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# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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**18th Annual Lafayette Reservoir Run**  
**Sunday, October 31**  
 8:00am  
 Downtown Lafayette  
 Parking available at BART  
 • 5K (8:30am)  
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 • 2 Mile run/walk (9:00am)  
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Volume 04 Issue 17

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Wednesday, October 27, 2010



Lafayette Elementary students eagerly help unload over 400 pumpkins for the school's annual Westival Family Carnival on October 9th. Photo Doug Kohen

## 'Tis the Season for Halloween

**Quote of the Week:**

"I urge you to vote..."  
 Read Letters to the Editor, pages A10-12

(A new record:  
 8000 words of wisdom from Lamorindans!)

**By Cathy Tyson**

Not only is Halloween a unique American tradition, but it really comes to life in the suburbs. Lamorinda is filled with family neighborhoods, a plethora of pumpkins on front porches, creepy spiders and other ghoulish decorations that contribute to the holiday vibe. For kids the prospect of a pillowcase full

of candy and morphing into their alter ego for an evening can't be beat. It's not every day you see a giant inflatable Frankenstein on a front lawn and get to embrace your inner witch or vampire.

Kids have figured out over the years how to maximize their candy take – starting early, and finding

well lit neighborhoods with homes relatively close together. Everybody has their favorite - in Moraga the Camino Ricardo area and along Rimer Drive are very popular, in Lafayette – all of Burton Valley is a winner - Merriewood Drive becomes Scarrywood Drive.

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 Kurt Piper Broker Associate/Partner 925-253-2527 <a href="http://www.kurtpiper.com">www.kurtpiper.com</a>	1021 Walnut Dr., Lafayette  New Listing – delightful 3bd/2ba downtown charmer, completely remodeled in 2007. <b>\$849,000</b>	612 Huntleigh Dr., Lafayette  Burton Valley beauty. Remodeled 4bd/2ba rancher with beautiful front & back yards. <b>\$949,000</b>	819 Las Tampus Rd., Lafayette  Enchanting 4bd/4.5ba retreat on gorgeous 1 acre lot, steps to town/trail/school. <b>\$1,495,000</b>
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### Downtown Orinda—Double Vision?

**By Andrea A. Firth**

"Downtown Orinda is dreary...it's a nothing downtown," said one resident. "I like Orinda how it is," said another. Views were divergent among the 200 residents who packed Fellowship Hall at the Orinda Community Church to participate in the first of two workshops sponsored by the City and aimed at shaping a community vision for downtown.

"Tonight we're starting with a clean slate, a clear canvas," said City Manager Janet Keeter as she pointed to the large, blank piece of paper that lined the wall behind her.

Seated in rows of folding chairs was a veritable who's who of Orinda including three current City Council members and four Planning Commissioners along with several former elected officials and Commission appointees. The senior citizen set was well

represented as were the resident interest groups Orinda Vision, Save Orinda, and Quiet Orinda.

As facilitator Christopher Beynon of MIG in Berkeley prompted the audience to share their thoughts about the pluses and minuses of Orinda's downtown, his colleague Lou Hexter covered the white sheet with bulleted lists of what people had to say.

... continued on page A8

### Miramonte Handily Defeats Campolindo

**By Alex Kozela**



Miles Honens played an instrumental role in Miramonte's 34-7 win Photo David DeSilva

Miramonte took full advantage of Campolindo's defensive frailties last Friday, October 22, as they defeated their local rivals 34-7.

Miramonte wide receiver Miles Honens caught two touchdown passes for 73 yards while also snatching an important interception late in the second quarter to lead the Matadors (7-1 overall, 3-1 DFAL) to victory. The team bounced back in solid form after dropping their first game of the season in a 27-24 upset against Las Lomas the week before.

"We were pretty disappointed with how we played on both sides of the ball last week, so we were really focused this week on playing a solid game," Miramonte head coach John Wade said.

The Cougars (5-3, 1-3 DFAL) went into the game de-

stroyed by injuries, six defensive starters and five offensive starters were casualties. Miramonte proved to take full advantage of the situation, as quarterback Ross Anderson completed seven of ten passes for 164 yards and two touchdowns.

"Our goal was to come out and play tough at the line of scrimmage," Cougars head coach Kevin Macy said. "We have a completely green secondary out there, and they were able to take advantage. That's where most of our injuries this season have come from. We had to play [two] sophomores, had to play both our quarterbacks in the secondary, and you don't want to do that."

The game's clincher proved to be at the end of the second quarter, when Honens caught two touchdown passes and an interception.

... continued on page S2

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# Civic News Lafayette

## Public Meetings

**City Council** Monday, November 8, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

**Planning Commission** Monday, November 1, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

**Design Review** Monday, November 8, 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



**Quick Heist, 10/7/10** Burglars wasted no time when they invaded a Springbrook Road residence. The owners were gone for only one hour and returned to a ransacked home. The owner believes she may have left the rear sliding door unlocked because the door was wide open upon her return...uh oh... Missing property is valued at \$15,000.

**A Skull in the Garden, 10/11/10** The owner of a Lafayette Circle apartment building experienced a bit of creepy Halloween foreshadowing while planting flowers in the garden. She was surprised to dig up what appeared to be a piece of a human skull. The owner knew the area is known to have Indian burial sites so called police to determine whether she was digging in an historical site or had happened

upon part of a missing person. The item was sent to the coroner since he is more accustomed to holding the skull of another in the palm of his hand.

**Desperate Pottery Collector, 10/13/10** An unknown man entered Color Me Mine on Mt. Diablo Boulevard and purchased a number of items with what turned out to be a counterfeit \$200 money order. The thief made away with a few collectables and change from the balance of the money order. It is unknown if he grabbed the tip jar on his way out.

**Downtown Chase, 10/16/10** Two knuckleheads from San Francisco led police on a high-speed chase through downtown Lafayette. The pair was intercepted on Camino Diablo at El Curtola and offered a lift to the Martinez Detention Facility. Perhaps they were confused by our balmy weather; San Francisco and jail are much colder than Lamorinda, so they should feel right at home.



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**Tuesday-Saturday 10-6**

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**BRANDT ANDERSSON**  
**LAFAYETTE CITY COUNCIL**



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

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- Alexandra & Richard Abbot
- Don Anderson
- Mike Anderson and Courtney Murphree
- Carl Anduri
- 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 & Surinder Kaur
- Larry & Cathy Challacombe
- Terry and Albert Chaparro

**Endorsed by the CONTRA COSTA TIMES,**

"Tatzin and Andersson have earned the public's trust and should be re-elected.  
"It is not difficult to understand why Lafayette is such a well-run city when one looks at the high caliber of candidates for the City Council. . . .  
"We believe that Tatzin and Andersson have been good stewards of the public trust and deserve to be re-elected. They are both thoughtful, energetic members of an effective council. Their city holds a AAA bond rating, which is excellent in these trying times. . . .  
"That is testament to the city's financial prudence.  
"Andersson rightly points to Lafayette's beautiful new library and the preservation of Acalanes Ridge as exceptional accomplishments of the current council. . . .  
"We recommend that voters elect Don Tatzin and Brandt Andersson."  
-- Oct. 19, 2010

**Endorsed by every member of the Lafayette City Council.**  
**Endorsed by every member of the Lafayette School Board.**  
**Endorsed by nine former Mayors of Lafayette.**

- Tom Chastain and Renee Chow
- Sereta Churchill
- Louise Clark
- Tom Cleveland
- John Coleman
- Dean and Chris Coons
- Steve Cortese
- Jack Coulter
- Patricia Curtin-Tinley
- Judy and Frank de Carbonel
- Marechal and Doris Duncan
- Larry Duson
- Reid Edwards
- Roger and Pat Falcone
- Carol and Doug Federighi
- Jim Fitzsimmons and Kris Torske
- John and Susan Forst
- Sharon and Tom Francis
- Jim Garrett
- Judy Garvens
- Teresa Gerringer

**Committed to Service**

**Mayor**, Lafayette, 2009-present  
**City Council**, Lafayette, 2002, 2006-present  
**Director**, Lafayette Community Foundation, 2005-07  
**Chair**, Lafayette Public Safety Implementation Comm, 1995-97  
**Chair**, Orinda Planning Comm. 1989; Commissioner 1987-89

**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

**Personal:**  
Married to Patricia for 38 years, and her law partner for 13  
Linnéa attends Campolindo High School  
Erik attends Savannah College of Art & Design

- Bruce Paltenghi
- Jeff Peacock
- Cesar Perales
- Ruth Perkins
- Val and Jeff Pettegrew
- Michelle & Steve Reynolds
- Steve and Sharon Richard
- Mardy Robinson
- Karen Rose
- Linda Rosenthal
- Roger & Jeane Samuelsen
- Robert & Deborah Sandberg
- Cindy Sevilla
- Jeanette Shearer
- Robert and Margie Shusta
- Shayne Silva
- Carol and Bob Singer
- Catherine Sinnott
- Renee and Michael Sitzman
- Joseph and Lynn Smith
- Donald and Elizabeth Stanners
- Diane and Hal Steuber

Paid for by Brandt Andersson for City Council 2010, 3461 S. Silver Springs Road, Lafayette, CA 94549, FPPC #1328420

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*J. Rockcliff*

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## Burton Valley Remodel Denied

By Cathy Tyson



Front elevation of proposed addition to 623 Lucas Drive in Burton Valley. Drawing courtesy of Hertel Architects

Who knew a remodel in Burton Valley could be so controversial? The modest ranch style home at 623 Lucas Drive had been discussed at four Design Review Commission meetings and ultimately was conditionally approved on September 13, 2010. However neighbors William Wahlander and John Woolery really did not like the idea of a second story addition in the neighborhood, so they appealed the conditional approval of the Design Review decision to the more powerful Planning Commission on October 18, 2010. After hours of public testimony, and statements by the architect and Wahlander, the Planning Commission granted for the appellant on a four to two vote. This action overrides the conditional approval by the Design Review Commission.

At issue is a single story 1,612 square foot home with a 600 square foot garage built in 1956. The new owner wanted to enlarge the garage by 120 feet, add 733 square feet to the main floor and a 1,210 foot second story addition – making the total gross floor area including the garage 4,273 square feet

according to the latest slightly reduced project plans. Because the lot was constrained with a number of mature trees – the only option was to go mostly up.

City planning staff agreed that the project altered the existing neighborhood by being the first two-story home in the immediate area. "However, the proposed residence maintains a number of characteristics that are consistent with existing California Ranch homes, such as low pitched roof, garage serving as integral portion of residence, and large porches and patios," according to the October 18 staff report on the matter. Their recommendation was to deny the appeal and uphold the Design Review Commission's conditional approval.

The real issue both the Planning Commission and Design Review struggled with was consistency with the existing neighborhood. Every house in this original section of Burton Valley, now over fifty years old, has only one story. Appellant Wahlander requested that the Planning Commission deny the project because the

"structure is incompatible with the existing neighborhood," basically double the height of surrounding homes. Scores of neighbors concurred and wrote letters to document their objections about height and mass.

"This neighborhood is a treasure," opined architect and resident Bill Marquand, "Lafayette needs to protect its historic resources." He described an approval as opening the gate to a potential domino effect. One neighbor said it was ten pounds of house on a five pound lot.

Although many neighbors came forward to oppose the project, some were in favor - citing that it would add variety and the respectful, careful plans made a home that is currently an eyesore - beautiful. Another said, "The train has left the station – look around Burton Valley, there are lots of remodels. We need to encourage such a good design."

At one point, the suggestion of trading one or more backyard trees to accommodate the additional square footage of moving the proposed second story to the ground

floor was floated. Also the concept of shifting the upper floor addition behind the street-facing roof line was discussed briefly; but neither idea was embraced.

Despite input from architect Ken Hertel that the project met all zoning requirements, the overall size of the second floor addition was reduced by 23%, and plans were designed to mimic the style of the neighborhood, Planning Commissioners weren't completely swayed.

After prolonged public testimony, Commissioners wrestled with a decision. Commissioner Karen Maggio noted, "This is tough, I can appreciate the struggle," but explained that she was concerned that strict neighborhood design vernacular could stagnate the area and not allow for individuality.

"It's a complicated issue," said Chair Thomas Chastain, "both abstract and concrete." He was concerned about compatibility – and what that really means, as well as concrete issues like privacy and intrusion. "Does one (additional) story make it different and therefore bad? I think it's reasonable to believe that change comes."

"The ball is now in the homeowner's court," said Assistant Planner Michael Cass. He explained the Planning Commission decision can be appealed to the City Council or the project can be scaled back.

Homeowner Joe Polichio is disappointed, "I'm just a guy trying to build his American dream." He cautions other potential remodelers, "Burton Valley buyers beware; your property rights and home values have been compromised."

## Proposed Bike Park Project Status

By Cathy Tyson

Because efforts to curtail unauthorized bike jumps along Las Trampas Creek didn't seem to be working, a group of young bike riders and City staff had an alternative they presented to the Parks Trails and Recreation Commission (PTRC). They believe a better so-

lution than tearing up sensitive creek habitat is to build an official bike riding and jumping area that is legal, safe and oriented toward a wide range of cycling abilities.

The proposed, but a long way from finalized, location is the south end of the Community Park

since it is the only city-owned property that has the space, parking, restrooms and emergency access necessary. This potential location is close to the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail making it accessible to cyclists without a parent-provided ride.

In the roughly two years since the initial proposal, there has been input from the community and bike riders both pro and con. An environmental habitat assessment, a soil study and a traffic study have all been performed.

... continued on next page

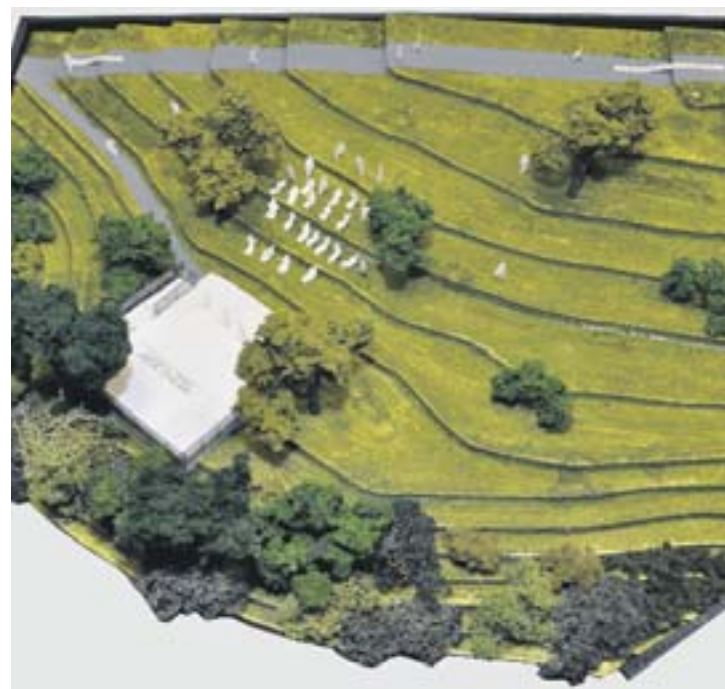
# Permanent Stage at the Reservoir Finalized

By Cathy Tyson



Scott Hill (left) and John Sherry

Photo Andy Scheck



Model of the permanent stage, by Larry Blodgett

After much behind the scenes work, the Lafayette Rotary Club and East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) have come to an agreement for a permanent stage at the Lafayette Reservoir. For the last sixteen years, Rotary has constructed a temporary stage for the annual Concert at the Reservoir.

The very popular fundraiser concert features bands from Acalanes High School, Stanley Middle School, Bentley School and the Big Band of Rossmoor. Half of the funds raised go toward supporting local school music programs with the other half funding Rotary projects.

"I'm so pleased to work with the fellows at EDMUD," said John Sherry, past President of Lafayette Rotary. The Club negotiated and finalized a permanent stage that was the size and location on the west side of the reservoir that they always wanted. Rotarians can hold two events on the new permanent stage per year, and will gift it to EBMUD for the community to use during the balance of the year.

Noting that this project has been on the table for some time, Scott Hill, EBMUD Manager of Watershed and Recreation said, "It took time to work through policy issues, but we are very happy to bring it to completion." Preliminary

plans have already been submitted and approved by EBMUD.

After design and approval of

the plans by a structural engineer, the Planning Commission will review them. Construction may start

in the spring. The Lafayette Community Founding will assist in fundraising efforts.

## Proposed Bike Park Project Status

... continued from page A2

If the bike park is approved permits would need to be obtained from the Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game. Currently not all the results of the studies are complete, upon completion the next step is a public hearing with the Planning Commission.

The one question that comes up time and again is City liability in case of an accident. City staff met

with a representative of their insurance carrier to clarify coverage. As long as requirements are met - the potential park would be covered. The six required items include the adoption of procedures and requirements intended to ensure the safety of participants, design approval, appropriate signage and more.

The current status is posted on the city website: "Construction funding for the proposed bike facility in the Lafayette Community

Park has not been approved by the Lafayette City Council, and the construction will not be funded until the Council is satisfied that the facility would benefit the community, that it is consistent with the nature of the other facilities in the Community Park, and that it is designed safely and properly for public use."

For more information, go to the city website, www.love-lafayette.com or go to www.lafayettebikepark.com.

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# Don Tatzin for Lafayette City Council

*"Tatzin and Andersson have earned the public's trust and should be re-elected."*

*Contra Costa Times editorial*  
October 19, 2010

### 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

### 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



#### About Don:

- Married to Ellen Reintjes since 1982
  - Lafayette resident since 1976
- #### Education:
- Master of City Planning; B.S., Urban Studies and Planning; and B.S., Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
  - Master of Economics, Australian National University
- #### Career:
- Executive positions in consulting, service and manufacturing companies, and philanthropy

### 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 Governing Boardmember, 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 Tatzin has been a dependable friend to the children of Lafayette for 25 years as a council member, ensuring our City's resources are invested in creating a family-friendly community"*

*Richard Whitmore*

Acalanes Union High School District Governing Boardmember

### Join Us in Supporting Don

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Paid for by Don Tatzin for City Council 2010. 3461 South Silver Springs Road, Lafayette, CA 94549  
 FPPC ID# 1328319. Contact Don at (925) 284-7694 or at Dontatzin@sbcglobal.net or go to www.smartvoter.org/vote/tatzin

## Don Tatzin for Lafayette City Council on November 2

## Lafayette Civic News continued

### Party for Open Space Acquisition

By Cathy Tyson



View of Acalanes Ridge Open Space

Muir Heritage Land Trust (MHLT) is going all out to host the *Autumn Celebration 2010* party to support acquiring and protecting twenty-three acres of open space in Acalanes Ridge that encompasses the highest, most visually significant promontory in the area. The public is invited to enjoy wine, appetizers and the music of legendary Bob Athayde, and support the Acalanes Ridge Land Acquisition project while mingling with celebrity guests and MHLT members at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center on November 3. Freshly elected officials are expected to attend, as well as MHLT volunteers and award winners.

It's not everyday that residents get to ensure a scenic landmark is preserved in perpetuity for the community to enjoy and possibly get an autograph from Doug McConnell of "Bay Area Backroads" fame.

The parcel in question is located within the City of Lafayette

and is vitally important because it links the Acalanes Ridge Open Space and Briones Regional Park and has commanding views from the summit of the Livermore foothills, Mt. Diablo, Suisun Bay, the Carquinez Strait, Briones Regional Park, the Oakland Hills and Las Trampas Regional Park.

In an innovative collaboration, the MHLT generated a plan to combine the resources of all par-

Photos Richard Gylgayton ties and signed a purchase agreement in February with partners the City of Lafayette, the City of Walnut Creek, and the East Bay Regional Park District. "In this agreement, the Muir Heritage Land Trust will hold title to the property, which will be governed by a conservation easement held jointly by our three partners," said Linus Eukel, Executive Director of MHLT in a statement.

"Escrow must close by the end of December, and completion of this project hinges on all partners fulfilling their part of the agreement. Our partners have pledged funds from Measure WW and other sources to purchase the land, at a price of \$1,305,500. MHLT must raise \$400,000 to cover the costs associated with acquisition, and to provide for stewardship, administration, planning, and an endowment for long-range management," he continued. Contributions are still needed to reach their goal in addition to current significant donations from the Seaborg Open Space Fund, the Walnut Creek Open Space Fund and many individuals in the community.

The festivities run from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00p.m., Wednesday, November 3 at the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Please RSVP to [ellen@muirheritagelandtrust.org](mailto:ellen@muirheritagelandtrust.org) or call 925-228-7152. The event is being sponsored by Overaa Construction and Saintsbury Vineyards. For more information, go to [www.muirheritagelandtrust.org](http://www.muirheritagelandtrust.org).



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- ✦ Oversight of the Foundation's budget, operations and staff
- ✦ Sustainability of the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium
- ✦ Collaborative relations with the County, City, schools and other community partners

Trustee responsibilities include but are not limited to active participation in:

- ✦ Fundraising including support of special events
- ✦ Monthly board and committee meetings
- ✦ Promotion of Foundation programs and events
- ✦ Ability to communicate LLLCF's vision, mission, goals and scope of work to the community

Applications are available at [www.LLLCF.org](http://www.LLLCF.org)

Printed copies available at City Offices, Library Foundation Office, Chamber of Commerce

Applications are due November 12, 2010 ~ Applicants will be contacted for interviews

LLLCF's Governance Committee

(composed of three trustees and three community members) will:

- ✦ Manage an open recruitment process with a particular focus on finding board members with finance, communications or fundraising experience
- ✦ Select up to 4 candidates to serve as Trustees

Please return applications to LLLCF

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For further information call 925.283.6513 x 104

### Eagle Scout Design-Build Project Complete

By Cathy Tyson



Ted Kessler works on his Eagle Scout fence project.

Photo provided

Ted Kessler, a 17-year-old senior at Acalanes High School, recently finished an ambitious Eagle Scout project to make the Lafayette Community Park just a little safer.

Calling it, "a lot of work," Kessler, a member of Scout Troop 241, had to jump through a number of administrative hoops and get a green light from Scout Leadership to bring his plan for a 35-foot long fence to fruition. Kessler had found

a trail within the park that led right up to the unseen edge of a steep embankment in a remote area of the park.

The process involved making several presentations to various committees to get the project approved. Pitching the plan, figuring out a design, making a budget, coordinating workers, getting funding for supplies, even accommodating a wildlife right of way under the fence were all components of the

task that took an estimated 170 hours to complete. "It was cool organizing everything," he said.

Kessler just received his Eagle rank at a recent Board of Review on October 19. The project needed to be complete by his eighteenth birthday. Not easy to do considering Kessler is also in the midst of applying to a number of colleges.

"This is a rare chance to learn project management," said Laura Kaufman, Kessler's mother, noting the need to coordinate a myriad of details. The average high school senior is usually not thinking about durability, efficiency and Community Park fencing requirements. She said the Scout Leaders, Phil Chernin, Blake Rothfuss and Brad Prescott, M.D., were great about stepping back and leaving room for Ted to figure it out.

"I was impressed that he came up with the idea of a protection fence near Las Trampas Creek on his own," said Jennifer Russell, Parks and Recreation Director. Usually Eagle Scout candidates come to her looking for a task.

Kessler describes it as a great learning opportunity, "Nothing compares with doing the entire thing - it's the best experience a teenager could have." The project was completed just in a nick of time, as Kessler turned 18 on October 18.

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Dear Lafayette Residents,

As the 2010 election race comes to a close, I'm sure you're looking forward to an end to this noisy campaign season. So if you're taking the time to read this letter – Thank You.

For the first time in a long time, Lafayette voters have a real choice, with opposing views to consider, in the race for City Council.

I hope that during the last several months I've made a good case for why I'm the right person for the job. I've tried to be clear and forthright about my qualifications, why I'm running, and where I stand on the issues. As the challenger candidate, I've had to work harder to get my message out there. I hope, on that count at least, I've succeeded.

Like many of you, I feel that Lafayette needs a change from the status quo; that new voices and new perspectives need to be considered. I want to make our local government more inclusive, open and transparent.

If Lafayette is to prosper, we need to involve all its residents in the process of government. I will work to find new ways to reach out to those who may have been disinclined or discouraged from participating in local affairs.

I promise to fight for FISCAL RESTRAINT and MEASURED GROWTH; to LISTEN and be INCLUSIVE; to bring a renewed and FRESH PERSPECTIVE to the issues and challenges that face Lafayette.

Respectfully, I ask you to vote for me, Traci Reilly, for Lafayette City Council on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Thank You and Kind Regards,

Traci Reilly

PS: I'd like to take this last opportunity to thank the many people who have supported my campaign – through their wise counsel, donations of time and money, hosting coffees and fundraisers, posting signs, sending viral emails or just giving their endorsement to my campaign. It has been an amazing experience. THANK YOU!

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 Karen and Mark Zemelman



Photos by Kelly Wood

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	
<b>Town Council</b>	Wednesday, November 10, 7:30 pm Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo
<b>Planning Commission</b>	Monday, November 1, 7:30 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
<b>Design Review</b>	Tuesday, November 8, 7:00 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
<b>Liaison</b>	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 •



**Driving with Coors, 10/16/10** Cops pulled over a VW Jetta on Rheem Boulevard for speeding. The 19-year-old driver had an open bottle of Coors beer in the cup holder in the center console. Six additional passengers were crammed into the car, along with three more Coors: two students on the front seat and a young lady lying across the laps of three gentlemen in the backseat. The driver was issued citations for open container of alcohol, allowing passengers to ride without seat belts, minor in possession of alcohol, and driving while slightly impaired – she had a blood alcohol level of .068.

**Ripping off Grandma, 10/15/10** An 83-year-old Paseo Grande woman was the victim of a phone scam. She received a call from a person purporting to be her grandson saying he was in jail in Canada and needed her to send \$995 via Western Union to get him out of jail. The elderly woman sent the money but realized the next day that her actual grandson was at home with his parents and was never in Canada. Sender beware.

**Burglary, 10/17/10** A Claudia Court resident left home at 8:45 in the morning and returned at 12:15. He noticed upon his return that the garage door and interior door to the house was open. An unknown suspect took several pieces of jewelry and other items from the home. A cautionary tale for those who think burglars only strike at night.

**Wallet found, 10/19/10** A Moraga citizen turned in a wallet found on the street at approximately 6:00 p.m. It contained a non-local California driver's license and money. Because the owner couldn't be immediately found it was booked into the property room and a letter was sent to the owner.



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- Holiday Hors D'Oeuvres 11/18
- Holiday Baking 12/12

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## Re-Elect DAVE TROTTER for MORAGA TOWN COUNCIL



Dear Moraga Voters:

As the November 2nd election draws near, the candidates for the Moraga Town Council have had the opportunity to present their views, qualifications, and visions for the Town. Thank you for your interest in this important election.

It's been a privilege to serve you on the Moraga Town Council these past four years, and as your mayor in 2009. Thank you for the trust you've placed in me.

If I am re-elected, I will continue to make sensible, mainstream decisions in the public interest. I will work closely and cooperatively with my fellow Council members to capitalize on the opportunities and meet the challenges that confront Moraga today and in the next four years. And in doing so, I will respect and promote the right of the public, and all Moragans, to speak and be heard on the issues.

To my supporters, thank you. To those who have not yet decided whom to vote for, please consider the information available at [www.davetrotter.com](http://www.davetrotter.com) or e-mail me at [dave@davetrotter.com](mailto:dave@davetrotter.com). To all, I would be honored to receive your vote on November 2nd.

Respectfully yours,

Dave Trotter  
Moraga Town Councilmember

Re-Elect DAVE TROTTER ON NOVEMBER 2



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## New Development Director(s) for Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Moraga's newest team attended the Chamber of Commerce Business Forum at SMC. From left: Chamber president Edy Schwartz, Mary Coe, Richard Larsen and Renée Zeimer. Photo Sophie Braccini

The Town of Moraga has a new Economic Development Director...or make that three. Town Manager Mike Segrest introduced the trio of volunteers at a business forum at Saint Mary's College, which was organized by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and Mechanics Bank. Mary Coe, Richard Larsen and Renée Zeimer are the bold souls who have volunteered to tackle a Herculean challenge: promoting shopping in Moraga. A combination of diverse experiences increases their odds of success.

"We have very complimentary backgrounds that will work well toward our purpose," commented Zeimer, "it is critical that we are visible and engaged, be-

cause the team who will make this economic change happen is really going to be the Town of Moraga. Our job will be to mobilize all the stake holders, and build buy-in."

Mary Coe is a Business Statistics Instructor at the School of Economics and Business at Saint Mary's College; prior to that she was co-instructor, with Tom Terrill, for the Jan Term course Urban Renewal and Design. Material covered in this class included urban infill planning, community marketing, city planning, smart growth and urban limit lines strategies. She has sponsored many students in internships out in the community. Coe holds an MBA with an emphasis in Quantitative Business Analysis from Arizona State University.

Richard Larsen is a commercial real estate broker, with extensive experience in appraisal, development and marketing strategy. Larsen is semi-retired, but still active in a large development in Walnut Creek. His marketing experience includes the promotion of industrial parks and commercial buildings. He is also experienced in property management. Larsen holds an MBA from UCLA.

Renée Zeimer was, until recently, the assistant to the city manager in Walnut Creek. Prior to holding that position she was a project manager in the Art, Recreation and Community Department for that city. She has extensive knowledge of citywide project development and financing, including the

new downtown library in Walnut Creek. She holds a Master Degree in Public Administration from the University of Oregon.

"I believe it is a very important step for Moraga's economic future to have three professional people that will work together as Moraga's Economic Development Team," said Chamber president Edy Schwartz, "I had a chance to be involved in the interview process, and I am excited about the diverse talent, experience and knowledge each one of these individuals brings to this position. From the Chamber, the community, the Revenue Enhancement Committee and the Town government I have heard the need for a clear economic vision for our Town. We now have the possibility to move toward this goal. We also have the possibility to take the initiative to reach out to businesses that would meet the community's needs and thrive as successful entities in Moraga. This team can bring this knowledge to the property owners of our shopping centers. I urge the community to get to know these individuals who have volunteered their time to improve our Moraga economy and let us all work together to help Moraga thrive."

The team will be introduced to the Town Council on October 27. Their office will be located at 329 Rheem Blvd.

## No Dollar Tree Decision Before the Election

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council recently considered appeals of the Planning Commission's decision to allow a Dollar Tree Store to take up residence in the

Rheem Center, provided certain conditions were met. After a question from Council Member Howard Harpham led a citizens' group to request more time to prepare its appeal, the Council continued the issue to November 10th; which is the Council's first scheduled meeting following the general election. Harpham stressed to the citizens' group "We (the Council) will want to hear a very good legal argument."

Dollar Tree Stores, Inc. appealed the decision of the Planning Commission to approve their application because they objected to some of the conditions, especially restrictions on aisle height. A group of residents also appealed the decision. In an apparent miscommunication with Town staff, that group (resident appellants), said it had first been told that since an appeal had already been filed, they didn't need to file an additional appeal; but they were later informed that they could appeal, and get more time to present their arguments during the public process.

There is clearly a disconnect between residents, who want the Council to enact the public's voice even if it means stretching the boundaries of the law, and the Council and staff who do not want to make a decision that could cre-

ate a legal liability for the Town.

The resident appellants challenged the application on the grounds that the Dollar Tree does not measure up to the standards set forth by the Town's General Plan, which is the overarching rule of the land: "The General Plan is the most significant policy document in the Town of Moraga, often referred to by Planning Commissioners, Council members, staff members, as the Bible," said the group's spokesperson, Holly Erikson-King.

However, in her staff report, Planning Director Lori Salamack indicated, "It is noted that a finding of consistency with the General Plan is not required for a Permitted Use application. Such a finding is required, for a Conditional Use Permit application which this application is not. In establishing the Permitted Uses subject to findings process in the Municipal Code, the Town of Moraga has pre-determined that such uses are consistent with the General Plan."

Many more arguments were made by residents opposed to the project, from the uselessness of the store, to its potential detrimental economic impact on the town.

"Can Dollar Tree really be made compatible with neighboring stores?" asked Lynn Davis, who

also stated that current Rheem tenants are highly rated as retailers while Dollar Tree is regularly listed among the 10 least desirable stores to have in a shopping center.

Tom Wellbrook, who tried unsuccessfully to open a satellite health care clinic at Rheem because of high rental rates, said, "The thought that we are going to change the character and the quality of (Moraga's environment) over a few tax neutral revenue streams is really unfortunate and I hope that someone on this town council can go through the General Plan and find a loophole."

"How can we protect ourselves against this declining spiral of retail?" asked Douglas Jones.

"The Town Council is elected to do what the people want," wrote Laura Beckner behind her speaker card. "Now you have before you citizens who have not been given a voice; that is not democratic," added resident Ann Obsitnik.

During rebuttal time, Council member Howard Harpham asked the resident appellants if the fact that they were told at a later date that they could file an appeal had been detrimental to their preparation and wondered if they needed more time. After a few seconds of pondering the appellants agreed and requested more time.



Many residents came to the Council meeting to discuss the Dollar Tree.

Photo Doug Kohen

# Moraga to Dedicate Veterans' Memorial

By Sophie Braccini



John Haffner, Tony Knox and Jay Ingram indicate the site of the new Memorial Rock.

Photo Sophie Braccini

On Veterans Day, the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I, the Moraga Town Council will dedicate a Memorial Rock to all the men and women who served our country in the armed forces and were exposed to acts of war. The three-foot high granite boulder, bearing an engraved plaque honoring the seven uniformed services of the United States, was the idea of Moraga veteran John Haffner. The project was completed by Tony Knox, as his Boy Scout Eagle project. The ceremony will be held at the Moraga Commons Park, close to the flag pole, on November 11th

at 11:00 a.m. All residents, veterans and individuals wanting to honor them, are invited to join in.

"Last May, Herb Lederman from the Aklan District (Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda) of Boy Scouts of America asked me why we didn't have a Veterans' Day celebration in Moraga, and I told him that the reason was that we had no special place for it," remembers John Haffner, President of the Military Officers Association of America, Contra Costa County Chapter. "The next morning, at a Kiwanis breakfast, Annette Knox told us that her son Tony was looking for an Eagle Scout project - this was the per-

fect opportunity."

Knox said that one of his motivations to complete the project was to honor the memory of both his grandfathers, who fought in WWII. Supported by Scout Master Jeff Baldwin, the Campolindo High School junior set the ball in motion. He soon discovered that the project required more work than he thought, but everyone was very supportive. "I had never worked with so many adults at once," says the soon-to-be Eagle Scout, "many decisions had to be made and Town's protocol had to be followed."

Jay Ingram, Moraga's Parks and Recreation Director, made sure that the process followed standard procedure. "The project had to meet the current Memorial and Donation Policy as well as the Public Art Donation Policy," said Ingram, "since all the elements were compliant, the project was approved by the Parks and Recreation Committee, before the proclamation that is scheduled for the November 10 Town Council Meeting."

The rock, three feet tall and four feet wide, will be set by the public trail that crosses the Moraga Commons Parks, just west of the parking lot. A brass plaque with an engraving identifying the seven uniformed services of the United States (United States Army, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United

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# Public Outreach to Address Infrastructure Quandary

By Sophie Braccini

At his last regular Town Council meeting, outgoing Town Manager Mike Segrest gave an hour-long presentation advocating a year-long plan to inform, quiz and listen to Moraga residents regarding the town's lack of adequate funding for the maintenance of its infrastructure. The Town Council approved the multi-phase plan that will ultimately determine what revenue enhancement measures should be put on the November 2011 ballot.

During the spring and summer of 2010 the Revenue Enhancement Community Outreach to Neighborhoods Program (RECON) conducted focus groups and an online survey to assess how

much residents know about Town finances. One of the results was that, even if the general perception is that times are hard, the population in its majority does not have a clear grasp of the facts.

"What is the state of the Town's finances-trends, projections, reserves? How do we compare in taxes, expenditures, staffing, salaries, etc., to other similar towns? Is the Town being run as efficiently as possible? What are the Town's unmet needs? Those are some of the questions that the focus group participants asked," said Segrest, "and they want to know the answers so they can make informed decisions about the future of the town."

The Manager suggested that a document, which answers all of the questions, be prepared and distributed to the focus group participants; once the text is refined based on focus group feedback, he recommended the town begin an outreach program to Moraga's 17,000 residents, or at least those of voting age.

"We will need volunteers to become involved in that outreach program," added the Town Manager. His proposal to the Council included the creation of a speakers' bureau to train volunteers who will complete the outreach talks in the Town, talking to organized groups, but also knocking on doors and engaging everyone.

States Coast Guard, United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Corps) is set in the stone.

The total cost of the project is about \$5,000. The Moraga Park Foundation provided the initial seed money, and local service groups and generous individuals are contributing the remaining funds.

The celebration on November 11 will be both solemn and colorful. John Haffner, in his captain's uniform, will accept the Memorial from the Town on behalf of local veterans. A re-enactment of the Civil War will be performed, and a bagpiper from Travis Air Force Base will provide entertainment.

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# Civic News

# Orinda

## Public Meetings

**City Council** Wednesday, November 3, 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

**Planning Commission** Tuesday, November 9, 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 •**

**ORINDA POLICE**

**Petty theft, 10/17/10** An unknown suspect at Rite Aid hid a bottle of liquor in his clothing. The suspect was confronted by a store employee who recovered, more likely uncovered, the merchandise. The liquor wanna-be looter fled to his brown pick up truck and has not been seen since.

**Stolen check 10/20/10** A woman stole some checks from a mailbox in Fairfield and attempted to cash one at the Orinda branch of Bank of America. An astute teller noted the account was flagged and refused to cash it.

**Shoplifting six, 10/19/10** Six unknown women entered the CVS store in Orinda and were seen placing numerous undisclosed items in their purses then exited the store without paying. The dirty half-dozen were last seen on foot heading toward BevMo. After an extensive search no suspects were found.

**D.U.I., 10/14/10** A 52-year-old white male was pulled over at Highway 24 and St. Stephens Drive. He had red watery eyes, slurred speech and an unsteady gait while performing field sobriety tests – the trifecta of intoxication signs. His .015 blood alcohol level sealed the deal – he was arrested for D.U.I. and taken to the Martinez Detention Facility.

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## Downtown Orinda—Double Vision?

... continued from page A1

### Assets and Challenges

Asked what they feel are the assets of downtown Orinda, many residents' comments focused on environment over structure highlighting the area's climate, semi-rural nature, and people. The small-town feel, easy access to other parts of the Bay area, minimal traffic, free parking, historic buildings, lack of strip malls and fast food chains, and safe setting were other things people like about their City. "The sidewalks roll up at night," said one resident adding, "Non-vibrancy at night in downtown Orinda is a good thing."

But what was good for some was not so good for others. Several residents said that the downtown provided little of interest for residents and that the commercial districts had very limited options for teens. Another resident opined the lack of communal space for both youth and adults and advocated for broader walkways, plazas, and more outdoor cafes.

"I want to spend locally. I want to park and walk in downtown," said one young mother adding that she and her peer group would like to see more good restaurants and possibly a utility store.

Eartha Newsong, a resident of the Orinda Senior Village who helps to transport Orinda seniors who can no longer drive, bemoaned the lack of residential housing in and near downtown. Newsong said that many seniors in Orinda want to

move out of their homes in the hills to live within walking distance to downtown shopping and transportation.

The location of Orinda's downtown presented its own set of challenges. Beynon noted that while the BART station and Highway 24 provide easy access, these attributes bifurcate the city into two downtown districts, which presents an identity challenge. Residents also noted that the small size of downtown, which is wedged on a narrow strip of land between hills on the east and west sides, also creates constraints.

### Building Height

As the residents shared their likes and dislikes, they also repeatedly voiced opinions about the proposed 55-foot building height. Several preferred the low scale of the city, which currently has a 35-foot building height limit in downtown, and feared taller buildings would obscure the views of the hills and create a canyon feeling on downtown streets. One resident noted the potential for climate change due to taller buildings obstructing the ocean breezes that keep Orinda cool.

Others were open to a height increase, especially in the context of mixed-use buildings that would bring residential options to the City. "I would love to have my elderly mother move into downtown. I might even move there myself when I'm ready to leave my tidy lit-

tle rancher," said Maya McBride adding that as proposed, the increase in building height must meet appropriate design standards.

Change—Necessary or Inevitable? The fact that little has changed in the commercial landscape of downtown Orinda since the building of Theater Square twenty-five years ago evoked a mixed response among the attendees.

"Whether things should change is really a non-issue," said a resident who felt the 23-year old General Plan was outdated and needed to be updated to reflect how life is changing. Dick Marchick recalled that 35 years ago residents worried about the negative impact the building of Orinda Woods would have on the City. Marchick now lives in Orinda Woods, and the neighborhood has long been considered a desirable location and place to live. "We're selfish if we don't look forward to the future and think of our kids," added another resident.

The course of Theater Square represented a cautionary tale for some. "Theater Square was filled with restaurants and shops and now it is struggling with vacancies," said a resident who wondered aloud, "If we build it will they come?" Others questioned the need for and viability of Orinda's downtown. "No one moved here for the downtown. We're not going to use it," said a resident.

### Next Step

"Clearly, this is not a cookie-cutter suburb. Orinda is unique," said Beynon, who explained that MIG's next step would be to synthesize and analyze all of the residents' input from the workshop. Residents can continue to submit comments regarding a vision for downtown via the City website ([www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org)) through October 29th. The next visioning workshop will be held on Thursday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way.

## Retail Leakage Update

By Andrea A. Firth

The infusion of residential space in Orinda's downtown districts won't have a significant impact on local retail sales according to a sales leakage study update. "Not much," was analyst Stephen Wahlstrom's answer to the City Council's question regarding the impact of downtown housing on local retail sales.

The sales leakage study report was presented to the City Council in early September and Wahlstrom was back before the Council on October 19th to provide an update to address the housing/local spending question and fielding questions from Council Members Amy Worth, Victoria Smith, and Sue Severson. Mayor Tom McCormick recused himself from the presentation and discussion of the retail leakage study this time around pending advice from the California Fair Political Practices Commission on his participation due to the proximity of his home to downtown. Council Member Steve Glazer, who arrived late to the meeting, participated in the tail end of the discussion.

Wahlstrom explained that the addition of 200 housing units in the downtown would generate another

\$1.6 million a year in local sales revenue, a modest 2% increase in the annual sales captured by local businesses. This would translate to approximately \$16,000 in sales tax revenue for the City annually. Currently, sales tax comprises 9% of the City's annual operating revenue of just over \$11 million.

Wahlstrom's conclusion was based on the assumption that the earnings of these downtown housing units would be consistent with Orinda's average household income of \$177,000, which he acknowledged was optimistic. And like Orinda's existing residents, he assumed 70% of their retail spending would continue to leak away to Lafayette, Walnut Creek, and other locations with more shopping options.

"You are not realistically going to gain more sales tax revenue without adding retail space," stated Wahlstrom. He identified the long empty Phairs building as a potential site for an apparel store, a sporting goods store, a home furnishings store, or a Trader Joe's. Other than the Phairs building he noted that additional open retail space was limited, "You don't really have that many vacancies."



# Orinda's City Council Candidate Forum

By Andrea A. Firth



Scott Zeller

About 150 residents filled the Library Auditorium to hear from the five candidates running for three seats on the City Council. Here's a snapshot of what the three incumbents, Amy Worth, Sue Severson, and Tom McCormick and the two challengers, Scott Zeller and Dean Orr had to say during the two-hour event. Go to [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for complete coverage of the candidate forum.

**Amy Worth (Incumbent)**  
Amy Worth, who is completing her third term on the City Council, often shared a historical perspective on the issues and highlighted her experience as the Contra Costa County representative to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. She stressed that Orinda's plans for downtown must be tailored and representative of a collective vision, and she supported the senior affordable housing project proposed for the old library site. Worth stated that it is probably not a good time to pursue a tax measure to fund road repairs. She wants to build on the synergies of Orinda's existing businesses and not try to be Walnut Creek.

**Dean Orr**  
Having served 5 1/2 years on the Planning Commission, Dean Orr displayed a depth of knowledge regarding local development issues. He emphasized the need for absolute transparency in the Council decision-making process. Orr feels Orinda will benefit from a variety of housing options and downtown market-rate residential units will serve groups other than seniors. Regarding the affordable senior housing development, Orr said, "I believe that is a project that we will all be proud of." He proposed exploring alternate ways of packaging and bidding roadworks projects to reduce costs and the need to more actively pursue small businesses that meet residents' needs.

**Sue Severson (Incumbent)**  
Completing her first term on the Council, Sue Severson espoused a roll-up-your-sleeves attitude with a community built on collaboration, consensus, and inclusiveness. "My approach [is] one of respect for people, open communication...and fiscal prudence." Severson supported some housing

in downtown stressing Orinda's obligation to meet state housing requirements. She suggested additional community workshops to look for solutions to pay for Orinda's crumbling infrastructure. Severson wants to change Orinda's anti-development reputation. She does not support dissolution of the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD), but she hopes the MOFD will address the issue of low-pressure fire flow.

**Tom McCormick (Incumbent)**  
Mayor Tom McCormick, who is finishing his first term, emphasized his work on the audit committee,

his efforts to revise the budget process, and the continued need for fiscal responsibility. McCormick stated the creation of housing units in downtown is an important option for older residents. He described the zoning changes in Theater Square and the recommendations of the Planning Process Review Task Force (PPRTF) report as changes that will help support businesses in Orinda. McCormick does not support dissolution of the MOFD. He said, "I do think there are some issues of fiscal responsibility that the MOFD should be looking at."

**Scott Zeller, M.D.**

A newcomer to Orinda's civic environs, Scott Zeller stated that as a physician he oversees a larger budget and staff than Orinda's and that he regularly interacts with police and fire service agencies. "I love the way Orinda is," said Zeller, and he questioned why building height should go beyond the current 35-

foot limit. To address Orinda's infrastructure needs, Zeller mentioned benefit assessment districts and suggested that the City solicit more ideas from the community. He does not support dissolving the MOFD, but he said he has spoken to many residents about the issue, and he questioned whether fire service could be delivered in another way.

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## Julie Rossiter for Orinda School Board



Logo designed by Aidan Rossiter, OIS student



For a complete list of endorsements and to learn more, visit Julie's website at: [www.julierossiter.org](http://www.julierossiter.org)

### 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)
- attorney experienced in employment law, negotiation and advocacy
- legislative representative 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

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- CURRENT & FORMER ORINDA ELECTED OFFICIALS:**
- Laura Abrams, former Orinda City Council Member
  - Glenn Alper, former Orinda School Board Trustee
  - Joyce Hawkins, former Orinda Mayor and Orinda Citizen of the Year
  - Linda Landau, former Orinda School Board Trustee and 2010 Orinda Citizen of the Year
  - Amy Worth, former Orinda Mayor and current City Council Member

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

## 25th Anniversary Happenings



Mayor Tom McCormick (R) recognizes the winners of the City's 25th Anniversary Poetry Contest (L to R) Veronika Pister, 6th Grade, Orinda Intermediate School; Chloe Morrison, 3rd grade, Glorietta Elementary; and Wade Beury, 2nd Grade, Del Rey Elementary.

Photo A. Scheck



Orinda Public Works Supervisor Bryan Rowe places the City's 25th Anniversary time capsule in its burial site on the island of the lower level parking lot at City Hall.

Photo Tod Fierner

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**Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert for Orinda Schools**

In addition to serving as an active volunteer in school affairs for many years, I have spent the last 18 months attending OUSD Board Meetings and talking with parents, teachers and concerned citizens about what is and what is not working in our schools. While test scores remain high, this is just one measure of how well the district is functioning. Having educated myself about our district and examined how other local school boards operate, I know with new leadership and a fresh perspective the OUSD Board can be more efficient, better protect children and teachers during the difficult economic years ahead and create a culture of collaboration.

— Rebecca 'Bekki' Van Voorhis-Gilbert, JD, MSW, PhD

Watch the Orinda School Board Candidate Forum <http://www.smartvoter.org/2010/11/02/ca/cc/paeca/3671>  
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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

Editor:

Within the past month, I have attended three public meetings in the town of Moraga. The first was a Planning Commission meeting on September 20, 2010 during which the Dollar Tree application in the Rheem Shopping Center was discussed and considered for approval. I would like to commend the members of the Planning Commission for creating an environment in which opinions and comments from both citizens and applicants could be expressed. The commission conducted itself with thoughtfulness and intelligence in its deliberations and treated all those in attendance with respect.

The second event I attended was Candidates' Night on October 5, 2010, an event that was sponsored by the Moraga Citizens Network. This event provided an excellent, non-partisan and inviting environment in which the town's citizens could hear the views of candidates running for the Town Council and pose questions to the candidates. The event was videotaped, and a link was made available to allow viewing for those who were unable to attend. The organization of this event was professional, and the information obtained was extremely valuable.

The third event I attended was the Moraga Town Council Meeting on October 13, 2010 during which appeals to the Dollar Tree application approval were discussed. Having been quite impressed with the last two forums, I was anticipating a similar experience. I could not have been more wrong. The tone of this meeting rapidly became unprofessional and antagonistic. With the exception of Council Members Dave Trotter and Karen Mendonca, the members of the Town Council, including the Mayor, treated the citizens of our community with disdain, disrespect and arrogance. As a forty-six year resident of Moraga, I was both embarrassed and outraged at the improper manner in which this meeting was conducted. I would like to encourage the Town Council to remember that they represent the members of this community. Many of the citizens who addressed the Town Council are the very people who make this community exceptional. They are the parents volunteering in our schools, raising funds to better our education system, running small businesses and shopping in Moraga. To disregard or belittle the opinions and needs of these citizens is to the true detriment of this community; for without their efforts, the future of our town is very grim indeed.

Kay Gertmenian  
Moraga

Editor:

In a recent letter Steve Cohn claims that Orinda is subsidizing Moraga's fire services, a statement that has been proven totally incorrect several times by different people. His contention is based on an analysis he prepared using city limits as the dividing line. Unfortunately, his analysis demonstrates a total lack of understanding of fire district operations, rendering his conclusions meaningless. All multi-city fire districts, including MOFD, ignore city limits and operate according to "areas of service." In the case of MOFD, there are 700 Orinda homes [all of which were located in the old Moraga Fire District] included in the service area of Moraga fire stations. An additional 800 Orinda homes are served from Moraga for medical emergencies. Therefore, any accurate analysis of revenue and expenses should use the area of service, not city boundaries in determining whether or not citizens are "paying more than their fair share."

Mr. Cohn further complains in his letter that only two of the five MOFD board members are residents of Orinda, neglecting to mention that there have been 3 Orindans on the board since the district was formed 13 years ago. Orinda has always gotten its money's worth. It is time to put this misleading idea to rest.

Ellen Dale  
Orinda

Editor:

I was the co-chair of the volunteer committee which developed the 1987 Orinda General Plan and also volunteered for other City planning activities. After almost 15 years I retired and withdrew from all such activities. Recently, however, I became concerned about what I was reading in the Lamorinda Weekly. I attended this week's Downtown Visioning Meeting. This letter comments about some of what I heard. It does not deal with any of the proposals for change, since I haven't read them.

I heard several people express distrust because of the City's activities so far. I even heard concern about the way the meeting was structured, asking for expressions of what people do and don't like about downtown rather than discussing specific proposals. This is exactly how we started work on the 1987 General Plan. I wish that the City started that way this time. The process until this week has engendered suspicion and hostility which will make it harder to reach a conclusion acceptable to most people; it will also make it less likely that business people will be willing to risk investing in our downtown. The history of Theater Square and Gateway-Wilder is enough by itself to make any sensible investor expect long delays and large additional costs for any proposal to change anything in Orinda. This may be the real explanation of why there has been so little new construction downtown. The City seems to want to start over. I think we should give them a chance before we decide whether we're

being manipulated.

My other concern at the meeting is that people who are not sufficiently aware of the constraints the City works under are making proposals without recognizing what the facts are. For example, the vast majority of property tax is kept by the State. As a result, the costs for City services for new development, like fire and police protection and schools, can exceed the added income from our share of property tax. When we studied development in Gateway-Wilder, we discovered that this was likely to be the case. We were not the first to find this out; Petaluma had done a pioneering study that had the same result. Both real estate prices and wages have increased in the last 23 years, so there would have to be a separate study to find out what the situation is now.

Some people seem to think that the existing General Plan uses the term "semi-rural" to refer to downtown. The General Plan only uses the term to refer to residential areas, and has a clear definition of what it means. The Plan uses the term "village" to refer to downtown areas and discusses what that means.

There seems to be an assumption that many seniors living here now want to move to downtown condos. I'm 83 years old. I will stay in my house for as long as I can and when I can't take care of myself any more, I'll move to an assisted living facility. My friends seem to think the same way. Those who sold their houses moved far away to be closer to family or live in more rural areas.

Lily Regelson  
Orinda

Editor:

On October 7th I attended the Orinda School Board Candidates Forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley. The Forum was provided to give Orinda voters a chance to hear from each candidate. The audience was also given the opportunity to submit questions for the five candidates to answer. The OUSD Candidate Forum is now available to watch on YouTube. The time you spend watching the forum may be one of the best investments you ever make in your children's future. The YouTube link is

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yG9gea7cXN8>  
Bob Kadie  
Orinda

Editor:

Thank you for publishing the excellent article on Date Rape (10/13/10) by Margie Ryerson.

As a pediatrician, I want to add that all women of child-bearing age (including young teenagers!) should be educated about emergency contraception ("Plan B" or "the morning after pill"). This medication can prevent pregnancy if taken within a few days of unprotected sexual intercourse. It does NOT cause abortion. For excellent information readers can consult the U. S. Dept of Health website: <http://www.womenshealth.gov/faq/emergency-contraception.cfm#h>

Young women under age 18 must obtain a prescription for emergency contraception. I encourage all parents and pediatricians to talk frankly to their teenagers about this, so that if there is a tragic event like a date rape, the young woman can immediately obtain medical help to prevent pregnancy.

Eileen Benway, MD  
Lafayette

Editor:

County district attorneys are the most powerful law enforcement officials that concern our daily lives. Their decisions affect civil liberties, personal security, fairness of business practices and public officials' integrity. Yet too often they hide their grave failings behind the amorphous veil of "prosecutorial discretion," shielded from public disclosure, scrutiny and accountability.

Voters ousted D.A.'s in eight counties (including Santa Clara and Sonoma) in June. Contra Costa District Attorney Robert Kochly has mismanaged an office that is infamously wracked by malfeasance, incompetence and nonfeasance. Contra Costa D.A. candidates need to explain their stances on the following issues:

- How specifically will you cleanse your agency?
- Scope of duties: Will you vigorously prosecute white-collar criminals, including identity thieves? Consumer and environmental protection and other civil actions? Public integrity breaches (Assessor Gus Kramer)?
- Budget: How will you ensure that the Board of Supervisors adequately funds your office, including misdemeanor prosecutions? Do you favor reform of the County's "3% at 50" pension scheme?
- Victims' rights: Will you effectively represent victims' interests or will you force them to hire their own attorneys to prod you?
- Annual report: Will you issue regular public reports concerning the above?

We deserve answers.  
Jason A. Bezis (attorney)  
Lafayette

Editor:

Want a quick way to compare the candidates? Go to [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org), a service of the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Enter your address to

get a personalized virtual ballot with links to each race, and each candidate who has submitted information to us. Alternatively, use the search feature to find specific races or candidates.

If you live in Orinda and want to watch the school board candidates forum, video clips are available at <http://www.smartvoter.org/2010/11/02/ca/cc/race/3571/>. Ashley Coates  
Moraga

## MOFD CANDIDATES

Editor:

It's time for a change.

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District has been in place since 1997, and many of the current Board members have been involved since that time. It became apparent to me that, as voters, we have not paid enough attention to this Board when late last year I read about our former Fire Chief's pension plan in the Wall Street Journal. Like many of you, I was shocked at how generous the Board had been with our tax dollars. In these uncertain times, we need someone who is willing to make tough economic decisions to protect our fire district and our tax dollars. We are fortunate that Bob Jungbluth is challenging an incumbent for a seat on the MOFD Board. I served with Bob on the Orinda Planning Commission for a number of years and know he makes informed decisions, and is fair to both the needs of the applicant and the community. He has played a substantial role in streamlining the planning process so that it is easier and more user friendly for our residents. Most importantly, I know him to respect the economic circumstances of both the applicant and the community, and he is diligent in trying to minimize financial impacts on both.

I believe Bob's awareness of these key issues, and his ability to communicate clearly with staff, applicants, and residents qualifies him to serve on the MOFD Board. I hope you will join me in supporting Bob Jungbluth for MOFD.

Richard Westin

Editor:

As casual observers of the political scene in Orinda, we were truly saddened to see that FAIR has decided to embark on a smear campaign against John Wyro who is running for re-election to the MOFD Board, representing our district. John Wyro has served the community of Orinda for decades on the Orinda School Board, the Acalanes Education Fund Board, the old Orinda Fire District Board, the Orinda Infrastructure Committee, and the MOFD Board. He was twice selected as an Orinda Association "Volunteer of the Year." He also serves on the board of the Oakland Museum.

As our MOFD board member, he has voted for the replacement of Station 44 on Moraga Way in Orinda and for seismic upgrades to our other two Orinda stations, as well as the replacement of our dilapidated fire-fighting equipment. He has focused on managing the MOFD's financial resources. Instead of thanking him for his service to our community, FAIR has chosen to mount a shabby campaign attacking his integrity.

We are voting for John Wyro because he is a proven leader and we need his experience in these difficult economic times. We trust him to help make sure our emergency services are there when we need them.

Bob and Patty Frazer  
Orinda

Editor:

I ask the voters in Moraga/Orinda Fire District 4 to support John Wyro for re-election. During my time as an Orinda City Council Member, including as Mayor and now currently as Vice Mayor, I have had the pleasure of working collaboratively with John to address public safety issues. John and I worked alongside each other on two campaigns to find additional revenue to fix Orinda's roads, drains, and water pipes. John has been a strong advocate for keeping local control of fire and emergency service in our local community, when others have sought to dissolve the district, meaning that we would revert to having emergency services and fire provided by the County, without local ambulance or paramedic service in Orinda. In a time when our local revenues are under attack by the state, and when property tax revenues are either static or declining, it is very important that we retain a board member who is fiscally prudent and extremely experienced, so that effective and timely fire, paramedic and ambulance service are provided locally to our community. Please vote for John Wyro for the Moraga/Orinda Fire District Board on November 2.

Victoria Smith  
Orinda

Editor:

Vote for Bob Jungbluth for MOFD Board

We need someone on the board who will exhibit some fiscal constraint. I think Bob Jungbluth can be that person. In the 13 years that John Wyro has been on the MOFD board:

- Orinda taxpayers have increased taxes to MOFD from \$5 million to \$11 million, growing at over twice the rate

of inflation.

- The fire district now spends almost \$20 million per year; more money than Orinda and Moraga combined. No other city in the Bay Area spends that much of its budget on emergency services; and the services we get are good but no better than our neighbors.

- While the fire district has spent \$170 million in taxes over those 13 years, they have also accrued \$85 million in debt and unfunded pension liabilities - 50 cents of debt for every dollar spent. When is this going to stop?

The pension bonus that the board gave to retiring Chief Nowicki last year, which they said they were unaware they were doing, is going to cost the taxpayers another \$3 million dollars over the chief's retirement.

It is time for a change. We need someone new to look after our tax dollars. Please vote for Bob Jungbluth for MOFD board. Thank you.

Rose Anne Critchfield

Orinda

## LAFAYETTE CANDIDATES

Editor:

Retain Valuable Leadership on the Lafayette School Board Teresa Gerringer and Art Kapoor are dedicated, knowledgeable and thoughtful members of the Lafayette School Board and I would like to urge the voters of Lafayette to return them to the Board. Lafayette School District's record of success, in the face of unprecedented budget reductions, is testament to fine leadership they have provided.

The Lafayette Schools are known for their excellence. Our facilities are up to date, our fiscal management is conservative, and our financial position is strong. The children of Lafayette continue to benefit from low class sizes and a holistic curriculum that incorporates specialized instruction in art, music and science.

The challenges facing schools in the next several years are large, and the learning curve for a new board member is long. Our children will be best served by keeping these seasoned board members who understand the nuances and complexities of the challenges ahead.

It is clear that Lafayette residents view their schools as an asset. Make sure they remain an asset - Reelect Art and Teresa.

Ann Appert  
Lafayette

Editor:

Change can be good...when needed. However, the City of Lafayette is currently well managed and in good fiscal shape, considering the economic times we are facing. Not many cities can make that claim and things are going to get tougher because of the State's economy and budget crisis. We can attribute the excellent health of our city to the current City Council members. The leadership that Brandt Andersson and Don Tatzin have exhibited during their last terms of offices, such as maintaining balanced city budgets with realistic reserves, the funding and construction of a beautiful new library, securing and preserving open space and our ridge lines, and a reduction in the number of failed roads throughout the city, prove that they can manage successfully through tough times and work with a wide variety of interest groups. They are council members for the entire city, not just the vocal few. Their open mindedness, fairness and experience cannot be easily replaced. Brandt Andersson and Don Tatzin have maintained their passion for Lafayette and wish to continue to share with us their time and expertise. So, why would we make a change? Why would we elect someone with an unproven track record when we have two stellar, proven candidates in Brandt Andersson and Don Tatzin? Lafayette is working, and working well! Why change?

Cheryl Noll  
Lafayette

Editor:

Brandt Andersson and Don Tatzin are strong advocates for the long-term best interests of Lafayette and its residents, and I fully support their re-election to the Lafayette City Council.

Brandt and Don have been essential catalysts in making Lafayette what it is today. Long-term residents have seen the improvements through the years; new residents have chosen Lafayette because of those improvements. Neither Brandt nor Don would begin to claim that they are solely responsible. We are a city fortunate to have many community-minded volunteers, great schools, an active business community and an active faith community, and what has been accomplished is the work of many. But the city council needs to provide the civic leadership, and Brandt and Don have been strong leaders.

These are not easy times. All cities are facing fiscal challenges. Lafayette is in better shape than most because of the prudent policies adopted by the city council, but there are many hard decisions that must be made. Brandt and Don have shown that they can make the hard decisions. But most important, they have shown that when they make decisions, they listen carefully to all viewpoints, they bring to their decision making their broad professional experience and civic experience, and then they base their decisions on what is best for Lafayette. Lafayette has been well-served by having Brandt Andersson and Don Tatzin on the city council. Please keep them working for us the next four years.

Carl Anduri  
Lafayette




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## Letters to the Editor

### ... continued

Editor:  
I urge all residents of Lafayette to vote for incumbents Don Tatzin and Brandt Andersson for City Council. They have worked hard and long for all of us and they deserve our support. Unlike many cities, Lafayette holds a AAA bond rating and does not have pension problems dragging down its finances. We also have a beautiful library and ample amounts of open space. All these wonderful attributes were provided under the careful and watchful eyes of these two Councilmembers. I was so sad to see one candidate, Traci Reilly, resort to distasteful and incorrect criticism of these Councilmembers in an effort to gain votes. Please help me in retaining our fair, open-minded and honest incumbents in office.  
Pattie Tinley  
Lafayette

Editor:  
This letter is in support of Lafayette City Council Candidates Don Tatzin and Brandt Andersson, and at the same time critical of campaign information disseminated by challenger Traci Reilly. I know Don and Brandt to be excellent council members who are hard working, respectful of differing viewpoints and accessible to residents of Lafayette. This is opposite of what Reilly points to in her campaign material; she refers to them as "entrenched and insular." That characterization is unfair, unkind and inaccurate. The city of Lafayette enjoys financial stability because of thoughtful management by the council and staff. Reilly's literature says that the city projects "huge deficits in 3-5 years." This is a half-truth that doesn't recognize that the city has long-range forecasting and makes mid-course corrections as needed. As a result, the City has run General Fund surpluses for the past 10 years. In addition the City has ample reserves. Lafayette's redevelopment agency can be credited with upgrading and improving the quality of life in our downtown, and for being part of the funding package for the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center and Veteran's Memorial building. Reilly's advertisements charge the city with "wasteful spending" and borrowing with "low bond ratings." In fact, Lafayette is one of 169 cities nationally with a AAA credit rating. The RDA's latest bond was rated "A."

Reilly said the Redevelopment Agency is "out of business," but that is playing fast and loose with the facts. Yes, the State took redevelopment funds from all cities this year, but the RDA will receive more tax money next year, and for 14 more years. The library is a wonderful asset to the community. The project did, in fact, require a General Plan Amendment to increase height limits along Golden Gate Way. Candidate Reilly's material paints with a broad brush; it claims the city amended the general plan eight times in the past eight years "in favor of higher density and increased height limits." On the surface that would sound irresponsible, unless the context for each decision is taken into account. I've learned over the years that it's best to try to correct misinformation promptly and directly. Before writing this letter I addressed some of these points personally to candidate Reilly at the candidates' night at the community center, specifically concerning her misinformation about the Redevelopment Agency, and asked that she correct her campaign information. She chose to ignore that request.  
Sincerely,  
Anne Grodin  
Lafayette

Editor:  
I urge you to vote for Brandt Andersson and Don Tatzin for Lafayette City Council. Both men have proven themselves to be intelligent, effective, hard-working, responsible public servants. They approach situations with astute insight, balanced and thoughtful reasoning and clear understanding of the needs and values of our community. These challenging times call for the type of capable leadership which Brandt and Don provide.  
Sincerely,  
Janet Thomas  
Lafayette

Editor:  
I have had the privilege of working closely with Brandt Andersson on Lafayette's Environmental Task Force. I've found Brandt to be a highly intelligent, thoughtful, diplomatic leader who knows how to listen and can make sense of complex issues. The bottom line is that I trust his judgement and rest easy knowing that he's helping to make smart decisions for Lafayette. Brandt's dedication and experience serving the community is truly impressive and I sense that he cares deeply about the quality of life in Lafayette. Prior to serving on the Council, Brandt was Director of the Lafayette Community Foundation, Chair of the Lamorinda Trails Committee, and Chair of the Lafayette Public Safety Implementation Committee. I hear complaints about city council members from friends in other cities, but I don't have any. On the contrary, I feel incredibly lucky and grateful to have such a highly effective city council, who have combined prudent management of city funds, with great accomplish-

ments like the new Library and Acalanes Ridge acquisition, and constant improvements downtown. Lafayette is truly a thriving city compared to other similar cities and the current council deserves some of the credit. I urge Lafayette residents to re-elect Brandt Andersson to the Lafayette City Council.  
Thanks,  
Steve Richard  
Lafayette

Editor:  
I am writing to support Brandt Andersson and Don Tatzin for Lafayette City Council. I believe their ability to manage Lafayette's finances prudently and thoughtfully both historically and going forward will serve Lafayette well in this critical period of challenging economic times. In 2008, I served as Chair of the Lafayette Finance Review Committee. Following months of rigorous review and analysis by our resident committee, we found Lafayette has generally done a very good job of identifying and capturing opportunities to manage the taxpayer's money with prudence without significantly altering the provision of city services. In fact, the city has identified and executed several impressive projects by leveraging outside sources of revenue, requiring very little if any general fund dollars. In addition, the committee found that Lafayette's expenditures are in line with peer cities and in some instances, Lafayette appears to be more fiscally prudent than many of the cities in our study. The Committee did identify cost reduction opportunities, and recommended the city pursue some but not all of these opportunities, weighing the cost savings against the risk of lost or reduced services to the community. The City Council implemented many of our recommendations, including using parking revenue to maintain the downtown, renegotiating contracts at lower rates with many vendors, adopting a mandatory staff furlough, analyzing options for acquiring police services from another provider, and directing city commissions to fund more of their activities themselves. There is certainly more work to be done and I am confident that Brandt and Don will lead the effort to spend the money available to the City wisely. I encourage my fellow residents to re-elect Don and Brandt to the Lafayette City Council.  
Daniel Deitrick  
Lafayette

Editor:  
In Lafayette's upcoming City Council election, Brandt Andersson and Don Tatzin offer leadership proven through accomplishments that have protected and enhanced our town and the lives of its citizens. In these difficult economic times, Lafayette has remained fiscally sound with consistently balanced budgets and healthy reserves. We have a vibrant downtown supported by public landscaping and parking. We have protected hillsides, conserving the landscape that is so much part of our identity. We have a first class library serving all generations with innovative learning programs. We have new community institutions, like our recently initiated Farmers Market, which bring neighbors together. Each is a remarkable accomplishment and the result of the committed, quiet, thoughtful, and open leadership demonstrated by Brandt and Don. Don brings tremendous experience and knowledge to the Council. He has consistently worked for the values that make Lafayette the community that it is. He chaired the committee that developed the regulations that now protect our hills. He provided the leadership that brought our community together to build our new Lafayette Library. Having served on many volunteer citizen committees with Brandt, I have seen first hand the qualities I expect of a candidate for Lafayette's City Council. He is a person of integrity and values, first of which is a commitment to listen and bring together diverse points of view in solving problems. We need leaders who can weave together the varied interests in our community, who see the common thread in the many voices of our town. It was Brandt who defined the concept of a semi-rural community for Orinda, a value that I have seen him promote in governing Lafayette. His work on Lafayette's Environmental Task Force, from which the Farmer's Market emerged, has worked to give Lafayette a sustainable future.

For Lafayette, the challenge lies in what seems like an increasingly unsure future. Wise, thoughtful, experienced leadership has never been more important. Brandt and Don bring precisely that and I urge my neighbors and fellow citizens to support them on election day.  
Tom Chastain  
Lafayette

Editor:  
As longtime community volunteers and former elected officials, we both share a keen interest in our community and its leadership. We have each had the opportunity to work with our Mayor, Brandt Andersson and Council Member Don Tatzin in varied situations, from library fundraisers to community liaison meetings to city council meetings. We have always found them both well-informed on all topics related to Lafayette's city government. They are creative and cooperative in developing solutions to all problems that arise, and are always open to differing viewpoints regardless of the source. It is clear that they see themselves as part of a governing team

that includes not only their fellow council members and Lafayette's many commissions and committees, but community groups and citizens. Lafayette has a tradition of cooperative, creative government, and Brandt and Don are a key part of that successful tradition. We are pleased to support them for re-election to the Lafayette City Council and urge our fellow citizens to support them as well.  
Judy Carney, Mary McCosker  
Lafayette

### MORAGA CANDIDATES

Editor:  
I am writing to proudly support Ken Chew for re-election to the Moraga Town Council. I believe Mr. Chew to be a tireless and an almost unbelievably dedicated volunteer in service of the people of the Town of Moraga. I have seen him at all the events around town that I have attended or participated in myself. I am grateful for Ken's support of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce where I serve as a volunteer. Ken's achievements while serving on the Town Council are many and vital. As this year's mayor Ken has presided over a balanced budget. He has begun the process of evaluation and potential enactment of recommendations of the Revenue Enhancement Committee. He has engaged Kimco as they've reorganized their ownership of the Rheem Park Center. He has begun the process to update the Town's website. He is involved, along with the Chamber of Commerce, in bringing St. Mary's College more into the life of the town. He has overseen the completion of the Moraga Center Specific Plan. Did I mention his involvement with the Hacienda, the Moraga School District and our police protection? And he does all this with a full time job and family to care for.  
Please vote to re-elect Ken Chew.  
Larry Tessler  
Moraga

Editor:  
The Town of Moraga needs Dave Trotter on the Town Council. In my dealing with Dave over the years I've always found him to be an individual who is capable of looking for solutions to problems that often polarize the Town. He exhibits the essential traits necessary for a Town official. Dave takes the time to be knowledgeable about the issues and respectful of differing points of views. Too often issues become emotional and it's important to have members of the Town Council who can rise above fray and create common sense solutions. This is why I will be casting my vote for Dave Trotter for Town Council.  
Christina DaRozza  
Moraga

### ORINDA CANDIDATES

Editor:  
I urge your vote to re-elect Sue Severson for Orinda City Council. Sue is a tireless citizen leader who has been dedicated to building a strong community for the 20+ years I have lived in Orinda. Her service on the Orinda City Council for the past four years have been a logical extension of many years of service on the Orinda School Board, Orinda school parent club boards, and church and humanitarian service. As a member of the City Council, Sue has been unique for her personal efforts to increase ongoing communications that build strong communities. She regularly sends emails about issues in our community, to encourage citizens and families to reach out and get involved in Orinda Clean-Up Days and other community service events and celebrations. Sue is hard-working, thorough, meticulous, and frugal. She is well-equipped to balance strategic initiatives with an understanding of the nuts and bolts needed to get the job done efficiently and cost-effectively. In a small town with very limited resources, we need City Council members who can justify priorities and funding obligations to keep Orinda a thriving, vital community.  
Re-elect Sue Severson.  
Diane Oshima  
Orinda

Editor:  
For the 8 years I have known Sarah Butler, she has been actively involved with Orinda schools, working long and hard to help the children and the community. Sarah has demonstrated year after year her passion for making Orinda schools better. She is the most knowledgeable and active person running for the School Board. As a former Parents Club President of Glorietta Elementary School, I had the opportunity to work with Sarah. She consistently volunteered to help on issue after issue. She had a good attention for detail, and would tirelessly work on issues until they were resolved. Sarah has experience at all educational levels - class room volunteer, Parents Club Board Member, active leader for EFO and both Measure A and Measure B, Co-Chair of the Las Trampas State Legislative Team - and much more. She has done it all - and still has the passion to give her all to the School Board. She knows the issues facing the Orinda Unified School District, and is prepared to take action. Sarah Butler would be an outstanding School Board

member - that is why I, and my husband Bruce, are supporting her and ask that you do too!  
Diane Ramsey  
Orinda

Editor:  
Those of us in Orinda have an opportunity to impact the future of our children by voting for three new members of the School Board. Julie Rossiter is a candidate who we believe should get your vote. Julie is extremely hard-working. She has been actively involved in Orinda schools, volunteering in a variety of roles for the Parents' Club at Del Rey. She is thoughtful and analytical - skills that are key for addressing the current and future challenges in our district. With increasing budget constraints, there are no easy fixes. It will take innovation and collaboration. Julie is well-suited for the job - she brings the necessary skills, plus a proven ability to solve problems. As a Board member, she will be a good listener and communicator, and will work effectively with all constituents. Julie's slogan, "Committed to Excellence," is an apt description. We believe that Julie will be a committed school board member, who will strive to represent the community, and who will work hard to maintain and improve our excellent schools.  
Julia & Chris Stenzel  
Orinda

Editor:  
As parents of children in the Orinda schools, we have had the opportunity to work alongside many parents, teachers, school board members and district administrators in our community. We have all been involved in leadership positions within our schools and community supporting education. Several of us attended the candidates for the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees forum last week and walked away concerned about the confrontational approach of some of the candidates. While there is always room for improvement and opportunities to think "outside the box" to bring efficiencies to our district, it would be very destructive for our community and our schools for board members to bring a negative attitude to this process. It has only been through hard work, respect and partnership that our school district has weathered these tough budget years with many programs and small class sizes intact. Though there are areas for improvement, our district is not broken. With this in mind, we whole-heartedly endorse Julie Rossiter, Chris Severson and Sarah Butler for OUSD Board of Trustees. We believe these individuals are smart, thoughtful and collaborative. While they are not opposed to new ideas and taking a hard look within our own walls, they will work toward solutions in a positive way. More tough decisions lie ahead for our schools, and we strongly feel the OUSD will be in a more sound and productive place with these individuals working on behalf of our children. We urge you to support these candidates on Election Day. Mindy Becker, Wendy Bond, Courtney Chandler, Amber Gates, Joan Kiekhaefer, Yosh Neugebauer, Janet Riley, Shauna Simmonds  
Orinda

Editor:  
With regard to the proposed Downtown Plan to raise the building height in Orinda on the block that includes our most vibrant area of commercialism (which includes Nation's, Europa Hof Brau, our Hardware Store, Loard's Ice Cream to name a few that would be demolished, never to return, should this Downtown Plan be enacted) it's easy to sit back in an armchair and say, "wait, I don't like that plan and we should be not Re-Develop under the guise of "Revitalize" our downtown with multi-story condos and cookie cutter retailers that have no relevance to me." It is another thing altogether to say that, and then actually do something about it, like what Scott Zeller is doing. Zeller is an experienced leader, trustworthy, and believes the future of Orinda is best decided by the majority of all people in Orinda collectively versus a small group. With his help, we can have a real "revitalization" with improved storefront facades, more greenery, and a boost to small businesses that are indeed relevant to our community. We have five candidates running for Orinda City Council, and each voter may select up to three on the ballot. Scott Zeller has my vote, and hopefully one of yours to preserve all of the semi-rural characteristics that enticed me, and perhaps you, to move to Orinda. Respectfully,  
Susan Winchester  
Orinda

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**Letters to the Editor**  
... continued from page A11

**Editor:**  
I ask the voters in Moraga/Orinda Fire District 4 to support John Wyro for re-election. During my time as an Orinda City Council Member, including as Mayor and now currently as Vice Mayor, I have had the pleasure of working collaboratively with John to address public safety issues. John and I worked alongside each other on two campaigns to find additional revenue to fix Orinda's roads, drains, and water pipes. John has been a strong advocate for keeping local control of fire and emergency service in our local community, when others have sought to dissolve the district, meaning that we would revert to having emergency services and fire provided by the County, without local ambulance or paramedic service in Orinda. In a time when our local revenues are under attack by the state, and when property tax revenues are either static or declining, it is very important that we retain a board member who is fiscally prudent and extremely experienced, so that effective and timely fire, paramedic and ambulance service are provided locally to our community. Please vote for John Wyro for the Moraga/Orinda Fire District Board on November 2.  
Victoria Smith  
Orinda

**Editor:**  
Tyson Krumholz, my stepson, is running for Orinda School Board. He is extremely bright, has his Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Cal and is a licensed Professional Engineer. In his position as Senior Project Manager with Webcor Builders in San Francisco, he manages project budgets in the multi millions and has experience working with many governmental agencies with their inherent bureaucratic constraints. Tyson has successfully achieved positive outcomes for numerous Bay Area construction projects. Tyson has two young children in the Orinda Schools. His wife taught for several years in the Orinda School system. Tyson's mother, my wife, taught math and science for 30-years, the last 12 years she taught math and science at Orinda Intermediate School. Tyson has been involved with the Orinda Schools since his first child was enrolled in school at Wagner Ranch Elementary. He has attended School Board meetings for the past 3 years, done volunteer work at Wagner Ranch, and believes great education is essential for a vibrant and productive society. I am a very proud step father and I urge all to vote for Tyson Krumholz for the Orinda School Board.  
William E. Wilbur, DDS  
Orinda

**Editor:**  
Be Truly Informed Before Voting on November 2. We have just finished reading the Lamorinda Weekly's Letters to the Editors (dated October 13) and are concerned with the negative tone of some of the submissions regarding the OUSD Board candidates. Voters are best served by hearing what the candidates stand for, their thoughtful opinions regarding the issues, and their ability to ultimately make decisions as to which candidates will best serve our CHILDREN, not the adults. A member of our family attended the Candidate Forum on October 7th, and we just reviewed key points that were posted online by the League of Women Voters. We have

also read the Lamorinda Weekly's impartial review of the Candidate Forum (dated October 13, which stated that only 70 people attended) and it is clear that some candidates had 'done their homework', and others had not. It was obvious that some candidates clearly understood the complexity of the issues and cited concrete examples and solutions, had consistently attended OUSD Board meetings to observe the Board process, and had made intelligent, reality-based assessments in order to prepare thoughtful recommendations. Several candidates merely repeated or paraphrased questions, and agreed or disagreed with positions without presenting new perspectives or personal interpretation, which showed a lack of preparation and commitment to a critical position that simply cannot be given away. What the OUSD Board desperately needs is diversity of thought and opinion, and a willingness on the part of its members to challenge themselves, our administrators, teachers, parents and children to excel - to reach beyond even the Orinda standards - in innovative and new ways that give our kids the tools to be successful and valuable citizens. Extraordinary times require extraordinary leadership, and for the first time in many years we have a competitive race that allows for the issues and our children's futures to be openly and honestly discussed. We feel that OUSD board candidates Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert and Tyson Krumholz are both uniquely qualified to provide skillful leadership to navigate through these challenging times and position our schools for the future. Their presence on the Board will benefit all students, all schools and all perspectives.  
Charles and Doaa Vollmar  
Orinda

**Dear Orinda Community,**  
I would like to encourage you to consider voting for Bekki Gilbert and Tyson Krumholz for Orinda School Board. I believe that both will bring a positive, new perspective to the board. I was dismayed when I attended recent school board meetings and found that there was little transparency re: decisions and minimal communication with constituents. I had the impression, particularly re: the issue of whether to maintain the naturalist at the nature area or to fund the school librarians, that the decision had already been made prior to hearing from the public. I realize that no school board can please everyone, but I do feel that it is important to listen and to have an open mind when addressing the important issues that our schools face. Finally, I believe that both Bekki Gilbert and Tyson Krumholz will work hard to have good communication and will be thoughtful, independent voices on the Orinda School Board.  
Wendi Leonard, Ph.D.  
Orinda

**Editor:**  
I attended the October 7th Orinda School Board forum where five candidates fielded questions from the audience and discussed why they decided to run for the Board. Two candidates in particular stood out - Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert and Tyson Krumholz. Both were realistic, fair, spoke honestly and respectfully about issues regarding the OUSD Board and backed their claims with research and community survey data. Bekki and Tyson (the only two candidates NOT endorsed by the current OUSD Board) appeared to be the only ones willing to take a stand on tough issues. A few days after the debate, I received a community-

wide email, complaining that the "non-Board-approved" candidates were confrontational and negative during the debate - a criticism intending to discredit these two candidates who offered innovative solutions to legitimate problems. I encourage the community to watch the forum posted on YouTube (search under Orinda School Board) and decide which of the candidates will best support our schools.

A word of caution about the current OUSD Board and their goal of gaining new Board members they can influence. I discovered that over the past 12 months, all five current OUSD board members voted exactly the same way 129 out of 131 times. I question any board that collectively votes alike 99% of the time. Will voting for the three OUSD-approved members - Julie Rossiter, Sarah Butler and Chris Severson - provide our community with a Board capable of identifying and addressing difficult challenges in a balanced way? You decide. You can view OUSD's voting record and meeting minutes on the OUSD web site at www.orindaschools.org (under District Info., Board of Trustees, Board Minutes). I'm voting for Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert and Tyson Krumholz because they are not afraid to stand up for what's right, they speak up when improvements are needed and advocate for our children's best interests.  
Lisa Copass  
Orinda

**Editor:**  
The disturbing opinion offered by Jim Landau in your last edition presents such a bitter characterization of School Board candidate Bekki Van Vooris-Gilbert that I was prompted to view the video of the OUSD Candidates Forum firsthand.

The YouTube video clearly contradicts Mr. Landau's misrepresentation of Bekki's intentions and behavior. Bekki stood out as a leader among the candidates attending this forum. During this event, she presented her thoughtful views in the context of her personal experience as a parent volunteer, her research on practical improvements to tighten OUSD's operational efficiencies and her execution of parent and community surveys. Bekki was informed, intelligent and forthright in her responses and, judging from her comments, I believe she was the most prepared and qualified candidate. In several instances, she touched upon key areas where OUSD might consider improvements. That's the kind of leadership I expect from our school board members!  
Mr. Landau will have you believe that Bekki arrived at the Candidate's Forum with an agenda, however, in reviewing details of this event, I'd say Mr. Landau is the real culprit sowing distrust, disunity and wasting time with his distasteful attempt at smearing an exceptional candidate who is highly qualified, well informed on current issues facing our schools and proactively advocating for the best interests of our children and their education. There's no basis for Landau's destructive comments. Remarkably, our current board members voted together on 129 out of 131 issues in 2010, including approval of administrative bonuses in the face of severe budget cuts and new parcel taxes. Considering these actions, it's hard to imagine how anyone would pay attention to the rubber stamp candidate endorsements offered by this group. We need new, responsible leadership possessing the courage and tenacity to challenge the status quo and act progressively in addressing the complex, difficult issues our schools face every year.

I've lived in Orinda for 45 years. My siblings and I all attended the Orinda schools as did my children. I understand from direct experience that our schools are far from perfect and stand to enjoy significant benefit from the leadership Bekki Van Vooris-Gilbert will provide when elected. Please support Bekki's candidacy for OUSD School Board with your vote.  
John Gripp  
Orinda

**Editor:**  
Will our children get a 21st Century education to launch them towards maintaining the Orinda lifestyle? Towards their future happiness and success? I'm deeply invested in the answers as a science teacher at Orinda Intermediate School, and as a parent of a Miramonte senior. The OUSD school board sets policy, hires the superintendent and everything rains down from there to our class rooms. The board has tremendous potential to move Orinda's good schools towards great schools that could be leaders in the state, not just in test scores, but in student motivation and cutting edge use of technology in motivating student projects.

We need some changes, at least in pace. The rather contentious board race is great - it gets us all thinking about what we want for our children's education. I'm all for debate but I'm dismayed to see the personal attacks against two candidates.

Bekki VanVoorhis-Gilbert has made tremendous efforts to reach out to teachers and teachers. She's attended every board meeting. I find her deeply principled, compassionate and committed to the greater good of our community and our children. She listens well, she's smart and well-informed. Bekki has my endorsement!  
Sue Boudreau  
(Orinda teacher)  
El Sobrante

**Editor:**  
There is a reason that Julie Rossiter has been endorsed by all five members of the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees. She is imminently qualified and will represent the diverse interests of all Orinda residents. Julie's three children span the age spectrum from pre-kindergarten to middle school so she has a vested interest ensuring all levels of Orinda schools are of the highest quality. She has the tenacity, determination and professional skills to tackle the complex funding and policy issues the district will confront over the next few years. Please join me in voting for Julie Rossiter on November 2nd.

Sincerely,  
Valerie Lewis  
Orinda

**Editor:**  
We are writing in support of Sarah Butler for the Orinda Union School District Governing Board. We have known Sarah as an involved parent at both Glorietta and OIS. She is informed, involved and has the students' interests in mind. Sarah has a working knowledge of the broad range of issues that our schools face and how they affect the classroom. Her passion and sustained dedication to our students makes her uniquely qualified to be an excellent addition to the OUSD school board. Please join us in voting for Sarah Butler on Nov. 2nd.  
Thank you.  
Mark and Marcie Tuttle  
Orinda

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# Life in LAMORINDA

## October's Sweet Thursday Goes to the Dogs

By Moya Stone

To celebrate October Adopt-A-Dog month the Lafayette Library has planned a very special event. On October 28th as part of the Lafayette Library's Sweet Thursday literary salon, local journalist and author Steven Winn will join Los Angeles based screenwriter and novelist Bruce Cameron at 7:30pm in the Community Meeting Room to discuss their compelling books about dogs.

Sweet Thursday features local authors discussing their books and the craft of writing. Usually held on the third or fourth Thursday of every month, Sweet Thursday is supported by the Friends of Lafayette Library.

Readers may recall in the San Francisco Chronicle Steven Winn's humorous tales of his dog Como, a scruffy terrier mix who proved to be the challenge of a lifetime. Como was rescued from a shelter by the Winn family and immediately he made it clear that Winn was persona non grata. While Winn's wife and young daughter were favored, Winn himself was anything but.

In his popular book, *Come Back Como: Winning the Heart of a Reluctant Dog*, the author shares his troubled relationship with Como and how he came to appreciate what this little white terror

could teach him about patience, relationships and humility. Winn says of the initial rejection that he tried not to take it personally, but he did consider how he might return Como to the shelter, including claiming he was allergic to the dog. However, his daughter Phoebe would have none of that.

In addition to Como's story, Winn says this book is also about his family. "Our daughter was 12 when we got Como and now she's in college," says Winn. "The dog is really an arc of our daughter growing up."

It is the family elements of Winn's book that Susan Weaver, Lafayette Senior Community Library Manager particularly liked. "It's about loving your child so much that you're willing to make it work," says Weaver, "and along the way, something happens and you realize that your life is richer and better because of your efforts."

Bruce Cameron is the author of the successful book, *8 Simple Rules for Dating my Daughter*, which became a hit television show starring John Ritter. As a young boy Cameron enjoyed a special bond with his first dog, whose intense gaze inspired his most recent novel, *A Dog's Purpose*. The story is narrated by Bailey, a dog who, when he realizes he has been rein-

carated, sets out to discover the purpose of his multiple lives.

As a dog lover and a writer, Cameron had been pondering the concept of this story for quite some time. "I was seized with the notion of what if your dog never dies." He knew the story had to be told from the dog's perspective and Cameron wanted the voice to be realistic. "That was the challenge," he says.

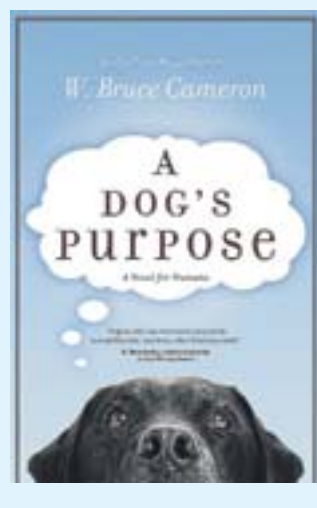
According to Lafayette's Maya Michon, Cameron's twelve-year-old niece, her uncle got it just right. "My favorite thing about the book is how the author writes in the dog's voice," she says. "I like it because it's funny and I think that he really sounded like a dog."

*A Dog's Purpose* is on the New York Times Best Seller List and has over 12,000 Facebook fans. Twelve-year-old Brooke Lennox, also from Lafayette, can understand why. She says she would recommend *A Dog's Purpose* to both kids and adults and anyone who likes dogs. "It was fun to see what the author thought a dog's perspective is."

In addition to the discussion, the evening will include a book sale, sponsored by the Bay Area Book Mobile, and signing of the authors' books. Event producer Maria Hjelm has also invited therapy dogs from Tony La Russa's

Animal Rescue Foundation. Twenty percent of the proceeds from the book sale will go to ARF.

### Book Covers



## The Best of Blasphemy

By Sophie Braccini



Ann Callicrate in her recording studio

Photo Sophie Braccini

Ann Callicrate is a cheerful labor and delivery nurse who, at first glance, does not smack of heresy. But beware of the mischievous light that sometimes sparkles in her eyes. She revels in creating provocative humor. Her first album, *The Best of Blasphemy*, is a work that, according to Callicrate, is not picking a bone with The Big Creator, but pokes fun at the most judgmental aspects of organized religion.

Callicrate's album is a compilation of work of 'religious humor,' with the addition of four original songs created by Callicrate and her husband, Neil Jay Young. "There is no Catholic over 40 years old who does not know the *Vatican Rag* song by the legendary Tom Lehrer," she says, "I was inspired to gather together, in the name of comedy, songs that poke fun at religion; as it has never been done before." Other titles on the CD include *Sister Josephine*, by Jake Thackray; *Creation Science 101*, by Roy Zimmerman; and *Praise The Lord And Send Me The Money*, by Hugh Moffatt. Country music dominates the album's mood, with the addition of 50's rock and roll, gentle jazz, and a sea shanty, most appropriate for *If Jesus was a Pirate*, Callicrate's original creation. The entire album was created in the couple's professional studio at their Canyon home.

Callicrate wrote her first two songs for the album. "I have a lot of silly things in my mind," she says. She attributes some of it to her upbringing. She was raised Catholic in Salem, Oregon, in a family with 11 children. She went to Catholic school until she was 13. She remembers that there were a lot of things she had to struggle with. "Confessionals were always frightening to me, it looked like a dark wooden box," she remembers.

But there were a lot of things she loved, too, "I loved sacred music, the liturgy, the art, the colors. And in the middle of all the grandeur, there was always laughter," she recalls.

When she had a serious car accident on Moraga Road, two years ago, she had to stop work for a while—that's when the idea of the CD really took off. "I was doing something good and of value to me," says Callicrate, "my defense mechanism has always been humor."

"I am against people who point fingers or are judgmental (like in the song *Jesus Loves Me*

*But He Can't Stand You*)," she says, "there are many fun religious songs, and who has never told a religious joke?"

The songs will probably not amuse the most conservative in Lamorinda; *Start the Apocalypse Now* is more a political song than a religious one. There is some colorful language here and there, so a PG-13 rating might be appropriate, but the selections are intended to amuse rather than shock. The mostly country music style roots the album in an American tradition of cabaret and humor. For more information go to [www.thebestofblasphemy.com](http://www.thebestofblasphemy.com).

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### Moraga Orinda Fire District

#### Board of Directors Meetings

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

#### Next meeting(s):

**November 3rd, 7pm** regular Meeting, Station 41 (1280 Moraga Way, Moraga), (go to [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org) as the meeting date approaches for more information)

# MOFD Approves Vehicle Accident Cost Recovery Program

By Lucy Amaral

The Board of Directors of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) approved an ordinance establishing a cost recovery system with regards to motor vehicle accidents. The adopted ordinance outlined a schedule of fees and collection policies to recover costs for fire-based emergency services by charging the 'at fault' party of motor vehicle accidents which occur within the District's boundaries.

Fire Chief Randy Bradley said MOFD responds to an average of two motor vehicle accidents a day, not only on surface streets of the District, but also on Highway 24 where many involve non-residents either driving to or through the District. He added that accord-

ing to the California Health and Safety Code, Districts such as MOFD have the authority to charge fees to cover the cost of any service that the District provides.

MOFD Board Member John Wyro said the fee structure put in place would charge the 'at fault' driver the costs incurred by the department for responding to a vehicle accident or hazardous material spill to the extent the 'at fault' driver's insurance will pay.

MOFD's Board also approved a motion to contract with Fire Recovery USA, a cost-recovery provider that tracks, bills and processes reimbursable claims with the at-fault insurance company associated with the motor vehicle ac-

cident.

In his staff report, Bradley said that Fire Recovery USA developed its charges by surveying fire departments nationwide to determine average time-on-scene, type of equipment, materials, supplies and labor that would be needed, and billing rates were determined by itemizing costs for a typical run.

Fire Recovery USA, headquartered in Roseville, California, currently serves more than 60 fire districts throughout the state. Mike Rivera of Fire Recovery USA said that billing for cost recovery has been used by some fire departments for nearly 20 years. He added that more districts are be-

ginning to implement this program primarily because of lower tax revenue, and higher costs.

"Since the fact is that taxes no longer cover the actual costs to mitigate these accidents, I believe tax money should provide the infrastructure of having a fire department available to provide service," Rivera said. "But the costs associated with an actual incident should be covered by the responsible party."

"The district is always looking for ways to efficiently provide quality fire and emergency medical service to the community while maintaining a balanced budget," said Wyro. "One way to do that is for users to pay for services. Cur-

rently, users pay a fee for such services as commercial fire inspections, plan review, fire code and construction permits. Ambulance and related medical response services are charged to the extent a resident's insurance company will reimburse for that service with no out of pocket expense to the resident. Non-residents are charged the full amount."

Wyro said the new program will follow along those lines, enabling MOFD to maintain it level of service while aiding the bottom line. "These user fees will generate an estimated \$72,000 for the current year's budget, funding necessary to keep the budget in balance," Wyro said.

## Public Forum

### Yes on Prop. 22 in November to Stop State Raids of Local Funds and to Protect Vital Local Services

California voters have an opportunity on Election Day, November 2nd, to stop State politicians from raiding local taxpayer funds that are supposed to be used at the local level for vital local services like emergency 911 response, police, fire, libraries, parks, transportation improvements and more. Your Yes vote on Proposition 22 will stop State raids of local government funds once and for all.

For too long, Sacramento politicians have used loopholes in the law to take billions in taxpayer funds dedicated by the voters to local government and transportation services. Just last year the State took \$5 billion in local revenues to balance their budgets. In contrast, the Town of Moraga (where I serve on the Council) must live within its means. We must pass a budget that is honest, on-time, and balanced each year.

The billions of dollars taken by state raids have forced deep cuts locally in services that we all depend on every day. For example, in Moraga we had planned on using COPS funding for local police services to pay for a police officer to bring the Town back up to full strength – but the State deleted this longstanding program from next year's budget. Also, neighborhood street maintenance in Moraga is underfunded at the present time. Without the protection of Proposition 22, we anticipate that the State will likely cut Gas Tax funding that you pay for local streets, further eroding our ability to arrest the deterioration of our neighborhood streets. Don't be fooled by the State's avoidance of Gas Tax raids in the recently approved budget to avoid possible voter support for Proposition 22. The State's mid-year budget revise will likely prove that the current makeshift budget is woefully out of balance. Without Proposition 22 Moraga, and other local communities, will be at serious risk.

But by voting Yes on Proposition 22, we can stop state lawmakers in Sacramento from raiding funds that don't belong to them. Prop. 22 will:

- STOP the State from taking or borrowing local tax dollars dedicated to cities and counties to fund vital local services.
- STOP the State from taking or diverting gas taxes we pay at the pump that voters have dedicated to transportation purposes.

By stopping State raids, Prop. 22 will protect the vital local government services that protect public safety, improve our local economies, and enhance our quality of life, including:

- Police and sheriff patrols

- 9-1-1 emergency dispatch
- Paramedic response
- Fire protection
- Senior services
- Neighborhood parks and recreation programs
- Local libraries

By voting Yes on Prop. 22, we also protect gas tax funds from state raids. We can ensure that gas taxes we pay at the pump are used, as voters intended, to:

- Fund road safety improvements
- Fund pothole repair
- Fund traffic congestion relief
- Fund mass transit, like buses and commuter rail

Prop. 22 is a straightforward measure. Prop 22 simply ensures that our existing local tax dollars and existing gas taxes cannot be taken away by the state politicians again. It requires State legislators to stop raiding funds that don't belong to them. And most important during these tough economic times, Prop 22 will not increase taxes.

That's why Prop. 22 is supported by such a broad and diverse coalition of public safety, labor, business and taxpayer groups, community groups, senior and local governments groups including:

- California Fire Chiefs Association
- Peace Officers Research Association of California, representing 60,000 public safety members;
- California Police Chiefs Association
- AAA Northern California
- California Library Association, representing 3,000 librarians across California
- California Transit Association
- League of California Cities
- Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Group
- California Chamber of Commerce
- More than 300 cities and towns

Literally hundreds of groups support Prop. 22 because it will protect the services you and I depend on every single day. I urge your YES vote on Prop. 22 on November 2nd.

For more information visit [www.savelocalservices.com](http://www.savelocalservices.com), join our Facebook page or follow us on Twitter @yesonprop22.

Dave Trotter  
Moraga  
(*Dave Trotter is a Moraga Town Council Member*)

### Setting the Record Straight

Lafayette has much to be positive about – stable home values, a balanced city budget and a AAA bond rating, a new and well used library, a key open space acquisition. As City Council incumbents, Brandt Andersson and Don Tatzin have run positive campaigns, focusing on their accomplishments, the high citizen satisfaction with Lafayette and its government, and their vision for the future.

When a campaign claim was made that "families with children (K-11)" aren't represented on the City Council, Mayor Andersson made a lighthearted refutation of one challenger's refusal to acknowledge that 12th grade is part of the public school system. That candidate seemed to dismiss Mayor Andersson's 12th grader and the fact that he has raised his children for the past 17 years in Lafayette schools. Certainly he has/does represent a "family with children" on the City Council.

When campaign statements and literature claimed the downtown plan cost the Redevelopment Agency more than twice the actual, documented cost, Andersson and Tatzin let it slide, because a campaign ought to be about issues and policies. When campaign materials claimed that the Lafayette Homeowners Council opposed the downtown plan (and the LHC had taken no such position), Andersson and Tatzin let the Homeowners Council respond.

However, in a letter to the editor and a campaign advertisement, both published in the previous issue of the Lamorinda Weekly, one candidate has abandoned all pretense of a positive campaign. I am compelled to respond.

The letter from a key supporter of the challenger claims that Andersson "voted for multifamily housing" on the Christmas tree lot across from Acalanes High School. FALSE. In fact, the Council's first vote was to send the staff recommendation of multifamily housing back for investigation of single family options. A second vote resulted from a discussion of whether to support 5-acre or 2.5-acre low density single family zoning. Two councilmembers supported 2.5-acre zoning, and three supported 5-acre zoning. All of them supported low density residential zoning. It's in the minutes of those meetings. One could look it up. Andersson's comments at the time, rejecting the multifamily option, refuted the claim that it was a commercial/residential "transition" zone, noting that it was farther from BART than many single family homes in Lafayette.

The letter then claims that Andersson favors a "semi-urban" downtown, repeating a claim made on the campaign's website and the campaign ad. FALSE.

This claim apparently stems from a single comment at the Lafayette Homeowners Council candidate forum in 2006 in a discussion of definitions, not policy. The detailed notes taken by the secretary of the Homeowners Council describe that discussion of definitions. One could look it up. He has never suggested that "semi-urban" development is desirable. As a member of the Downtown Advisory Committee, I have noted that Andersson would consider all options and judge them on their balance of retail, housing, and open space. His greatest concern was/is trying to find a way to maintain and encourage the great diversity of buildings and blocks and views of the surrounding hills that are the hallmark of downtown Lafayette.

The campaign ad states the completely unsubstantiated cost of the downtown plan. In August, the campaign used the correct cost; then it suddenly more than doubled it and has repeated that inflated number, \$2,000,000, for nearly two months. FALSE. City staff has provided the actual documented costs to the Lafayette Redevelopment Agency for consultants, staff time, and expenses -- \$872,000, less than half of the total claimed. Another \$200,000 was received in grants dedicated for use in the EIR and climate change study. One could have asked.

The ad further claims that Lafayette's Redevelopment Agency bonded for development funds under low bond ratings. FALSE. A candidate who understands the range of bond ratings available to redevelopment agencies in cities the size of Lafayette would realize that the bond ratings for both the city and the redevelopment agency are quite high. One could have asked.

Any candidate is entitled to question the policies and positions of other candidates. But no candidate is entitled to make up his/her own facts. It is sad to see a campaign devote most of its effort to tearing down the current City Council that by any objective standard has served its citizens with integrity, dedication, and success.

I sincerely hope that future campaigns can be conducted with a respectful discourse on the important issues facing Lafayette, as has been the practice in the past. In this election I support the re-election of Brandt Andersson and Don Tatzin who have done extraordinary work for our Lafayette.

Sincerely,  
Erling Horn  
Lafayette  
(*Erling Horn is a former Mayor of Lafayette*)

#### Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com) and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

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## 'Round the Clock We Go

Set your clocks back the night of November 6th  
 By Sophie Braccini



The Russell family (left), from Denmark, help Wendy Tamis and George Hampton reset a wall of clocks.

For Wendy Tamis and George Hampton, Sunday, November 7th brings hours of extra work. Daylight Savings Time ends and Standard Time begins, two hours after midnight; 2:00 a.m. will officially become 1:00 a.m. The average Lamorinda resident will probably spend only a few minutes resetting clocks; but Tamis and

Hampton, co-owners of Clocks, Etc., will spend hours resetting somewhere around one thousand clocks; they spread the work out over a 1-2 week period because, "Our fingers get too tired," says Hampton. The Lafayette store rustles with the tick-tock of hundreds of clocks. "All the clocks that do not

Photo Sophie Braccini have a chime are on time," says a proud and methodic Tamis, so twice a year the change of time requires some planning. "We start, before the date of the time change, with the little ones that are in glass displays," she explains, "but the ones on the wall have to wait for the actual date; otherwise clients might get confused."

The hardest clock to change this year will be a 50-pounder that has to be taken off the wall; the large indoor/outdoor clocks are not easy either because panels have to be unscrewed to reach protected hands and batteries. "The change of time is a good opportunity to change the batteries not only of smoke detectors, but of battery-powered clocks as well," advises Tamis, "once a year is a good periodicity."

Not all clocks should be turned back. "You should not fall back an antique clock," says Hampton, "if you do, you risk damaging the mechanism and the strike will be off." Every year, the store gets calls from some of these clock owners. "The best thing to do is to stop it for an hour," advises Tamis. The couple also gets a few calls every year from people whose radio controlled clocks do not change automatically like they're supposed to. The WWVB

Atomic Clock time signal, transmitted from Colorado, provides the ability to synchronize the time on computers and other electrical equipment; clocks equipped with a receptor get a signal at 2:00 a.m. and roll back automatically. "In the buildings we live in, sometimes the devices have difficulty getting the signal," explains Tamis, "we recommend that owners put their clock in a window facing east overnight; eventually it will hit the signal."



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November 2010 - Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

## PRESCRIPTION FOR LIVING: GARDEN GYMS

By Cynthia Brian

*"Look up, laugh loud, talk big, keep the color in your cheek and the fire in your eye, adorn your person, maintain your health, your beauty and your animal spirits."*

William Hazlitt, 1778-1830, Essayist

An Arabian proverb states that the one who has health has hope and the one who has hope has everything. I have always believed that health is wealth. With the obesity epidemic spreading like wildfire across our country, people of all ages are flocking to the gym to tone, tighten, and tackle the battle of the bulge.

I am not one of them. My prescription for a better body, mind, and spirit is to take a walk on the wild side. I'm into nature and my membership is in my own personal garden gym.

Along with bicycling and walking, gardening tops the list of ways to combat stress and lose weight according to the National Institute of Health. For optimal well being, it is recommended that we participate in at least thirty minutes of moderate intensity physical activity daily. It's easy to fulfill

those requirements when you are a real dirt digger.

Burn up those calories this autumn while getting your garden in shape too. Strenuous exercise is the key to losing weight by burning more calories than you consume. Thirty minutes of garden calisthenics will get your heart pumping and your buttocks bumping. The good news is that you don't have to perform the chore all in one swoop. Breaking up the activities into a minimum of eight-minute periods will accomplish the same goals as long as you stay the course for the half hour.

If you are like me, you'll spend more time than thirty minutes with the pruning, raking, composting, deadheading, harvesting, lifting, mowing, pushing, and inspecting. You are stretching your muscles when you reach to pull errant weeds or pick fruit from a high branch. Lifting rocks, pushing wheelbarrows, shoveling mulch are similar to weight training because of the resistance involved. My arms always look better after I've carried yards of gravel in five gallon buckets to carpet a new path. Squatting to plant builds shapely legs. When I

get warm, I jump in the pool to swim a few laps or run through the sprinklers to tame my inner child. Instead of exercise machines, I have garden tools. Who needs a cross trainer when you have an alfresco aerobics studio?

There are added benefits to building your garden gymnasium besides body sculpting. With regular workouts, you'll reduce cholesterol levels, decrease blood pressure, slow osteoporosis, lower your risk of diabetes, increase flexibility and strengthen your joints. Sure, you'll get tired and may ache, but it's the feel good type of pain for a job well done. Naturally you want to learn the proper way to lift, bend, and carry to avoid back, shoulder, and knee strain, always maintaining the strength in your core.

You don't need expensive clothing for your garden workouts. Slather on the sunscreen, don a chapeau, gloves, clogs, or boots, and you are set. Wear safety goggles when using power tools or sprays. Bring a container of water with you to keep you hydrated. If you grow fruits and vegetables, your hunger can be satiated as you exercise.

Everyone is welcome at this free gym. The elderly and the disabled can exercise by utilizing raised bed plantings. Kids can water, rake, and plant while learning patience, responsibility, and the circle of life. It's no secret that gardening is a great workout and finally medical journals are touting the benefits of our backyard fitness centers.

If you live in an apartment or the city without a garden, don't despair. Skip the treadmill and head to the parks. Whether you waddle, walk, or hop, get into the woods to experience the natural wonders. Today's generation of young peo-

ple suffer from "nature deficit disorder" said author Richard Louv when I interviewed him on my radio show, *Starstyle-Be the Star You Are!* We are so plugged in that we have tuned out our biological world and Mother Nature's rhythms. A hundred years ago America was an agrarian society and people kept fit and healthy by working the land. We are fifty pounds heavier than fifty years ago since the age of technology beckoned us indoors. Science is validating what moms have always known-being outside in the fresh air is good for us.

Typical calories burned by a 180-pound person in thirty minutes:

- 61: Watering manually
- 162: Raking, planting
- 182: Pruning, weeding
- 243: Chopping wood, pushing a mower
- 344: Double digging
- 40: Sitting on the couch

Like all exercise programs, consult your physician before beginning anything strenuous or new. To maximize your experience, listen to your body. I find I lose track of time when I am gardening. My anxieties dissipate, I think more clearly, and my creativity flourishes. Gardening reduces tension, trauma, and strain. I wouldn't be surprised if in the near future doctors medicate their patients with instructions for trail hikes, green belt walks, and gardening chores.

Build your confidence, flexibility, adaptability, and wellness. Write yourself a prescription for healthy living. Join the gardening gym rats and turn your failures into fertilizer by growing a strong body, mind, and spirit this autumn and forever.

Look up, laugh out loud, and keep the fire in your belly. Beauty and health are yours.



Robins get drunk eating Pyracantha berries. Photo © Cynthia Brian



Plump Pomegranate heralds holiday season. Photo © Cynthia Brian



The perfect November rose in hues of Thanksgiving. Photo © Cynthia Brian

**Cynthia Brian**  
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Wild turkeys prowling and preening-probably happy not to be part of the Thanksgiving feast. Photo © Cynthia Brian

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### Cynthia's Digging Deep Gardening Guide for November

*"Some people are always grumbling because roses have thorns. I am thankful thorns have roses."*  
Abraham Lincoln

It is the time of year when we take stock of the abundance around us and give thanks for our good fortune. Our finances may be experiencing a drought, but as long as we continue planting the seeds of hope and love, we all will harvest from the garden of life. Thanksgiving is a day of celebration for what we have. Be grateful that we have dirt to dig in and roses are still in bloom.

- **EAT** healthy by savoring autumn's harvest-apples (fiber), pumpkins (vitamin A and omega 3's in the seeds) cranberries (vitamin C, K, and manganese), sweet potatoes (vitamins A, E, C, B and potassium)
- **SELECT** the largest, plumpest bulbs from the nursery bins. Plant early, mid season, and late blooming bulbs in the same bed for continuous color next spring. A good rule of thumb is to make a hole two times the height of the bulb.
- **PLANT** garlic and onions. Nothing is more potent than fresh garlic. Keeps the vampires at bay.
- **ERADICATE** earwigs, snails, and other creepy crawlies by raking remaining leaves and weeds now.
- **CONNECT** with nature and your family on an invigorating hike through our local trails.
- **FERTILIZE** lawns with a second application of nitrogen.
- **CHOOSE** amber and saffron colored trees at your garden center before the leaves fall while you can personally witness the sensational display.
- **DEADHEAD** roses regularly to maintain blossoms and fragrance until January.
- **ALLOW** rose hips to develop on a selection of your bushes for vibrant Thanksgiving color and vitamin C to ward off a winter cold.
- **SOW** seeds for hardy annuals including hollyhock, sweet alyssum, bachelor button, and forget-me-not's.
- **DRY** the scarlet leaves from liquid ambers to use for your holiday décor.
- **CREATE** a natural cornucopia with a plethora of branches, berries, vines, and gourds to spice up your terra cotta Thanksgiving table.
- **WATCH** the wild turkeys parading and preening.
- **SET** up a croquet tournament on the lawn on Thanksgiving to get the family and friends involved in active fitness fun before the feast.
- **HARVEST** the last of your pumpkins, squash, apples, and nuts.
- **EXERCISE** to get in shape for the holiday festivities by raking, mowing, planting, digging, and playing in your landscape.
- **SHOOT** photos of the fall foliage to share with friends.
- **ENRICH** your life with gratitude. Nature surrounds us and we live in abundance.

Enjoy the final vestiges of fall, the warmth of family reunions, and the splendor of November. At this time of Thanksgiving may we remember the wise words of Henry Ward Beecher. "Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul." Wishing you a joyful, soulful Turkey Day filled with nature, vitality, and humor.



Cynthia Brian savors the fabulous fall foliage. Photo © Cynthia Brian

Happy Gardening to You!





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• **Community Service** •

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

**KGO Anchor Speaks at Lamorinda SIRS 171**

Submitted by Tom Lenz



Phil Arth, Little Sir, and Dan Ashley Photo Bryant King

**S**ons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 was very fortunate to obtain Dan Ashley, anchor of ABC7 News at 6 & 11 and ABC 7 News at 9 p.m. on Your TV 20, weekdays, as the after-lunch guest speaker at its October 6th luncheon.

Ashley came to ABC7 in 1995 as the weekday 5:00 p.m. news anchor and investigative reporter. He has received a number of awards, including two awards from the Radio Television News Directors Association of Northern California for Best Newscast (60 Minutes) and Best Newscast (30 Minutes). In 1996, ABC7 News at 6:00 p.m. won an Emmy for the

most outstanding single news broadcast in a large market.

Ashley gave a very insightful and entertaining talk on the Ratings and Responsibilities of news reporting over the years and later answered numerous questions from the audience.

Sons in Retirement (SIR) is a non-profit men's organization for retirees or semi-retirees. Its sole purpose is to help retirees enjoy themselves through various group activities. Branch 171 meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center, Moraga.

For membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

**Holiday Bazaar Returns to Orinda**

Submitted by Susan Stephan



Orinda's Jennifer Vigo displays her work at a previous Holiday Bazaar Photo Susan Stephan

**T**he Orinda Community Center Holiday Bazaar is back by popular demand after a one year absence! The Holiday Bazaar is being brought back by Holiday Bazaar Chairwoman Jennifer Robb, and will be put on by the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary (OCCA). The OCCA is an all volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining and improving the Orinda Community Center facilities and programs. The Holiday Bazaar is the OCCA's primary fund raiser. The OCCA uses 100% of the proceeds to support and benefit the Community Center's facilities, fund the Halloween Parade in the Park, and largely fund the Summer Concert Series in the Park. The OCCA is currently looking for new members. If you enjoy helping the community and like young children, please contact

the Community Center office at 925-254-2445 or email [ocbazaar@yahoo.com](mailto:ocbazaar@yahoo.com). (Residents from all areas welcome.)

The Holiday Bazaar will be a one day only event this year, on Saturday, November 6th from 9:30 to 4:30pm. It will take place at the Orinda Community Center at 28 Orinda Way, in Orinda. The Community Center is next to the Community Park and is between the Orinda Library and the Orinda Farmer's Market-both also open that day.

Admission to the Holiday Bazaar is free and there will be a variety of entertainment groups performing throughout the day, with face painting provided by the Orinda Teen Advisory Council. There will be lots of new vendors selling handmade items, several community groups, gourmet goodies, fine

jewelry, art, unique items for the home, fun pet items, and many specialty gifts. The Holiday Bazaar has enjoyed enormous community support over the years, and strives to make an attractive and profitable venue for

the vendors at this historic landmark with its wide promenade outside, several meeting rooms and a large auditorium. Start your holiday shopping early at the Holiday Bazaar and support the Orinda Community Center.

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**Moraga Rotary Hosts Students from Leadership Camp**

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Judy Wahlander, Nicole Delgadillo, and John Cogswell. Photo Gary Irwin

**C**ampolindo High School seniors Nicole Delgadillo and John Cogswell spoke to the Rotary Club of Moraga recently, each giving a brief summary of their week in late summer with about 140 other high school seniors from north-

ern California at Camp Royal, the Rotary Leadership Camp located near Weaverville that has operated since 1980. Judy Wahlander, a former counselor at Campolindo, also was a guest of Rotary.

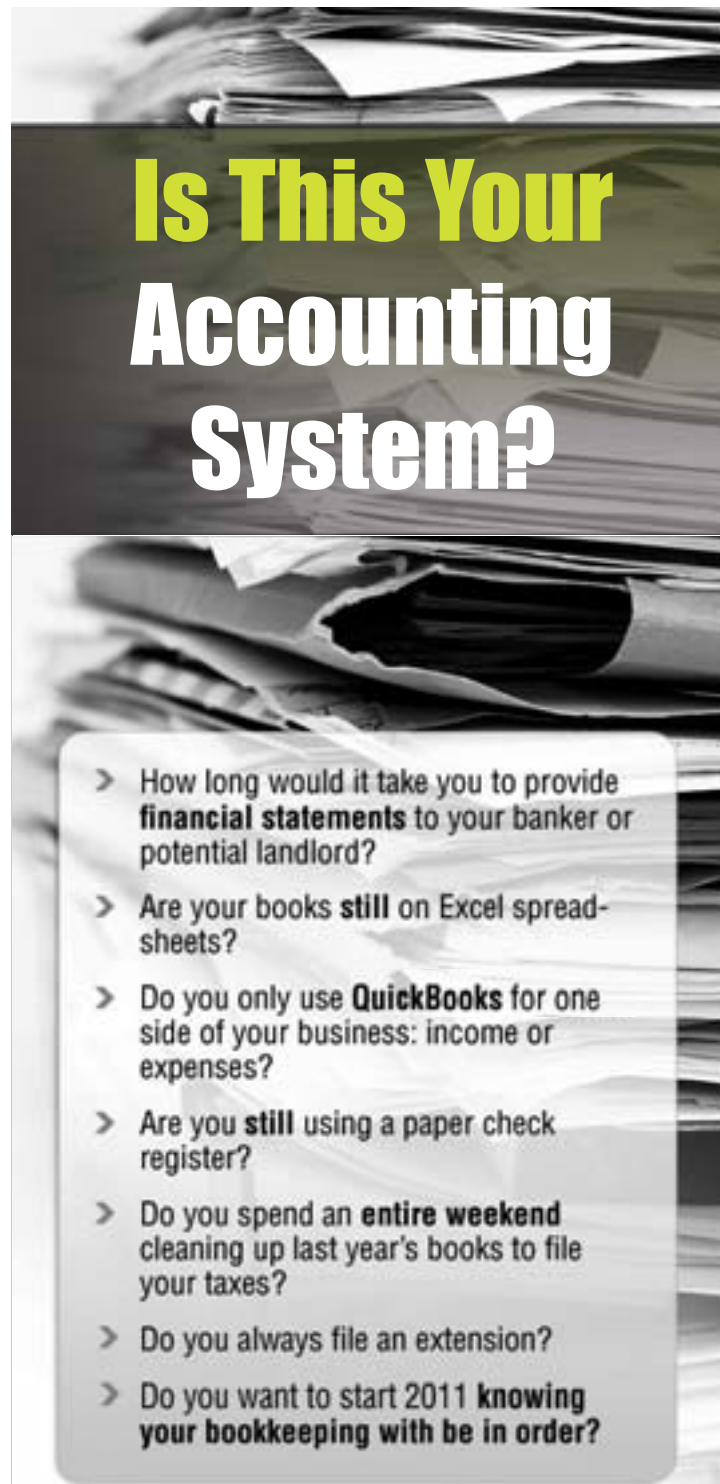
Cogswell and Delgadillo described their experience at Camp Royal as "life-changing," "emotionally very open," and "a family." Camp Royal stresses leadership and teamwork through field exercises, group problems, and motivational and vocational speakers. One exercise required students to use teamwork to climb over a

13' high wall. The wall was also used to represent a student's most difficult and emotionally-charged problem, and scaling the wall was symbolic of conquering this problem. Students were encouraged to speak openly of conquering the problem and to respond to encouragement from the others.

The Campolindo students received scholarships from Moraga Rotary, which has been providing Camp Royal scholarships to two Campolindo incoming seniors each year for 31 years. Judy Wahlander, who retired from Campolindo this past

summer, has worked for the past 20 years with Moraga Rotary Chairman Angelo Costanza to select well-qualified students for the experience. Moraga Rotary also awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating Campolindo senior each year, with the candidates proposed by the Campolindo counseling office.

Moraga Rotary is a local service club within Rotary International that meets most Tuesdays at noon at St. Mary's College. For information, please call Gary Irwin of Moraga Rotary at 925-376-7688.



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A one inch listing will cost \$20.

**Not to be missed**

**ART**

**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 December 12. These artists transform glass, textiles, fiber, metal, precious and semi-precious stones, clay, wood, fallen logs, and sea shells into extraordinary works of art. On view are both functional and decorative objects: furniture, wearable art, jewelry, pottery, quilts, turned wooden bowls, and fabric and metal sculpture. The Hearst Art Gallery is open to the public Wednesdays through Sundays, 11am-4:30pm. Suggested adult donation is \$4; free for K-12th grade students and Hearst Art Gallery members.

**The Lafayette Gallery's latest show, "Southwest Inspired,"** runs through October 30. Gallery artists show work in many mediums including printmaking, oil and acrylic paintings, mixed media works, jewelry, wood, ceramics, photography and pastel. The Gallery is located at 50 Lafayette Circle in downtown Lafayette. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 11am-5pm. Phone (925)284-2788.

**"Inspiration," works by Pam Glover** and her group, Saturday October 30th in the AMFA in Orinda Theater Square. Over 30 works of art inspired by Pam Glover are currently for sale. The reception will be held on Saturday October 30th from 4:30 to 6:30pm. For more information call (925)788-5866.

**MUSIC**

**Nov 14th, 2010: New Rheem Theatre** presents the Mike Vax Jazz Orchestra Concert and Dance, featuring vocalist Cami Thompson. \$20 Gen Adm, \$10 Students at the New Rheem's Box Office or [www.thenewrheemtheatre.com](http://www.thenewrheemtheatre.com).

**Maestro Duane Carroll and the Contra Costa Wind Symphony** open their 30th season with "Reach for the Sky," a concert featuring the French horn section, principal trumpet Eric Eidbo, music from Apollo 13, and flight sequences from film scores by John Williams. November 6 at 8pm, located at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave, Walnut Creek. \$15 tickets are available at [www.CCWindsymphony.org](http://www.CCWindsymphony.org) and at the door.

**The University of California Alumni Chorus** will perform favorite selections from 25 years of programming in its 25th Anniversary Silver Jubilee Concert on Saturday, November 14, 7:30pm in Hertz Hall on the U.C. Berkeley Campus. Tickets for the November 14th concert are \$20 general admission, \$15 seniors and disabled, and \$6 for all students. Tickets will be available online in early October at <http://www.uccac.net> and at the door. For more information and to purchase advance tickets, please visit the U.C. Alumni Chorus website: <http://www.uccac.net>.

**Saturday, November 6, from 8-10pm** at the First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, the Philharmonic Baroque Orchestra will be performing Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Tickets: \$25-\$85. For more information visit <http://www.cityboxoffice.com>.

**The Performing Arts Society's** Tuesday evening concert for November will open with soprano Sarah Sloan performing short works by Debussy and songs by Cecile Chaminade, accompanied by pianist Miles Graber. "Suite for Trio" by Alexander Arutunian will be performed by Christiana Carr, violin; Dorinda Chase, clarinet; and Hye Yeong Min, piano. The program concludes with five operatic arias by Gounod, Puccini or Verdi sung by Elena Yakoubovsky accompanied by Nicholas Yakoubovsky. Details: Tuesday, November 9, 8pm, at the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. This is a free event. For more information see: [www.ccpas.org](http://www.ccpas.org).

**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

**Not to be missed**

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](http://www.TownHallTheatre.com).

**The SMC Performing Arts Department** presents a 20th Anniversary production of Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize winning "Angels in America" for their fall theatre production. This monumental story of the AIDS crisis and its origins is featuring a cast of ten extremely dedicated and talented Saint Mary's student actors. The production is designed by some of the Bay Area's leading artists, with stage direction by Professor Reid Davis. Performances run from Nov. 12-21. Where: LeFevre Theatre, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Tickets: available online for \$19 each at [www.stmarys-ca.edu/news-and-events](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/news-and-events).

**Crisis Hopkins presents "Damned for a Limited Time"** as part of the Town Hall Comedy Series on November 19 & 20. Tickets: \$25; contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office at (925) 283-1557, or purchase online at [www.TownHallTheatre.com](http://www.TownHallTheatre.com). Child-care for the November 20 show offered by Lafayette Kids Cottage, \$25 per child. Minimum age three.

**OTHER**

**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).

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church** will host **Lara Mendel**, Co-Founder of the Mosaic Project, 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. Saturday, October 30 at 7pm. 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.

**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.

**Moraga Parks and Recreation Department** is organizing the second exterior home decorating contest. Homes must be registered no later than November 15. Judging will take place the week of December 13th by the Moraga Women's Society. Winners will receive a gift certificate from Moraga Hardware/Across the Way and will receive a plaque from the Town. Entry fee is \$12.

**Sunday, Nov. 7th 12:30-3pm** is the **5th Annual International Fair Trade Market** at The Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Drive Lafayette, in the Marion Hall. This is an opportunity to purchase "Fair Trade" handicrafts from around the world. Proceeds directly support A Greater Gift (SERRV), Bead for Life, Bridge For Africa, Church World Service, Equal Exchange Coffee, Tea & Cocoa, Heifer Project, and Habitat for Humanity. More info at our website, [www.lafayettechristianchurch.org](http://www.lafayettechristianchurch.org).

**Back by popular demand, the 34th OCCA Holiday Bazaar**, a one-day-only event for the entire family is back. The Bazaar will be Saturday, November 6th from 9:30-4:30pm, at the Orinda Community Center at 28 Orinda Way in Orinda. Free admission, family entertainment and raffle prizes! There will be many new vendors selling handmade items, gourmet goodies, jewelry, unique items for the home, international crafts, fun

pet items, baby gear and many specialty gifts. Start your holiday shopping early in Orinda while supporting the beautiful and historic Orinda Community Center. (See article page L5)

**Soup Lunch and Boutique: Lafayette United Methodist Church**, 955 Moraga Road, is having a holiday boutique and soup lunch. Home-made soup and unique items for people of all ages will be featured. There will also be a bake sale and outside vendors. It is the place to be for a hearty lunch and shopping for unique gifts. The event is on Saturday, November 6, from 10am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**"Cycle Recycle" 1307 Larch Ave.** in Moraga, November 2010. The Prestons are gathering repairable bicycles that will be repaired by inmates at Marsh Creek Detention Facility, and given to local charities. This fall the Preston will collect used bikes for Trips for Kids/Re-cyclery in Marin County and Bike Education Training and Repair in Richmond. They accept used bikes through the entire month of November, dropped on their driveway, and they do not give receipts. For questions email [tpreston2004@comcast.net](mailto:tpreston2004@comcast.net).

**The women of St Mary's College Guild's Harvest Luncheon** and Fair will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 10:30am in the Soda Center at Saint Mary's College. A delicious Thanksgiving luncheon will be served and you will have the opportunity to shop for holiday décor, stocking stuffers, jams jellies, hostess baked goodies and candies. All profits go to scholarships for deserving students.

**Wonderfest! The Bay Area Festival of Science**, Sunday, November 7, 10am-6pm. Located at the Stanley Hall, UC Berkeley, between Hearst Mining Circle & Gayley Road. All Wonderfest events are free, open to the public, and do not require registration. Produced as a public service by Branson School, a non-profit, independent high school in Marin County. Wonderfest is co-sponsored by Branson, and the Stanford Chemistry Department, and UC Berkeley.

**Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (LARC)**, offers respite for caregivers by providing exemplary care and stimulating activities for their loved ones. Open Monday through Friday 11am-3pm, we provide interesting and engaging activities such as games, crafts, exercise, friendships and daily live musical entertainment. LARC participants feel safe, cared for and valued while they are with us. For more information or to become a volunteer please call (925)254-3465 or email [larc@holyshepherd.org](mailto:larc@holyshepherd.org).

**Moraga Movers meet at the St. Mary's College Soda Center** on November 8. Social hour is at 11am, with lunch at noon. The speaker is Randy Bennett, head men's basketball coach at Saint Mary's College.

**Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171** meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Social hour 11am, lunch 12pm. The after lunch speaker will be Sue Howell, donor development officer for Habitat for Humanity. She will reflect on the historic first town in the East Bay, Moraga, that exceeded the goal of raising \$100,000 to entirely sponsor a house. For membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

**StarrForce presents: How Private Are your Salesforce Chatter Conversations?** Friday, October 29, 9-10am, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 100 Lafayette Cir # 103. With Chatter, Salesforce.com is one step closer to its goal of making enterprise software as easy to use as Facebook. Chatter can be a very useful tool when communicating or collaborating with your co-workers.

**Please submit:**

[calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)



## Talking to Spirits on the Day of the Dead

By Sophie Braccini

In Western Christian tradition, November 1st is All Saints Day, a time for families to get together and remember their departed loved ones. What better day for Sandra O'Hara, who The San Francisco Examiner calls "Ireland's most gifted and famous psychic medium," to propose a public gathering where she will converse with spirits. The venue will be Town Hall Theater in Lafayette (THT); the spectral communication will commence at 7:00 p.m.

"She is very well known in Ireland," says Carrie Kehoe, who is producing the presentation, "That's where I met her when we were living in Ireland." Kehoe was introduced to O'Hara by her husband, an Irishman, who had met her for a reading years before. When her mother died, Kehoe looked for a way to communicate with her. "My mother and I had always said that the first one who would pass would try to find ways to contact the other," remembers Kehoe, "When I arrived at Sandra's home, she came to the door, looked at me and said, 'there is a very powerful spirit here with her arm around your shoulders.'"

After returning to the U.S., the Lafayette resident started organizing events for the medium in the Bay Area. "Events are quite extraordinary," she says, "everybody benefits. The experience is transforming and healing."

O'Hara claims that she's seen spirits since the age of three. "My first memory is of an old lady in a rocking chair in my bedroom," she recounts, "when I was a child I would see spirits just like I see people, but my parents told me not to talk about it." O'Hara adds that by age 15 she decided to "shut the spirits up" so she would be like everyone else. But in her early 20's the spirits kept "knocking" in her head and she gave up. "For 22 years now people have come to me for communication with the after-life," she says.

This reporter had a reading done by O'Hara, still in Ireland, over Skype. The experience was, well, interesting...don't we all have unresolved issues with the departed?

For more information about the November 1st presentation at THT contact Carrie Kehoe at [livingitwell@gmail.com](mailto:livingitwell@gmail.com), or go to [www.thtc.org](http://www.thtc.org).

## First Ever Outdoor Movie Night

The free inaugural walk in, as opposed to drive in, Outdoor Movie Event is scheduled for Saturday, October 30 at Lafayette Plaza Park. Bring a blanket and snacks and come dolled up for the costume contest or perhaps wear snugly footie-pajamas for the 7:00 screening of Pixar's *Monster's Inc.*

Who wouldn't like the family friendly, hilarious film set in the world of Monstropolis that features incredible computer animation and the vocal talent of John Goodman as the giant furry blue James "Sully" Sullivan and his assistant the jocular, one-eyed lime green Mike Wazowski with the voice of Billy Crystal. Great

for kid and adults.

Timed to coincide with Halloween, city staffers and the Chamber of Commerce hope they are on to something big. Depending on turnout for the Saturday night event, this could become a recurring summer series.

Judging by the success of the Farmers' Market, Associate Planner Lindy Chan and Assistant Planner Michael Cass brought up the idea and wanted to coordinate the timing with the always popular Rez Run scheduled for the very next day - Halloween. Given the direction: "make it happen" from management they arranged for a big screen that



will be attached to the large trellis on the Moraga Road-facing edge of the park and coordinated with the Chamber on event details.

A variety of prizes will be given out for unique costumes. Let your imagination be your guide. Unfortunately in case of rain, the event will be canceled.

**Saturday, October 30, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Plaza.**  
C. Tyson

### Additional Details

Directed By: David Silverman; Pete Docter  
Original Release Date: 11/10/09  
Written By: Andrew Stanton; Dan Gerson  
Studio: Disney-Pixar  
Approximate Run Time: 93 minutes  
MPAA: G.

### About This Film

MONSTERS, INC. shattered every DVD-era home entertainment sales record when 11 million DVD/VHS copies of the film were sold during its first week of release. Only THE LION KING, released in the "pre-DVD" era, sold more units when it debuted on VHS in 1995. Singer-songwriter Randy Newman had been nominated for an Academy Award® 16 times -- and never won -- before he finally won for the song "If I Didn't Have You."



## More Halloween Events



Photo Doug Kohen

### Haunted House at the New Rheem Theater

350 Park Street, Moraga  
October 28th thru the 31st  
7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., and open til midnight on Halloween

Not for the weak at heart. Don't miss the claustrophobia chamber and other nightmare rooms. Appropriate for ages 10 years and older, cost is \$8.

### Friday Night of Fright

New Rheem Theater, 350 Park Street, Moraga  
October 29th at 10:00 p.m.

Come out to see the classic fright flick, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. Hosted by Vanessa the Queen of Scream, moviegoers will have the chance to show off their horror flick knowledge and win cool prizes.

### Witches & Goblins. Trick or Treat

at Rheem Valley Center on Friday, October 29, 3- 5pm.

### Free Halloween Skate and Scoot

Friday October 29th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Roller Hockey Rink at the Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. All ages are invited - bring your skates, scooters and skateboards. Participants are encouraged to wear costumes.

### Sleepy Hollow Halloween Fall Carnival

20 Washington Lane, Orinda  
October 30th, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Fabulous food, awesome games, cool rides and fun. Don't miss the Magical Harry Potter Haunted House!

### Alice in Wonderland on Halloween

12 Lynnwood Place, Moraga  
October 31st from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
Make this a place to stop on the trick-or-treat trail. A cast of twelve including Alice, the white rabbit, The Mad Hatter, and the rest of the crew from Wonderland will perform a skit throughout evening. Enjoy a good laugh along with a sweet treat.

## 'Tis the Season for Halloween

... continued from page A1

Orinda youth have two favorites - one on each side of town. South of the freeway, they gravitate toward Ivy Drive, on the north side appropriately named Sleepy Hollow goes nuts - smoke machines, Halloween karaoke, where you may need to sing for your treat and homes are completely decked out.

Along with a ridiculous amount of sugar, the seventh annual Haunted House presented by the Lafayette Youth Commission at the Community Center adds to the excitement. Teen organizers divided the event into two sections - the first for kids seven and under that is "not so scary" - later in the evening it's officially "very scary" for bigger kids. Dates for this fundraiser are prior to publication. Jonathan Katayanagi, a kid at heart and Recreation Program Coordinator, was up to his elbows working on it. He said, "Halloween is all about letting your freak flag fly - it's a chance for teens to express themselves creatively. This is a great community thing - even in tough times."

In Moraga, The New Rheem Theatre will also have a haunted house featuring a claustrophobia chamber advertised as not for the weak at heart. Appropriate for children age ten and older, it will be open after 7:00 p.m. all Halloween weekend.

Burton Valley Elementary school will be filled with little monsters on Friday, October 29. The school hosts arguably the largest costume parade in the area, teachers dress up and parent volunteers come to help out at classroom parties with Halloween themed crafts and games.

"The kids love it - they definitely look forward to it" said Assistant Principal Chris Reddam, "it's a spooky good time." He described it as a huge tradition where everyone dresses up. Teachers have come in years past in group themed costumes like a deck of cards and pirates. One teacher came as a dining room table. He recalls one student came as an iPod last year. Un-spoiler alert - Reddam will not be attending this year as Abe Lincoln.

This season, look for school parades across Lamorinda, Halloween events, tons of candy, and parents with flashlights shepherding their little ones up and down the streets of our semi-rural spirit-filled community. Keep an eye out - this year you may even bump into Buster Posey or Lady Ga Ga going door to door searching for Snickers bars.

## Calling All Ghosts, Witches & Goblins

Trick or Treat • Friday, October 29th  
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Free! Halloween Goodies While Supplies Last.

Free! Trick or Treat Bags While Supplies Last.

Rheem Valley Shopping Center  
...a Moraga tradition

T.J. Maxx Rheem Blvd. at Moraga Rd. CVS

Visit our website for more event information [www.rheemvalley.net](http://www.rheemvalley.net)

Costumed children must be accompanied by an adult. See stores for details. While supplies last.

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## What's Up on Brown?

By Sophie Braccini

"This is not just Brown Avenue, it's funky town!" exclaimed Jay Lifson, Executive Director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, at a recent Chamber mixer on Brown Ave. Recently new businesses have moved to the strip between Deer Hill Rd. and Mount Diablo Blvd., and are bringing new life to this eastern area of Lafayette. These blocks on Brown Ave. have always been a mixed-use area, with destination businesses, apartment buildings and private cottages. "All roads lead to Brown," says newcomer Anthony Ruiz of FastFrame, who relocated to 1020 Brown two months ago, "we want to make this district an alternative to the downtown area."

When his father bought the building at 1021 Brown 45 years ago, Rick Humann, then a child, remembers that one of the first things they bought was an alarm. "I wouldn't say that the area was scary, but it was mostly run down residential buildings," he recalls. Humann Co., Inc. was then, and

still is, a civil engineering, surveying and land planning consulting firm that does most of its work in Contra Costa and Alameda counties with a good share in Lafayette. "I think it is great to have more vibrancy on Brown," says the business owner, "and it is still less crowded because we are a bit removed from downtown."

"This area is part of the discussion of the Lafayette Specific Plan," says Lifson, "the new businesses that are coming here are just making it happen." Carol Hensley, owner of the Cotton Patch at 1025 Brown, could not agree more. "I've been here since 1983," she says, "the city has tried to decide what kind of business can go where, but I think that it is better to just let it be." Hensley has seen the changes over the years and is very pleased with the more sophisticated businesses that are coming in. "We've changed the dynamic of the street, don't put your fingers into it!" she adds.

Hensley has been active in making Brown a vibrant business street. "In 1994 I started to hold an outdoor quilt show, closing the street for one Saturday," she remembers, "and we did it for nine years." Hensley stopped because some residents of the area did not enjoy the party. "I'd like to learn more about what Carol did with her Quilt Show," says Anthony Ruiz, owner of FastFrame, "I would love to be able to close Brown for a Saturday/Sunday art show."

FastFrame used to be in the Clocktower Building on Mt. Diablo Blvd. "We get as much business here as we did on Mount Diablo," says Ruiz, "there is less traffic, but we are a destination and we have much better parking." The additional benefit of ample parking is that Dave Simpson parks his 'Big Blue' book-mobile there every Saturday.

Ruiz, an avid reader, loves his partnership with Simpson. "Reading is important for the development of the brain," he believes, "it fosters a different type of thinking, like art, it's not linear, it is out of the box, you go somewhere in your mind." This partnership is just one of many Ruiz would like to see happen. The Chamber mixer, for example, took place on his parking lot and was co-sponsored by two other newcomers to Brown, Al-

ternatives for Animals and Creative Alterations.

"I have had an eye on that location on Brown for years (number 1048)," says Creative Alteration's owner Josef Jamkochian. He particularly appreciates the better parking for his customers. Veterinarian Karen Retig, who opened her Alternatives for Animals clinic in a quaint cottage at 1042 Brown, agrees that business is good on Brown. "We are aiming at creating a little community here," said Retig, "we need to network more so we can address issues together." One such issue is that drivers does not always respect the 25 mile per hour speed limit.

John Marquez, of Artisan Bistro, does not see anything special about Brown. "It's just another street," he said. But if his business neighbors have their way, the creative and eclectic thoroughfare will become the place to be in Lafayette.

Other businesses on Brown include Cleanse and Wellness, Inc at 1030, Rosie's Upscale Consignments at 1020, Image Excellence Salon at 1038, and DTN Nail Care and Lafayette Auto Repair that occupy the two corners at Mount Diablo Blvd.

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



Steve Snyder, Jay Lifson and Norma Evans having a good time on Brown  
Photo Sophie Braccini

## business briefs

### Acalanes Recognizes Businesses Contributions



left-right: Kip Bruzzone, Bo McSwine, Mike Ivankovich, Dan Stokes, Jim Lucas  
Photo Doug Kohen

Acalanes High School offered local businesses Diablo Foods, Bo's, JV Lucas and Jacksons framed jerseys, as a special thank you for the consistent contributions they have made to the Acalanes football program.

### Orinda Optometry Group Honored

20 Orinda Way, Orinda, 253-1320

On Tuesday, October 5, Orinda's Mayor Thomas McCormick honored the Orinda Optometry Group with a special Proclamation recognizing its 25th anniversary, an anniversary also shared with the City of Orinda. Dr. Weylin Eng, his daughter, Dr. Kristine Eng, and Dr. Kelly Shintani were on hand to receive this proclamation in the presence of the council members and the community at the City Council meeting. The proclamation revealed the rich history of the Orinda Optometry Group, its inception in July 1985 by Drs. Weylin Eng and his cousin, Colleen Tashiro. Council member Amy Worth added words of appreciation to Dr. Weylin Eng for his years of dedicated service to the U.C. Berkeley School of Optometry, Miramonte High School, the Orinda Rotary Club, and the Orinda Library. The proclamation concluded with an acknowledgement of the Group's outstanding contribution to improving the quality of life for the Citizens of Orinda for 25 years.

### Nerd4Rent Buys DiabloLink Communications.

990 Moraga Rd, Lafayette, www.Nerd4Rent.com, 283 5666



Steve Angelides and Edward Zeidan  
Photo provided

"I'm delighted to announce that as of October 1st we began serving the clients of DiabloLink Communications," said Edward Zeidan of Nerd4Rent. "Renee, Mark and I would like to extend a warm welcome to Steve and Doug's (DiabloLink) clients. We look forward to getting to know them and taking care of any technical support needs they have." It was tragedy that led Moraga's Steve Angelides to sell the business. His partner Doug King, a 57-year old Moraga resident, died suddenly of kidney cancer last June. "It was not possible to continue alone," said Angelides, "we were on call 24/7, it was really a two-person job." Angelides said he misses customers and King, who was a partner and a friend. He is now the Executive Director of the California Association of Workplace Investigators, caowi.org.

### New Sales Associate for Coldwell Banker

5 Moraga Way, Orinda 788-2950, e-mail Marian.Krochka@CBNORcal.com  
Marian Krochka joins Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Orinda from Security Pacific Real Estate, where she has been working for the past seven years. She has been a real estate agent for 20 years and holds licenses in both California and Hawaii where she has a second home. "She is a highly experienced agent and, having lived in Contra Costa County for more than 30 years, has a personal and intimate perspective on the neighborhoods that she serves," said manager Val Cook-Watkins.

### Under New Ownership: Lamorinda Pizza

382 Park St, Moraga (Rheem Shopping Center) 376 4040



Photo Sophie Braccini

John and Adriana McGrath, Campolindo and Acalanes grads, respectively, recently bought Moraga's Lamorinda Pizza. The place is open six days a week from 4:30 to 9pm and does mostly catering and delivery. "We changed the menu quite a bit, we improved the ingredients and the quality of what we offer is much higher," says McGrath going to explain that using higher quality cheese and meats, buying local ingredients, hand rolling the dough, and adding texture to the bottom of the pizza, is what it takes to create the type of excellent products his clients seek. "We are doing a very popular pesto chicken, a barbecue chicken pizza, and will introduce more off the wall items within a few months," he adds. McGrath says he's been in the pizza industry for half of his life. Now age 28, he says he started working at local pizza venues when he was 15. Adriana McGrath previously worked for Domenico's in Danville. "I love what I do and I'm very happy to be where I am," says McGrath, "we do a lot of business with the local schools and want to expand it." As far as the night business at Rheem is concerned, the couple plans to remodel the place and hopefully add seating. "Our focus is quality, consistency and customer service," says McGrath, "and we are staying very competitive with good pricing." So far McGrath is happy with the response to his new menu and is proud of the recent 5-stars rating he got on Yelp.com.

### News from the three Chambers of Commerce

#### Lafayette

18th Annual Lafayette Reservoir Run on October 31, from 6:30-10:30am in downtown Lafayette. For more information http://lafayettechamber.org/events/reservoir-run/.

The 2010 Mega-Chamber Business Expo on November 4, from 4-7pm at Crowne Plaza Hotel, 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord. Lafayette businesses can participate as an Exhibitor or Sponsor or as a Food or Beverage Vendor. For more information contact Barbara Gilmore at 284-7404.

Coffee with out-going Mayor Brandt Andersson on November 5, from 8-9am at the Chamber Office. A question and answer opportunity on city issues and the recent election.

Chamber Mixer on November 10, from 5:30-7pm at Alta Bates Summit Women's Health Center, 3595 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 350.

#### Moraga

General Chamber Meeting on Friday, November 19 at the Hacienda de las Flores from 7:30-9am. Meet and Greet, coffee and hot muffins followed by elections and Chamber business.

#### Orinda

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the Fees To Funds credit card processing program to help raise funds for the Orinda Community Foundation. If your business takes credit cards as a form of payment from your customers, you would be an ideal candidate for Fees to Funds. The service turns a portion of an existing expense - your credit card processing fees - into ongoing monthly cash donations to the Orinda Community Foundation. The beauty of this program is that it does not cost a penny - you are paying these merchant account fees already. With Fees To Funds a significant portion of these fees, 25% of the gross revenue from your account, will be donated directly to the Orinda Community Foundation on your behalf, every month. For details on how you can participate in the program, please directly contact the Fees To Funds at FeesToFunds.com.

Chamber Mixer on Thursday, 11/11, 5:30-7pm at Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way. Open to Chamber members and their guests.

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

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## Coming to a High School Near You

By Lou Fancher



From left: Connor Jone (John Proctor), Abby Woodman (Elizabeth Proctor), and Abby Faber (Mary Warren) rehearse *The Crucible*. Photo Ed Meehan

Lamorinda's high school theater departments are gearing up for three ambitious, powerful fall productions. Within a one month span, Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, Mary Zimmerman's *Metamorphoses*, and *Romeo and Juliet*, by William Shakespeare, will give young, local actors a chance to shine.

Taking time out from their already overloaded schedules, directors Dan Meehan (Acalanes), Heather Cousins (Miramonte), and Jamie Donohoe (Campolindo), provided insight about the plays, the students, and their personal connections to the magic of theater. Here, presented in chronological order based on opening night schedules, are the questions and their answers.

### Acalanes

Under the direction of Meehan, students will present *The Crucible* from November 2-5.

### Who chose the play and why?

I chose the play. I picked it for a number of reasons. First, it's just a great play with a lot of intense drama in it. It's been some time since The DramaDons have done something with such intensity. Second, I think the play still has something to say today about nature, power, and fear. Finally, *The Crucible* is a play that is in our Junior English Curriculum and it's always great when we can sync up and do a play that supports curriculum in other disciplines.

### What role do the students play in the production elements of the play? (Lighting, set design, choreography, technical crew, or any other item.)

The students play a huge role in the production of our plays. Not

only do they perform all the roles, of course, but they also create sets, acquire the costumes, set and run the lights and sound and run the house on the nights of the performances. Basically, when the play opens, my role of director scales way back and I watch them do it. I'm only needed when something really big happens. This, however, is extremely rare.

### What is the most challenging aspect of this year's production?

I think costumes are the most challenging part of this play. We've got 20 kids to clothe and a very specific time period. The costume crew is up to the challenge though. I know they are going to come through for us.

### What is the best part of directing high school plays?

I love working with the students. It is quite gratifying to help them learn the play and put together a challenging work of art.

### Were you ever in high school theater productions and what memory could you share from that experience?

I was involved with theatre through all four years of high school. I went to Northgate High School and work with Jack Derieux. I still vividly remember the process of every one of the plays we did. I guess the best part about it was the sense of camaraderie we shared in putting on a production and the sense of pride we felt when we knew we had pulled it off. Jack is a mentor and good friend of mine and I still go back to the things he taught me way back when.

### Miramonte

*Metamorphoses* will be performed by Cousin's students No-

ember 17-19.

### Who chose the play and why?

I chose the play because it is an opportunity to work collaboratively as part of an ensemble and experiment artistically with style and design. In our version, we will have a Greek chorus, 30 cast members, many musical instruments, and a pool of real water on stage. Miramonte has a very strong Latin program and classic literature is a very important component of the curriculum. Our Latin program will participate and help promote the show.

### What role do the students play in the production elements of the play? (Lighting, set design, choreography, technical crew, or any other item.)

The production is entirely student-run by our resident theatre company, the Miramonte Players.

### What is the most challenging aspect of this year's production?

Finding the right balance between some of the sillier moments and some of the heavy drama.

### What is the best part of directing high school plays?

My students are capable of anything. Nothing is too sophisticated for them. Their talent is immense and their ideas are innovative.

### Were you ever in high school theater productions and what memory could you share from that experience?

Being a part of the theater program at Northgate High School was the most important part of my high school life. It is what I looked forward to every day. It is where I met my favorite friends and my favorite teacher. Had it not been for drama, no one would have known who I was because I was somewhat shy, although I took on a completely different persona on stage. Because I had an opportunity to shine in so many school productions, I gained a confidence that lasted through my life.

### Campolindo

Donohoe's first production at Campolindo will showcase his students on December 3-4.

### Who chose the play and why?

I made the choice. I've always wanted to show the students how much fun Shakespeare is, and this play in particular contains a lot of "locker room" humor that is often downplayed or completely cut from theatrical and film versions. The bawdiness is what brought audiences to this play in the first place, and it's why our kids (and many parents!) love Southpark. Also, this play zeros in on many issues modern teenagers struggle with daily: questioning identity, trying to live up to parent expectations, feeling hopeless and lost, even the notion of teen-age sex. How do you present these issues tastefully yet in a way that speaks to our kids? This is the challenge we're trying to work through.

### What role do the students play in the production elements of the play? (Lighting, set design, choreography, technical crew, or any other item.)

There are student leaders for all technical aspects (light/sound, set design, make-up, costumes, and so on). There will be some parents helping with set construction, but mostly this is a student run production. We also have two assistant directors each responsible for major scenes.

### What is the most challenging aspect of this year's production?

As a first year director and drama teacher, I'm learning how much I don't know. I'm having to ask for help a lot more than I'm used to. But the level of involvement from the community is spectacular. If and when this production flies, it

won't be because of me. It's the sum of all of the countless folks out there who are putting their love into this play.

### What is the best part of directing high school plays?

Witnessing the sheer faith these kids have in each other and in the production. They trust each other and, because of that, they are willing to put themselves out there in ways I don't typically see in the quad at lunch, on athletic fields, even in the counseling office. Watching these incredible characters blossom from these guys and gals is pretty amazing.

### Were you ever in high school theater productions and what memory could you share from that experience?

I was in a couple of musical pro-

ductions (long ago) at Campo. I was a shy kid, but I remember getting up on stage and thinking "Hey, this isn't so bad." And then I started to actually long for the moment when the heat of the stage-lights struck me.

Acalanes:  
**The Crucible**  
November 2-5, all shows at 7:30 p.m.

Miramonte:  
**Metamorphosis**  
November 17-19, all shows at 7:30 p.m.

Campolindo:  
**Romeo and Juliet**  
December 3 at 7:00 p.m., and December 4 at 12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

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Running lines for *Metamorphosis*. Photo provided by Heather Cousins

## Girl Scout Leaders and Celebrate Founder's Day, Juliette Low's Birthday

Submitted by Sandra Patterson (Service Unit Director)

The Girl Scouts Lafayette Service Unit welcomed new leaders during the fall Leader Meeting held on September 28 at Girl Scout Camp Twin Canyon, located in Lafayette.

They follow a long line of volunteer leaders starting with Juliette Gordon Low, founder of Girl Scouts USA, who was born on October 31, 1860.

On Halloween this year, Girl Scouts will celebrate the 150th an-

niversary of Juliette Low's birthday. On March 12, 1912, she gathered 18 girls in Savannah, Georgia, to register the first troop of Girl Scouts in the USA.

In developing the Girl Scout movement in the United States, Juliette brought girls of all backgrounds into the out-of-doors, giving them the opportunity to develop self-reliance and resourcefulness.

She encouraged girls to prepare not only for traditional home-

making, but also for possible future roles as professional women—in the arts, sciences and business—and for active citizenship outside the home.

Girl scouting welcomed girls with disabilities at a time when they were excluded from many other activities. This idea seemed quite natural to Juliette, who never let deafness, back problems or cancer keep her from full participation in life.

## How Six Figure Income Families Get Thousands of Dollars in Free Money For College

Local man teaches free workshops to help parents save thousands in process

**Moraga**—East Bay parents that are planning on sending a child to college in the next few years, but aren't quite sure how to pay for it can now rest a little easier. Gerna Benz of Bay Area College Planners has been educating families in the community for over 15 years.

'It's really sad, but most parents that we talk to have done real well financially, but never found the time to save for college, and now they're facing a bill of \$18,000-\$45,000 a year, and they don't know who to turn to,' he says. 'Further, most of the time, all they hear is to not even bother applying for any aid because they make too much money. However, most of the time, that is simply not true even if they make a six-figure income.'

Gerna would know, because his group has worked with over 1400 families in the last 10 years ranging from single moms to corporate CEO's, and they say they can help anyone get through the process and save a bundle.... no matter how good of a student they have or how much money they make.

'I got started in this because I was a very good student, but no one told us anything about how to access money for college, or even how to pick a career...so I didn't go right away. But, I vowed that I would learn the process and devote my time to helping families not fall into the same trap that we did. 'Simply put, we show parents the truth that they aren't hearing anywhere else about how the college process really works and save thousands of dollars in the process.'

Lamorinda parents will have an opportunity

to hear Gerna speak. He is teaching his class 'How to Give Your Kid a 4-Year College Education Without Going Broke!' on Saturday November 13th at the Moraga Library located at 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga, CA 94556 from 11:00am-12:15pm.

'We'll discuss everything from the greatest myths about the college process, to how to send your student to a fancy private school for less than the cost of a junior college...it'll be like learning how to get a brand new Lexus for the price of a used pick up truck,' he grins.

Topics will also include why private scholarships and 529 plans are a waste of time, how to double or even triple the amount of free money you receive from each school, and how to avoid the one mistake that will kill your chances of getting any money at all that almost every other parent will make this coming January, and much, much more.

'They will learn a ton, and I do my best to make the class fun,' he says. 'It's like I'm giving them a super bright flash light to navigate a pitch black cave, while all the other parents continue to stumble around blindly! 'Don't forget: the class is totally free, but seats are limited. Also, we are not sure when we will be teaching these classes in the East Bay again since my November and December calendars are already filling up, so come on out and see me.' You can reserve a seat online at [www.baycollegeplanners.com](http://www.baycollegeplanners.com) or by calling our 24 hour reservation line at (877) 924-3726.

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# Lamorinda Schools

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

<b>Acalanes Union High School District</b> Board Room AUHSD Office 1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette Wednesday, November 3, 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, November 17, at 7pm	<b>Moraga School District</b> Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga Tuesday, November 9, at 7:30pm

## The Downside of Early Testing for College Admission

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

These days I frequently hear the question: "Is it my imagination or is the college admission process starting earlier and earlier?" I can assure you, it is not your imagination. Parts of the college admission process are starting earlier each year. One unfortunate consequence is that some students are taking the official SAT or ACT before they are ready. In January of last year I provided an article on "The Big Tests" which addressed the basics of testing and the value of preparation (<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0224/College-Admissions-The-Big-Tests.html>). This issue's article addresses the importance of proper timing for the big tests—when is the best time to take standardized tests like the SAT and the ACT?

There is a disturbing trend toward taking standardized tests in the fall of junior year, often preceded by summer test preparation. I have even heard of sophomores and even freshmen taking the SAT and ACT. This is disadvantageous to students because both the SAT and the ACT are designed to be taken by 11th graders in high school. And this is what colleges still expect. There are many good reasons to delay standardized testing until the second semester of 11th grade:

- It bears repeating that standardized tests are designed for 11th graders. High school students learn

at a fast pace. By taking the SAT or ACT in the fall, 11th graders deprive themselves of months of classroom education. Students can feel deflated by low test scores and think poorly of themselves. In fact, low test scores are often due to the fact that the student has not completed related coursework.

- There is a strong link between greater maturity and better testing results. Younger students are frequently not interested in college because it seems such a long way off. Early testing can lead them to tune out or burn out. Trust me, neither one is a desirable outcome. All too often I see students suffering from burn out. Many times this is linked to early pressure to excel on standardized testing for college.

- If a student has completed relevant coursework and really wants to test, an excellent option is to take a full length practice exam. Students can do so without these scores appearing on their permanent record. Some test preparation professionals offer this service in the hope you will return to their company for further preparation. That's a good way for students to get practice without some of the downsides of early testing. Just avoid getting drawn into early test prep. Use the practice to get a feel for the test(s) and learn strengths and areas to focus on for improvement. Use high school coursework as a means to improve math skills, writing ability and critical reading.

More formal test preparation can take place during the winter and early spring of 11th grade. A good rule of thumb is for 11th graders to plan to complete a first round of testing by the end of spring semester. There are many opportunities to retake tests in senior year, if necessary.

There are several very appropriate ways to prepare early for the path to college. Here are my top picks:

- Students should focus on doing their best work in high school and take challenging courses over time—particularly in subjects they do well in and enjoy.
- Students should engage in systematic and meaningful extracurricular activities such as sports, music, employment or volunteerism. Students who do a few things they are passionate about are better prepared for college admission than those who cram their schedules with many random activities. In this case less is more.
- Use family vacations and school breaks to explore college campuses in relaxed, informal ways. It doesn't matter if the student plans to apply to these schools—the goal is to simply get a general feel for the variety of colleges that exist. Over the course of a year or so, try to include in the mix a two-year community college, a large public university (one in your state and/or one out-of-state), a small liberal arts college as well as

a technical or specialty school. Students can benefit greatly from these informal opportunities to become familiar with college admission terminology as well as the size and feel of college environments.

The journey to college can and should be longer and more relaxed, rather than forced and pressured. As a community we would do well to support this objective so that by the time students get to their freshman year in higher education, they will be primed to learn, grow and thrive over the course of four happy, productive years.



Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D. is an educational consultant and certified college admission advisor. Her goal is to help freshman applicants as well as transfer students and their families understand the process, research college and career options, create a balanced college list and submit strong and cohesive applications. She is familiar with local high schools and has guided three daughters through the college admission process in addition to more than 400 clients. Dr. LaScala is an active member of NACAC, WACAC, and HECA and earned a certification in College Admission and Career Planning from University of California at Berkeley. Contact her at (925) 891-4491 or elizabeth@doingcollege.com.

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## Students Recognized for Academic Excellence

Submitted by Julie Lekki



From left: Ashley Lok, Austen Li, Ivan Gomez Siu, David Gomez Siu, Spencer Lekki Photo provided

Several Lamorinda students were recently honored at a statewide awards ceremony for gifted children held by The Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY).

The awards are based on an exceptional performance on a rigorous, above-grade-level test given to second through eighth grade Talent Search participants. Seventh and eighth graders took the SAT or

ACT—the same tests used for college admissions. Second through sixth graders took the SCAT, an above-level test scaled for younger students.

Johns Hopkins honorees from Moraga and Lafayette included:

- Burton Valley Elementary – David Yoo
- Camino Pablo Elementary – David Gomez Siu

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate – Ivan Gomez Siu, Spencer Lekki, Austin Li, and Ashley Lok

Stanley Middle – Rishabh Bhatnagar, Jordan Hodder, Alexander Lee, and Hope Leng

Seven Hills School – Alexander Glavin

## Girl Scout Garage Sale for "Peaceful Playgrounds"

Submitted by Suzanne Tom



(Pictured from left): Karina, Julia, Lynnette, Megan, Ivy, Lynn, Sarah and Serena Photo Suzanne Tom

The 5th grade Girl Scout troop, #30622, from Glorietta Elementary School hosted a garage sale on October 10th. The girls are working on their Bronze Award - which is purchasing a school recess program called "Peaceful Playgrounds." It in-

cludes colorful and inviting activities that are painted onto the blacktop that children can play. They are non-competitive and require no standing in line. The troop hopes to reduce the number of kids who just wander around during recess, and who

may not be comfortable joining organized games or groups of other kids. This program costs \$4,000 – the garage sale raised \$400 in just a few hours. For more information on this project please email Suzanne Tom, [haleysrun@aol.com](mailto:haleysrun@aol.com).

## Lamorinda Weekly

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## Getting Technical at Campo

By Lou Fancher



From left to right: Bryan Gertz, Rory Baker, Sam Crissle, Hamed Sheikholeskmi, Charlotte Martin and Miles Lindheimer

Campolindo High School's Performing Arts Center, known on campus as CPAC, is getting a new light.

It's not a Fresnel, the spotlights common to film and theater, it's Bryan Gertz, the guru of technology at Miramonte High School. Gertz will be guiding a new after-school program for students interested in theater tech, stagecraft, lighting and design.

"I'm still working with the staff and students at Campo to develop the course," Gertz said, in a recent phone interview. "I'll be teaching them how to run the mixing board, set up sound equipment,

create sound and lighting design, use surround effects, wireless microphones, compressors, and basic electronics."

Gertz has been the Acalanes Union District Computer Tech for 11-and-a-half years. "I was working at a computer shop and I needed a better job," he said. "Sound is my true love. This all started from music."

He's referring to the work he has been doing in Miramonte's theater department. There, he has been the unofficial tech master, stepping in to drama classes and productions to assist and instruct. "I completely rebuilt the sound system at Mira-

monte," he said. "The old system hummed and had big-time wiring problems."

He has also inspired students. Arielle Swernoff, a 2010 graduate of MHS, writes in an email, "I learned a lot about wiring, patching, microphones, speakers, acoustics-- I now know about all sorts of things that had seemed terribly complicated and obscure before. Knowing about sound has also led to other opportunities--last year, I worked with students, teaching them to use the sound board so they could incorporate more technical theater into their final projects. I am definitely interested in continuing to

Photo Doug Kohen

work on sound in college. Learning about sound was one of the most valuable things I did in high school."

Gertz is mild when it comes to talking about himself, but a braggart when it comes to his students. "There's a three-and-a-half minute song from *American Idol* on YouTube. There's only nine microphones to control and he makes eight mistakes! My kids did a 3-and-a-half-hour show, with 32 mikes, and made only four mistakes. I've gotta send you the link to the video--it's bad!"

Jamie Donohoe, the Drama Director at Campo is a big proponent of the new program. "Bryan has extensive theater tech knowledge and we're really, really excited about having such an expert work with Campolindo's students," he says. "The whole idea for the program was a group idea. We said, 'we really need someone who can come in and run CPAC. Little jobs were getting done haphazardly, with a lot of good will, but not with oversight. You'd have one person setting the theater up one way, then another person changing it. It could take half a day just to get it back to where it was!'"

Sam Crossley, 16, is signed up for the class. "We had a drama class that had a tech side of it that wasn't officially a part of the class. When the new drama teacher came in, the tech part diminished because

he didn't know about it. He and some teachers developed this class. I'm excited: I want it to be more of a group thing, because last year, tech was basically me and another guy."

Jenna Guergah, also 16 and a junior at Campo, has done video production, but not theater tech. "It's great to be able to come back here, behind the scenes, and see what our tax dollars are paying for. And hopefully, Campo will start hiring students to run the productions, instead of having to hire professionals."

Harvey Benstein, part of the planning group and the school's Instrumental Music Director, explained the financial arrangements for the after-school program. "It is funded through the student activities account overseen by the student council at Campolindo going directly to student programs."

The seminar and work-study/certification program will begin in October. It is open to 15-20 students and will meet 1-2 days per week. "Already, we have a bunch of students signing up and I just got more emails," Donohoe said. The drama staff, interested students, and their leader, Gertz, will meet to decide the when and where of the course. Students in the program will work directly on productions presented by Campolindo organizations and assist in hall usage by Campolindo students, staff and the community.

## Bulldog Theater Presents "Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs"

Submitted by Jane Greenthal



Cast members rehearse a scene from "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs", to be performed Nov. 3-6 at Orinda Intermediate School. Photo Natalie Wheeler

Orinda Intermediate School is very excited to announce their Bulldog Theater Company will be offering the enchanting fairy tale, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, a play based on the story by The Brothers Grimm, Nov. 3-6. For this production, the returning Director is Clive Worsley, the new Producer is Natalie

Wheeler and new Program Manager is Dianna Langer.

This is Clive Worsley's seventh time directing at OIS. He previously directed the Bulldog Theater Company productions of *Beauty and the Beast*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Clackervilles*, *Mulan*, *Peter Pan* and *Annie*. Clive is a professional

actor, musician and teacher. He is also the Artistic Director of the Town Hall Theater in Lafayette and has worked extensively in the Bay Area. He works in many of our CORE classrooms as a Teaching Artist in Residence through the California Shakespeare Theater's Integrated Curriculum Program. OIS feels very lucky to have him direct-

ing again for the Bulldog Theater Company. Clive is assisted by Emily Morrison, the Artistic Learning Programs Manager at Cal Shakes, who has also served as choreographer on previous Bulldog Theater Productions.

Natalie Wheeler has co-produced the Glorietta musicals *Hello Dolly!* and *Willy Wonka Jr.*, and the most recent Miramonte musical, *Into the Woods*, and has been the parent volunteer coordinator for several Town Hall Theatre student productions. Natalie will be responsible for supporting the cast and crew and overseeing sets, props, costumes, make-up, and backstage.

Dianna Langer, the program manager, is currently the OIS Bulldog Sports coordinator, and will now be coordinating all house management, publicity, and ticket sales, registration, as well as items involving the Bulldog store.

The story of *Snow White* is told here with simplicity and charm. After her wicked stepmother -- jealous of Snow White's extraordinary beauty -- expels her from the castle, Snow White finds her way to a happy glen and the home of seven

friendly dwarfs. A deadly apple casts her into a deep sleep, from which she is revived in time by her devoted prince.

Fun for the whole family, the play will be performed by two casts Nov. 3-6. Please visit the OIS website under "Programs", then "Bulldog Theater Company" for full cast lists.

All seats for the mid-week matinees are general admission \$6. All Friday and Saturday shows are reserved seating only, with premium (first 8 rows) seats at \$10 and standard (last 8 rows) at \$8. Tickets do sell out, so reserve early! Online ticketing is now available at [www.ShowTix4u.com](http://www.ShowTix4u.com). All students are only \$1 for the 4:30pm shows only (payable at door, no advance purchase). For group sales, or other ticket questions, please contact Julie Whitsitt at [julieaw@pacbell.net](mailto:julieaw@pacbell.net).

The Bulldog Theater Company is proudly supported by Orinda Intermediate School, the Orinda Arts Council ([www.orindaartscouncil.org](http://www.orindaartscouncil.org)), California Shakespeare Theater ([www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)) and Town Hall Theater ([www.townhalltheater.org](http://www.townhalltheater.org)).

## Tsao Wins MassMutual Scholarship

Submitted by Erica Zeidenberg



Rachel Tsao with two of her co-workers from PrimeWealth Management in Berkeley, where she works part-time when she is not in Dubai.

The country's 2008 economic crisis made an impression on Rachel Tsao.

The University of California-Berkeley student and Moraga resident felt additional pressure to achieve in school because her father dipped into his retirement savings after losing his job to help her pay tu-

ition.

"I am afraid he will not have retirement money," she said.

Rachel Tsao plans to change that.

The sophomore is vigorously pursuing a business degree with plans to become a financial planner. A recent

scholarship from the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) will also put her on her way.

Tsao was one of three San Francisco area students to be awarded a "MassMutual Scholar" grant. Tsao received the \$5,000 scholarship designated for multicultural students based on academic achievement and her interest in choosing a career in financial services. The grant was presented to Tsao's father, Jun-Yin Tsao, at a celebration put on by MassMutual's general agency, The San Francisco Bay Area Insurance Agency on Oct. 15.

Rachel Tsao is currently studying abroad in Dubai. She speaks Mandarin and Spanish and is studying Arabic while in Dubai.

"I want to become a financial planner because I want to teach people how to successfully manage their finances," said Tsao, who credits her grandmother for her unwavering perseverance. "I believe proper financial planning will

allow families to successfully retire, save for vacations and send their children to college. I know with hard work and perseverance I can meet these goals."

Rachel also interns as an office manager at a boutique wealth management firm in Berkeley.

"Rachel is a self-motivated individual who would be a welcome addition to the financial services industry. We are proud to work with MassMutual to assist her education and encourage her to do well," said Robert Fakhimi, general agent and chief executive officer of the San Francisco Bay Area Insurance Agency.

Through its MassMutual Scholars Program, the company assisted 28 high achieving college students of diverse backgrounds in pursuing their higher education dreams. Overall, MassMutual awarded \$135,000 in scholarships to outstanding multicultural students in 9 different metropolitan communities.



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# The Queen of Comfort Food

By Susie Iventosch

After alluding to this dish in my last column, it seemed fitting to publish a recipe for the queen of comfort foods—chicken pot pie. (My king is macaroni and cheese!) So, even though this dish is not low-cal, nor particularly fancy, it is just one of those delicious comfy foods that satisfies any appetite on cold, crisp days. It can always be made ahead, or frozen, too, for busy families.

This recipe calls for browning the roux, to make the sauce nice and rich, then adding a large splash of wine to enhance the flavor. For the veggies, if possible, steam them in a French steamer just to al dente, which keeps them from getting too well done. (Or you could roast them in a 400° oven until just tender.)

After that, your taste buds are your palette (or your palate!) and you can add or subtract veggies—peas, beans, broccoli or even cauliflower—to add your own touch from the winter garden assortment. or substitute chicken for turkey or even beef. If you do use beef, then perhaps you'd like to use beef broth in lieu of the chicken broth. Though I've not made a vegetarian pot pie, I should think it would be a good alternative for non-meat eaters. In this case, save the broth from steaming the vegetables to use in your gravy.

Since this pot pie recipe calls for pearl onions, it reminded me of my sister's pickled pearl onions, which are a terrific condiment for Thanksgiving dinner, make a fun hostess gift to take to holiday parties, and are really yummy in martinis ... so I'm told.

Getting back to the 3Bs ren-

devous from our last issue, another reader emailed requesting ideas for finger foods that would be good for bridge, Bunco or book clubs, because her groups do not have a full meal at their gatherings, just snacks. There are many such recipes in my cookbook (Tax Bites & Tasty Morsels) including: Nutty Stuffed Mushrooms, Shrimp'cargo, Sultry Spiced Nuts, Blue Cheese-Olive Toasts and Baked Feta with Roasted Peppers and Greek Olives. Also, it is easy to make appetizer sizes of nearly any dish you enjoy. You just need to think "small" and use fancy toothpicks, especially if you're turning pages, rolling dice or dealing cards!

For example you can make bite-sized enchiladas, mini lamb burgers (or meatballs) with a sliver of mango or dash of chutney, grilled marinated artichoke hearts, or toothpick skewers of mini horse-radish-roasted potatoes with small bites of grilled tri-tip and a sliver of red onion. You could prepare teazed sandwiches with a variety of fillings—smoked salmon with dill and capers, or artichoke hearts, sundried tomatoes and goat cheese, etc. on an assortment of breads. Or you might serve mini servings of homemade soup in demi-tasse cups, sans spoon! Recently, at a B&B where we stayed, they served seedless grapes rolled in a blue cheese-cream cheese mixture and then in finely chopped pecans. Delicious!

Next time, we will feature "small dish" recipes for the 3Bs, but for now, back to the Queen of Comfort ...

## Chilly Weather Chicken Pot Pie

Makes one 9-10 inch pie or about 6-8 smaller individual ramekins

### Ingredients

- 1 recipe basic pastry for 9-inch shell (recipe below)
- Filling**
- 6 tablespoons of butter
- 6 tablespoons of flour
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup of heavy cream
- ½ cup white wine
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- ½ teaspoon sea salt
- ½-1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
- 4 cups of cubed cooked chicken breast
- 24 small pearl onions, cooked and skins removed (approximately ½ of a 10-oz. bag, can be red, yellow or white)
- ¾ cup carrots, cut into large dice and cooked
- ¾ cup celery, cut into large dice and cooked
- ¾ cup potatoes, cut into large dice and cooked (I use Peruvian purple potatoes for fun)



### Directions

Preheat the oven to 425°F. Melt the butter in a saucepan, stir in the flour, poultry seasoning, salt and pepper and cook over medium heat (keep stirring), for 2 to 3 minutes or until browned. Slowly whisk in the broth, cream, and wine. Continue to cook for 5 minutes, until thickened and smooth. Mix chicken and veggies in a large bowl then pour gravy mixture over and stir well. Spoon mixture into a well-greased deep-pie dish or casserole. Place the prepared pie crust over the top, allowing enough to hang over the edges to be crimped. Cut vents in the crust to allow the steam to escape. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until the crust is nicely browned.

## Pie Crust

### Ingredients

- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cubes unsalted butter, chilled and cut into small cubes
- 2 teaspoons cider vinegar
- 1/4-1/2 cup ice water

### Directions

Mix flour and salt in a large bowl. With a pastry cutter, or fingers, crumble butter into flour until well integrated. Sprinkle cider vinegar over mixture and stir in well with a fork. Add ice-cold water, a little at a time and blend with fork until dough is moist enough to roll into a ball, but not too wet. Roll into one large ball for the pie crust and a smaller ball to use for patching your crust, or cinnamon roll ups for snacking!

These recipes are available on our web site. Go to: [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)

## Kate's Pickled Pearl Onions

Makes approximately 2 pints

### Ingredients

- Two 10-ounce bags of pearl onions (white, brown or red—a combination is colorful)
- 2 cups water
- 1 to 2 teaspoons sea salt (your choice, depending on desired saltiness)
- 2 tablespoon sugar
- 1 1/2 cups white vinegar
- 1 tablespoon pickling spice (available at your local grocers in the spice section)

### Directions

Place onions in pot of boiling water and cook for approximately two to three minutes. Remove from heat, drain and rinse with cold water immediately. When cool, remove skins with a small paring knife. Start by slicing off root end and carefully peeling back skin. Save as much of the onion as possible. Place onions in sterilized jars. (For this recipe you should need about four half-pint jars, or 2 pint jars.) In a small pot, combine vinegar, sugar, salt and spices and bring to a boil. Stir until sugar and salt are dissolved. Remove from heat and pour liquid over onions in jars, leaving 1/2-inch of space at the top. To seal jars, cover closed jars with water and place in boiling water bath for several minutes. Follow manufacturer's directions for sealing jars properly.



Susie Iventosch is the author of *Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels*, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and [www.taxbites.net](http://www.taxbites.net). Susie can be reached at [suziven@gmail.com](mailto:suziven@gmail.com).



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Junior Andrew Schnugg led the Dons with four goals in their 9-7 win over Miramonte Photo Bob Johnson



Senior Joey Fabian led all scorers with five goals in Miramonte's 17-7 win against Campolindo on October 13. Fabian continued to be a significant offensive contributor for Miramonte in the game against Acalanes on October 20 Photo Bob Johnson

# Acalanes' Water Polo Defeats Miramonte in Rivalry Match

By Abby Klinkenberg

Tensions ran high on October 20, 2010, as two DFAL water polo forces, Acalanes and Miramonte, faced off in a rivalry match. The home advantage did not prove to be enough for either Matorador team. The Lady Dons won a close contest, 8-7. They improve to 12-7 overall while the Lady Mats fall to 10-8 overall. In the boys' game, the Dons defeated the Mats 9-7. The Mats fell for the first time in league play this season. Their overall record is now 12-2. The Acalanes men are now alone atop the DFAL standings and maintain an undefeated league record.

ended in a tie 3-3. To the tune of an excited chant from the Miramonte parent section, the third quarter began with two consecutive Miramonte goals from junior Erin Byrne to give Miramonte a 5-3 lead. As quickly as their lead came, Acalanes took it back 7-6 by the end of the quarter.

The boys' teams faced off following the girls'. The undefeated league rivals fought for first place and momentum heading into the postseason. The first quarter mirrored the girls' start, with quick scoring. It ended with the Dons in the lead, 3-2. Acalanes senior goalkeeper Robert Clemons had multiple saves in the quarter; he recorded 10 in the match.

Schnugg was the Dons' leading scorer with four goals, three of which came in the first half. Miramonte attempted to battle back, scoring in the final minutes of the third quarter. Acalanes maintained the lead in the fourth and came out with the win, 9-7.

In the fourth quarter, Caron evened the score, 7-7, much to the enthusiasm of the home crowd. It was Acalanes senior Casey Reid who delivered the final blow; she scored in the final minutes to give the Dons the 8-7 victory.

In the second quarter, Miramonte evened the score at 3-3 with a goal from senior Joey Fabian before losing its momentum and falling back by two goals, 5-3. The Mats then received a penalty, which Fabian scored handily in the top right hand corner of the goal. This ignited the Mats' spirit, and they tied the score soon after. Acalanes junior Andrew Schnugg scored in the final minutes to just edge out the Mats before the half, 6-5.

With the loss, the Miramonte boys' recorded a 1-1 record against their Lamorinda rivals. The Mats dominated Campolindo 17-7 on October 13. Fabian led all scorers with five goals in the match.

"Our offense really pulled it out. We were able to get some good shots off," said senior captain for Acalanes, Adrienne Burgin. "We really just tried to finish it off [in the second half], get the lead, and after that, it's really all defense."

Within the first minute of the second half, Acalanes scored and set the tone for the remainder of the match. According to Clemons, the defining moment came when a shot by Schnugg was deflected and bounced off the crossbar and into the Miramonte goal as the shot clock wound down; this gave the Dons a secure lead score 8-5.

With a win against Alhambra today, Acalanes will be able to clinch their DFAL league title.

Miramonte was not content with the loss, however, as senior Sarah Abel can attest: "I think our intensity was really increased this game, we want to play Acalanes again to show them that we can beat them, because it was not that much of a score difference; we're ready and prepared to do that."

"We just had everything going for us at that point," said Clemons.

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## Acalanes JV Water Polo Undefeated

Submitted by Karla McQuain



Photo Jim Cooper

On October 15 and 16, the Acalanes JV Girls water polo team took home a first place trophy at the Western States Water Polo tournament in Modesto, CA. Teams from California and Oregon competed.

This team has gone undefeated in league and tournament games for the past two years. They are coached by local Lafayette parents, Donna Elliott and Chris Lanier.

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# SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

## Orinda Aquatics Moves from the Pool to the Bay

Submitted by Julie Carlson



OA swimmers participating in the open water swim included (left to right), Front row: Robbie Ashby, Devin Kennedy, Sven Campbell, Riley Kalbus; Middle row: Megan Howard, Jenna Haufler, Steven Stumph, Megan Fuqua, Talbot Jacobs; Back row: Ariel Thomas, Samantha Swinton Photo Julie Fuqua

Swimming in a temperature controlled, chemically calibrated pool is something many Lamorinda children do every summer. Swim team participants measure their progress in timed laps and flip turns, under the

watchful gaze of parents, coaches and clipboard-wielding stroke and turn judges.

But for 11 members of the year-round Orinda Aquatics team, those reliable markers of progress gave way to a different kind of

swimming experience on Sunday, October 17th.

Parents gathered on beaches and watched as their children participated in the 11th Annual RCP Tiburon Mile Open Water Swim. Approximately 657 total swim-

mers from 10 countries finished the race. Open water swimming presents new challenges to these already accomplished athletes.

Training for this event began with a talk by open water swimming expert Rick Arnason and continued with practices in San Francisco Bay before the swimmers were ready to tackle the waters between Angel Island and Tiburon.

Robert Ashby, 17, placed first in his age group and 26th overall on Sunday.

"My first open water swim was in a lake, but the bay makes a lake look easy!" said Ashby, who was participating in his second open water event in the last year.

Two other OA boys, Steven Stumph and Sven Campbell, placed second and third, respectively, to sweep the men's 13-18 age group. All five girls and six boys from OA competed in the 13-18 age group and all placed in the top 20. Several members of the OA Masters group participated as well, with swimmer Ramey Stevens winning her age group.

## Miramonte Handily Defeats Campolindo

... continued from page A1

He caught a 38-yard pass for a touchdown to put the Matadors up 14-0, with a little over four minutes remaining in the half. Honens then, from the free safety position on defense, caught the very next pass thrown by Campolindo in an interception. Twenty seconds later, back on offense, he caught a wide open 35-yard pass from Anderson to extend the lead and effectively put the game out of reach.

"Miles is a really good athlete," Wade said. "We've asked him to do a bunch of different things, and he made a lot of things happen tonight."

Campolindo was able to get on the board in the fourth quarter on a Joey Bertrand run, and while it gave the Cougars something to show for the efforts, it was too little too late as the team ran out of steam.

While acknowledging the significance of the rivalry win, Wade believes that the win was

truly important because of the game's timing.

"All of the victories are hard to get, but I know our guys have basically grown up with all their guys and they've been playing against each other forever, so it obviously makes it a little bit better and sweeter," Wade said. "But it's a way to get back after last week's situation."

Macy, on the other hand, was simply pleased to see his team complete the game with no new injuries.

"The goal was to get out of this game healthy," Macy said. "This is probably the first game we've come out of a game without being decimated by injuries. So this will give us a chance to still play out our next two games and try to get better."

The Matadors will now have the opportunity to rest on their bye week before facing Dublin on November 5, while the Cougars will face Alhambra on October 29.



The Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Marauders 7A volleyball team was all smiles after defeating the Orinda Intermediate School Bulldogs in three sets on October 13th; the win was especially sweet for this team since OIS won the first match-up earlier in the season. The teams met again in the league tournament on Monday, Oct. 25th, after press time. Photo Cindy Moore



Saint Mary's women's volleyball defeated Pepperdine University in five sets in the program's first-ever nationally televised game on Thursday, October 21. ESPN covered the match. Sophomore outside hitter Gabby Jolly (pictured above #3) notched 10 kills in the first two sets and 16 kills on the night. After the weekend win against LMU (3-1) the Gaels now improve to 6-1 in WCC play and are tied with Pepperdine for second place. Photo Tod Fierner

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# SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

## Reservoir Run: A Family Affair

By Lou Fancher



About 2,200 runners are expected at this year's race; the start of last year's race is pictured above. Photo Ohlen Alexander

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce (LCC) is teaming up with the City of Lafayette and the Lafayette Arts and Science Foundation to help everyone work off their Halloween candy—before they've actually eaten it—by participating in the 2010 Reservoir Run on October 31st.

"We're ahead on registration this year," says LCC Executive Director Jay Lifson.

"We expect about 2,200 runners and 5,000 spectators." The numbers give credence to his assertion that the run is Lafayette's "most popular family event."

Last year, the Chamber was able to give close to \$17,000 to the local schools that benefit from the run. "With a good attendance, there's a chance to raise a good

amount of money to help our schools again," Lifson says, clearly delighted at the prospect.

In fact, if he weren't too busy keeping the runners, the stroller brigade, the dogs on leashes, the Emergency Medical Team and the 150 volunteers organized, Lifson would love to slap a number on his chest and run a 10k, 5k or 2 mile race. "I was a four-and-a-half

minute miler, in my day," he boasts, admitting, in the next breath, his running days are over.

"This is all about getting the families out," he says. "There's a pancake breakfast, a student band and a health fair. LASF is joining us this year and they'll have a kid's zone."

The City of Lafayette is also partnering with the LCC to present a free, outdoor movie the night before: Pixar's *Monster's, Inc.* will be screened Saturday, October 30, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Plaza.

Proceeds from Sunday's run go directly to the PTA's at Lafayette schools. Registrants can direct ten percent of their fees to the school of their choice. After the chamber's bills are paid, the remaining funds are distributed equally amongst the five schools. "The money goes to support extra-curricular activities," Lifson explains.

Registration opens at 6:30 a.m., with staggered race times beginning at 8:30 a.m. Runners can register the day of the race. "Bring everybody," Lifson answers, when asked if he has any last words about the event.

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## Campolindo Senior Earns Second Degree Black Belt

Submitted by Dave McKinnis



Both Kyle McKinnis (center left) and Tess Karsevar (center right) were promoted to second degree black belt before a panel of judges. Also pictured: McKinnis' partner, Keanu Karsevar (left) and Tess's partner, Tuan Karsevar (right). Photo Tuan Karsevar

Campolindo senior Kyle McKinnis demonstrated his martial arts skills before a council of Shihan, "master teachers," in Marysville, Washington over Columbus Day weekend.

McKinnis was competing for a second degree black belt, "nidan," in the karate form Shito-ryu.

The test included a demonstration of techniques, such as blocking strikes and kicks, and immediately countering with strikes, kicks, and/or take downs. Orders were given in Japanese to the eight advanced-degree promotion candidates.

The candidates were tested for mental alertness, knowledge of the many traditional fighting

stances, blocks, and strikes, and the ability to remain calm and focused under pressure.

McKinnis began training in September 2001 and achieved his first black belt in 2005.

He has been an assistant instructor at Northern California Karate-do, a non-profit school in Walnut Creek, for the last two years.

## Italy Defeats Spain in LMYA Soccer

LMYA's Italy defeated Spain, 3-1, on October 16.



Kage Groszewski, of team Italy (blue) looks to stop Hur-Ali Rizvi of Spain (red). Photo Gint Federas

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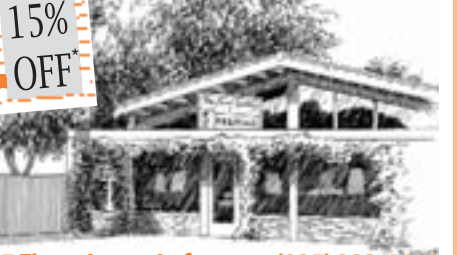
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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 04 Issue 17 Wednesday, October 27, 2010

## Life-size Poetry

*Animal sculptures in the garden*

By Sophie Braccini



*More photos on page OH6*



*"Rusty Chevalier," in the yard of Tom and Bobbie Preston, is dressed up for Halloween*

*Photos Doug Kohler*

Larch Avenue in Moraga is bordered by a collection of quiet suburban homes with mostly standard architecture and appearance; until you reach number 1307. The nicely remodeled home offers a large front yard in which a metallic horse stands, calm and majestic, in the place of honor. Those who stop and take the time to look will notice other front yard sculptures; New Zealand sheep and their dog enjoy the long creeping grass fescue meadow; a large cement 'guard turtle' stands by the front door. These are only a few of the objects that homeowners Tom and Bobbie Preston have collected around the world to adorn both their front and back yards.

You embark on another adventure when you step in to the Prestons' back yard. Anywhere else it might seem a bit strange to see, scattered in a garden, an old bike, gazing balls, bells, blue bottles, all sorts of frogs and bird houses, sacred objects such as a Buddha, and an

old radiator. The Prestons' unlikely garden, with its hundreds of plants, nooks and crannies is a small world awaiting discovery – and bursting with creativity, charm and humor.

Surrealist poet Yves Bonnefoy defined the poetic experience as a spiritual exercise which, instead of fleeing to the chimera, would offer itself as an introduction to the reality. The Prestons' garden seems to have achieved this poetic balance between materialism and a desire for transcendence.

The Prestons' found the horse in Half Moon Bay. The modern metal structure is a lightly stylized life-size animal. Its rusted color blends very nicely below the large tree that stands in the front yard. "We didn't want to put it in the front yard at first, because we were concerned about the neighbors' reactions," remembers Bobbie Preston, "in fact they love it.

... continued on page OH4

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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	Lowest Amount	Highest Amount
LAFAYETTE	10	\$527,500	\$2,100,000
MORAGA	9	\$230,000	\$1,265,000
ORINDA	10	\$500,000	\$1,900,000

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

- 3191 Acalanes Avenue, \$645,000, 3 Bdrms, 1364 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 9-23-10
- 3196 Diablo View Road, \$527,500, 3 Bdrms, 1958 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 9-23-10
- 1 Green Acres Court, \$1,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 3162 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-30-10
- 3345 Hermosa Way, \$850,000, 6 Bdrms, 2873 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 9-27-10;  
Previous Sale: \$487,500, 07-03-01
- 632 Los Palos Drive, \$790,000, 5 Bdrms, 2313 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 9-27-10
- 1036 Oak Knoll Road, \$700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1923 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 9-24-10;  
Previous Sale: \$675,000, 03-29-05
- 1609 Silver Dell Road, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 3831 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 9-29-10;  
Previous Sale: \$865,000, 08-14-98
- 3440 Solana Court, \$825,000, 4 Bdrms, 2246 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 9-30-10
- 1036 Sunnybrook Drive, \$640,500, 1 Bdrms, 1679 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 9-17-10
- 2 Valley High, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 4829 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 9-28-10;  
Previous Sale: \$880,000, 06-25-96

#### MORAGA

- 2051 Ascot Drive #105, \$290,000, 2 Bdrms, 1186 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 9-17-10;  
Previous Sale: \$158,000, 05-26-99
- 128 Miramonte Drive, \$457,500, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-20-10
- 2121 Donald Drive #15, \$230,000, 2 Bdrms, 1224 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-27-10;  
Previous Sale: \$465,000, 08-02-05
- 131 Eileen Court, \$812,000, 5 Bdrms, 2605 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 9-22-10;  
Previous Sale: \$836,500, 07-17-02
- 83 Marie Place, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2414 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 9-21-10;  
Previous Sale: \$849,000, 06-12-03
- 26 Miramonte Drive, \$360,000, 3 Bdrms, 1248 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-24-10;  
Previous Sale: \$560,000, 06-16-06
- 94 Miramonte Drive, \$421,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-24-10
- 51 Sanders Ranch Road, \$1,265,000, 4 Bdrms, 2745 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 9-21-10;  
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 07-09-04
- 121 Via Joaquin, \$570,000, 3 Bdrms, 2044 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 9-17-10;  
Previous Sale: \$540,000, 07-31-03

#### ORINDA

- 11 Albo Court, \$1,025,000, 6 Bdrms, 3185 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-30-10;  
Previous Sale: \$556,000, 01-06-00
- 81 Coral Drive, \$1,225,000, 6 Bdrms, 2801 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 9-21-10
- 2 Debra Court, \$690,000, 3 Bdrms, 1530 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 9-30-10;  
Previous Sale: \$910,000, 12-15-04
- 425 El Toyonal, \$1,885,000, 4 Bdrms, 3536 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 9-30-10;  
Previous Sale: \$2,300,000, 12-15-04
- 78 Linda Vista, \$960,000, 4 Bdrms, 3353 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-17-10;  
Previous Sale: \$399,000, 08-27-96
- La Cuesta Road, \$1,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 4739 SqFt, 2007 YrBlt, 9-24-10;  
Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 03-08-10
- 26 Lost Valley Drive #A, \$805,000, 3 Bdrms, 2668 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 9-30-10;  
Previous Sale: \$1,169,000, 03-16-07
- 19 Muth Drive, \$500,000, 4 Bdrms, 1922 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-28-10
- 33 Orchard Road, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2680 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 9-22-10;  
Previous Sale: \$799,000, 06-30-99
- 40 Orchard Road, \$1,200,000, 6 Bdrms, 3312 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 9-22-10;  
Previous Sale: \$1,007,000, 09-20-02

## Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

#### LAFAYETTE

810 Acalanes Road, 94549, CitiMortgage, 10-01-10, \$1,540,000, 5271 sf, 5 bd

#### ORINDA

128 Diablo View Drive, 94563, Bank of America, 09-30-10, \$1,035,520, 4579 sf, 4 bd

12 Hall Drive, 94563, Bank of America, 09-13-10, \$1,081,811, 1910 sf, 3 bd

44 Heather Lane, 94563, Bayview Loan Servicing, 09-22-10, \$775,000, 2440 sf, 3 bd



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# Life-size Poetry

... continued from page OH1



An iron bison in the Pease's yard surveys the horizon

Photo Ohlen Alexander



Hidden treasures: Beaded birds and a ceramic salamander hanging out in the garden



Photo Doug Kohen



A giraffe in front of the Pease home nibbles on the trees

Photo Ohlen Alexander

All of the neighborhood kids come by, our grandkids have had their pictures taken on it and we always dress it up for Halloween and Christmas."

In the meantime, other statues found in Half Moon Bay are on display down the road in Orinda, where three phlegmatic buffalo graze on a ridge line. "They remind us of the ones we used to have on the property years ago," says homeowner Janet Pease, whose live buffalos have been replaced with llamas that serve the same purpose – controlling the grass on the 10-acre property. From the home, the expansive view embraces the buffalos, the llamas and 3 metallic giraffes that appear to be grazing as well. At first view it's hard to tell what's alive and what's not!

The Peases have set another giraffe and additional llamas along their street for the pleasure of passers-by. "We were in Africa on a safari when I got my first appreciation for giraffes," said Pease, adding that she was attracted to their unusual personalities and resilience.

Giraffes are important in the lives of the Prestons as well. Preston started expanding her collection of animal statues a few years back, on a Valentine's Day, with a giraffe. "My

husband told me, 'you can have whatever you want at Keenan/Heinz Company,'" she remembers, "he didn't expect me to pick a life-size giraffe!" Now the statue has found its place in the midst of birdhouses from Texas, horse hoof covers from Cambodia, a Vietnamese Buddha, a little lady from Vancouver, Mexican park benches and beaded birds from South Africa.

see more photos on page OH 6

## Cycle Recycle

Did you recognize the names Tom and Bobbie Preston? If so, their annual "Cycle Recycle" might have come to mind. "Each fall, during the 'Big Garbage' collection in Moraga, Tom and I hold the 'Cycle Recycle,' gathering repairable bicycles from all over the area," said Preston, "These bikes, which would have otherwise ended up in the garbage, are repaired by the inmates at Marsh Creek Detention Facility and at Christmas are given to needy kids by local charities. To date we have collected over 1400 bikes." This fall the Prestons will collect used bikes for Trips for Kids/Recyclery in Marin County and Bike Education Training and Repair in Richmond. They will accept used bikes during the entire month of November (just leave them on the driveway 1307 Larch Ave. in Moraga); they do not give receipts. Email questions to tpreston2004@comcast.net.



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**1090 Larch Avenue, Moraga**  
4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, 2737± Sq. Ft.  
Offered at \$949,500



PENDING!  
**1295 Rimer Drive, Moraga**  
4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 2140± Sq. Ft.  
Offered at \$799,000



SOLD!  
**262 Rheem Boulevard, Moraga**  
Flat 1.4± Acre Lot  
Offered at \$650,000



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Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate is honored to present the men and women who make up the team of professionals at our Lafayette office. Many have been serving Lamorinda for years while a few are new to the business.

All utilize tools made available through the new brand via the Greenhouse where they can serve both buyers and sellers in a manner that suites the client. Focusing on lifestyle as well as the transaction each is dedicated to achieving results; a listing sold or a purchase closed.

To learn more about Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate visit our website at [www.bhghome.com/lafayette](http://www.bhghome.com/lafayette) or call Julia Kimball, Branch Manager 925.962.6128.



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# Life-size Poetry

... continued from page OH4



An iron rooster and a New Zealand sheep seem at home in the Preston's garden



Photos Doug Kohen

## 2600 RIDGEWOOD ROAD, ALAMO



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**New Listing!** Located on an extraordinary 5.17± acre site of expansive lawns and views. Home features 4 Bedrooms and 2.5 Baths in 2,755± square feet of living area with formal living and dining rooms, family room and beautifully updated kitchen. The 6-car garage has an upstairs loft recreation room/living space with opportunity to add a bathroom.

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Grand scale living comes alive in this comfortable yet sophisticated family home in one of Orinda's finest neighborhoods. The private, gated approach and expansive lawns provide an immediate sense of quiet and relaxation upon arrival. The extraordinary 1.32-acre setting boasts rolling hills, lush gardens and a sun-splashed pool.

The Main House and unique Guest House combine to provide over 5500 square feet of flexible and usable living space. The wonderful family living floor plan of the Main House is highlighted by an oversized master suite, a formal foyer, an executive office and well-appointed gourmet kitchen with spacious attached family room. Fine custom craftsmanship throughout is of the highest standards and materials. Of special interest is the recently-remodeled Guest House, which is configured with one bedroom, one full bathroom and a full kitchen.

This special, one-of-a-kind home provides a wonderful family-living floor plan for memorable entertaining and resort-style living both inside and out. **15 Van Tassel Lane, Orinda.**

**\$2,499,000**



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ORINDA



**182 Ravenhill Road**

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.

**Offered at \$979,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

**25 Ramona Drive**

Charming 3bd/2ba ranch home in desirable area remodeled with utmost care. Kitchen/fam rm combo. Wonderful bckyd w/outstanding view. Walk to schools.

**Offered at \$995,000**

ORINDA



New Price

**5 Kenmore Court**

This house works for you! Solar panels & in-law unit w/full kitchen allows you to put money back in your pocket. 1.19 beautiful acre lot, 2500 sf, 4bd/3 full baths.

**Offered at \$1,039,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

**29 Knickerbocker**

Traditional hm with a 2880 sf functional flr plan. Updated granite kitchen w/adj living room that opens to level yard & pool. Spectacular views and privacy. Great value.

**Offered at \$1,050,000**

ORINDA



**41 Vista Del Mar**

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

**Offered at \$1,279,000**

ORINDA



New Price

**179 Crestview Drive**

Incredible estate hm on 20 ac pvt knoll. Beaut custom blt w/Fu Tung Chen designed kitchen, pvt mstr suite, fab in-law apt. 360 degree views, ideal for vineyard.

**Offered at \$2,250,000**

MORAGA



**1746 St. Andrews Drive**

Beautifully remodeled level 3bd/2ba townhome with high ceilings, ftplc, attached garage & EZ indoor/outdoor living. Pvt yd includes waterfall, patio & lawn.

**Offered at \$699,000**

MORAGA



New Price

**24 La Salle Drive**

Incredible value! Lovely 5bd sgl lvl custom hm. Gorgeous pvt 1/2 ac lvl knoll. Pool, lawn, verandah. Fab gourmet kitchen, granite counters, walk to Rheem Valley.

**Offered at \$879,000**

MORAGA



**20 Kazar Court**

Special custom upgrades & pride of ownership! 4/2.5 cul-de-sac rancher w/hardwood floors, plantation shutters, great curb appeal. Patio & terraced landscaping.

**Offered at \$899,000**

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**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**1021 Walnut Drive**

Delightful downtown charmer. Complete 2007 remodel, Fabulous lovely 3bd/2ba home, hdwd flrs, crown moldings, gourmet kit, much more. Come and see!

**Offered at \$849,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Price

**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.

**Offered at \$899,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**3919 So. Peardale Drive**

Fabulous sgl lvl updated home. Tons of natural light, hdwd flrs, vaulted ceilings, inviting LR w/custom fireplace + separate alcove. Marvelous great rm, kit w/wine bar.

**Offered at \$1,335,000**

LAFAYETTE



**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**

LAFAYETTE



**3407 Shangri La Road**

Fabulous Craftsman style built in 2005. Stunning architecture, beaut craftsmanship, all the finest features & amenities. Serene 1+ ac in Reliez Valley. Patios, lawns.

**Offered at \$1,650,000**

LAFAYETTE



**3724 St. Francis Drive**

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

**Offered at \$1,675,000**

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