

The X5 is in!

Call Michael at 925-998-2150

Michael Heller
BMW Concord
miheller78@hotmail.com

BMW Concord | 1967 Market ST. | Concord

Lafayette Starter Home!

New Listing
2 BR, 2 BA close to Acalanes High
Private 4/10 acre creek-side location
Offered at \$549,000
More at www.3235CaminoDiablo.com

For current local Market Trends data, visit:
www.LamorindaValues.com
For a complimentary market analysis
of your specific property, contact Frank today!

Frank Woodward
925.253.4603 Frank@FrankWoodward.com
Orinda • Lafayette • Moraga

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Visual Arts Contest Winners



Photo JC Greenthal

Over 140 high school students participated in the Orinda Arts Council's eighth annual Visual Arts Contest. Pictured (L to R) Krista Waugh (Honorable Mention, 2D Art); Mia Taapken (1st Place, Photography); Sarah Manley (Best in Show); and Ryan Tucci (Honorable Mention, 3D). Art from all the young artists is on display at the Orinda Library Gallery through March.

Orinda's Sign without a Home

By Andrea A. Firth

The subject of the historic Orinda sign was back before the City Council at its March 1st meeting—this time purportedly to determine the best color for the green sign, which is parked in the triangular garden at the intersection of Orinda Way and Camino Sobrante. Following review by the Public Works Aesthetic Review Committee, the Historic Landmarks Committee, and local garden clubs, the groups had collectively agreed to recommend the slightly darker 'Charleston green' as the best color to paint the 75 year-old sign, which previously adorned a small real estate office that was located on the same plot of land from the mid-1930's until the late 1960's.

However it was the location of the sign, not its color that concerned several residents who live along Camino Sobrante and on the surrounding streets. "None of us signed up for a gigantic, round, arched, green Orinda sign at the entrance to our neighborhood," said Nancy McCaulou-Bernatz, a resident of Camino Sobrante who grew up in Orinda. "It's not appropriately placed...Nobody wants this sign," she added.

The City Council approved the placement of the sign in the landscaped triangle across from Orinda Motors in November of last year pending approval of the color and mounting mechanism. Subsequently, a petition signed by 139 Orinda residents requesting that the sign be moved elsewhere was submitted to the City in December. "The taxpayers have signed a petition. They've signed on the dotted line," said Andrea Restrepo, "Every neighbor near that sign does not want the sign."

"I hope we don't have to go back and discuss location any longer," said Carl Weber, Chair of the City's Historic Landmarks Committee (HLC), noting that the sign had been situated at the same spot in a much more prominent location, on top of a building, for 25 years. "I thought we were here to talk about the color, not the location again," concurred longtime resident and HLC member Bobbie Landers. "For 25 years, I've been trying to find a location for that sign which is beloved," said Landers, adding that she is happy to drive by the sign each day as she travels to and from her home in the Country Club neighborhood. "To have the sign publicly displayed now is a dream come true," she said.

Although all the Council mem-

bers seemed amenable to the new color choice for the sign, three of the four present were sufficiently swayed by the neighbors' protests to revisit the sign's location. Noting that he was not on the Council when the sign's new location was originally approved, Council Member Dean Orr stated that the sign is partly hidden by landscaping and positioned awkwardly. Council Member Steve Glazer acknowledged that the neighbors in the area seem well informed about the sign issue and that there may not have been full community notification at the time the location was chosen. "There seems to

be disconnect to place [the sign] where the neighborhood does not welcome it," added Council Member Sue Severson. Mayor Victoria Smith disagreed and suggested that the location and new color be tried for a period of time. Ultimately, the Council voted three to one, with Smith dissenting, to postpone any decision regarding the sign color and to bring the issue of the sign's location back for further discussion.

It's not appropriately placed... Nobody wants this sign."
"Every neighbor who lives near that sign does not want the sign," said Andrea Restrepo

Thank-you for 25 years of clean.

www.totalclean.biz

Total Clean 376-1004
For your home.

MARA CONSTRUCTION

LOCATED IN LAMORINDA AREA
20th YEAR IN BUSINESS



SPECIALIZING IN ALL PHASES OF HOME CONSTRUCTION

- New Custom Builds
- Additions
- Custom Kitchens
- Custom Baths
- Doors/Windows
- Tile/Pavers
- Foundations:
- Re-Leveling
- Structure Repair
- Drainage Systems
- Retaining Wall
- Electrical/Custom Wiring

View projects and style ideas at our updated Website.

510-385-8251 • MaraConst@comcast.net
WWW.MARACONSTRUCTION.COM

License # 586512



LAFAYETTE \$1,225,000
5/3. Great traditional home on a big lot, cul-de-sac, convenient location.
Elena Hood 925-253-4600



ORINDA \$1,695,000
4BR 4.5BA Mediterranean style. Attention to detail. Hand made exterior features
Alti Schmitt 925-253-4600



LAFAYETTE \$1,250,000
4/3. Sanders Ranch home on a beautiful 1.01 acre lot. Fantastic for entertaining.
Lana Fitzpatrick 925-253-4600



ORINDA \$2,250,000
4/4. Fabulous Orinda Oasis. Handsome & spacious single level home, large private lot.
Frank Woodward 925-253-6300

The Real Estate Firm People Trust

COLDWELL BANKER Orinda

Previews International
Luxury and Estate Properties

- Previews International has a unique and exclusive marketing platform to showcase these extraordinary properties.
- Previews International handles an average of \$76.7 million in luxury home sales every day*.
- In 2010, Previews International listed and sold the most expensive home in the U.S., listed at \$82 million.

For a private consultation, call Coldwell Banker Orinda or to find an exclusive property in Lamorinda look for the Previews International insignia.



*Data based on closed and recorded transaction sides of homes sold for one million dollars or more as reported by affiliates in the U.S. COLDWELL BANKER® franchise system for the calendar year 2009. \$USD.



LAFAYETTE \$1,495,000
4BR/4BA. Spacious updated BV home. Wine cellar, sauna, game/media rm, waterfall & more.
Susan Schlicher 925-253-4600



LAFAYETTE, \$2,595,000
5/4.5. New Construction! For info/pics visit TheBeabelleGroup.com
The Beabelle Group 925-253-6300



LAFAYETTE \$1,425,000
4BR 3.5BA exquisitely remodeled custom. Lushly landscaped acre. 1 of a kind!
Jeannette Bettencourt 925-253-4600



MORAGA \$1,850,000
3/3.5 Gorgeous custom estate on a 1.16 acre private lot with stunning setting.
Elena Hood 925-253-4600



ORINDA \$1,425,000
Grand Opening! 5BR 3BA. Prestigious Orinda County Club. New Construction with views.
Brown/Camras 925-253-4600



ORINDA \$2,300,000
5/6. Old world elegance, new world construction with over 5,000 sq.ft of amenities.
Kim McAtee 925-253-4600

5 Moraga Way | Orinda | 925.253.4600

2 Theatre Square, Suite 211 | Orinda | 925.253.6300



californiamoves.com