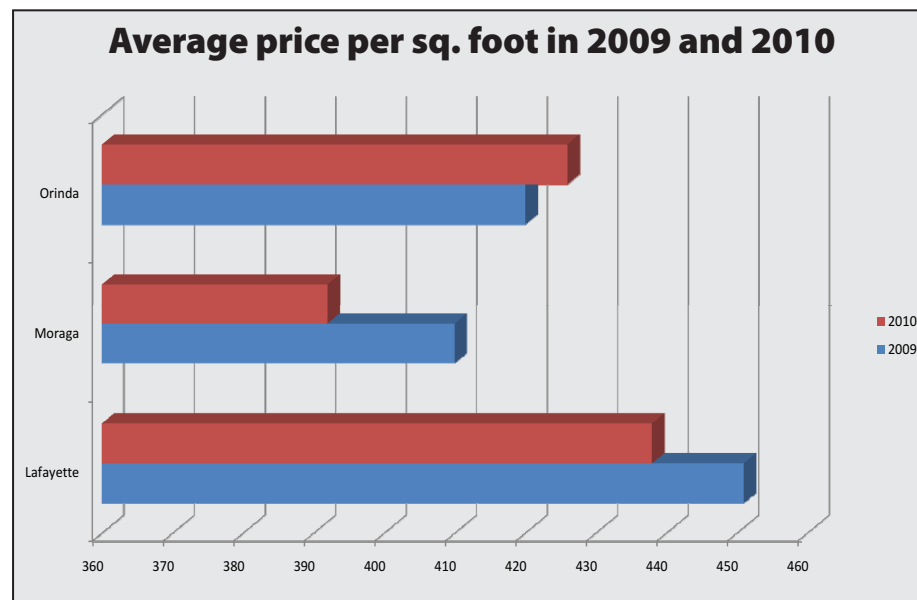
The third quarter of 2010 continued to show significant activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from July 1 through September 30, 67 single-family homes closed in Lafayette. This is exactly the same amount that closed in the same quarter a year ago. Sales prices ranged from \$527,500 to \$2,837,500 and the average number of days on market was 67 days. The average sales price was \$1,188,628. There were two other homes that closed during the quarter per the MLS but the sales prices were not disclosed. Both likely sold above \$2,000,000 so the average sales price would be around \$1,200,000 had the sale prices been disclosed. In the third quarter of 2009, the average sales price was \$1,085,962.

In Moraga the number of single-family closings was 34, with the prices ranging from \$500,000 to \$1,544,200. The average sale price was \$942,082. The average marketing time was 48 days. Looking back over the same quarter in 2009, there were only 28 closings and the average sales price was \$935,017.

In Orinda the number of single-family closings was 57 with a range of sales prices of \$500,000 to \$2,800,000 and an average price of \$1,091,208. It took an average of 60 days on the market to sell a home. In the third quarter a year ago, there were 50 sales at an average sales price of \$1,148,974 in Orinda.

On an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette homes sold at \$438 per square foot, Moraga homes sold for \$392 and Orinda was at \$426. In the year ago quarter these amounts were \$451, \$410,



and \$420 respectively.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had one closing at \$370,000; Moraga had 20 ranging from \$147,000 to \$740,000 and Orinda had none.

As of October 5, 2010, there were 95 homes under contract per the MLS in the three communities combined with asking prices of \$239,000 to \$2,600,000. It should be pointed out that there are 17 "Potential Short Sales" that are currently pending and were subject to lender approval. The time for short sales to be approved has shortened in some cases, but the waiting time often remains several months.

Activity has really increased in the last several weeks as well. Of the 103 pending properties, 59 received acceptable offers since the first of September so between the three communities we continue to see around two homes headed towards closing each day.

Inventory, however, has increased. There are currently 258 properties on the market in all of Lamorinda—numbers that have increased in every community.

There are 114 properties on the market in Lafayette (a year ago at this time there were 84) with asking prices of \$380,000 to \$10,750,000. In Moraga, buyers have their choice of 64 homes or condominiums listed between \$169,900 and \$1,995,000. A year ago at this time

there were 50. In Orinda there are 80 on the market priced from \$269,900 to \$5,500,000, while last year at this time there were 72 available.

Based upon current inventory, if no other homes were to come on the market there is a 21 month supply of properties available in Lamorinda. At the end of the second quarter of 2010, there was around an eight month supply up from a seven month supply on March 31, 2010.

On October 1, 2009 there was a 17 month supply.

As is the case nearly every quarter, the most active price range is in the more "affordable" price ranges. At the high end, nine homes sold above \$2,000,000 in the third quarter in Lamorinda. Eight closed above \$2,000,000 in the three communities in the comparable quarter in 2009. Five are currently pending that are listed over \$2,000,000, two in Lafayette, two in Orinda and one in Moraga.

Interest rates continue to fall and are very attractive and many corporations continue to relocate families both in to and out of the area. Recently, several companies with offices on the mid-peninsula have had employees considering relocations to those offices ask for area tours of the East Bay—looking to balance a longer commute with better weather and schools with higher test scores.

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# Got Gas?

By Lou Fancher



Maurice Williams

Photo Andy Scheck

If you could make your home and family less at risk from accidents involving gas leaks, would you do it?

Sure, you say, but that's impossible! I don't have the patience for a class action lawsuit or to wait for a new city council member to tell us exactly what lurks under Lamorinda's aging underground structures.

Lafayette's Maurice Williams, owner and operator of Leapfrog Plumbing since 1993, says you don't have to wait. "You can be pre-emptive: know how to shut off appliances or the gas main," he says, making it sound easy.

And it is.

Williams says homeowners and renters should ask



Gas meter with seismic valve

themselves, What gas appliances do I have? Water heater, stove, dryer, and fireplace are the most common answers.

"For each, you can learn where the shut-off valves are located," he says. "And make sure each has an operable valve. Test it and make sure you can adjust it."

William also recommends checking your tools, especially an emergency shut-off key to your gas meter. He's still amazed at how many homeowners don't know where, or even what, it is.

Because of that, Leapfrog and other companies will come to a home to provide a whole house inspection. "There's no charge," William says. "We recently put it in our ads and we've only had two calls. Maybe because a lot of people don't think gas lines are a part of plumbing, but we check those lines too."

For people who don't have or can't find their shut-off keys, he recommends contacting a plumbing hardware store to get one.

New construction requirements are tight, so proper valves on new homes are less of a concern. There's a seismic valve at the meter, but not excess flow valves at each appliance.

The San Bruno tragedy has made gas customers anxious. "We're vendors for PG&E, so they phoned us when that event occurred," Williams says. "This was the first time we've been on site at a catastrophic situation. They escorted us into the neighborhood and we replaced water heaters, gas flex lines and water lines."

The situation in San Bruno was rare, according to Williams. He thinks PG&E will have to work hard to regain the public's trust. He points out that the gas lines that exploded in San Bruno were large, 300-600 psi pressure pipes. Typical pipes approaching a home are low, 2-5 psi pressure

pipes. He says there are few fatalities or injuries when construction workers accidentally breach these lines, such as during the late night incident in Orinda on September 22nd when construction equipment hit a small pipe.

For William's part, educating homeowners is a priority; knowing what gas appliances are in your home and how to control the flow of gas is a must. New construction or renovation projects should be done with licensed companies and permits. Williams has seen homes where someone has built around or even directly over a meter, placing the shut-off valves completely out reach. Having and knowing how to use your emergency gas meter key is essential.

What does Williams advise if you do smell gas in your home?

- Get out of the area immediately.
- Do not light a cigarette or other ignition system.
- If a pilot light is on, leave it. Turning it off could cause a spark to ignite the gas.
- Dial 911.

Maurice Williams can be reached at Leapfrog Plumbing (925) 377-6600

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Beautiful & elegant 3 bd Orindawoods home. Remod to the studs by designer. Sgl lvl living w/master & living spaces on entry level. Garage enters into foyer. Fab location.

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Move right in! Nicely updated incl granite & stainless kitchen. Fresh interior w/new paint/carpet & more. 2 patios & gardens. Commun pool, fantastic location.

**Offered at \$455,000**

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**1746 St. Andrews Drive**

Rare remod 1464 sf pvt sgl lvl 2bd/2ba + ofc townhome in MCC. Cathedral ceilings, attached garage, dual pane windows, lawn, patio & pond. Unlimited golf, tennis & swim.

**Offered at \$699,000**

MORAGA



**1087 Sanders Drive**

Home Sweet Home. Updated throughout. Kit/fam rm combo. Granite cntns. Sparkling new baths. New windows & doors & recent roof. Kid friendly area nr top-rated schools.

**Offered at \$739,000**

MORAGA



**24 La Salle Drive**

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

**Offered at \$889,000**

MORAGA



**98 Brookfield Drive**

Lovely 5bd/3ba on level desirable Moraga cul de sac. Updated kitchen & baths, hdwd floors, lawn, patio & pool. Very close to award winning K-8 schools.

**Offered at \$999,000**

MORAGA



**1904 Russell Drive**

Very special "Bluffs" 2675 sf home w/5bd/3ba. Lvl corner lot, stylish touches, remodeled kitchen and baths. Patio w/pergola, master bath w/steam shower.

**Offered at \$1,225,000**

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**45 Merrill Circle North**

Traditional estate beautifully remodeled w/finest quality French doors, moldings, plantation shutters, wrap around porch & more! Picturesque gardens, 2 waterfalls.

**Offered at \$1,995,000**

MORAGA



**1350 Bollinger Canyon Road**

Rare opportunity!! 33 acre gated estate w/vineyard & lots of usable land. Incredible views throughout this updated 4 bed + office home. Au pair/in-law set-up.

**Offered at \$1,995,000**

LAFAYETTE



**612 Huntleigh Drive**

Burton Valley beauty. Just remodeled 4bd/2ba sgl lvl ranch style home. Super clean, move-in ready, hdwd floors, new dual panes, beautiful front & back yards.

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**819 Las Trampas Road**

Enchanting Lafayette retreat. Custom blt 4bd/4.5ba 3548 sf home on gorgeous 1 ac lot in sought after Las Trampas. Country quiet yet steps to town/trail/school.

**Offered at \$1,495,000**

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