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Photos Doug Kohen

Jazz Festival Opens with a Bang

By Cathy Tyson

Both the Stanley Jazz Messengers and the Tom Scott Quartet rocked the Acalanes Performing Arts Center on Friday evening. The fresh-faced young teens from Stanley and the more mature professional musicians lead by Grammy winner Tom Scott seamlessly entertained the crowd with a collection of soulful and swinging tunes. Friday's show was part of the Lafayette Jazz Festival - all featuring young talented performers. The Festival is sponsored by the Generations in Jazz Foundation, which seeks to preserve

jazz education and pass along the many life lessons music offers, along with Diablo Foods and other local merchants. Stanley's Music Director Bob Athayde thanked Tom Scott for graciously spending time with the band students; he told the audience that Scott, "inspired us in so many ways." Scott said it's all about intention and focus - skills necessary to play music or in a job interview. He advised the kids that you can't be scared. No fear was apparent among the Jazz Messengers as all the kids got a chance to

solo on the big stage. Athayde calls the band, "The ultimate democracy - every single person counts all the time." Songs included the captivating piece "True North," featuring a poignant Tom Scott solo on saxophone. Who couldn't love the upbeat Ray Charles song "What I'd Say" to wrap up the evening - it brought the house down. Sharing the stage with professional musicians of this caliber was clearly an inspiration to the younger players and a windfall for the audience.



Tom Scott

Quote of the Week:

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Saint Mary's Men Play in NIT

By Bryant West



Photo Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's Gaels men's basketball team failed to secure an NCAA Tournament bid after losing to rival Gonzaga in the WCC Championships last week. The Gaels also watched all the at-large bids go

elsewhere on Selection Sunday. After last year's run to the Sweet 16, the Gaels instead played in the National Invitational Tournament. The first game was yesterday, Tuesday, March 15 against Kent State.

After hosting a Selection Sunday gathering at McKeon Pavilion, head coach Randy Bennett and the Gaels expressed their disappointment. "It's tough, that's the only way I can explain it," Bennett said. "It just doesn't make a lot of sense to me how we're not in... but we're not, and that's reality."

While their record and tournament resume alone would have guaranteed them a spot in the NIT, the Gaels also had guaranteed a spot in the NIT since they'd been the conference's regular-season co-champions.

The Gaels advanced to the WCC Championships for the third straight year thanks to a 73-64 over Santa Clara on Sunday, March 5th. Sophomore forward Mitchell Young had 17 points and seven rebounds, while freshman guard Stephen Holt had 15

points. Santa Clara's Marc Trasolini scored 22 points to lead the Broncos.

The championship game against Gonzaga was the third straight Saint Mary's-Gonzaga finals. The two teams split the previous two contests. Gonzaga secured the conference title and the automatic ticket to the NCAA Tournament with a 75-63 win over the Gaels, as Saint Mary's couldn't close out and failed to score a field goal in the final four minutes.

Senior guard Mickey McConnell had 24 points while sophomore guard Matthew Dellavedova had 21 but the Gaels lost the inside battle as two of their strongest big men - junior Rob Jones and Young each fouled out in the second half for Saint Mary's. Steven Gray had 15 and seven boards to lead the Zags, who had four players in double figures.

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Sports C1-C4

Lamorinda Baseball Preview

Acalanes, Miramonte off to a strong start



By Alex Crook

All three Lamorinda high school baseball teams are poised to have strong seasons and a chance at the DFAL title. Both Campolindo and Miramonte are coming off North Coast Section (NCS) Championship ...read on page C2

Life in Lamorinda D1-D5

True Grit in Lamorinda



By Sophie Braccini

Six-year-old Gigi (Angelina) Kenney runs for her mother. 54-year-old Gerald Starr walks to get his life back. Each of these Lamorinda residents is engaging in a battle against adversity, pushing their limits and finding the strength ... read on page L2

Our Homes F1-F8

Staging—First Impressions Count



By Andrea A. Firth

Staging is akin to putting on pearls with a little black dress, says Nikolene Isely who owns Staging by Design based in Moraga. "The idea is to make the house, not the contents, the star," says Isely. Barbara Winters, the owner... read on page OH1



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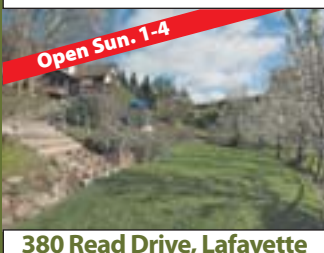
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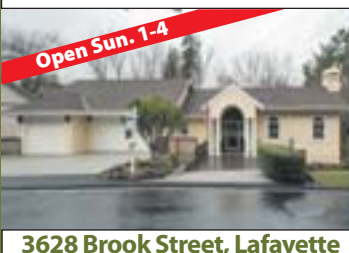
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Lafayette

Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, March 28, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Monday, March 21, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, March 28, 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

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Waiting on a Final Decision for Burton Valley House

By Cathy Tyson



East Elevation, front yard Lucas Drive

Courtesy of Hertel Architects, Lafayette

The City Council found itself faced with an interesting pair of choices while reviewing the controversial Burton Valley remodel for the Polichio family. The Council could either deny the application without prejudice, leaving an opportunity for the applicant to file again with the City, or continue the matter and allow the applicant to complete the requests of the Council – erect story poles and further clarify their now greatly reduced architectural drawings.

Back in January of this year, on a split vote, three in favor, two against – the City Council voted to deny an appeal by the homeowners,

and directed staff to prepare a resolution to deny the appeal. Finalizing that resolution was continued to February 28 for the entire Council to be present to vote. It was after 10:00 p.m. when the matter was finally heard, and after some discussion, the Council decided to continue the matter.

Architect Ken Hertel asked that the project be reconsidered in light of a further reduction of the second story addition. The last iteration of the design had a 1,084 square foot second floor; in the newly revised plans it is 724 square feet. Because their children are very young, the Polichios' original plans in-

cluded bedrooms upstairs for their one and three year olds, now the kids are two and four. The new design has their bedrooms on the ground floor.

Some neighbors that have been against the project from the beginning still view the second story as not compatible with the immediate neighborhood. "I'm still opposed to this plan – it doesn't meet our demands. This eleventh hour submittal only prolongs the process," said William Wahlander. However, the neighbors directly to the north recently changed their minds and are in favor of the addition.

"We've given up on having the kids upstairs, which has been difficult to wrap our heads around. This is a substantial change," said Joe Polichio adding they have made every attempt to cooperate. "I just wish you could tell us what we can do to build our house, we want to put an end to this process."

Council Member Mike Anderson voted to continue, noting, "This is a significant revision – they should come back and get a full hearing on this proposal." Fellow Council Members unanimously agreed; story poles will be erected and the matter will be heard again on March 28.

Measuring Interest for Possible Road Repair Fix

By Cathy Tyson

So, how bad is your road? That was the question of the evening asked of a standing-room-only crowd of residents, along with a query as to whether or not residents would consider paying a tax to repair them.

"Everybody knows how bad they are," said Mayor Carl Anduri. "The question is what can we do to fix them?" He and the Residential Road Repair Task Force presented an overview of the current state of road repair and the background of how it got that way.

Approximately 5,000 Lafayette residents live on failed roads. "The older roads get, the faster they deteriorate – with a precipitous drop in quality after the first fifteen years," said Anduri. A PowerPoint presentation outlined the situation: Failed roads cost six times more to fix. Basic maintenance of a surface seal is \$14 square yard, but when a road

is in really poor shape – it costs \$60 - \$85 a square yard for complete reconstruction.

Most of the city's roads were built during the sixties as the population nearly tripled – from 7,100 in 1960 to 20,500 in 1970. It's no wonder that forty-year-old asphalt is looking less than fresh.

Historically, it's been a challenge to get the two-thirds "yes" votes required for a tax measure to pass. A road and drain tax measure passed in 1995 that raised \$13 million with 68% of the vote, barely over the 67% threshold. That bond money has been spent, mostly on major thoroughfares – arterials and collector roads that serve the greatest number of residents – leaving 97 failed streets, almost exclusively in residential neighborhoods. Two other measures came close, Measure N in 2004 had 58% approval and Measure C in 2007 garnered 63.6%, just shy of

passing.

Proponents explained that without additional money, neighborhood roads will fail faster than the City can fix them, and cost more to repair due to their horrible condition. The current \$15.5 million dollar road repair backlog will escalate over time.

To solve the problem Anduri proposed a two-prong approach – have the City Council release \$3 million of the \$9.5 million from reserves as matching funds, and put a parcel tax of \$97 per year for a maximum of 10 years on the November ballot. Funds generated would be used on a pay as you go system, keeping it simple. If the tax is approved, all of the roads and associated drains will be brought up to good condition by 2022; at that point only regular maintenance will be needed.

When Mayor Anduri asked, "Should we go to the voters?" Everyone in the room raised their

hands. One fellow described the proposal as a "reasonable compromise to get things done." An older woman chimed in, "I'm not going to be here in 10 years, the faster the better."

Lafayette's administrative budget has already been cut over \$500,000 per year and with only \$.08 of every property tax dollar goes to city coffers, there's no secret slush fund to address the repair issue.

Guy Atwood, along with John Hall, is spearheading the Task Force, "I'm encouraged by the enthusiasm and commitment of those that attended," said Atwood. "Having said that - with all the competing tax measures and in this economic environment, any tax measure requiring a 2/3 vote will have its challenges."

Atwood and Hall plan to gather signatures for a petition, with the help of supporters, and present the measure to the City Council to put on the November ballot.



Police Report

Ungrateful party guests, 2/20/11
Never mind the escalating cost of dips and chips; one local mother discovered she was out \$1,000 cash and \$160 in gift cards after her son hosted a party in their home. She probably knows who you are, so 'fess up and shame on you.

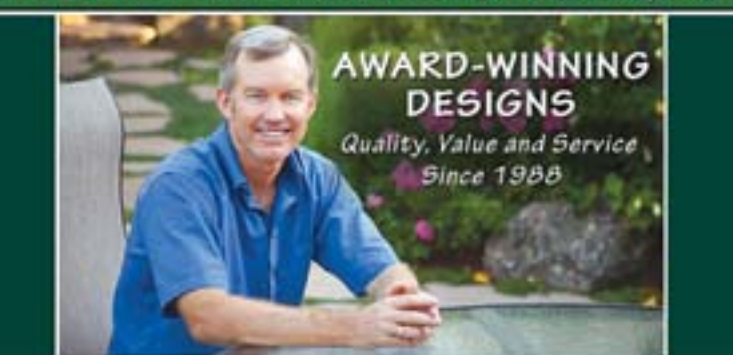
Burglars alarmed, 2/22/11
When someone kicked in the wood and glass front door of a local residence, it set off the alarm that panicked the burglar(s). They beat a hasty retreat, scattering baskets, mail and personal effects. Unfortunately, that initial contact with the house did \$1,000 in damage.

Double-duty daylight raids, 2/22/11
A discriminating thief staged a mid-morning raid at a Los Arabis Drive home, coming away with antique silver and jewelry worth \$8,500. The homeowner suffered an additional \$500 damages to the home during the break-in. Another daylight burglary on the same day netted the thief \$8,000- \$10,000 in stolen goods and will cost the homeowner an additional \$2,500 in repairs and damage.

No parking zone, 2/20/11
A Lafayette resident rightfully complained to police when her car was stolen from the very spot her apartment complex assigned her to park. There were no witnesses and are no suspects.

A good car is hard to find, 2/26/11
One Driftwood neighbor noticed a wallet (not his) tossed underneath his truck. The wallet was stolen from a nearby car. It was returned to the owner, who canceled service on her missing credit card. At least one other neighbor's car was rifled by the same thief. It seems some days you just can't find good stuff in other people's cars.

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Troubling Taxi Concerns Addressed Quickly

By Cathy Tyson



Newly installed signs on Happy Valley Court to deter unwanted taxis.

Photo C. Tyson

"I'm really uncomfortable coming home from school," said an Acalanes student who returns home in the afternoon to find her Happy Valley Court full of taxis with drivers hanging out, urinating in the bushes, leering at her and leaving garbage. "I'm basically a prisoner after school."

Seventeen-year resident Roosevelt Jefferson describes the situation as "very adversarial," adding, "We have lost our privacy."

James Peterson described a lunch buffet set up in the middle of the court and cars receiving maintenance. He suggested the City set up an official taxi stand elsewhere, not in this residential cul de sac.

City Council members were sympathetic to their plight and looked for a quick solution – even if temporary, giving them a little time to put something more permanent in place.

City Manager Steven Falk suggested putting up temporary barricades with "No Parking Zone" signage. Sure enough, the very next day "No Parking" signs were placed all around the court and only two taxis were spotted in the taxi loading zone directly in front of the BART station.

The plan is to create a permit parking ordinance for these residents and their guests. In order to do this, a ten-day notice to homeowners is required. The ordinance will be finalized at the March 14 City Council meeting. BART has been contacted regarding potential designated taxi parking in its lot; usually on the weekends and evenings there appears to be space available.

Community Garden Gets Okay

By Cathy Tyson

After looking for a site for the past couple of years, the Lafayette Community Garden Group found the perfect location - a mostly flat, sunny area on Mt. Diablo Boulevard across from the Reservoir, in front of the EBMUD filter plant, for a community garden. In partnership with Sustainable Lafayette they asked the City to waive the \$5,500 in fees

for a land use permit in order to create a community garden and landscape education center for residents. Because the Community Garden project meets the goals in Lafayette's environmental strategy, the request was approved. The group plans to raise money to cover the cost of installing a deer-proof fence, raised planting beds, and a greenhouse.

Earthquake Retrofit Work



Drivers beware of a slight diversion along Happy Valley Road, near Highway 24 that accommodates earthquake retrofit work. Because of the likelihood of a major earthquake around the Bay Area, vulnerable portions of the transit system are being upgraded to improve safety and to ensure the return to operation shortly after a major earthquake.

Photo C. Tyson



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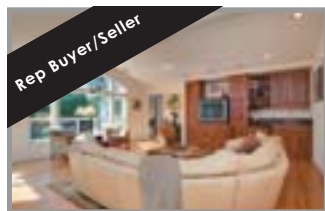


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Moraga

Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, March 23, 7:00 pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, March 21, 7:30 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, March 28, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Liaison

Friday, April 8, 8:00 am
Fire Station, 1280 Moraga Way

Check online for agendas, meeting
notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Police Report

Theft at T.J. Maxx, 3/06/11 Officers discovered that unknown suspects entered the closed clothes store without leaving any signs of force, turned off the alarm and disabled security monitoring equipment, then entered a locked safe to remove cash. Police gathered physical evidence and are pursuing an investigation.

Very suspicious mail, 3/05/11 A 91-year-old Donald Drive resident contacted police to alert them to a letter she received stating she had won the "North America Consumer Promotion Draw" and just had to send in a check for \$950 to cover the state tax on her \$9,851.80 grand prize. The smart senior correctly identified the letter as a scam that originated in Canada. Local banks and post offices were advised to be on the lookout for additional elderly contest winners.

Fight over chore completion, 3/05/11 A mother and her 12-year-old son were arguing about chores, no physical contact was made. Police arrived to break it up and both parties agreed to avoid each other for the duration of the afternoon. Some things never change, but which party called the cops?

Loud exercise equipment, 3/03/11 Cops responded to a complaint about loud noise generated from exercise equipment coming from an Ascot Drive Apartment. Apparently the complaining neighbor had spoken with the work out fans, but the excessive noise continued. Oddly enough when police knocked on the door of the exercise aficionados - they weren't strong enough to answer the door.

Attempted booze theft, 3/02/11 Two young men, ages 19 and 20, were detained for shoplifting from Safeway. They concealed alcoholic beverages on their persons, police blotter lingo, and left the store without paying. Alert staff placed them under citizen's arrest and called the authorities.

2/26/11 Moraga police and the fire department responded to a call in Sanders Ranch of an apparent heroin overdose. The mother of the twenty-year-old male started CPR in the driveway, and he was transported to Kaiser. A friend of the young man appeared slightly disoriented and confused - concerned officers asked to search his vehicle. 375 unopened and six open and apparently used hypodermic needles were found in the car. The subject was arrested for being under the influence of a controlled substance and possession of paraphernalia and his car was towed.

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Economic Development: "Boots on the Ground"

By Sophie Braccini

"It's time to put boots on the ground," said Economic Development Team member Renee Zeimer during the Team's presentation at the Moraga Town Council meeting on March 9. The Team hit the ground running upon its inception last October, surveying residents, analyzing existing data, and engaging property owners, businesses and developers. But studying the situation is not enough; the Team wants an action-oriented body that will assist it in meeting its goals. The Council thanked team members for their work and approved the creation of an ad-hoc public committee.

The Revenue Enhancement Committee created the Economic Development Team at the end of 2009. It is composed of three volunteers who give the Town about 10 hours of work a week to promote the economic health of the community. In addition to Zeimer, the Team includes Mary Coe and Rich Larsen. They were given two additional goals for 2011: 1) to create a Town-wide commercial ordinance that streamlines community supported

retail, office and other commercial business; and, 2) to assist in the revitalization of the Rheem Valley Shopping Center and adjacent commercial areas.

Town Manager Jill Keimach explained the issue during a conversation last February. "In Moraga there is huge uncertainty, from an applicant's point of view, about how long the process will take for businesses applying for a permit," she said, "We need to define the permitted uses that the community wants and streamline the process for those businesses. Then for other types businesses, the potential business owners will know that they will have to engage in a lengthier permit process that includes public comment and review."

Defining these permitted uses and drafting that ordinance is one of the Team's goals. "We ask the Town Council to approve the creation of an Economic Development Action Committee," said Zeimer, "this new committee will assist in outreach to and inclusion of property owners, existing and prospective businesses, and the community at-large." According

to its charter, the Committee will not only assist in drafting a commercial ordinance, it will also recommend strategies for the revitalization of the Rheem Center.

"We would like to conduct a town-wide visioning process to discuss the future of the Rheem Center," explained Zeimer, "and to do so we are thinking about using Appreciative Inquiry (AI) techniques." The basic idea of AI inventors David Cooperrider and Suresh Srivatsa is to build organizations around what works, rather than trying to fix what doesn't. They claim that organizations that try to appreciate what is best in themselves will identify more and more of what is good, while those that focus on dysfunctions will reproduce the problems.

The Council approved the creation of the Action Committee and decided it may have as many as 13 members, including up to four members of the community at large. The Council will be represented on the Committee, which will meet monthly, by Ken Chew and Howard Harpham.

Economic Development Survey

Moraga residents were recently asked by the Economic Development Team to complete an anonymous, voluntary, online survey; 439 residents participated:

31% were ages 35- 44; 26% were 45-54; 16% were 55- 64; and 21% were 65 or older. 65% of the respondents were female, 59% had kids living at home.

The survey asked questions regarding where residents get their information about the Town (86% of respondents cited the Lamorinda Weekly), and included open-ended questions about the retail experience and business climate in Moraga. More varied restaurants, a sports bar, a Trader Joe's (or other produce market), and a bookstore were among the types of retail suggested. As far as revitalization is concerned, many residents highlighted the need for a vision, a business-friendly atmosphere in town, and more attractive, student-friendly stores.

Women's History Month

By Sophie Braccini

"March is 'Women's History Month;' celebrated each year, worldwide, it highlights the contributions of women to society," Margaret De Priester told the Moraga Town Council. "It began in Sonoma County when, in 1979, the County Commission on the Status of Women initiated a 'Women's History Week', with

class projects that focused on the accomplishments of women in our country." De Priester added that the popularity of women's history celebrations continues to spread across the world, as more people become aware of the contributions of women and girls.

"The White House, on the first day of this 2011 Women's History Month, released a report from the Progress Commission, which it calls 'the first comprehensive federal report on the status of women in almost 50

years'" added De Priester, a former mayor of Moraga and co-archivist of the Moraga Historical Society. "I would suggest that the Council declare the month of March 'Women's History Month' in Moraga as well."

"I thought that (De Priester's) proposal was wonderful and timely!" said Mayor Karen Mendonca after the meeting. "We are preparing a proclamation to be read at our next Town Council Meeting."

Women's History Month comes on the heels of International Women's Day (March 8), which was celebrated for the 100th time this year. That commemoration was born in Eastern Europe and Russia at the beginning of the 20th century and became more popular in the west when the United Nations invited member states to proclaim March 8 a day for Women's Rights and International Peace.

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Comments Still Accepted on Hetfield Development

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Planning Commission unanimously agreed to keep the comment period for the Hetfield Development Environmental Impact Report (EIR) open until March 22nd. Comments can be made in writing to the Town. The EIR is available on the Town's website, www.moraga.ca.us. The owners of

the properties bordering the proposed development came in large number, to a March 7 hearing, to express their point of views. Possible soil instability (faults and slides) and visual impacts remain at the center of their concerns; it will be months before there is an official response to questions and a ruling.

Rancho Laguna Settlement

By Sophie Braccini



Rheem Ridge above Rheem Blvd.

Photo Andy Scheck

Preserve Lamorinda Open Space will not sue the Town of Moraga and the developer over the Rancho Laguna Development project, which will bring 27 new homes to the land adjacent to Rheem Boulevard and along the Rheem Ridge. A settlement was reached on March 9 that all parties consider a compromise.

Much of the discussion hinged on the interpretation of the General Plan's wording: "Protect ridgelines from development." To Council Member Dave Trotter, those words mean no development at all; while for Mayor Karen Mendonca they mean minimize the impact of development. Her perspective won the majority of Council member votes.

The settlement does not change anything about where the

homes will be built, but it guarantees that the intermittent creek that runs through part of the property will not be filled by a valley buttress under the current approval. A new Environmental Impact Report would have to be conducted if a buttress (or fill of the creek) were to be proposed, again, to stabilize Rheem Boulevard.

"What we're seeing is more and more of Moraga's open space being chipped away and it's very distressing," added Jones, "this settlement will protect the creek and that's positive, but we are still concerned to see homes built on ridge lines in Moraga."

"I am very pleased that all parties were able to reach agreement without litigation," said Mendonca.

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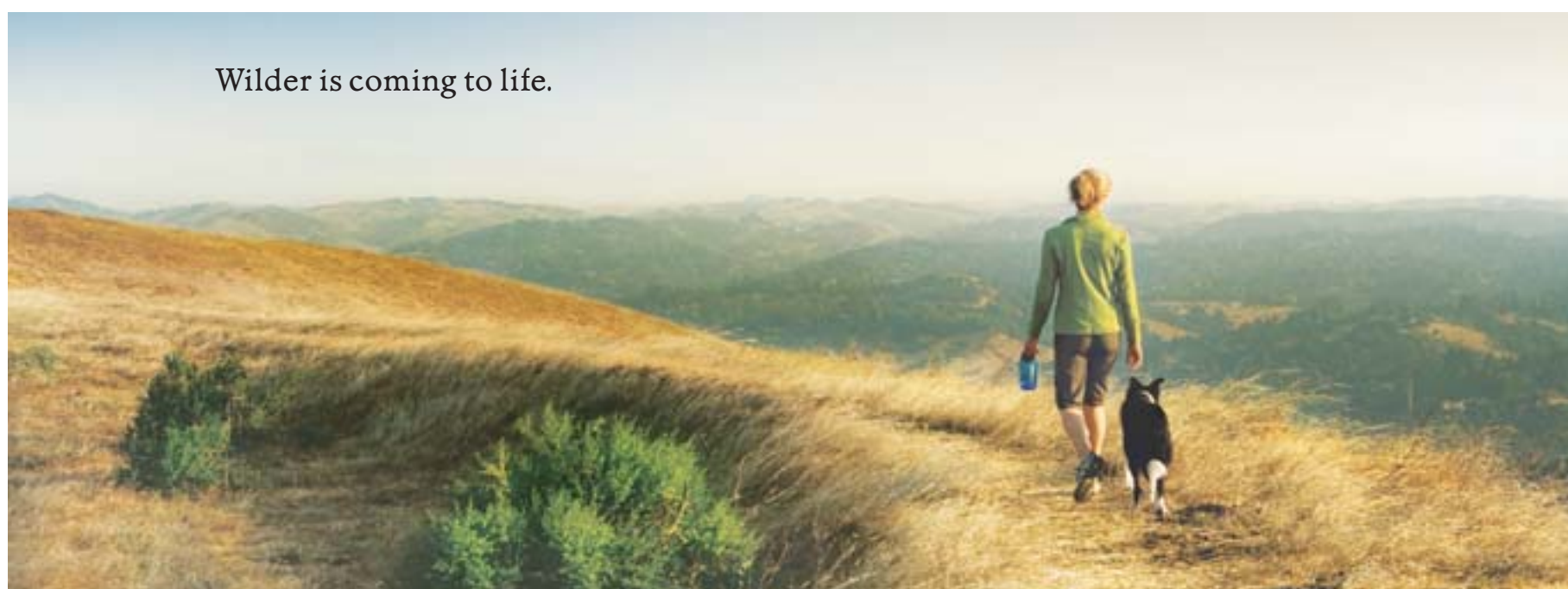
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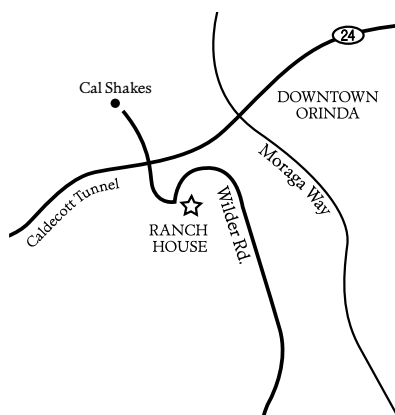
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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council
Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission
Tuesday, March 29, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)
Monday, March 21, 7:00 pm
Community Room, City Hall,
22 Orinda Way

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

Orinda's Vision, Part II—General Plan Update

By Andrea A. Firth

As the next best step in the development of a cohesive vision for Orinda's downtown districts, Chris Benyon, a community planning and land-use consultant from Berkeley-based MIG, Inc., recommended that Orinda's City Council undertake a General Plan update with a focus on downtown.

"The City's General Plan is coming to, what the State would consider, the end of its term," said Benyon. Orinda's current, and only, General Plan was adopted 23 years ago shortly after the City was incorporated. According to Planning Director Emanuel Ursu the projected lifecycle of the General Plan, which provides a comprehensive guide and direction for the physical development of the city, is about 20 years. The State has encouraged the City to re-evaluate the scope and content of its General Plan to ensure it remains valid and consistent with the goals and future vision of the community, according to Ursu. Without keeping the Plan current, the City could run the risk that the Plan is challenged in court.

According to Benyon the time is ripe for an update. "There's a nice tone in the community. The discussion has started," he said, referring back to two widely-attended public workshops held in November and December to discuss residents' visions for Orinda's downtown districts. He encouraged the Council to move forward with this next step in the planning process to build on the momentum in the community. "There's a lot of common ground and common elements," said Benyon, but he also acknowledged that there are some contentious aspects to residents' visions for Orinda's downtown, such as building height, density, and retail choices.


One major stumbling block for cash-strapped Orinda is the price tag of a General Plan update. A complete update will cost \$500,000 to \$650,000, Ursu told the Council. At this juncture the Council made no immediate plans for a General Plan update, opting to gather additional community input and to discuss a phased-approach to addressing the General Plan needs. "We don't want to the Task Force recommendations to be lost in the process, but we will look at the recommendations through the lens of the community input," said Ursu in a follow-up interview.

Orinda's Finest Recognized



Orinda Police Officer Danny Vargas and Reserve Officer Derek Brown were recently recognized as Officers of the Year. Pictured (L to R in front) Sargent M. Djajakusuma, Reserve Officer Derek Brown, Officer Jess Gogo, Officer Chad Pryor (new officer), Chief Jeff Jennings, Officer Tricia Richardson (new officer), Officer Ron Westhorpe (K-9 Officer of the Year 2010), Danny Vargas, and Officer Al Agadier. In the back row from L to R are Mayor Victoria Smith and Council members Sue Severson, Steve Glazer, and Dean Orr.

Photo Kimberly Westhorpe.



Police Report

Car burglary, 3/05/11 Two young men, aged 19 and 20, were apprehended for allegedly having just broken into a car in the West parking lot of the Orinda BART station. No description of items stolen or juicy details of the would-be thieves' capture was available.

Car burglary, 3/03/11 Sometime during the night, the window of a Honda Pilot parked in a Hartford Road driveway was smashed and golf clubs that had been inside the vehicle were taken. Estimated value \$1300 for the clubs and \$200 for the Nike golf bag.

Car burglary, 3/03/11 The back window of a car parked on Meadow Lane was smashed and a black purse with files and some additional paperwork was stolen from the vehicle. Handbag had an estimated value of \$100, approximately \$200 to repair the window.

Car burglary, 3/03/11 Interesting – same night, same modus operandi. A car parked on Moraga Via had its window smashed and several items were stolen. No suspects or leads at this time. Golf clubs valued at \$3500, a golf training aide valued at \$500, along with a golf GPS system \$400 and a \$300 camera were taken.

Car burglary, 3/03/11 Two for the price of one – two student's cars parked in the Miramonte High School parking lot were broken into on the same night – a car stereo, a laptop and an iPod were taken.

A source very familiar with the Orinda Police Department advises, "If you have valuables and leave them in plain sight in your car, be prepared for them to be stolen." Better safe than sorry.

Farmers' Market Season Extended



Orinda's Farmers' Market will open a month earlier this year kicking off the season on Saturday April 2nd. The market, which has been held on Orinda Way across from the Community Park each Saturday from May through November for the past 13 years, will extend its season into March in 2012. A. Firth

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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

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Moraga Garden Club Celebrates Arbor Day

Submitted by Billie Cummings



Ken Murakami and Sue Hanes Photo Billie Cummings

In honor of Arbor Day, Moraga Garden Club member Sue Hanes that the club ordered from Ken Murakami, owner of the Moraga Garden Center. The club will plant

these at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center on School Street. The Club plants a tree somewhere in Moraga every year at this time. Last year, the club planted a Crape Myrtle tree also at the Center. California celebrates Arbor Day on March 7, while the nation celebrates it on the last Friday in April. In addition to planting trees, the Moraga Garden Club maintains the flag pole area at the Commons as well as at the area by the green gate and the entrance to the parking lot. It also takes care of the plants in the triangle area of Rheem, and the urn area at the library as well as provides a new flower arrangement for the inside of the library every month.

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Navy League Council Installs Leadership

Submitted by Bill Sharkey III

James Harbuck of Moraga was installed as President of the Contra Costa Council of the Navy League of the United States at its annual installation held at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building. The Navy League members are "Civilians Supporting the Sea Services".

Guest speaker at the dinner meeting was Rear Admiral Timothy S. Sullivan, USCG, Commander of the Forces Readiness Command and Deputy Commander of the

Coast Guard's Pacific Area. The Admiral cited the outstanding support of the Navy League for the nation's sea services and the importance of providing such support to the men and women serving in today's military.

Officers to serve for 2011 include: Bill Kinsey, Clayton, 1st Vice President; Lorraine Hughey, Walnut Creek, VP for Youth Affairs; Jack and Gynithe LaSalle, Danville, VP Membership; Bill Sharkey III, Martinez, VP Communications; Lois Terrell, Rio Vista, Secretary; Myriam Clark, Moraga, Corresponding Secretary, and Steve Cruikshank, Pleasant Hill, Treasurer.

Girl Scout Garage Sale to Benefit Troop and World Wildlife Fund

Submitted by Ava Tajbakhsh (member of Troop 30734)



Some of the girls of Troop 30734 work on plans for their garage sale.

Photo Jennifer Gerst

The Cadette Girl Scouts of Moraga Troop 30734 (7th grade) have been working hard for the last two months planning their first-ever Troop Garage Sale to be held in late March. As Cadettes, the girls have assumed full responsibility for the sale, from the early planning stages to scheduling, advertising, inventory and pricing; they even decided to hold a bake-sale at the same time (cupcakes, cookies, brownies, etc.) The troop

hopes to raise money to offset the cost of some of their activities as they work towards earning their Silver Award, but they also voted to donate 15% of the proceeds to the World Wildlife Fund. The World Wildlife Fund is an organization that does many things, such as protecting endangered species, educating communities, working with government, and protecting ecosystems. Just as Girl Scouts are working to improve the social aspects of

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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;** Regular mail: **Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570**

Editor:
The alleged inequity in the contributions of Moraga and Orinda taxpayers to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District has come up again in recent letters to this publication. That claim is based on faulty information and has already been thoroughly discredited.

Every homeowner in California pays the same 1% of assessed valuation in property tax. Contra Costa County distributes the revenue in various ways, but the proportion allocated to MOFD from Orinda is identical to what was provided to Con Fire prior to our merger with the Moraga FD.

The area served by MOFD is not defined by the borders of Orinda and Moraga. The Orinda service zone includes Highway 24, the BART station and the Caldecott Tunnel, plus some additional unincorporated land previously covered by Con Fire. The Moraga service zone includes not only the Town of Moraga, but also 700 Orinda homes (even more for ambulance service) plus the village of Canyon. In any case, MOFD is an integrated service. All but the smallest events require ambulances, engines and other equipment coming from multiple fire stations.

A separate question concerned the inadequate flow from many fire hydrants. A 1996 engineering study indicated that 29% of the hydrants did not meet the 1000 gpm standard. A total upgrade would have cost \$50 million (2002 dollars) but 2/3 of the pipes could have been fixed for \$12 million. Three subsequent bond measures failed to achieve the required 2/3 approval of the citizens. (MOFD now deploys more water tenders to mitigate the problem.)

It should be noted that EBMUD is the sole owner of these pipes, and all upgrades are under their control. EBMUD will repair broken pipes, but only up to its own "design standard" of 500 gpm. Any further improvement is subject to the Rockridge Formula, which shifts most of the charge to the requesting agency, despite an actual cost difference of only a few cents per foot.

MOFD enjoys an excellent reputation, not only locally but throughout California and beyond. It is a shame that some of our citizens do not recognize their good fortune.

Gene Gottfried
Orinda

Editor:
I cannot help but notice the tension of Moraga Safeway's employees when their present manager, Brett Turner is on the scene. Disturbingly, I have overheard this manager berate, humiliate and demean employee's on numerous occasions. Apparently this type of "management" is condoned by Safeway Corporation, and it has created an ongoing and hostile environment for employee's in the Moraga Safeway. As a regular shopper there, employee's I have interacted with and become familiar with over a number of years are quite visibly "on guard" and no longer in a "normal" state of being. I believe this would be considered "oppression", as I have observed the manager treat the employee's like they are his personal "subjects". Has anyone else noticed or sensed this "devolution" in the employees' demeanors?

Marie Slocum
Moraga

Editor:
I read that the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) has voted to implement a new "cost recovery" fee for attending to car crashes. It is not enough that we pay \$17.5 million per year (\$1,500 per household) in taxes for the insurance of having emergency services, now the lucky 125 people who get into a car crash each year and actually need help have to pay for the service on top of the \$1,500 insurance they pay. It is not like the district has to hire new people to provide this service as each of their 7 units, on average, only responds to two incidents per day. But they do need the money to pay back the ill conceived \$70 million of unfunded employee benefits that they have granted over the past 14 years.

Steve Cohn
Orinda

Editor:
Recent letters to the editor have claimed that Orindans pay more than their fair share of the costs of providing fire and emergency medical services. Some calculate the taxes paid by Orinda and compare them to those paid by Moraga. Others divide those taxes by the number of fire fighters in each city. BOTH ARE INCORRECT BECAUSE THEIR CALCULATIONS ARE BASED ON CITY BOUNDARIES.

The operations of every fire district in America are based on "service areas," AKA "station and apparatus response areas." In other words, fire districts are divided into service areas based on RESPONSE TIME, NOT CITY BOUNDARIES.

While the old fire district boundaries and the

old "Moraga and Orinda Zones" have been abandoned, service areas are essentially the same as they were before MOFD was formed in 1997 which means that the 700 Orinda homes that used to be in the old Moraga Fire District are still "first due" out of Moraga stations. The significant exception is that the homes between Ivy Drive and Glorietta now get ambulance service out of Moraga, and the rest of Orinda out of downtown Orinda, instead of from AMR out of Walnut Creek.

Since 700 Orinda homes are "first due" for all emergencies out of Moraga, and an additional 800 Orinda homes are "first due" for the Moraga-based ambulance, it makes sense that any calculations attempting to determine whether or not an area is paying its fair share should factor in that information. Our city boundaries are irrelevant to the operations of MOFD and irrelevant in any calculations to determine the fair share of costs.

The claim that Orinda is subsidizing Moraga has been investigated by several agencies and committees and proven incorrect. We do not need another task force to study this issue. It is time to move on and find practical ways of generating revenue to re-build our roads and infrastructure.

Ellen Dale
Orinda

Editor:
The City of Lafayette wants to impose another parcel tax, but they have failed to prove that they are competent enough to be trusted with new revenue.

On March 1st, Mayor Carl Anduri and several other city officials met with local citizenry and attempted to justify a new "temporary" parcel tax by telling us that they don't have enough money to repair the roads.

The truth of the matter is that Lafayette had money (because of the 1995 bond measure) to do the job. Unfortunately, they weren't competent to manage the project and the money ran out before the work was completed.

Now they want us to pay again. Roughly 25% of the citizens in Lafayette live on roads which should have been repaired more than ten years ago. Frankly, I don't believe they can do any better this time.

When our government fails, it needs to be punished for that failure. Parents know that when you reward bad behavior, you get more bad behavior. Now is not the time to reward the city's bad behavior, it is time to punish that bad behavior. In this case, the punishment should be a reduction in revenue for Lafayette. Passing a parcel tax to raise revenues is the exact opposite of the right thing to do, because it rewards the city.

I explained at the March 1st meeting that the concept of a "Revenue Shortfall" is a fiction. It's a fancy way of saying they want to spend money they don't have. The alleged "Funding Gap" for repairing the roads exists only because they don't want to spend existing city funds to repair all the roads.

I was told that the city might have to close down if the budget were cut any more than it already has been recently. I have no sympathy for them. If they close, they will experience what millions of other Californians are already suffering though, and it would be wonderfully refreshing for City Hall to experience an economic reality check.

Kurt Schultz
Lafayette

Editor:
As a lifelong resident of Lafayette I am writing to urge community support for Measure B, the upcoming Lafayette Elementary School parcel tax measure. I am a fortunate beneficiary of a K-12 Lafayette education, attending Montecito, Springhill, Stanley and Acalanes High Schools. My husband and I purchased our home in Lafayette based on the excellence of the school district that would later provide an outstanding education for our three children. As a lifelong educator I value and appreciate what our schools provide for Lafayette's students in preparing them for the future. It is now my privilege and obligation to provide for the education of the current students of Lafayette. The State budget crisis has continued to erode financial support for our schools. It is now up to our community to provide temporary emergency funding to preserve core academic programs, excellent teachers, and other classroom support. 100% of Measure B funds will go directly into classroom instruction in Lafayette schools. Mandatory audits will ensure proper expenditure of the funds. The tax will sunset in four years. It seems a small price to pay to continue the tradition of academic excellence that I and many others have benefitted from. Please join me in voting YES on Measure B. Excellent schools benefit our entire community!

Mary McCosker
Lafayette

... Letters continue on next page

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Letters to the Editor

... continued



Editor:
The Lafayette schools are a gem within our community, providing Lafayette's children with the strong enriched education they deserve. What's more, that education is provided very economically - we spend half of what comparable communities in other states spend to achieve similar results. State budget woes, now affecting education funding for the 4th year in a row, threaten the quality of that education and we must band together to preserve this critical community asset.

Fortunately school leaders have provided us the opportunity to support the school children of Lafayette by placing a temporary "bride the gap" parcel tax on the ballot, Measure B. From my 8 years on the school board I can attest that our schools are already run as efficiently as possible - 4 years of budget cuts have assured that. There is nowhere left to economize without directly impacting quality of education - in fact some programs have already been pared back and now face possible elimination. While scaling up is relatively easy once funding returns to normal levels, programs eliminated are very difficult to reinstate. Moreover, the children in the seats of our schools right now will only pass this way but once. A program eliminated for even a few years means a lesser education for those kids.

I no longer have children in the Lafayette schools but am supporting Measure B because I believe it is the community's obligation to provide a strong education. We cannot allow for the quality of our school's to decline - we owe our community's children better than that. Please vote yes on Measure B.

Sincerely,
Ann Appert
Lafayette

newspaper regarding the decision by the town council to approve the Rancho Laguna project.

The fact that the council made the decision even when they knew that they had the legal justification to say NO to the plan is baffling. They, more than the average citizen of Moraga, knew of the consequences: 180,000 cubic yards getting excavated off the top of the ridgeline, to mention one.

That 2/3 of the council did not consider the compromise on the table that would protect the ridgelines and the creek, while still allowing development, causes bewilderment.

Another puzzle: how can the council come up with the anal definition that says 'protect' does not mean 'prohibit', when referring to bulldozing open spaces? This new definition certainly makes me think twice about relying on the town council to protect me, one of Moraga's citizens. Under their 'protection', they wouldn't find it necessary to prohibit someone from lopping off my right arm. In fact, from lopping even try to convince me that such a loss, with a bit of creative effort, could become invisible.

The approval granted to the Rancho Laguna project has set a dangerous precedent. If an area deemed 'Priority Conservation Area', and 'scenic corridor' can be so badly damaged, then what of the other open spaces around Moraga? They've suddenly become quite vulnerable. The Open Spaces and Hill of Moraga were cited as reasons, along with the school system, as main reasons for people to choose living in this town; one wonders what the town council and 'planning' commission were thinking. Are we going to see the removal of a top reason for choosing Moraga as a preferred habitat one hill, one creek, one protected open space at a time?

Leslie Swartz
Moraga

Editor:
The recent 2-1 vote by the Moraga Town Council to approve the Rancho

Laguna project provides a sobering lesson on the need to revise the Moraga General Plan. Despite the presence of clear language in the current General Plan to protect ridgelines, two council members, Karen Mendonca and Howard Harpham, chose to ignore this language and voted to approve a project with ridgeline development. Only Councilmember Dave Trotter spoke directly about the General Plan language to protect ridgelines and the clear intent of the Town Council in 2002 which adopted this language, citing this as the basis for his opposition to the Rancho Laguna project.

The dictionary defines the word "protect" to mean: "to shield from injury, danger or loss; guard, defend". It is baffling to hear that grading off the top of the ridge is protecting it because the homes which will be built would not be seen from a small number of arbitrarily selected viewpoints. It is even harder to understand when this argument is put forth by a councilmember who ran on a platform of protecting open space as Karen Mendonca did. Ridgelines not protected by MOSO 1986 will only be protected when their preservation is not subject to interpretation. The current General Plan will be 10 years old in 2012, the time interval recommended by the state when an update should occur. Moraga residents need to insist this process gets underway and ensure that specific language is put in place that permanently protects our ridgelines from those who covet to build on them, and from the politicians who allow them to.

Malcolm Sproul
Moraga

Editor:
Dick Immel and Dan Smith wrote excellent letters to the Lamorinda Weekly last week. Letters are an excellent and important means of communicating opinions, but what struck me while I was reading them is that this is not enough. It is time for all of the open space supporters to think about either running for the Town Council or Planning Commission themselves or finding people willing to run. As both these men so eloquently pointed out, we were blind-

sided by Karen Mendonca with her first vote on Rancho Laguna. Karen campaigned vigorously for Measure K to preserve and support Moraga's Open Spaces but what did she do in the voting booth? When I have mentioned to open space supporters who have packed the council and planning commission meetings about running, everyone says no. OK, so then what happens? It is time for all the people who attend council meetings in support of Moraga Open Space to think about this. We cannot have Karen re-elected. Everyone together needs to change the face of Moraga politics or at least the part of politics that concerns Open Space. As Dan Smith said in his letter, "... the residents are not going to like what they see when the grading begins." There is no such thing as an invisible house. Carving up hill-sides to create this "illusion" of invisibility is a travesty.

Caroline Wood
Moraga

Editor:
While we applaud Governor Jerry Brown and the Legislature for taking action on the budget, the proposal to abolish redevelopment agencies would eliminate affordable housing funding for Habitat for Humanity in the East Bay and across California. We use this key source of support to revitalize blighted communities, help drive the East Bay economy and change lives for hard working families. These funds, along with local donations and the hands-on work of thousands of volunteers each year, have built nearly 300 affordable homes. In turn, our Habitat homeowners help sustain the economy by paying property taxes and reducing reliance on state and local social services.

Habitat East Bay uses this funding to create jobs, employing plumbers, electricians, engineers and architects. Redevelopment funds also allow us to leverage additional non-government funding to support our housing program.

Habitat for Humanity offers a hand-up, not a hand-out. Habitat homebuyers purchase their homes at cost and invest 500 hours of sweat equity as their down payment. They receive training on budgeting, money management and home maintenance. Habitat's model of true affordability and homeowner education has kept our foreclosure rate below 2%, far below the national average.

We support redevelopment reform that lays the foundation for an efficient system of affordable housing production. There must remain a mechanism for funding that enables the development of affordable housing and helps eliminate the sub-standard housing conditions and high rents that plague many areas of the East Bay.

Janice Jensen
Lafayette

held, it is projected that the Lafayette School District could face a staggering 3.2 million dollar structural deficit for the 2011-2012 school year.

This loss of money means cuts to established and valuable programs such as music and science. It equates to decreases in instructional days, reducing the number of teachers and counselors, and the list goes on. That is not the education I want for my children. That is not why my husband and I moved here.

Unfortunately, at this time, we can not count on the state of California to provide our schools with the funding it needs to continue to provide quality education.

The Lafayette community must act quickly to find funding sources NOW. Saving our valuable programs, teachers, counselors, and other support staff is a necessity to ensure we maintain our excellent schools. Our children deserve to be adequately prepared for the future.

How will we do this?

First, we must pass Measure B on May 3. This is one step towards generating local stable funding for our school. This parcel tax of \$176 for the next four years is money that STAYS LOCAL - it cannot be taken away by the state. If you are reading this and balking at the idea of another tax, I understand. But for less than 50 cents a day, we can make a statement that the Lafayette community cares about our schools. Whether you have children in the school system or not, our schools not only educate the children that shape our future, they are a major factor in making Lafayette a very desirable neighborhood.

Second, we must think outside the box. We need to tap into any available resources such as grants, donations from local businesses, support from generous alumni and contributions from our real estate agents who understand that the quality of our schools is tied to the value of our homes. Parents who have children in the school district were each asked to pay \$1000 per student for the 20010-2011 school year. This form of donation from the parents has been going on for years and will continue but it is still not enough. Until California can stand on its own (and I look forward to that day) and sufficiently provide for an acceptable education for all students, the entire Lafayette community needs to be part of the solution.

Third, we must work together as a community. Our city officials, our school board, our teachers, our business owners, our residents - with and without children - everyone. Be an active participant in where you live by staying informed. This can be done in numerous ways such as: attending city meetings, school board meetings, reading the paper, or listening to the news. The good news: it is not late to find out what is going on in Lafayette. And the time is right to improve communication between the schools, the city, and the people they serve.

We also need to look towards the future. The only way we can truly move past this crisis is to create stability in our educational funding source. We must all take the time to write and call our state officials and tell them that our current structure for funding education is broken and we have no choice but to fix it.

On the City of Lafayette's homepage, it states that "Lafayette is noted for its high quality of life with top rated schools." That is true now, but may not be if we do not work on the current crisis in front of us and do so swiftly. Let us lead by example in Lafayette. I look forward to our community working together and solving this urgent situation that is troubling our wonderful community.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Paul
Lafayette

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ART

150 Years after the Civil War an NEH-sponsored exhibition, Lee and Grant, will be on view through Sunday, Mar. 20 at the Hearst Art Gallery at Saint Mary's College in Moraga. The museum is open to the public Wednesdays through Sundays, 11am- 4:30pm. Adult admission is \$4; admission is free for K-12th grade students and Hearst members. A battlefield re-enactment, featuring nearly one hundred NCWA volunteers, is planned for Saturday, March 19, on the Saint Mary's College campus. Information: (925) 631-4379.

Guest Member Joanne Taeuffer will join Moraga Art Gallery for its next show, Chiaroscuro: Light and Shadow, March 22- June 4. The public is invited to view Taeuffer's art along with gallery members' work at the show's opening reception, March 26, 3-5pm. The works in this exhibit are based on the attraction of light within the dark: the glow of the storefronts along Taeuffer's hometown main street, the shimmering chandeliers in a festive restaurant or simply a corner with a welcoming chair and reading light. The gallery is located at 570 Center St. in Moraga. For more information, go to www.moragaartgallery.com or (925)376-5407.

MUSIC

St. Mary's NightinGael's perform on March 16 and 17. Under the direction of Dr. Julie Ford, this mixed chorus sings a cappella and accompanied repertoire from a wide variety of styles (classical, folk, pop, jazz) and is comprised of music majors and non-music majors alike. Join us in a casual campus setting as the College's chorus sings jazz and cabaret music. Gershwin and Ellington are among the composers featured in recent programs. Wed., March 16 at 1pm and Thurs., March 17 at 8pm, Saint Mary's College, Hagerty Lounge. Cost: Free.

The Contra Costa Performing Arts Society Friday morning concert, March 25th, will open with tenor arias by Faure, Reynaldo Hahn, and Augustin Lara. A piano, cello, and violin trio will play popular Irish melodies arranged by Frank Martin. This free concert concludes with Saint-Saens Carnival of the Animals for two pianos. WHERE: Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. For more info go to www.ccpas.org.

THEATER

The Campolindo High School Choral Music Department proudly presents the musical, "Fiddler on the Roof," about a poor dairyman, Tevye, and his five daughters in a small Jewish community as they try to address tradition, changing social mores, and growing anti-Semitism in Czarist Russia. Performances: Thursday, March 17 at 7:30 pm, Friday, March 18 at 7:30pm., Sat., March 19 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm, Thursday, March 24 at 7:30 pm, Friday, March 25 at 7:30 pm, and Sat., March 26 at 2 and 7:30pm. For ticket information go to www.campochoir.com.

Special events at the New Rheem Theatre in Moraga: Mar 19th at 5pm, a Special Screening of the 1982 Classic Film, "E.T.". April 8th at 7pm, Jazz Band Concert and Dance with The Big Band of Rossmoor. April 9th at 7pm, Macbeth with Special Guest Jonathan Moscone, Cal Shakes' Artistic Director. For info e-mail info@thenewrheemtheatre.com or call (925) 388-0752.

The Saint Mary's College Performing Arts Department spring production will be ANGELS AMONG US, a selection of interesting and thought-provoking plays from long ago. The production will feature SMC students acting out stories from the Bible. Performances will run from April 5 through April 13. Performances will take place outside in front of Saint Mary's College Chapel (in case of rain, performances will take place in LeFevre Theatre). General Admission - \$10; Saint Mary's Faculty, Staff and Students - \$5. To purchase "chair" tickets please call Sharon Cahill at (925) 631-4670. Performances are slated for: Part One: April 5, 7, and 12 at 5pm; and April 9 and 10 at 2 PM. Part Two: April 6, 8, 9*, 10 and 13 at 5pm. One FREE performance will take place on Saturday, April 9 at the Moraga Commons Bandshell at the corner of St. Mary's Road and Moraga Road. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, picnics, etc. and enjoy the shows. No reservations needed.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

"Finding" Mark Twain's Autobiography, Thursday, March 17, 1:30-3pm, Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mount Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Published in 2010, 100 years after Mark Twain's death, the Autobiography of Mark Twain (Volume 1 of 3) has spent 14 weeks in the top 10 of the New York Times bestseller list and proven a source of controversy and delight. Learn what all the fuss is about and get a behind-the-

scenes perspective on this extraordinary literary event. \$5 at the door.

Dr. Amer Araim, President of the Islamic Community Outreach of California and an Imam at the Dar-ul-Islam Mosque in Concord, will speak to the Lafayette Rotary Club on Thursday, March 24, at the Oakwood Athletic Club in Lafayette. Since 9-11, Dr. Araim has been engaged in constructive dialogue to build bridges and mutual understanding and respect of Muslims and their communities in America. The public is invited to listen to Dr. Araim's talk which will begin promptly at 1pm. Parking is available and free. Because of space limitations, reservations should be made with Dick Holt at (925) 253-6332.

Lauren Masi, Physical Therapist, Athletic Trainer, and Certified Orthopedic Specialist will be giving an informative lecture on body maintenance and repair, posture, and injury prevention and care on Tuesday March 29 at 7pm. This is a free event but seating is limited; please RSVP to (925) 284-6150. Event will be held at Lafayette Physical Therapy, 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite B110, Lafayette, www.LafayettePT.com.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

For children ages 2-5 years, the Kinderdance program is offering a free trial class on Saturday, March 26. Registration is required for these free classes, so sign up today by visiting www.LafayetteRec.org or by calling (925) 284-2322. Classes will be held at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette.

The 2011 Stanley Science Expo sponsored by Lafayette Partners in Education and Stanley Middle School will be held on Thursday, March 31st, from 6:30 - 8:30pm, at Stanley Middle School. The Science Expo features numerous science exhibitors along with middle school student science projects. Exhibitors include NASA, Google Earth, and many more. Bring the entire family for an evening of hands-on science fun. Elementary school 5th graders are encouraged to attend to get a preview of Stanley events. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

Moraga Junior Women's Club presents Spring Egg hunt 2011 on Saturday, April 16, from 9am to 1pm, at Moraga Commons, Corner of Moraga Rd. and St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Ages 1 to 6. Two hunts at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Purchase online or at the Parks and Recreation Department. **ADVANCE PURCHASE ONLY!** Bring basket Cost: \$5 egg hunt (no games), \$5 wristband for unlimited games(no hunt), or \$9 for both hunt ticket and wristband. For more info see http://www.moragajuniors.org or email info@moragajuniors.org.

Need Money for College? Contra Costa Association of Realtors Scholarship Foundation is offering scholarships to residents of Central Contra Costa County that have completed one year of full-time college, completed courses with emphasis on real estate, finance and/or business and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. If you qualify, scholarship awards can range from \$1,500 to \$2,500. Further information and applications may be found on line at www.ccarscholarship.com. Deadline is April 15th.

OTHER

The Orinda Community Foundation Board of Trustees has an opening. Our current secretary has moved out of Orinda so position needs to be replaced. Those interested may email orindaofoundation@gmail.com and/or attend next meeting on Wed., March 16 at 4 pm.

Outstanding personnel from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, the U. S. Coast Guard and the Naval Sea Cadet Corps for youth will be honored in Lafayette on March 24 by the Contra Costa Council of the Navy League of the United States. Awardees are selected by their peers from active duty units in the Bay Area and are considered to be the "Best of the Best". The dinner, an annual event, will be held at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building. Members of the public are welcomed to attend. Information may be obtained by calling Jeanne Sharkey, Immediate Past Council President, at (925)228-1375.

A Shredding Event with No Trace Shredding, Saturday, March 26, 10am to 1pm, Lamorinda Adult Respite Center, 433 Moraga Way, Orinda (Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church Parking Lot). Paper only - no cardboard! \$5/box (equivalent to a Banker Box) Size 14" x 16" (length) x 11 1/4" All proceeds will be donated to Lamorinda Adult Respite Center. Call (925) 254-3465 or email: larc@holyshepherd.org.

Blood Drive: Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, working with the American Red Cross, is sponsoring a blood drive to help save lives in our local com-

munities. Saturday, March 26, from 9am to 3pm at MVPC, 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga. Sign up online at help-savealife.org (Sponsor Code: Moraga925) or call Les Deane at (925) 283-5648.

Wine and Wells Fund Raiser. Charity Travel Adventure— Ksenija Olmer is hosting a fun evening of wine tasting and virtual travel in support of an upcoming trip to Cambodia and Laos with an extension to Burma, where humanitarian projects will be conducted (such as the building of village wells) in the afternoons while the group will visit famous historical and cultural sites in the mornings. Olmer will lead a group of 12 people on the trip. The tasting of local wines and short presentation will take place at Captain Vineyards, 1969 Joseph Drive, Moraga (off of Bollinger Canyon on the Bluffs) on Friday, April 15 at 7pm. Please RSVP to Xenija@aol.com or (925) 708-0770.

Orinda In Action - A Community Service Day Sat, Apr 16, 9am-12Noon. Registration starts 8:30am at Library Plaza with coffee & bagels. A Free T-shirt to the first 300! A light lunch is available to all. Everyone welcome! To register, send an email to orindainaction@gmail.com or visit www.orindainaction.com.

ACALANES Class of 1971 - 40th Reunion coming... If you are part of the class - Please send your contact information to 71Acalanes@gmail.com.

The Moraga TreeLine Triathlon will take place on Saturday, April 30, 7:30 am at the Soda Aquatic Center, Campolindo High School, 300 Moraga Road. The event is ideal for the beginning triathlete as well as the more advanced competitor. The swim is a challenging 400 meter sprint, followed by a 22 K bike ride out to Canyon, and culminating with a 5 K run. New youth divisions have been added this year. For more information and route details go to www.moragatri.com, or call (925) 888-7035. Registration is open.

POLITICALLY MINDED

Lew Uhler, founder and president of the National Tax Limitation Committee (limittaxes.com), is the featured speaker at the Thursday, March 17th lunch meeting of the Lamorinda Republican Women, Federated club. Uhler's topic will be "Why Taxpayers Will Prevail in the Fight with Government Unions." This program is open to the public with advance reservations available through Monday, March 14th by calling (925) 459-6768; program details are available at the club's website at lamorindarepublicanwomen.org.

"Teachers' Unions Vs. The State" at the Commonwealth Club on Monday March 28, 6:30pm. As the fever that started in Wisconsin spreads across the country, school districts are suspending classes and Democratic state senators are on the lamb. Join Randi Weingarten (President, American Federation of Teachers) for a discussion of what's going on, and how teachers and state houses can solve this financial and educational crisis. Location: Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Time: 5:45 pm. check-in, 6:30 pm. program. Cost: \$12 members, \$22 non-members, \$7 students, \$7 teachers and school administrators. For tickets go to commonwealthclub.org or call (415) 597-6705.

31st Annual PTA Advocacy Day Trip will take place on Tuesday March 29th; PTA Membership is not required for attendance. We all know our state is in financial trouble but we can't let that stop progress on improving education; our children can't afford to wait. Help bring that message to Sacramento. You will hear from key state education, PTA, and legislative speakers as well as a panel of education experts who will be sharing best practices in education reform. For Speakers, Legislators and Registration details please visit www.lastrampaspta.org OR www.srvCouncilpta.org.

CLUBS

The Suburban Woman's Club of Lafayette is holding its next meeting on March 17 at the Lafayette Community Center in the Elderberry Room at 11:30. Lunch is provided by the members and we invite all women over the age of 55 to join us. The Club is affiliated with the Federated Women's Clubs of California, National and International. For further information on the club and our activities contact Jean Cappa at Jean43821@aol.com or join us at the meeting.

The Moraga Women's Society will meet on Monday, March 21st at 9:30am at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. The speaker will be Mary Volmer, instructor at St. Mary's College and author of the novel, "Crown of Dust." Visitors are welcome to hear her discussion. Contact: Jean Glaser (925) 376-7961.

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Lavender Honey Caramelized Onion and Roasted Asparagus Flatbread



Serves 4 to 6

INGREDIENTS

- ½ medium yellow onion, finely sliced
- 4 teaspoons extra virgin olive oil (used to brush dough and also in caramelizing onions, and roasting asparagus)
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped lavender
- 1½ teaspoons honey
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ½ lb. fresh asparagus, roasted and chopped into 1½ inch sticks
- 2 oz. chevre
- 1 prepared whole wheat pizza dough (can use crostini or focaccia bread)
- 1½ teaspoon grated Parmigiano reggiano
- Olive oil for brushing
- ½ teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 to 2 oz. smoked salmon (optional)

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Roll out pizza dough to about ¼ inch, and brush with olive oil. Place dough on pizza pan or heated pizza stone and bake for about 8 to 10 minutes or until lightly browned. Take the dough out of the oven and sprinkle with pieces of chevre, caramelized onion, asparagus, (salmon, if using), Parmigiano, zest, salt and pepper to taste. Place back in the oven until the toppings are just warmed through.

For Caramelized Onions
Heat 2 teaspoons olive oil in a sauté pan over medium low heat; add in sliced onion, lavender and a pinch of salt. Cook the onions until they start to become translucent, about 10 minutes. Stir in the honey, and add another teaspoon of olive oil if the onions are beginning to stick or burn. Continue to cook until the onions cook down and become browned and caramelized, about 10 to 15 minutes more.

For the Roasted Asparagus
½ lb. asparagus spears
1 teaspoon olive oil
1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar or juice of a lemon
Salt and pepper, to taste
Roast in 400° oven for about 10 minutes, or until just al dente. Cut into 1½ inch pieces.

A Trio of Good Eats from The Punky Chef

By Susie Iventosch

You never know what you might learn about people when you start asking questions. This is a favorite habit of local education consultant Elizabeth LaScala, who, in keeping with her line of work as a college advisor, is always interested in what young people in our community are up to. One day, she was full of questions as she ventured into Papillon to get a latte from her favorite barista.

"Andrea Cebalo has made the most wonderful lattes for me for over a decade," said LaScala. "Finally, one day I asked her what her future plans held, because I could see she had many talents, besides being a terrific barista. She told me that she was in the culinary program at Diablo Valley College."

Now, food is a subject near and dear to LaScala's heart, and in the course of the conversation, she discovered that Cebalo had a small catering business, The Punky Chef. The timing couldn't have been better, as LaScala had her daughter's impending graduation party on her mind.

"I've had Andrea cater several gatherings since, and her cuisine is divine, prepared exactly how I ask. She really knows her nutrition, too, and handles every special request, from low-sodium or low-fat dishes to creamy sauces and rich desserts,

without hesitation. I always get everything exactly how I request it, whether it's a latte at Papillon, or an entrée prepared for a party.

"But, perhaps the best quality is her absolutely unflappable calmness under pressure. Andrea makes perfection happen!"

Needless to say, with an introduction like this, I wanted to try a few of her recipes myself. So, I asked The Punky Chef (so named for Cebalo's childhood nickname, "Punky") to please send a few recipes my way to try for the food column.

"Meyer lemon is one of my favorite flavors of the season and I love to combine it with apricot," the Punky Chef told me. "Even though fresh apricots aren't in season yet, I found there are plenty of recipes that work well with a good quality preserve. The combination is also good for adding a little springtime sweetness to a meal such as a St. Patrick's Day corned beef or an Easter lamb."

Cebalo, who loves Mediterranean cuisine, spent a summer in Florence enrolled in a "contemporary" Italian cooking class. There she learned that one of her favorite dishes is a simple, yet classic, Margherita pizza made with fresh mozzarella, basil and tomatoes.

"I love to use the freshest, most organic ingredients possible," she said. "I am always inspired by perus-

ing the farmers' markets."

In fact, she is committed to growing different vegetables in her own garden each year. This year, she plans to grow fava beans and cranberry beans—a red and white striped variety.

One of her favorite uses of fava beans is in the salad below, with escarole, orange segments and hazelnuts tossed in Apricot-Meyer Lemon Vinaigrette. But, she also incorporates fava beans with her Mint Puree-Pecorino Crostini.

Unfortunately, it's still a month or so too early for both fresh fava beans and escarole, but I found that the Apricot-Lemon Meyer Vinaigrette was fantastic drizzled over Belgian endive with a little touch of feta cheese and toasted pecans. The sweetness of the dressing was the perfect foil to the slight bitterness of the endive.

Cebalo's recipes are unique and delicious. The Punky Chef caters events from very large parties to single platters for private family meals, in addition to her "special occasion" cupcake delivery service for any holiday or event.

The Punky Chef
(925)360-0743
www.thepunkychef.com

Apricot Meyer Lemon Vinaigrette

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon minced shallot
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1½ to 2 tablespoons good quality apricot preserves (I used just 1 tablespoon due to husband who refrains from mixing sweet and savory)
- ½ teaspoon fresh ginger
- 1/3 cup white or red wine vinegar
- Juice of two Meyer lemons
- Pinch of garlic powder
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 to 4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil (may want to add a little more olive oil)

DIRECTIONS

Blend all ingredients except the olive oil in a blender or whisk well in a bowl, slowly add extra virgin olive oil to taste. Taste the dressing, and add more sweetness, acid or oil to taste.



Photo Susie Iventosch

Fava and Escarole Salad with Apricot Meyer Lemon Vinaigrette

INGREDIENTS

- 2 heads escarole (or about 1 handful per person), cleaned and chopped
- 1/3 finely sliced red onion
- 1/3 cup chopped and toasted hazelnuts (or walnuts)
- ½ cup Cara cara navel orange segments
- ½ cup blanched and shelled fresh or frozen fava beans
- Salt and pepper
- Apricot Meyer lemon vinaigrette (recipe nearby)

DIRECTIONS

Mix all the ingredients, and toss with vinaigrette to taste.

Roasted Root Vegetables in an Apricot Meyer Lemon Glaze

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. parsnips
- ½ lb. carrots
- ½ lb. sweet potato, turnip, or beet root
- 1½ tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 finely chopped shallot
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- Salt and pepper
- 3 to 4 sprigs fresh thyme
- Pinch herbes de Provence
- Apricot Meyer lemon glaze (below)

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Peel and chop vegetables to 1½ inch pieces and toss with olive oil, salt, pepper, shallot, garlic powder, thyme, and herbs. Lay in a single layer in a baking sheet or roasting pan. Bake until fork tender and browning on the edges, about 25 minutes. Toss in apricot glaze. Serve warm.



Apricot Meyer Lemon Glaze

INGREDIENTS

- 1/3 cup good quality apricot preserves
 - Juice of one Meyer lemon
- Gently warm apricot preserves and lemon juice for a few minutes. Set aside for vegetables.

Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net.

Susie can be reached at suziven@gmail.com.

These recipes are available on our web site.

Go to: www.lamorindaweekly.com

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Lamorinda Girls' Basketball Postseason Review

By Conrad Bassett



Campolindo celebrates after beating Miramonte in the second round of the NCS

Photo Jordan Fong

All the Lamorinda teams made it to the postseason at both the North Coast Section (NCS) and CIF-Northern California tournaments.

NCS:

The Miramonte girls' basketball team met up with Campolindo on March 2 for the third time this year, but but the third time was did not prove to be the 'charm' as the Lady Cougars overwhelmed the Matadors with 28 fourth period points to secure a berth in the North Coast Section Division III championship game. The final was 75 to 63.

The game was close throughout the first three periods as neither team held a lead of more than six points. The Mats had taken a 56-52 lead.

Then Campolindo went to work and the Cougars scored 10 straight points to establish a lead they would not give up.

Senior Annie Ward led a balanced Cougar attack with 21 points while senior Amanda Forshay and junior Mallory Brown had 16 apiece.

Matador senior Alyssa Johansen led all scorers with 22 points while junior Devon McDonald added 11.

Despite the loss Miramonte, along with Acalanes, qualified to compete in the CIF-Nor Cal tournament.

The win moved Campolindo into the NCS Championship game against Bishop O'Dowd on March 5. Bishop O'Dowd defeated Acalanes to reach the championship game.

The Cougars jumped off to a 15-9 lead after one period, but the Dragons played very well in the second period and took a 36-28 lead into the intermission. The trend continued in the third period as O'Dowd opened up a lead that eventually went to 13 points.

The Cougars fought back to erase the deficit. With the score tied at 59 and less than two seconds to go, O'Dowd missed to send the game to overtime.

The overtime period was just as exciting. With 1:07 to go Forshay hit two free throws to give Campo a 63-61 lead and following an O'Dowd

three pointer, Forshay again attacked the basket giving the Cougars a 65-64 lead with 25 seconds to go.

O'Dowd scored to take the lead. Campo in-bounded the ball, but a long shot fell short and O'Dowd had their third consecutive NCS division III championship.

Forshay and Ward led Campolindo with 16 points each.

CIF-North Coast Section:

The following Tuesday, March 8, all three Lamorinda teams began the run to the CIF Northern California championships. Campolindo, Miramonte, and Acalanes were the six, seven and nine seeds, respectively, in the 12 team bracket.

Acalanes went up to Fairfield to face Vanden of the San Joaquin Section and played well early. Behind junior Sophie Taylor's outside shooting, Acalanes opened up a 20-14 lead at the end of the first period.

Vanden came back strong in the second and third periods behind Emma Amarikwa who led all scorers with 31 points, 21 coming in the second half.

The Lady Dons fell 56-49 and ended their season with a very successful 19-10 record. Senior Emani Harrison led the Dons with 15 points in her last game.

Over in Orinda, Miramonte received a home game against Northern Section runner up, Enterprise. The Lady Mats took the lead and never looked back, leading 28-11 at the half.

In the second half the confident Mats went on to win 63-28. Johanson led a balanced attack with 14 points.

At the same time in Moraga, the Campolindo girls hosted Christian Brothers of Sacramento, also of the San Joaquin Section.

Campo jumped off to a 22-11 lead after one period and led by eight at the half. Christian Brothers never got closer than seven the rest of the way. Ward led Campo with 24 points and junior Annelise Ito added 20 points and nine rebounds in the 79-64 win.

The victories for Miramonte and

Campolindo sent them out on the road to face opponents—Sacramento High and Sacred Heart Cathedral, respectively.

The Lady Mats jumped off to an early 15-13 lead after the first period, but a 13-5 Sac High second period put them down by six at the intermission. They fought a strong battle, staying close until near the end, finally losing 50-43.

Johanson led Miramonte (and all scorers) with 15 as they finished their season with an outstanding 23-7 record.

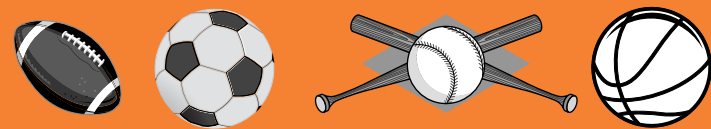
Campolindo headed across the bay to take on the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Campo came out strong building a 12 point lead at half. Sacred Heart closed the gap, but Campo held on to win 63-57. Sophomore Laura Hickey led the team with 12 points to go with eight rebounds.

This win brought Campolindo an opportunity to make the same road trip Miramonte had two nights earlier—to Sacramento High. Campo kept it close most of the evening—getting within two with less than 15 seconds to go but were edged out, 58-54.

Ito led Campo with 16 points and 15 rebounds. The Cougars finished the year at 25-7.

It was an absolutely outstanding year as the three Lamorinda teams finish with a 67-24 record and boast a combined 60-17 against non-Lamorinda opponents.

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If you would like to list the registration information for a youth sports club please email wendy@lamorindaweekly.com or call (925) 377-0977. B&W listing will cost \$24 (3.75"x1").

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Carly Gill (13) and Devon McDonald (3) congratulate Alyssa Johanson after she hits a lay-up and draws a foul
Photo Jordan Fong

Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS



Saint Mary's Wins in Vegas

By Caitlin Graveson



Photo Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's women's basketball experienced some ups-and-downs in the West Coast Conference tournament. On the positive side, the Gaels broke a two-year WCC tournament winless spell, dating back to the 2007-2008 season, and senior forward

ward Louella Tomlinson captured the Saint Mary's all-time scoring record. On the negative side Saint Mary's lost handily to Gonzaga for the third time this season.

Finishing in second place in conference play, the Gaels received a bye

until the semi-finals of the tournament. They opened the tournament against the University of San Diego on Sunday, March 6. Saint Mary's just edged out the Toreros in their last regular-season match-up and this game proved to be close as well.

The Gaels got off to a slow start, down 2-8 early. Coming off a career game against Portland just the week before, junior guard Alex Carbonel again proved to be the spark off of the bench Saint Mary's needed. She dropped a three, hit a lay-up and drew a foul to ignite a 7-0 run to get the Gaels back in the game.

Both teams traded points for the rest of the half. In the final minute of the half, Saint Mary's went on a 9-0 run to build a 44-43 lead heading into the break.

The Toreros stormed back in the second half to tie it up with 14 minutes

to play. The game remained close until the final minutes. Freshman forward Danielle Mauldin hit a huge shot and drew a foul with 42.9 seconds to play to give the Gaels a 67-65 lead. Saint Mary's held on from there to win, 71-68.

"We are really excited to get that first win in the WCC tournament. We had confidence and that really got us through the game," said redshirt junior guard Jasmine Smith.

Tomlinson captured the all-time scoring record in the first half of the game off a free-throw. She notched 21 points in the match.

With the win Saint Mary's advanced to the WCC Championship for the first time since 2001. The Gaels faced Gonzaga for a third time this season but yet again, could not outlast the dominant Bulldogs, losing 72-46.

"They are an extremely efficient team. We have to do our best to make

it a grinder game. If we keep it in the 60's we have a chance," head coach Paul Thomas said before the game.

The Gaels controlled the tempo and maintained a low-scoring game for the first 15 minutes of play. While the Gaels defense was stellar, their offense was stagnant. SMC shot just 23 percent from the field in the first half. Heading into halftime Saint Mary's was down eight, 20-28.

The second half was dominated by the Bulldogs. They outscored the Gaels, 26 to 44 to win 72-46.

Mauldin again came up big for the Gaels, leading SMC in scoring a career-high 19 points and adding ten rebounds.

The Gaels are guaranteed a spot in the WNIT tournament for the second year in a row. The bracket announcement was made late Monday night after the press deadline.

Lamorinda Baseball Preview

Acalanes, Miramonte off to a strong start

By Alex Crook



Acalanes' Grant Diede swings against Northgate in Acalanes' 3-0 win

Photo Doug Kohen

All three Lamorinda high school baseball teams are poised to have strong seasons and a chance at the DFAL title. Both Campolindo and Miramonte are coming off North Coast Section (NCS) Championship seasons, and Acalanes looks to build on improvements made last season.

Miramonte:

Last year, Miramonte finished in second place in the league standings behind Campolindo, but went on to win the division III NCS title, their second straight. The Mats return a first-team all DFAL out-fielder in junior Matt Bonomo, but lose two former first-team all DFAL nominees to graduation, third-baseman Michael Mann and catcher Kevin Paulsen.

The Matadors also return a

second-team all DFAL player from the previous year, junior pitcher Spencer Marx. Miramonte's roster consists entirely of upperclassmen.

The Mats are 4-1 and all four wins have come in dominant fashion. The lone loss was to Heritage (3-1-0), who also beat Campolindo. The Matadors are undefeated at home. They will open league play to defend their NCS title in Lafayette as they visit Acalanes on March 29.

Campolindo:

Campolindo, the defending DFAL and division II NCS Champion, finished last year with an 8-4 league record and an overall record of 21-7. A key returner for the Cougars this year is junior catcher Austin Rei, who was named last year's DFAL Most

Valuable Player. Rei hit .350 last season, with three homeruns.

Also playing a key role for Campo will be junior pitcher James Marvel and senior pitcher Matt Bruzzone. Marvel made first-team all DFAL last year with a 1.12 ERA, while Bruzzone was named honorable mention. Bruzzone will have to step up, though, to replace recently-graduated pitcher Nick Russ.

"We are all really looking forward to the year. We've got a solid core of young guys returning and we feel really comfortable with each other, just like a family. We've got some new guys working hard as well and as a team we've got some high expectations. It's going to be fun," says Marvel. Newcomers for the Cougars include sophomore in-

fielder Ryan Hooper and two freshmen, infielder Denis Karas and pitcher Matt Ladrech.

Campolindo is currently 0-2 after losses to Heritage and Clayton Valley (3-0-1); both teams are tough programs. The Cougars will open DFAL against visiting Dougherty Valley on March 29.

Acalanes:

Acalanes, although four years removed from an NCS title, has a history of success on the baseball diamond. Still, last year proved to be a difficult season for the Dons. They finished 15-10 overall, with a 5-7 league record and a fifth place league finish. Acalanes lost in the first round of NCS playoffs.

The Dons graduated pitcher

John Treat, but Acalanes returns first baseman Drew Gaylord and utility man Spencer Henderson.

Both juniors were named to the DFAL Honorable Mention Team last year. "I would not count us out of the NCS championships," said Evan Heptig, senior shortstop and captain for Acalanes. The Dons also welcome freshman shortstop Austin Fisher.

Acalanes is on a roll right now, boasting an early 5-0, which they will put to the test in their first league game March 29 against rival Miramonte. The five early wins were over Mount Eden, Bishop O'Dowd, Northgate, Skyline, and Sonoma Valley.



Miramonte's Chris Perry crosses home plate in the 8-3 win over Hogan.

Photo Linda Epperson

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

MBA Box Scores for Feb. 27-March 5

Submitted by Amy Kikugawa

Moraga Baseball Association Pony Division February 27, 2011

Game 1: Moraga Tigers 3, Piedmont 16
Tigers Highlights Scott Chen 1 for 3, 2B; RS; Scott Smoot 1 for 3, RS; Ryan Geisreiter 1 for 2, RBI; Mark Santaguida 1 for 1, RS.

2 for 3, 3B, 2 RS, RBI; Lucas Allen 2 for 3, HR, 1 RS, RBI; Andrew Fenske 2 BB, 3 SB, 2 RS.
Yankees Highlights: Grant Harper 2 for 3, 2B, 1 RS, 3 SB; Grant Johnson 1 for 2, 2B, 1 RS, RBI.

Moraga Baseball Association Pinto Division March 5, 2011

Cubs 13, Giants 10
Cubs Highlights – Joe Schmidt HR in 3rd, 2 RS; Alex Clare 3-for-3, 3-1B, 3 RS; Jack Bunzel-Hardie 3-for-3, 3-1B, 2 RS;
Giants Highlights – Jason Simi 3-for-3, 3-1B; Jackson Rusconi 2-for-3, 1 RS; Brady Manz 2-for-3, 2 RS;

Moraga Baseball Association Mustang Division March 5, 2011

Redsox 7, Yankees 4
Redsox Highlights: Donovan Robles

PacRim Volleyball Earns #2 Ranking



Back row (L-R): Roger Worsley (coach), Robert Steiner, Jonathan Santos, Derek Lodge, Mitchell Brooks, Julian Egoian, Sean Vasima; Front Row: Michael Standing, Joe Worsley, Peter Jones, Gage Worsley Photo provided

Pacific Rim Volleyball Academy Boys 14's (PacRim) won the Northern California Volleyball Association Regional Championships in December to garner a #1 ranking in NorCal. They earned the top bid to Junior Nationals in Minneapolis in July 2011. The Team followed up with a third place finish in the prestigious Southern California Volleyball Classic held in Anaheim in January. PacRim is now the #2 ranked Boys 14's team in California.

St. Monica's Second Grade CYO

Submitted by Dustie Robeson



Front Row (L to R): Cole Jeter, Arik Nashan, JT Clarke, Nicholas Meng, Drew Isola, and Cade Bennett. Back row: Joey Schmidt, Colin Hilkemeyer, Justin Lineweaver, Tanner Robeson, and Chase Bennett. Coaches Mike Isola (L) and Eric Clarke (R). Photo provided

St. Monica's second graders won the CYO league title in a tough game against St. Perpetua, finishing up their winning season with an 11 - 1 record.

SMC Gaels Home Game Schedule



www.SMCGaels.com

- Wed, Mar 16 SB Drake Cottrell Field 1:00 PM
- Wed, Mar 16 SB Drake Cottrell Field 3:00 PM
- Fri, Mar 18 WTEN Harvard 2:30 PM
- Mon, Mar 21 MTEN Oregon 3:00 PM
- Tue, Mar 22 SB Northwestern Cottrell Field 3:00 PM
- Tue, Mar 22 MTEN UC Riverside 3:00 PM
- Fri, Mar 25 BSB New Orleans 3:00 PM
- Sat, Mar 26 BSB New Orleans 1:00 PM
- Sun, Mar 27 BSB New Orleans 1:00 PM
- Fri, Apr 1 MTEN Santa Clara 3:00 PM
- Sat, Apr 2 WTEN Santa Clara 12:00 PM
- Sat, Apr 2 MTEN Gonzaga 12:00 PM

Schedule is subject to change. Confirm at www.SMCGaels.com

Lafayette Little League

Submitted by Todd Bequette

Majors Division Giants 16 Cardinals 15

The Giants got off the mat and staged a wild comeback in the bottom of the sixth to pull out the victory.

AAA Division Cardinals 8 Athletics 8

The opener for both teams settled

nothing, as darkness fell on Cheney Field.

Giants 8 Cardinals 7

Down by six in the bottom of the fifth, the Cardinals' rally fell short and the game was called for darkness.

Indians 8 Cubs 7

Second sacker Mathew Turano pre-

served the victory for the Tribe with a sparkler.

Phillies 11 Indians 7

Josh Sanders' late inning RBI sealed the victory for the Phils.

Dodgers 9 Yankees 9

Two storied franchises battled to a flat footed tie.

OBA Pinto

Submitted by Junaid Khan



The OBA pinto season started with a bang as the Outlaws beat the Rampage 24-18 on March 5.

The two teams face off again on March 27.

Back (L to R): Murphy, Straub, Mechelke, Schwarz, Swensen, Pieper
Front: Khan, Karp, Olsen, Rezapour, Brown; not pictured, Hemming
Photo provided

Divers Compete in Region Championships

Submitted by Steve Sherman



Steve Sherman, Maren Kjell, Morgan Matranga, Asher Lichtig, Brenna Cetrone (holding the sign), and Erich Brodbeck Photo provided

Sherman Swim School took five Junior Diving Championships in Beaverton, Oregon, March 5-6.

Over 400 divers from nine states competed.

Morgan Matranga (Moraga) completed four new dives in the 14-15 girls three meter springboard. Matranga scored 272 points and placed 17th.

Brenna Cetrone (Orinda) traveled for the first time to compete in the 12-13 girls three meter competition. She finished just one-tenth of a point away from medaling, finishing 13th overall.

Maren Kjell (Moraga) competed against 60 girls in the 16-18 girls one meter springboard. She finished 23rd overall, scoring 299.70 points on nine dives.

Asher Lichtig (Lafayette) placed 11th in the 16-18 boys one meter springboard with 366.10 points.

Lamorinda Indoor Soccer Champions

Submitted by Scott Loughran-Smith



The Lafayette Blackhawks are comprised of fourth grade boys from Springhill School and Lafayette Elementary. The club had an undefeated season both in league play and the tournament. They were crowned champions on March 12.

Top row: Coach Scott Loughran-Smith, Sam McLeod, Alex Cortessis, Chris Rogers, Sebastian Bowes, Lane Altbaum, Coach Mike Novak
Bottom row: Tucker Loughran-Smith, Jeffrey Novak, Shea Grosz, Erik Voss, Christian Ramsey
Photo Lori Loughran-Smith

Saint Mary's Men Play in NIT

... continued from page A1



Mitchell Young (3) shoots against two Santa Clara defenders in the semi-final game of the WCC tournament Photo Tod Fierner

"I'm not sure what changed offensively for us," Bennett said afterwards. "Obviously, playing without Jones is a pretty key part of our deal. Foul trouble affected us."

The Gaels had one final contest before Selection Sunday, and made the best of the opportunity as they blew out Weber State 77-54. Saint Mary's had hoped it would be the

final home game for their seniors – McConnell and forward Phil Benson – but Sunday's NCAA Tournament decision and the NIT birth changed that fate. Jones had 20 points and 13 boards in the win, while McConnell had 15 and eight assists on his senior night.

While Sunday wasn't a happy occasion in Gael-land, both Bennett and

his players did their best to move forward. "We can't let ourselves get deflated... We've got more games left," Jones said. "The season continues."

The NIT Opening round contest on Tuesday night against Kent State was played after press time. If the Gaels won, they will play the winner of Fairfield and Colorado State sometime later in the week.

SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS



Campo Graduate Breaks UCSB Records

Submitted by Andrew Ward



Ward and swim coach Photo provided

Andrea Ward, a graduate of Campolindo High School, currently swims for UC Santa Barbara and had a significant freshman year. Ward set school records in the 500 Free (4:48.60), the 100 Butterfly (53.83) during the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) Swimming and Diving Championships. Ward was the only swimmer in the MPSF to score two individual gold-medals and a silver medal in the 2011 championships. Ward swam for Orinda Aquatics for eight years and was named team captain and Swimmer of the Year while at Campolindo.

Lamorinda United 95 U-15 Girls Win Soccer Tournament

Submitted by Benson Chan



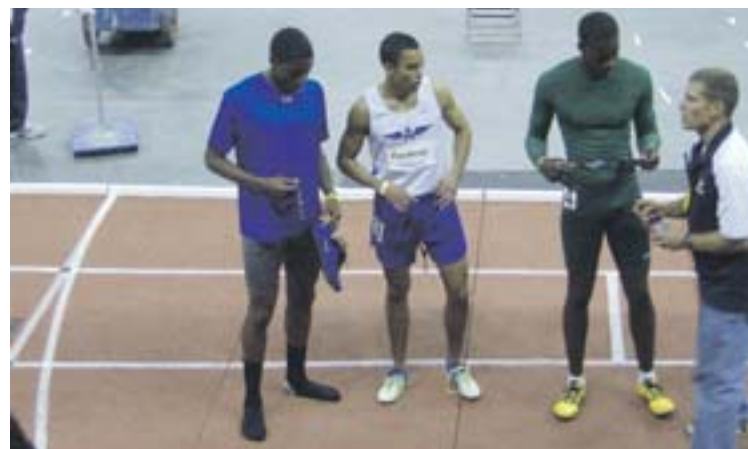
Back row (L to R) - Sarah Mills, Annie Loose, Lindsay Wilson, Jordan Rowley, Mali Tehaney, Julia Reshke, Megan Reid, Jane Fessenden, Tori Kallerud
Front row (L to R) - Stephanie Munoz, Regan Gong, Carly Moran, Sam Martin, Emily Orwig, Kristen Chan Photo Brian Fessenden

After a short break from the club season to play high school soccer, the girls on the Lamorinda Soccer Club U-15 team are back at work get-

ting ready for the California Youth Soccer Association state tournament at the end of March. As part of their preparations, the team played in the Northern California Spring Showcase tournament on March 5 and 6 in Palo Alto and Los Altos. Lamorinda won all three preliminary games, including a dramatic come from behind win against a strong Sonoma County Alliance team. Lamorinda United scored two goals in the last ten minutes to advance to the championship game against Livermore Fusion Black 95G. The Lamorinda U-15 girls then outscored Livermore Fusion 4-1 to win the tournament championship in the U-15 gold division.

Acalanes Students Compete at Invitational Track Meet

Submitted by David Faulkner



Adler Faulkner finished in second place for the 600 yard run. Photo provided

On Saturday, February 26, two Acalanes sophomores, Adler Faulkner and Amy Hollshwandner, traveled to Fresno to compete in the

California High School Indoor Invitational Track Meet held at Fresno State. Both athletes had to qualify for this race by competing at a track meet held at UC Berkeley on February 5. Both Hollshwandner and Faulkner raced in the 600 yard run. While an unusual distance to run in California, high schools in the East and Mid-West still run this indoor distance. This was the first time both athletes competed on an indoor track. Hollshwandner finished first in her heat and ninth overall. Faulkner finished first in his heat and second overall.

WINTER SPORT ALL-DFAL TEAMS

Sport	School	Award	Student	
Boys' Basketball	Miramonte	First Team	Anthony Piganelli	
		Second Team	Ross Anderson	
		Honorable Mention	Kiran Shastri	
	Acalanes	First Team	Stephen Collins	
		Second Team	James Griffin	
		Honorable Mention	Michael Jackson, Jr.	
	Campolindo	First Team	Carl King	
		Second Team	Griffin Piatt	
		Honorable Mention	Rob Wirth	
	Girls' Basketball	Miramonte	First Team	Alyssa Johanson
			Second Team	Janine Loutzenhiser
		Acalanes	Honorable Mention	Megan Reid Breanna Alford Liza Katz
Second Team			Emani Harrison Kiara Harewood	
Campolindo		First Team	Annie Ward Amanda Forshay	
		Honorable Mention	Annalisse Ito	
Boys' Soccer	Miramonte	First Team	Nick Bachu	
		Second Team	Theodore Deutz	
		Honorable Mention	Jose Gutierrez Arya Haghighi Taro Kyllonen	
	Acalanes	Co-Most Valuable Defensive Player	Jacob Carroll Jackson Foote	
		First Team	Dylan Autran Cam Carda Nick Pereira	
		Second Team	Austen Grassini Dan Glascock Dave Helfrich	
	Campolindo	Honorable Mention	Adrian Chow-Daniel Max Omick Steve Glascock	
		Co-Most Valuable Player	Alex Mangels Jaison Kimura	
		First Team	Marco Tavecchio Matt Reshke Tim Coleman	
	Campolindo	Second Team	Nick Palano Sam Palano Kian Maghsoodnia	
		Honorable Mention	Harlan Raine Rodrigo Diaz-Valdes Cristian Antezana	
		Most Valuable Player	Meghan Reid	
Girls' Soccer	Miramonte	First Team	Mackenzie Martin Coco Pearce	
		Second Team	Sophie Fuller Jene Fesseden	
		Honorable Mention	Ashley Kawaguchi Li Hanna Tehaney Mali	
	Acalanes	First Team	Schulyer Blee	
		Second Team	Anja Simonsen Annie Beliveau	
		Honorable Mention	Kaitlin McGee Melissa Cameron Erin Bishop	
Campolindo	Most Valuable Defensive Player	Sophie Leksan		
	First Team	Valerie Margerum Victoria Rinquist Kelly Hiik		
	Second Team	Emily Orwig Jessica Tuan		
Campolindo	Honorable Mention	Jessica Reshke Eliza Pedder Shannon Stebler		
	Wrestling	First Team	Bryce Pummer (189) Brian DeLuna (119)	
		Honorable Mention	Sam Lindgren (160)	
Campolindo	First Team	David Furtado (112) Tom Flowers (135) Scott Dyer (215)		
		Second Team	Jackson Hagglund (103) Dan Ingersoll (119) Alex Mirante (130)	
	Honorable Mention			

SMC Lacrosse Reaches Out to School

Submitted by Tina Skuce



Sophomore Christian Skuce and Senior Blake Pryor Photo Carol Harris

Saint Mary's men's lacrosse took time out from their season to spend some time reading to Lafayette Elementary School students in honor of "Read Across America" day. Saint Mary's men's lacrosse is currently #20 in the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association. The Gaels hosted #16 CSU Fullerton on Sunday, March 13 but fell 14-5.

St. Perpetua CYO Season Wraps Up

After a tough basketball season, the following St. Perpetua teams won the West Diablo League Championships: seventh grade National girls, fifth grade National girls, eighth grade American boys, seventh grade American boys, sixth grade National boys, fifth grade National boys, fifth grade American boys and the fourth grade National boys.

7th Grade American Boys

The Seventh grade American boys West Diablo League Champions finished with a 9-1 record. The boys went on to play in the Oakland Diocese Championship game at St. Bede's Parish.



Front Row (L to R): Andrew McKendell, Connor Moses, Ryan Leamy, Sam Lauth
Back Row: Coach Jim Moses, Ben Middleton, Brendan Supple, Matt Vollman, Grant Young, Brian Maiken, Coach Robert McKendell

4th Grade National Boys

The fourth grade boys' playoffs were dominated by St. Perpetua; all four playoff teams were from St. Perpetua.



Front row (L to R): Nick Catalanello, Oscar Beckinger, Jack Wickline, Matthew Raffel
Back row: Coach Paul Wickline, Alex Archer, Jackson Kirke, Ricky Bianchina, Tristan Tzortzis, Ben Lauer, Coach John Kirke
Photo April Raffel

5th Grade National Boys

The fifth grade National boys finished the season undefeated..



Coach Tim Jones and asst. Coach Jeff Kolsut
Back Row (L to R): Sam Saracevic, Foster Jones, Tyler Schenone, Jared Kolsut, Cole Berzins, Thomas Hunt, William Glaser
Front Row: Josh Thuma, Reider Martinsen, Jordan Goodfriend
Photo Ray Berzins

5th Grade American Boys - Co-Champions with St. Mary's

St. Perpetua's fifth grade A team (along with St. Mary's) were the West Diablo CYO Co-Champions of the American League this year. They also won the St. Bonaventure Tournament and the MVP Fall Tournament..



Coaches not pictured are J. Torchio and Tim Regan. Back Row (L to R): Isaac Plotkin, Ty Whelehan and Ryan Regan
Front Row: Justin Pratt, John Torchio, Robby Rowell, Jake Landry, Gabe Middleton and Seppi Ortman
Photo Wendy Pratt

Submit Sports stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Life in LAMORINDA

Lafayette Teachers See Red over Pink Slips

By Cathy Tyson



Photo C. Tyson

Everyone knew it was coming. Classroom budget uncertainty became very real for staff of the Lafayette School District and parents last Wednesday night, when the Governing Board approved the Proposed Budget Reduction Plan for 2011 - 2012. Although Superintendent Fred Brill held a number of meetings to gather feedback and involve parents on funding priorities, there is just not enough money to keep all the teachers and programs currently offered. To make matters worse, because of revenue uncertainties, the administration has to plan for a worse-case scenario that may or may not play out depending on a number of factors: the passage of Measure B, additional cuts from Sacramento, and tax extensions making it on the ballot.

"No one wants to cut programs that benefit children. Over the past three years, the state has reduced funding by \$1,089 per student, resulting in a reduction of \$3,403,125 million to the Lafayette School District," said Brill. "The district is now facing a structural deficit of \$2,240,000 for the 2011- 2012 school year."

Brill placed cuts into one of two groups, "Category One" cuts are strongly recommended – the second group, cuts to "Category II" present greater challenges and complexities. Category One includes reducing four full time elementary teachers, eliminating student services support and reducing music in grades four and five, along with increasing health insurance co-pays and adding four additional furlough days to the existing two furlough days. Also included are increasing PE classes at Stanley to 53 students and eighth grade English class to 26 students, and reducing already-diminished custodial time.

Category II includes reducing instructional aides, eliminating the Kindergarten through fifth grade science lab, eliminating instrumental music for first through fifth grade, partially reducing Stanley counseling staff, eliminating the district Tech administrator, further reducing custodial services and maintenance and eliminating the Kinder music program.

Due to notification requirements all staff involved in both categories will receive pink slips, as school officials prepare for dire budget cuts. State law requires districts to issue pink slips by March 15. The recipient of a pink slip may or may not be laid off in the end. As the budget situation firms up over the summer, all will become clear.

Stanley Middle School's auditorium was packed with concerned teachers and parents, standing at times; many parents wearing red in solidarity with teachers. Several parents commented that they understood the difficult decisions, but emphasized their common goal of the best education possible for students. Many reiterated their support for Measure B, and encouraged working together as a community.

Jean Follmer, President of the Springhill Elementary Parent Faculty Club, called the formula for funding Lafayette's schools inequitable. She and a group of concerned parents are pursuing real reform in education funding. "Forty years ago, Lafayette was designated a 'low wealth school district' because of our rural nature and small population. It was determined that our small community had less of a need for services than an urban community, so we received a smaller amount of money per child than those in larger towns and cities. Forty years later, we still receive less money than the statewide per child average revenue limit," said Follmer. "We believe it is completely unacceptable that this district receives less than the state minimum revenue limit and we plan to pursue equalization relentlessly."

The group also wants to take on Proposition 13, which limits annual property taxes to 1.1% of the purchase price of a home, with minimal annual adjustment. "Prop. 13 unduly impacts low-wealth districts like ours due to the disparity between paying taxes on a \$60,000 home purchased forty years ago versus a \$1.5 million home purchased today," said Follmer.

For more information on the Lafayette School District, go to www.lafsd.k12.ca.us, for more in-

formation on the education funding reform effort, go to Groups.google.com, then enter: lafayette-for-education in the search box.



Alex Gailas

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Two New Lamorinda Businesses are Keeping Things All in the Family

By Sophie Braccini



The Erez family in their new restaurant; from left, Roy, Karin, Mikki, Vivian, with younger son Michael in front
 Photo Sophie Braccini

Shish Kabab Show

376 Park Street, Moraga (in the Rheem Center), 388-0351, www.letseat.at/ShishKababShow

Mikki and Vivian Erez moved to Moraga from Orinda a year ago. They have three children, one in elementary school, one in middle school, and one in high school. And they are all working in the new family restaurant, Shish Kabab Show. "This is a family affair," says Karin, the middle daughter, "I'm really looking forward to working here; this is a great environment to be all together."

The Erez's moved to this country from their native Israel 12 years ago, leaving behind a successful restaurant and a summer camp program. Now they are getting back to doing what they love to do together – creating a

restaurant, using family recipes and savoir-faire. "This is not only a restaurant, this is a place for people to come together," says Mikki Erez adding that they have kept their prices low to attract students as well.

On the day this reporter visited, the salads and vegetable dishes were being taste-tested. Tables were covered with a wide variety of dishes of all colors, aromas and textures. Everything was fresh, delicious and tasted homemade. The tahini was smooth and delicate, scooped with just baked pita bread; the hummus had more texture and was flavorful; the dolmas were mouthwatering; the falafels crunchy on the outside and tender inside; the salads were crisp, with herbs adding flavor. The meats – kababs and shawarmas – were not

served that day. But according to Vivian Erez, the meat dishes are the specialties that will set them apart because she gets her spices directly from Israel. "We are serving something unique here," she says, with the confidence of a professional cook. The meat dishes are served as entrees or sandwiches, and include chicken, lamb, mergez and seafood versions.

Open until midnight several nights a week and close to the New Rheem Theatre, Shish Kabab Show is poised to change the Rheem Center. At the back of the restaurant stands a lonely microphone on a small stage. Is that for the 'Show'? "We have a few surprises coming up!" replied Erez.

Zahra Boutique Salon

3578 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette 284-3031, www.zahraboutiquesalon.com

When she was 21-years-old and mother of a three-year-old daughter named Shila, Zahra Pasti decided to flee the Iranian Islamic revolution and landed in Denmark. After 30 years of travel and hard work, Shila Dorrani-Unal and her mother Zahra just opened a new shop in Lafayette, Zahra Boutique Salon, across the street from Postino on Mount Diablo Boulevard. The concept is total beauty, from hair, to skin, to clothing; even some vintage objects for the home.

Zahra remained in Denmark for many years, where she enjoyed peace

after the turmoil she had witnessed. But one of her five sisters moved to the Bay Area and enticed Zahra to join her. "It was a real culture shock for me," remembers Shila, who was 13 at the time. "It was nice to be reunited with some of my family," adds Zahra, "we had been very close growing up. We were always doing each other's hair and make-up, so it was natural for me to move in that direction for my career." Zahra opened a beauty salon in El Sobrante that prospered for over 15 years.

In the meantime, Shila was growing up and spending all her spare time sketching and making dresses. After high school, she studied at the Fashion Institute (FDIM) in San Francisco and worked in pattern-making and sketching.

"We've learned a lot of things to-

gether," says Zahra, "We've had many struggles and adventures, and they've made us stronger." Now they are combining the mother's long time passion and practice of hair and skin care with her daughter's professional experience in the fashion world.

Zahra works her magic towards the rear of the shop with hair color, make-up, facials, and the ancient method of thread facial hair removal. Shila presides over the front area, where she offers 'shabby chic' clothing that she says brings out her European side. "When people come here it is to be beautified while staying comfortable," says Shila.

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



Zahra (front) with daughter Shila and younger daughter Sheva (standing) who sometimes helps in the store
 Photo Sophie Braccini

business briefs

Garden Tour for Tech Trek Scholarship

John Montgomery Landscape Architects is sponsoring "Life in the Lafayette Garden" on Saturday, May 14. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the Tech Trek scholarship program sponsored by the Lamorinda branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW-OML). Montgomery will be present to answer questions on the tour of five select Lafayette gardens. He believes "a landscape is much more than just shrubs, trees, and a patio. It has the power to rejuvenate, inspire, and relax." Presentations will include an outdoor cooking demonstration, urban farming demonstration, light refreshments, and live music. The tour will be held from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Tech Trek is a week-long summer program for junior high school girls. The camp inspires young women to consider careers in science, technology, engineering, or math. The proceeds from this fundraiser will provide girls interested in math and science with scholarships to attend the Grace Hopper Tech Trek camp on the Stanford University campus. Tickets are \$25 each. For more information, call AAUW member Pat at (925) 376-5155 or visit www.aauwoml.org/TechTrek.html.

Tri-Chamber Meeting – Make Your Movie

Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda will hold a Tri Chamber Mixer at The New Rheem Theatre, 350 Park Ave, Moraga, on Tuesday, April 26. Since the meeting will be in a movie theater, the Chambers are asking residents to shoot a video (three minutes or less in length) or create a PowerPoint presentation or slide show about how much they love their town/city. "I thought, we are in a theater and we are all proud of our city – and hey, let's have some fun," said Lafayette Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson. Winners from each community will be shown on the big screen and win prizes. All submissions

must be on a DVD. Please contact the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce for submission instructions, 284-7404.

J. Rockcliff Realtors "Office of the Year"

89 Davis Road, Suite 100, Orinda; (925) 253-7000
 3799 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Suite 100, Lafayette; (925) 385-2330

J. Rockcliff Realtors announced on March 10 that its "Office of the Year" award will go to the company's Orinda and Lafayette branches which are viewed as, and function as, one united Lamorinda office. The annual award recognizes outstanding achievement in year-over-year growth in production, recruitment and overall performance. "Our Orinda/Lafayette office has positioned itself at the vanguard of industry expertise, leadership and community involvement," said Jeff Sposito, president of J. Rockcliff Realtors. "Between the two branch locations, there are not only some of the most respected and successful Realtors in the area, but in the nation. They are industry leaders. They are community leaders. They are compassionate, involved, engaged and focused and serve as excellent examples to their peers. It is an honor for me to congratulate them for being named our company's office of the year and I look forward to rewarding their sustained accomplishments in the future."

News from the three Chambers of Commerce Lafayette

- Entrepreneur's Club, March 17, 8:30-9:30am in the Lafayette Chamber Conference Room.
- Coffee with the Mayor, March 18, 8-9am in the Lafayette Chamber Conference Room.
- Green Committee Open Meeting, March 22, noon-1pm in the Lafayette Chamber Conference Room.
- Ribbon Cutting at Posh Boutique, March 24, 5-6pm. 3416 Mt. Diablo Blvd. (925) 962-9691.
- Business Issues/Government Affairs Committee Open Meeting, March 25, 8-9am in the Lafayette Chamber

Conference Room.

- 2011 Citizen of the Year Dinner Honoring Karen Mulvaney, Friday, March 25. Karen Mulvaney has been picked as the 2011 Citizen of the Year. Anyone who has worked on a school parcel tax, the library of the many projects Karen has worked on, knows that she gives it her "all." Karen will be honored on Friday, March 25th with a dinner at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa. Reservations are required, the form is available on the Chamber's web site, www.lafayettechamber.org.

Moraga

Chamber general meeting, Friday, March 25, 7:30-9am at the Hacienda, 2100 Donald Drive. Roos' muffins and coffee will be served. Mary Coe, Renee Zeimer and Rich Larsen, the Moraga Economic Development Team, will be the guest speakers. They plan a large outreach effort to the Moraga business community.

Orinda

First Annual State of the City Address and Special Recognition Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, April 20, starting at noon in the Orinda Community Center, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. The event is hosted by Rotary Club of Orinda and Orinda Chamber of Commerce. It will recognize Julian Juricevic's Orinda Taxi as Best Small Business in Orinda. The State of the Town Address will be given by Mayor Victoria Smith. The Chamber will also give Special Recognition Awards to Sally Hogarty, Editor of the Orinda News and columnist Valerie Hotz. RSVP required by April 15. Tickets are \$20.00 per person - to purchase tickets go to the Chamber's web site at www.orindachamber.org/events.htm#AwardsDinner.

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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 is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA

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Women of the Year

By Cathy Tyson



Local Winners of the Woman of the Year – Edy Schwartz, Assemblymember Skinner and Ann Appert. Amy Worth was unable to attend.

Three women from Lamorinda, who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, were recently honored by Assemblymember Nancy Skinner who praised their contributions to their respective communities. Although there are winners from each of the Assembly District 14 cities, which include Albany, Berkeley, Richmond, Pleasant Hill and beyond, only the local winners are listed below.

"It was an honor to be included with the thirteen other women from Assemblymember

Skinner's district at the second annual Woman of the Year event. Assemblymember Skinner exemplifies what can be achieved when we work hard and commit ourselves to those things we value," said Edy Schwartz of Moraga. She has been President of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce for the past three years, and was instrumental in saving the Rheem Theatre. In addition she's been an active volunteer for more than thirty years and has worked hard to cultivate a deeper relationship between St. Mary's

Photo courtesy Clayton J. Mitchell

College and the town.

Ann Appert is the Woman of the Year from Lafayette. She was the co-leader of the campaign to build the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, and

launched the successful after school tutoring program there. She served on the Governing Board of the Lafayette School District and presided as President during the creation of their strategic plan and helped streamline foundation support to increase resources for students. Continuing her support of youth, she helped develop a Wellness Committee to focus on student stress, nutrition and character. Finally, she's a Trustee of Youth Homes which serves abused and neglected children.

Amy Worth of Orinda was the driving force behind the congestion-relieving Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore Project. She has spent thirteen years serving as an unpaid Orinda City Council Member. She was a key supporter of the construction of the new Orinda Library along with parcel tax measures that keep the Library open sixty hours per week.

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Drama, Laughter, Music—Town Hall Theatre Does It All

By Andrea A. Firth

Town Hall Theatre Company of Lafayette is often touted as the oldest, continuously active theater in Contra Costa County. That is true, but it doesn't mean that an old theater can't learn new tricks. Over the past year and half, in addition to the main stage dramatic productions, Town Hall Theatre Company (THT) has branched out to host a comedy series and a music series featuring prominent Bay Area acts. "We wanted to add some variety," says THT's Artistic Director Clive Worsley, "Part of the idea behind these new entertainment options is to get people in the door to experience this great venue, people who would not normally come to Town Hall."

Later this month the comedy series will feature two improv groups battling for audience laughs in a comedy competition coined the Comedy Smackdown. The San Francisco-based improv troupe Crisis Hopkins, which includes THT's Technical Director Chris Hayes, will take on the internationally famous group ComedySportz to see who gets the last and loudest laughs.

Then in May, THT will have the hugely popular Beatles Tribute band, The Sun Kings, performing. The Sun Kings kicked off the music concert series last spring and are expected to once again play to a sell out crowd.

The music series is the brainchild of Lafayette resident Tom Stack. After working with and for Grateful Dead Productions for twenty years, Stack had retired from the industry to the more sedate life of the Lamorinda suburbs, but he missed seeing and hearing great live music.

"We have 185 acoustically-perfect seats in a local, easily accessible theater," says Stack, "We have what it takes to make it easy to see cool, live music" In 2007, he coordinated a wildly successful tribute concert at THT

for Grateful Dead keyboardist Brent Mydland, who lived in Lafayette until his death in 1990. Following the success of that concert, Stack joined the THT Board, and the music series was launched. The musical groups featured so far have been cover band acts, which Stack acknowledges makes the music accessible, but he hopes to soon add up-and-coming local bands to the mix. "No bridge, no tunnel, no freeway—that's our tagline," says Stack. "We want to make this a local music scene."

THT still remains grounded in its dramatic roots. The fourth and final main stage production of the 2010-2011 season will be Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, which will run throughout June. It has been a while since THT has performed the Bard; Worsley, who has a decade-long relationship with Cal Shakes, and the play's director, Soren Oliver, have been planning a performance of this comedy for years. "*Twelfth Night* is known as the perfect comedy," says Worsley, "It's a delightful play and a great way to bring Shakespeare to our community."

"Our focus is to reach our neighbors," says Worsley, and he believes drama, laughter, and music are all great ways to achieve this goal. "People love this venue, and it works well for a variety of events. This is an extension of our mission to serve as a social and cultural gathering place for the community."

Next up in THT's Comedy and Music Series

Comedy Smackdown
Saturday, March 26th, 8:00 pm

The Sun Kings
Saturday, May 7th, 7:00 pm

Tickets available for both events at www.thtc.org or by calling (925) 283-1557.

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True Grit in Lamorinda

By Sophie Braccini



Gigi Kenney at the Lafayette Reservoir with Yannett Kenney (right) and Alex Martin
Photo Sophie Braccini

Six-year-old Gigi (Angelina) Kenney runs for her mother. 54-year-old Gerald Starr walks to get his life back. Each of these Lamorinda residents is engaging in a battle against adversity, pushing their limits and finding the strength to continue to fight. By pure coincidence, they will both be part of the Twilight 5K at the Oakland Running Festival on March 26th.

"When are you going to get better?" Gigi asked her young mother, Yannett Kenney, a few months ago. Unfortunately, there is no answer to that question. Kenney was diagnosed a year ago with dystonia, a neurological movement disorder in which sustained muscle contractions cause twisting and repetitive movements or abnormal postures. The movements, which are involuntary and sometimes painful, may

affect a single muscle, a group of muscle, or the entire body. Kenney went from doctor to doctor for a year before someone finally diagnosed the rare disease that was debilitating her.

"What would you do if you get cured?" continued the child. "I would walk the Reservoir again," said Kenney, who used to take her daughter there but now uses a walker to move around. So Gigi made a decision – she is training twice a week at the Lafayette Reservoir after school with her nanny and coach Alex Martin, to run during the Twilight 5K and raise money for dystonia research and for her school, Bentley.

Across town, at Acalanes High School, Gerry Starr walks on the track every Saturday afternoon. It's been three years now since the engineer and marketing

director suffered a massive stroke in his right brain while on business travel in Detroit. The father of two college students and stepfather of two teenage boys spent month in intensive care in Michigan and the Bay Area, and then embarked on the day-to-day rigors of endless physical and mental therapy. Since he decided to prepare for the Oakland race, his pace has increased from a one and a half miles in an hour at the beginning of February to two miles an hour a few weeks later.

Right after his stroke, Starr could not sit in his bed or eat alone; now, although his left side is still seriously impacted, he can walk with a cane and works daily to get back the motor skills in his left arm. "Two thirds of Gerry's right brain was affected," says Starr's wife Kim, "doctors told me that he would never be able to walk again and that the best solution was to put him in a nursing home."

The family fought to get him admitted to a rehabilitation center. His initial prognosis was not good there, either. After weeks of hard work, one of the doctors said before releasing Starr, "I'm so happy when I get to be wrong."

"I'm incredibly lucky to be alive," Starr says, "I enjoy a sunny day, going to the movies or eating in a restaurant. It's much better than being dead, and I try not to think about how it used to be." Starr says the support of his wife and family has been crucial to his recovery.

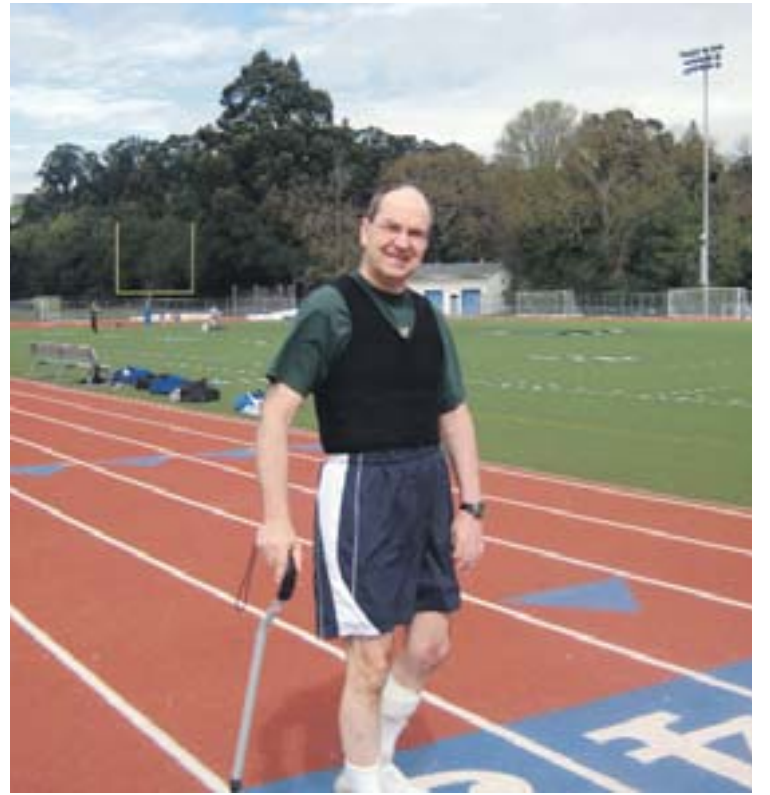
Yannett Kenney feels somewhat isolated, suffering from an orphan disease that most people do not understand. "The disease is not degenerative, but it has no known cure," says Kenney, "I have been accused of simulating or even of being crazy, and I do

not know anyone in this area with the same condition." Kenney believes she owes the fact that she was finally diagnosed at all to the persistence of her Orinda practitioner, Dr. Mark Reginato. "It can take some people up to 10 years to get a correct diagnosis," she says, "but Dr. Reginato never gave up and insisted on getting tests done until we found out what I had."

Kenney receives care from the treatment center nearest to Lamorinda, which is in Orange County. Still in a grieving period, she is caught between denial and trying to act "normal," and facing the reality of the condition that has shattered her life. "I used to be a radio host in Mexico, and then I had my own Spanish teaching school, Mariposa," she says, "I do not know what I will be able to do in the future." She takes great pride and strength in the determination of her daughter.

Gerry Starr does not want crowds to come and cheer for him on March 26th as he walks the Twilight 5K around Lake Merritt. His challenge is personal. Starr has many obstacles to overcome before he reaches his goal of self-reliance. His next goal is to find a job or volunteer position. "I am a marketing specialist and feel I have a lot to contribute," says Starr.

Gigi's cause has many supporters. "The businesses in Orinda have been very supportive," says her mother, "Republic of Cake and Canetti's Bookshop contributed immediately." There are two websites on which you can find out more information about Gigi's run: www.dmrfevents.org/event.php?407450, for the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation; and Team Bentley can be found at teambentley.dojiggy.com/.



Gerry Starr walking at the Acalanes track
Photo Sophie Braccini

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Making Movies in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Camera set up at Si Si Caffè

Who'd have thought that Moraga might be the perfect setting for a thriller? If you're looking for some small town ambience, turns out Moraga's just the ticket.

On March 4th and 5th a cinema crew from Entwin Productions filmed

scenes for the upcoming movie *My Eleventh* in Moraga. A production scout discovered Cathy Corsi's Si Si Caffè, on Country Club Drive, and suggested it for a scene in the murder mystery. "When they came that day, they took over the café," said Terry



Cathy Corsi's daughter Cynthia and waitress Renee Gomer all dressed up to play in the production

Wolf-Stratton, who works in the salon next door, "The two stars of the movie were so gorgeous and sweet. It was very interesting to see them work; it's real business and when we had to be quiet that was dead serious."

My Eleventh is a full-length fic-

tion movie starring John Benjamin Hickey as the killer and actress Marin Hinkle as the lead female character. Hinkle is a familiar face to sitcom fans - she plays Judith Harper in Charlie Sheen's erstwhile *Two and a Half Men*. Hickey has been featured

in such television shows as *Law and Order* and *The Good Wife*, and had a role in Clint Eastwood's movie *Flags of Our Fathers*.

Corsi was thrilled by the events of the day. "They asked my daughter Lea and my 12-year old granddaughter Cara to play the mother and sister of one of the victims in the scene where they filmed her burial at the Commons," said Corsi, "then they asked my other daughter, Cynthia, to play one of the victims and she joined the production team in Oakland, where they continued filming."

As the production team went on filming at the Moraga Commons Park, many young Moragans gathered around the team hoping to pick up a little big-screen face time as extras. There was much excitement in the otherwise peaceful park that lasted into the night.

Pedaling for a Greener Tomorrow

By Cathy Dausman



Greg Thomas in his velomobile

Look, up ahead! Is it a kayak? Is it a plane? Is it a banana? No, it's Greg Thomas in his yellow velomobile! A velomobile is a three-wheeled recumbent bike (two-wheel steering in front) covered in a fiberglass shell. Thomas currently rides a Dutch built Mango Sport model, which weighs 65 lbs and is 8 feet long.

Human Powered Vehicles, or HPVs, are still fairly new in the U.S. Thomas estimates there are only a dozen such vehicles scattered across the Bay Area. Velomobiles (velo rhymes with yellow) are quite common in Europe, even in the colder climates. They can be fitted with a kayak-like neoprene "skirt" and bubble top windscreen to keep the driver warm. They have electric lights and a bell and/or horn. Some are fitted with a small electric motor to assist on uphill climbs. Velomobile drivers can easily maintain a 20-30 mile per hour pace on flat pavement, keeping pace with residential street traffic, but Thomas is careful to observe the 15 mph upper limit on local bike trails. "I try to be a good trail user," he says, but "as with any bike you

drive defensively."

An Orinda resident and Cal Berkeley graduate, Thomas is a Senior Project Manager for American Mechanical. He was a college gymnast and has done "lots of paragliding and kite surfing." His interest in recumbent bikes dates to the late 1990's. He first rode recumbents in 2001, and switched to riding a velomobile in 2008. He commuted on his first model for a year before buying the Mango Sport.

Thomas participated in the Portland, Oregon, Left Coast Velomobile gathering in May, 2010 and joined the Niagara, Canada Velomobile Happening last September on a borrowed velomobile. His most challenging ride to date will no doubt be his participation in this summer's Roll Over America (ROAM) adventure.

In late July, Thomas and four dozen velomobile riders will gather in Portland, Oregon and pedal across country to Washington, D.C. to raise awareness for this eco-friendly transportation. Riders from Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, and Italy will join

a contingent of North American riders. Thomas explains his commitment to ride on the ROAM (<http://www.rolloveramerica.eu/>) website: "Roll Over America will be an opportunity [to] challenge myself to attempt my dream of

crossing the U.S. by human power while being surrounded by remarkable people and machines. This will be an amazing event." Thomas is the only Lamorindan making the ROAM trip.

To prepare for the trip Thomas commutes to work in Walnut Creek two or three times a week along the Lafayette Moraga trail. "Velomobiles are incredible machines that satisfy my need for exercise, efficient transportation and beautiful engineering design," he

says. He has made over 200 round-trips since he bought his first velomobile, racking up 3500 miles. But he's got to ramp up the mileage considerably in preparation for this summer's trip; the group plans to ride an average of 200 km (124 miles) a day for four weeks.

Thomas says the velomobile is the "ultimate in efficient transportation. It's also a vehicle for social change. People *should* be doing [HPV] trips."

Photos Cathy Dausman

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High Schools Take on Classic Musicals

By Lou Fancher



The Wizard of Oz features: Max Fleer (Scarecrow), Neris Newton (Dorothy; Jacqueline Garell not pictured), Sophie Woodlee (Glinda), Connor McCormick (Tinman), Carter Soso (Cowardly Lion) Photo submitted

Campolindo and Miramonte High Schools are taking on musical theater icons with their upcoming productions of Fiddler on the Roof and The Wizard of Oz.

Both musicals are also film industry giants, which lends familiarity, but leads to certain expectations.

"We're doing a fairly faithful retelling of the film, although scenes are compressed and locations are 'accordioned' into one place," says David Pinkham, the director of Campolindo's show.

Last year, Pinkham asked students and parents to make suggestions when developing a list of productions to consider. Fiddler on the Roof was

mentioned enough times that it caught his attention.

"And, it's wonderful story telling, it has a lot of strong female roles and we wanted to do a traditional show," he added.

The most challenging part of directing the musical has been getting students to relate to the deep-rooted family traditions at the production's core.

"As a community, we do things the way they do things on TV: we don't have the same connections to place or family," he said, his tone a mix of regret and practical acceptance.

Shannon Sullivan, 17, plays Tzei-

tel, the eldest daughter, and has found a way to relate to her character.

"She is more sheltered than I am, but she wants to try new things, like I do," Sullivan said.

A question about art in the schools brings an immediate, fervent response from Sullivan: "That's why I came to Campolindo: for the great music program. If they ever cut it, I would be so offended and so hurt. The arts push and challenge in a way science will never do for me."

At Miramonte, Producer Petra Michel is master of everything Oz. With her flair for fashion, it's no surprise that tremendous energy has gone into procuring costumes.

"The Munchkin costumes created the biggest challenge because we needed to transform fully grown teens into tiny, sweet munchkins. We started with colorful felt hats that I found at a trade show, and student costume designer Hannah Reed added ingenious hoop skirts. Parent co-chair Stacy McCormick finished the costumes with a tiny, little vest," Michel explained.

Over fifty students are involved in crafting, performing and producing the musical. Sporadic rehearsals began in December, but picked up a steady pace in the new year. With several rehearsals a week, students scramble to fit in homework, extracurricular sports and family responsibilities.

"I realized it was crazy when I was in fifth grade, so I dropped all sports to do theater," 15-year-old Daniel Cook said.

Director Heather Cousins ex-

plained that the 1978 adaptation is not a replica of the film or book.

"Many references are new, giving it a more modern twist. But we honor the most iconic and familiar mo-

ments, [paying] tribute to the film wherever possible," Cousins reassured.

Both productions open on March 17th.



Tevye (Ben Thomas) and Golde (CaroLynn Stuart) of Campolindo's Fiddler on the Roof Photo Kathie Wicker

Campolindo High School's Fiddler on the Roof

Performances are Thursday, March 17 at 7:30 pm, Friday, March 18 at 7:30pm., Sat., March 19 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm, Thursday, March 24 at 7:30 pm, Friday, March 25 at 7:30 pm, and Sat., March 26 at 2 and 7:30 pm. For ticket information go to www.campochoir.com.

Miramonte High School's The Wizard of Oz

Performances are March 17, 18, 24, 25, 26 at 7:30pm and March 20 at 3pm. Reserved Seating \$12-\$17, General Admission \$10-\$15. Purchase at www.showtix4u.com.

High Standards at High School Newspapers

By Lou Fancher

Technology savvy students and intense editorial standards make Lamorinda High School newspapers high quality, hyper-current, and hip, to use an old-fashioned phrase.

Although articles about life on campus form the bulk of their coverage, all three papers—Acalanes' Blueprint, Campolindo's La Puma, and Miramonte's Mirador—aren't afraid to tackle community stories. In the past year, downtown planning in Orinda, University of California at Berkeley's Title IX issues and a rash of burglaries in Moraga, all received the papers' attention.

The three publications have many things in common, especially their use of new technologies like video, Facebook, and Twitter. Here is a profile of each paper.

The Blueprint

The Acalanes editors are technically determined by an advisor, but class votes and student editors influence the final assignments. There are eight issues per year and fact checking is primarily the responsibility of the writers.

Editors Nicole Lee, Emily Ellsworth and Sam Cheng said that the use of secondhand sources is discouraged and "any claims made in the story must be backed up by an interview or another reliable source."

Subject matter is wide open at the Blueprint. Editors in Chief have the final say and, in an email reply, they clarify the point, noting, "No subjects are off limits. We have published stories on sexting, marijuana, fake IDs, and meth."

The biggest changes at the Blueprint are due to the passage of Measure A.

"Our district has been dealing with budget cut issues," wrote the editors, "and there was a chance that our newspaper wouldn't survive. We attended district board meetings to argue for journalism at Acalanes. Fortunately, the measure passed and Blueprint lives on."

The Arts section and controversial stories are most popular. The Opinion page draws the most

commentary from readers.

This year's Blueprint editors picked their coverage of Title IX at Cal and the cost of sports at Acalanes in recent articles as their greatest source of pride. "These have all been large stories with high-end sources and topics relevant to the student body," they said.

Invited to share a closing comment after responding to formatted questions, Blueprint editors said:

"As cliché as it is, staff members can really do as much as they want; the only limit to how much they can do is themselves. For example, we've had people interview 'N SYNC and United States senators, walk inside the Giants' dugout at AT&T Park, and attend a roundtable discussion with director Gore Verbinski and actress Abigail Breslin. Blueprint is committed to reporting accurate news and practicing quality journalism, and the workload can be quite demanding, but it's an incredibly rewarding experience."

La Puma

Applications for editorial positions are accepted at the end of each year at Campolindo. The current editor in chief and faculty advisor review and interview the applicants.

An issue is produced each month and Tori Shepard and Victoria Garrity, 2010-11's La Puma editors, ask for 2 drafts before the final copy is submitted, to "try to be as accurate as possible."

La Puma allows a staff advisor and the school administration to control the content: crude jokes, criticism of school administration and topics not focused on school or community are off limits.

Their new advisor introduced layout and design changes this year, which Shepard called "influential." Like their larger counterparts in the professional field of journalism, the paper also had to cut back the number of pages to save money.

At La Puma, student surveys on the Opinion page and a satirical back page draw the most reader response. The feedback can come in the form of letters to the editor, but

most often, it's through Facebook, Twitter, and Gmail.

In closing, the editors said:

"This class is unique compared to other classes because it offers students a lot of freedom and an opportunity to learn in a hands-on way. The atmosphere is very relaxed and casual, and we have a lot of fun."

The Mirador

Hannah Tennant and Brian Friel were selected through an application and interview process similar to the one at La Puma. The final issue of last year was a transitional one, where Tennant and Friel were trained into their positions.

The Miramonte paper is published approximately once a month, with seven total issues. The editors rely on section editors to question facts and request clarifications from their writers.

California Scholastic Journalism Standards learned in their journalism classes set the boundaries.

"We conduct ourselves as a legitimate paper, and we print anything as long as it is not libelous," the editors said.

Last year, Mirador staff attended the NSPA Journalism Convention in Washington, D.C., which triggered the addition of an online website and editorial overseers assigned to the site.

An editorial on Boy's Water Polo received the collective nod from editorial staff as the most important story this year.

"[The article] focused on the pressure that we are placed under here at Miramonte. It exposed the unrealistic expectations we are held to by coaches and teachers. The writer argued that we can learn from our failures," explained the editors.

Mirador editors emphasized a final, important aspect of working on a high school newspaper with their last words:

"Twice a month we meet from 6-9 pm to work on the paper. We call these nights Mirador Nights, and we have a pair bring food. It's always fun!"

Acalanes Design Students Win State Contest

Submitted by Susan Lane



John Kintner

Graphic provided



Helen Kim

Graphic provided

Acalanes students Helen Kim and John Kintner recently won the California State Senate Logo design contest for "Greening the 21st century." State Senator Carol Liu will personally present the students with their awards.

St. Perpetua School Celebrates Literacy

Submitted by Monica Chappell



Mayor Carl Anduri

Photo Karen Goodshaw

During the first week of March, St. Perpetua School was transformed in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday. Classroom doors were decorated to reflect favorite books, students dressed as their favorite book character and enjoyed delicious homemade Cat in the Hat cookies, guest readers, including Lafayette's Mayor Carl Anduri, visited the school to read to the classes, and time was set aside for a school-wide reading period.

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Waste-Less Lunch at Springhill a Big Success

By Sophie Braccini



Nanette Heffernan wears a week's worth of lunch trash. Photo S. Braccini

Springhill Elementary School in Lafayette is effecting change. Since the Waste-Less-Lunch campaign was launched in February, the school's Green Team reports that the weight of non-recyclable waste has been cut by 55%. One of the high points of the campaign was the school's science fair on March 2nd, where Nanette Heffernan appeared in a head-to-toe outfit she made out of sanitized plastic trash from the previous week's school lunch waste. She was a real kid-magnate at the fair. The multicolor, twirling costume attached with safety pins was undeniably attrac-

tive, but it highlighted the sad reality of buckets-full of non-recyclable trash dumped by kids each day at school. "I'm all for it," said Springhill's Principal Bruce Wodhams, "It is tough to change our wasteful mentality, but the kids have been getting it and the school has won the \$2,000 County Waste Buster Award. Our students are very good about recycling and some of the parents are very enthusiastic." Heffernan is definitely one of these enthusiastic parents. She is part of the Springhill Green Team that launched the waste-less lunch

campaign last month, with Jodi Consoli, Meg McAdam, Sarah David, and Heidi Rahlmann Plumb.

"We were wondering how to get the word out to parents," remembers Heffernan, "then I proposed to wear five days worth of trash on my hat as I do traffic calming for parent drop-off in the morning." A creative spirit, the young mother invents visual props to make her point. She built a children's book, "The Great Cowpoop Debacle," out of recycled material to teach her kids about wastefulness, and when it came to finding a way to direct traffic and de-stress parents at drop-off time, Heffernan volunteered to do it twice a week, wearing a dress-up hat. "The funny hat broke the ice a little bit and it became iconic at school," says Heffernan, who has done it steadily for two years, "so the idea of wearing the week's lunch trash on a hat seemed natural. I didn't want to offend anybody, just draw attention to how much is wasted at lunch time." Pretty soon, the hat was too small and she had to build a whole outfit.

"At one point (during the science fair) I noticed a woman standing off to the side just staring at me," Heffernan said after the fair, "I approached her to say 'hi' and noticed she had tears in her eyes. I asked her if she was okay and she said, 'You're wearing my son's garbage. I know because I see his name on one of the bags. I can't believe what I've been doing all these years. I never really thought about it before.' Wow! That, right there, was the point of the entire effort. Affecting even one parent made it all worth it," concluded Heffernan.

Fruit Trees the Future at Los Perales

By Cathy Dausman



Parents, students and siblings from Los Perales plant fruit trees

Photo Cathy Dausman

A group of Los Perales Elementary School students, siblings and family members spent a recent Saturday morning digging, amending soil, planting, pruning, watering and even painting the bark on three new fruit trees they planted on school grounds. The non-profit Urban Farmers donated two antique heirloom apple trees; a third fruit tree, a pear, was purchased by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). "Perales" is

Spanish for pear. Jenny Clare, Los Perales PTA President, recruited the help; and Clare and Urban Farmers' Siamese Sioshansi managed the project. "It was a really good starting point for [building] a relationship [with Urban Farmers]," said Clare, adding she is happy to bring together school families who are interested in growing their own produce. "These children are our future

leaders," says Sioshansi. "It is nice to see them more involved with the food cycle."

Urban Farmers has also donated trees to Acalanes High School, Lafayette Elementary School and St. Mary's College.

Sioshansi says the Los Perales saplings should bear fruit in just a couple of years. But if it takes longer, Clare is okay with that. "We're a school that will be around for a long time," she says.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Acalanes Union High School District
 Board Room AUHSD Office
 1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
 Next: Wednesday, March 23, 7:30pm

Orinda Union School District
 OUSD Office
 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda
 Monday, April 4, 4pm

Lafayette School District
 LAFSD Office
 3477 School Street, Lafayette
 Wednesday, April 13, 7pm

Moraga School District
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 Tuesday, April 12, at 7:30pm

Wait-Listed at the University of California?

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Colleges build waiting lists to ensure that they have full freshman classes. Since not all accepted students will choose to enroll, these lists allow colleges to reach out to students they would like to accept but do not have the space to enroll. This system is hard on students because the school is not sending a clear message regarding an offer of admission. Some students describe it as being "in a state of limbo." While students and their parents are accustomed to wait-listing at private schools, most are surprised to learn that the University of California also uses waitlists.

The waitlist as an enrollment strategy

UC currently enrolls more than 11,500 students for whom it receives no state funding. A waitlist is an enrollment management tool that helps campuses reach their enrollment targets and budget objectives. This is especially important during tough economic times when the university is dealing with recent and planned state budget cuts. In the fall 2010 admissions cycle, the UC used waitlists at many campuses for the first time and announced plans to do so again in fall 2011. All campuses, except Los Angeles and Merced, plan to use waitlists for their freshman applicant pools. Davis and San Diego also have a transfer waitlist, and Irvine and Santa Cruz are considering the option for transfers.

How many students are accepted from the waitlist?

This enrollment strategy was first used in fall 2010, so we only have access to those numbers. Just two campuses—UC Davis and UC Santa Barbara—admitted significant numbers of students from their waitlists. Their final freshman classes included more than 40% of students admitted off the waitlist.

What our students need to know

- Students may receive waitlist offers from more than one campus. Students may accept as many offers as they wish. Waitlist offers will be made by the end of March for freshman applicants and the end of April for transfers.
- Once students are offered a spot on a waitlist, they must opt in or lose this opportunity. Instructions for opting in will be included with the waitlist notification.
- Even if students accept a waitlist offer (or several), students should submit a Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) by the stated deadline to a UC campus (or other college or university to which they have been accepted). If they later accept an offer of admission from a campus where they have been wait-listed, they will forfeit their deposit at the first campus.
- Preliminary financial aid awards will be sent at the time students are notified of waitlist offers. Students

who submit their SIR by the deadline will be considered on time for housing and orientation scheduling purposes.

• Wait-listed freshman applicants will be notified of their status no later than June 1; wait-listed transfer applicants will be notified by July 1st.

Key difference in waitlist status between UC and private colleges

There are key differences between being placed on the waitlist at a private college versus the UC. Gael Casner, founder of College Find in Marin County, sums it up well: "The main difference has to do with the amount of control you have over the process. At a private college, you can continue to add important information to your application, write or call to show your continued interest and generally assure the college that it is your first choice school." If you are wait-listed at the UC, you can do little but wait, and that can be unnerving for students and their families.

Consider Your Options

It is important to focus on the schools that accepted you without reservation. If you have received admission offers from one or more UC campuses, out-of-state public and/or private colleges consider these opportunities carefully—this time from the fresh perspective of an admitted applicant. These colleges want you and indicated their interest with firm offers of admission. Ultimately, being a UC wait-listed applicant may not prove as satisfying to you as accepting an offer of admission from a college that was attractive enough to make it to your college list in the first place. Knowing what college you will be attending in the fall will allow you the freedom to move forward, make definitive college plans and enjoy the remainder of your senior year.



Elizabeth LaScala Ph.D. guides high school and transfer students through the complex world of college admissions. She develops best match college lists, offers personalized essay coaching to produce thoughtful, unique responses and tools and strategies to tackle each step of the admissions timelines with confidence and success. Elizabeth advises students from all backgrounds, including college-bound athletes, and maximizes merit and financial aid awards. She earned certification from UC Berkeley in College Admissions and Career Planning. Contact her @ (925) 891-4491 or elizabeth@doingcollege.com.

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SUMMER CAMPS

2011 / #1

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Part 1, Full Day and Overnight Camps (Part 2, half-day camps, April 13 2010)

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Summer's Coming – What Will Your Kids Be Doing?

Sleep-away camp. The very phrase sends thrills of excitement through some kids, while in others it instills fear. Think back...chances are you fell into one of these categories yourself. There are many options in California and beyond for Lamorinda's young, adventurous spirits; but some kids are home-bodies, preferring to spend their days, and nights, in familiar surroundings – nothing wrong with that, and we can only hope they'll still feel that way when we are old and waiting for them to come visit! Right here in Lamorinda are sleep-away camps that may help bridge that gap – away from home, yet just down the street.

Seems like kids have never had as many choices as they do now. Maybe you are just looking for a week here and there to broaden your child's horizons – give them an opportunity to learn something new, have an adventure, take a hike...you may find just

what you're looking for in this issue's annual Summer Camp Guide.

If your child's summer plans include sleeping in or days filled with swim team, our next summer camp

issue will feature a variety of half-day camps and classes that will give those water-wrinkled fingers a chance to dry out and might even convince sleepy-head to get up and try something new!

Adventure Day Camp (Walnut Creek)

see ad

Adventure Day Camp is a traditional summer day camp for children ages 3-14. In a relaxed atmosphere, children gain confidence and skills in a wide range of camp activities; including swimming, horseback riding, sailing, arts, sports, archery, drama, music, rock climbing, hiking, overnight camping, and much more. Home transportation is available from most areas.

Dates: June 14 - Aug 13
Phone: (925) 937-6500 www.adventuredaycamp.com

Camp AWESOME (Lafayette)

Lafayette Recreation offers a variety of fun & reasonably-priced camps! Camp Awesome offers weekly camps featuring Games2U, sports, hiking, performances and water play. Bridge our half day camps (Sports, Arts, Music, Science, Cooking, Dance and more) together with Awesome Lunch Hour to make your own full day camp.

Phone: (925) 284-2232
Website: www.LafayetteRec.org

Bella Oaks Horse Day Camp (Martinez)

see ad

Camp includes horseback riding lessons, English and Western, and anatomy. We make daily excursions including picnics, hiking under grand oak and bay trees. Bella Oaks also offers crafts, games, and activities like sports, bike rides, treasure hunts, afternoon swimming and so much more!

Dates: June 13-August 19 (9am to 3pm)
Phone: (925) 229-2171
Website: www.bellaoakshorsecamp.com

Cal Shakes (Lafayette)

Summer Shakespeare Conservatories: Five- and Two-week Conservatories offer classes including acting, improvisation, stage combat, and movement. Afternoons are spent in rehearsals for public performances of Shakespeare plays at the end of the program. Grades 3-12. Scholarships available.

Dates: June 20-August 12
Phone: (510) 809-3293
Website: summershakespearecamps.org

Chabot-Space Explorers Summer Camp (Oakland)

Located in the Oakland Hills, off Highway 13, Chabot Space & Science Center offers week long full-day camps for kids entering grades K-8 who are interested in space, science and having fun.

Dates: July 5 - August 5 (9am - 4pm)
Phone: (510) 336-7426
Website: www.chabotspace.org
Email: summercamp@chabotspace.org

Camp EDMO (Moraga)

Camp Edmo is for kids pre-K – entering 4th grade to explore, create, have fun and grow. Each weekly Arts & Science and Animation theme is designed in partnership with top Bay Area children's museums: Exploratorium, California Academy of Sciences, Zeum and MOCHA. In Moraga at Rheem Elementary School.

Phone: (415) 282-6673
Website: www.campedmo.org

Camp EDTECH (Moraga)

Teaches pre-teens and teens entering 5th – 9th grade how to create their own digital movies, photographs, soundtracks, graphic designs, and animations. Both beginners or advanced media-makers will learn to express and impress with their digital media art. In Moraga at Rheem Elementary.

Phone: (415) 282-6673
Website: www.campedtech.org

The Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bellringers Music Camp (Lafayette)

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Phone: (510) 887-4311
Website: www.ggbc.org

Camp Hacienda (Moraga)

Again this summer Moraga Parks and Recreation will be offering Camp Hacienda, a day camp for kids ages 5-10 that will incorporate sports, games, crafts and more in the safe, secluded environment of the Hacienda de las Flores. Come for a full day or a half day.

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Phone: (925) 888-7045
Website: www.moraga.ca.us

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SUMMER 2011

Camp listings collected and compiled by Wendy Scheck

Part 1, Full Day and Overnight Camps

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Dates: one week only; July 24-July 29
Website: www.juliefoudyleadership.com

Lorne Smith Lacrosse (Moraga)



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Dates: One week only; July 13-17
Website: www.lornesmithlacrosse.com

Roughing It Day Camp (Lafayette)



An all-outdoors day camp located at the Lafayette Reservoir for children 4 1/2 - 16 years. Activities include: horseback riding, swimming lessons, trail riding, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, sports, outdoor adventure & more! Transportation provided from home and group bus spots. Extended day available.

Phone: (925) 283-3795
Website: www.roughingit.com

Camp Pura Vida (Boonville) Overnight



A Sleep Away Program operated by Adventure Day Camp. Camp Pura Vida is nestled among redwood trees and the Rancheria River offers a beautiful and tranquil setting for the program. Activities include hiking, sports, horseback riding, fishing, camping, arts, drama, and more. Aug 7th - Aug 13th (7 days) or Aug 7th - Aug 18th (12 days).

Phone: (925) 937-6500
Website: www.adventuredaycamp.com

Redwood Ranch Summer Camp (Oakland Hills)



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Phone: (510) 531-0262
Website: www.redwoodranchstables.com

Sienna Ranch (Lafayette)



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Phone: (925) 283-6311
Website: www.siennaranch.net

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R CAMPS

L / #1

(Part 2, half-day camps, April 13 2010)

Camp Kefli (Lafayette)



The Camp Kefli staff leads a wide range of programs that are appropriate to each age group (K – 8), filling our two one-week sessions with fun. Some programs utilize the wonderful Temple Isaiah facility while others take place off site. We offer creative theme days and adventures that enrich and delight our campers!

Dates: August 8 - August 19; 9-3:30 (M, T, Th); 9-5 (W, F)
Phone: (925) 284-9191
Website: www.temple-isaiah.org/kefli

Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop (Lafayette)

The week-long music workshop provides an intimate and inspiring environment for learning and playing jazz. Master classes, improvisation workshops and jazz combos are led by some of the pre-eminent, professional musicians in the field. Directed by Stanley Middle School music director Bob Athayde.

Dates: One week only; August 1- August 5
Website: www.lafayettejazz.wordpress.com

Camp Orinda (Ages 6-10)

Enjoy one adventure after another. Camp includes games, arts and crafts, hiking, skits, sports, special fun days, and twice weekly field trips. One – two week, full and extended-day camps are offered. Orinda Parks & Recreation
28 Orinda Way

Phone: (925) 254-2445
Website: www.cityoforinda.org

Orinda Parks & Recreation (Orinda)

A variety of full day camps offered for theater and for beginning – advanced sports levels (ages 4-15). Basketball, Capture the Flag, Flag Football, Golf, Lacrosse, Mini-Hawk, Soccer and multi-sport camps.
Orinda Parks & Recreation
28 Orinda Way

Phone: (925) 254-2445
Website: www.cityoforinda.org

Camp Saklan Explorers (Moraga)

Weekly camps for ages 6-10 with theme-based activities during the morning session, Monday thru Thursday. The afternoon session will include activities such as swimming, sports, games, crafts and much more. Weekly field trips every Friday. Half day options for ages 3-5 and 6-10 are also available.

Dates: June 13-August 12 (8:30am to 4:30pm)
Phone: (925) 376-7900
Website: www.saklan.org

Sewnow! Fashion Design (Lafayette)



Learn fashion design and sewing at sewnow! fashion studio. We offer a variety of one week camps for juniors (2nd & 3rd Grade), kids, and teens. Have fun, learn new skills and walk away with unique personalized fashion items. Camps include workbook, fabrics, notions, computerized custom-fit patterns, and custom embroidery.
960 Moraga Rd. (1 block south of Mt. Diablo), Lafayette.

Phone: (925) 283-7396
Website: www.sewnow.com

Summer Park Program (Moraga)

This camp is a six-week "Drop-in" day program for children ages 8-12. The park will be staffed with Recreation Leaders and children will be able to come and go as they (and you) please. They will spend their days participating in age appropriate sports, crafts, games, nature walks, etc.

Dates: July 11-July 29 and August 1- August 19, Full Day (10am to 3pm)
Phone: (925) 888-7045
Website: www.moraga.ca.us

Town Hall Kids (Lafayette)

There is something for everyone this summer at Town Hall Theatre Kids. Classes expose children of all ages to theatre arts while developing confidence, leadership, team-building skills and acting techniques. Sessions vary in length from one week summer camps to three-week rehearsed presentational productions.

Website: www.townhallkids.com

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www.lamorindaweekly.com

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- June 27–July 1 (Advanced* 1pm–3pm)
- July 11–15
- July 25–29 (Advanced* 1pm–3pm)
- August 1–5 (Advanced* 1pm–3pm)

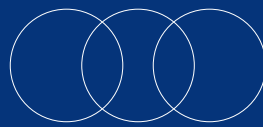
* Advanced sessions available to athletes who have completed a prior one week introductory session or our middle school program

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The Lamorinda Weekly Summer Camp listings are not paid advertising. Our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. In the event we have inadvertently printed misinformation please let us know. LW is not liable for errors or omissions.



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Lamorinda Moms Pick Best of Lamorinda 2011

Submitted by Leslie Ellwood, Best of Lamorinda Survey Chair 2011



Lamorinda Moms is a social and support club for parents with children under five in the greater Lamorinda area. The organization strives to help members enrich their lives through cultivating new friendships, personal and professional growth, and community involvement.

Approximately every two years, Lamorinda Moms conducts a survey to choose member favorites in a variety of categories including health, beauty and dining. In addition to creating a resource list for our members, we also publicly recognize the outstanding local vendors. We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2011 survey here.

Each current Lamorinda Moms member was eligible to vote once. All who participated were entered to win one of two gift certificates, a body polish treatment courtesy of Entourage Spa in Orinda and a \$50 gift certificate for the new hot restaurant in Orinda, Table 24. Winners were those that received the most votes. We had one instance where a tie was declared in the Best Middle Eastern Food restaurant.

Winners will receive a certificate and letter informing them of their win. The purpose of this survey is to both recognize great resources within the Lamorinda area and provide a valuable information bank for Lamorinda Moms members as well as our community. Thank you to all who participated in the survey and congratulations to the winners!

Since 1995 the Lamorinda Moms has evolved to become one of the largest parenting organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area, with over 700 members. The club hosts dozens of activities and events each month, and provides valuable resources to parents in the Lamorinda area. To learn more about Lamorinda Moms, including how to join, please visit us at www.lamorindamoms.org.

2011 Winners List

Children

Babysitting resource	Friends	
Nanny resource	Lamorinda Moms Forum	
Birthday Entertainer	Music Together	Lafayette
Birthday Party Location	Pump It Up	Concord
Children's Birthday Cake	Safeway	Lafayette
Children's Clothing	Baby Gap / Gap Kids	Walnut Creek
Toy Store	Sweet Dreams	Orinda
Dance Class / Lessons	Kids 'N Dance	Lafayette
Gymnastics Class	Kindergym	Lafayette
Music Class	Music Together	Lafayette
Swim lessons	Campolindo High - Soda Aquatic Center	Moraga
Summer Camp	Orinda Parks & Rec	Orinda
Kid's Haircut	Ms. Karen's Place	Lafayette
Playground	Moraga Commons	Moraga
Walk / Hike with Kids	Lafayette Reservoir	Lafayette
Rainy Day Activity	Lindsay Wildlife Museum	Walnut Creek
Storytime	Miss Donna - Lafayette Library	Lafayette
Pre School	Growing Tree Pre-School	Moraga

Food / Drink / Fun

Brunch	Chow	Lafayette
Carryout / Delivery	Chow	Lafayette
Family Friendly Dining	Chow	Lafayette
Chinese Food	Uncle Yu's Szechuan	Lafayette
Pizza	Zachary's	Oakland
Indian Food	Swad	Lafayette
Mexican Food	El Charro	Lafayette
Italian Food	Postino	Lafayette
Japanese Food / Sushi	Blue Ginko	Lafayette
Middle Eastern Food	Babalou's Mediterranean and Turquoise Mediterranean Grill	Walnut Creek Orinda
Thai Food	Amarin Thai	Lafayette
Desserts	Yogurt Shack	Lafayette
Seafood	Yankee Pier	Lafayette
Steak	Ruth's Chris	Walnut Creek
Sandwich Shop	Genova Delicatessen	Walnut Creek
Coffee (Shop)	Peet's Coffee	Lafayette
Outdoor Dining	Metro	Lafayette
Romantic Dinner	Postino	Lafayette
Mom's Night Out	Metro	Lafayette
Movie Theater	Century 14	Walnut Creek
Live Music	Moraga Commons	Moraga
Live Theater	Leshar Performing Arts Center	Walnut Creek
Pumpkin Patch	Clayton Valley Pumpkin Patch	Clayton
Pictures with Santa	Broadway Plaza	Walnut Creek

Professional Services

Dry Cleaners	Sterling Cleaners	Lafayette
Florist	Orchard Nursery & Florist	Lafayette
Grocery Store	Trader Joe's	Lafayette
Party Supplies	Boswell's	Lafayette
Pet Grooming / Sitting	Heather's Pet Care	East Bay
Veterinarian	Lafayette Animal Hospital	Lafayette
Caterer	Barbara Llewellyn Catering & Event Planning	Oakland
Photographer	Carrie Richards	Oakland
Plant Nursery	Orchard Nursery & Florist	Lafayette

Health

Pediatric Dentist	Aloha Pediatric Dentistry	Orinda
Ob/Gyn	Anahat Sandhu, MD.	Lafayette
Ophthalmologist / Optometrist	Kristine Eng, OD.	Orinda
Dermatologist	Kelly Hood, MD.	Lafayette
Chiropractor	Orinda Family Chiropractic & Massage	Orinda
Pediatrician / Pediatric Office	LaMorinda Pediatrics	Lafayette

Pregnancy / Maternity / Newborn

Prenatal Yoga Class	Day One Center	Walnut Creek
Birth / Parenting Class	John Muir Women's Health Center	Walnut Creek
Infant Specialty Shop	Day One Center	Walnut Creek
Lactation Consultant	Day One Center - Linda	Walnut Creek
Sleep Consultant	Babies2Sleep - Karen Pollak	Danville

Pampering and Fitness

Day Spa	Claremont Hotel and Spa	Oakland
Full Service Salon	Entourage	Orinda
Manicure / Pedicure	Lavande	Lafayette
Gym	Oakwood Athletic Club	Lafayette
Fitness Class	Bar Method	Walnut Creek
Mom & Baby Fitness Class	Baby Bootcamp	Lafayette
Yoga / Pilates Studio	Yogaworks	Walnut Creek

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Thank you Lamorinda Moms!

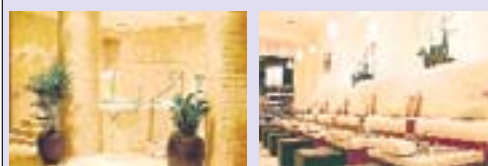
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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 1 Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Staging—First Impressions Count

By Andrea A. Firth

Staging is akin to putting on pearls with a little black dress, says Niko-lene Isely who owns Staging by Design based in Moraga. “The idea is to make the house, not the contents, the star,” says Isely. Barbara Winters, the owner of Staging & Design in Lafayette, employs a similar analogy to explain the concept of staging. “If you put on a little lipstick, you always look better,” says Winters. “Staging is like putting a little lipstick on a house.”

Stagers in Lamorinda share a com-

mon goal—maximizing the sale. “Staging a home really does put more money in the seller’s pocket. It leads to a quicker sale and a higher price,” says realtor Sue Layng, a founding member of Village Associates Real Estate in Orinda. “We have a wealth of talented and caring stagers in this area,” adds Layng, noting that almost every property her firm sells is staged at some level.

Stagers in Lamorinda provide a wide range of services to ready homes for sale. The cost to stage a home, typically

based on time (the stager’s fee) and materials (furniture rental fees), can range from several hundred to several thousand dollars depending on the services used and the length of time on the market. Stagers will consult on home décor design and color and manage contractors to paint, repair, and update. Empty homes can be furnished with rented furniture, art, and accessories, or stagers will work with existing home furnishings, rearrange the old, and mix in new pieces. Most stagers will do as much or as little

of the legwork to get the home prepared as a client wants.

“You want people to remember the house,” says Winters, but she acknowledges that this can be challenging in an area that has a number of generic, and often dated, ranch homes. “Sometimes the challenge is adding some character to the house, and that’s when being eclectic can help.”

Winters, a self-described collector, maintains a 6,500-foot warehouse in Lafayette filled with a huge assortment of furniture, bedding, art, and accessories to support her staging and furniture rental businesses. “I like to add a bit of humor and levity to my staging designs,” says Winters who aims for variety and is comfortable mixing contemporary and Chinese pieces and throwing in an animal print for contrast and pop. “I’ll do whatever is fitting for the house and put a twist on it to give it that wow factor,” she adds.

Jenifer Brunk and Gray Hynes were two of the first stagers to work in the Lamorinda area. The two college friends, both longtime Orinda residents, purchased their staging business, Improve to Move, 18 years ago. “Early on we spent a lot of time explaining the staging concept to realtors and buyers, but it’s a well accepted practice now, it’s expected,” says Brunk. “We don’t have a specific style,” says Brunk, “We stage a home to showcase what’s special about that house,” Although the approaches employed by stagers may vary, it all comes back to the sale.

...continued on page F6



Barbara Winters (on R) with Leslie Price who manages outside rentals.



Jenifer Brunk (L) and Gray Hynes in a home they recently staged.

Photo Doug Kohen



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:
LAFAYETTE	Last reported: 7
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$585,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,080,000
MORAGA	Last reported: 8
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$200,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$995,000
ORINDA	Last reported: 5
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$625,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,100,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

- 898 Dewing Avenue, \$619,000, 4 Bdrms, 1551 SqFt, 1932 YrBlt, 2-18-11;
 Previous Sale: \$199,000, 10-02-96
- 1057 Dolores Drive, \$645,000, 3 Bdrms, 1531 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 2-8-11
- 1176 Glen Road, \$1,080,000, 4 Bdrms, 2578 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 2-23-11;
 Previous Sale: \$1,360,000, 08-08-06
- 1 Nephi Court, \$770,000, 4 Bdrms, 3751 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 2-24-11;
 Previous Sale: \$550,000, 10-02-92
- 3096 Hedaro Court, \$625,000, 4 Bdrms, 1709 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 2-15-11
- 1067 Oak Hill Road, \$610,000, 3 Bdrms, 1492 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 2-23-11;
 Previous Sale: \$825,000, 10-14-05
- 3151 Withers Avenue, \$585,000, 4 Bdrms, 2455 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 2-14-11;
 Previous Sale: \$929,000, 01-13-05

MORAGA

- 2135 Ascot Drive #5, \$415,000, 3 Bdrms, 1800 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 2-16-11;
 Previous Sale: \$53,500, 06-20-75
- 2045 Ascot Drive #B, \$200,000, 2 Bdrms, 928 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 2-18-11;
 Previous Sale: \$345,000, 07-26-04
- 3744 Campolindo Drive, \$705,000, 4 Bdrms, 2074 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 2-17-11;
 Previous Sale: \$113,000, 03-08-78
- 116 Corliss Drive, \$995,000, 4 Bdrms, 2288 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 2-23-11;
 Previous Sale: \$925,000, 12-03-03
- 283 Deerfield Drive, \$655,000, 3 Bdrms, 2498 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 2-23-11;
 Previous Sale: \$60,000, 07-01-71
- 1090 Larch Avenue, \$925,000, 3 Bdrms, 2633 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 2-10-11;
 Previous Sale: \$192,000, 04-21-86
- 169 Shuey Drive, \$714,000, 4 Bdrms, 1956 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 2-18-11
- 133 Westchester Street, \$620,000, 3 Bdrms, 2264 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 2-18-11;
 Previous Sale: \$542,000, 10-12-00

ORINDA

- 212 Crescent Drive, \$950,000, 2 Bdrms, 1849 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 2-10-11;
 Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 07-03-08
- 403 Dalewood Drive, \$901,000, 4 Bdrms, 6502 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 2-18-11;
 Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 04-06-05
- 21 Lavina Court, \$625,000, 3 Bdrms, 1391 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 2-23-11
- 70 Lost Valley Drive, \$670,000, 4 Bdrms, 2342 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 2-24-11;
 Previous Sale: \$850,000, 06-09-05
- 429 Ridge Gate Road, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2684 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 2-16-11;
 Previous Sale: \$1,530,000, 01-23-08

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

MORAGA

- 14 Miramonte Drive, 94556, Federal National Mortgage, 02-15-11, \$357,779,
 1152 sf, 2 bd



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3764 Via Granada, Moraga

Completely remodeled and expanded Campolindo rancher. This home features 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths and a full-equipped media room that could be used as an au pair /in-law suite. The chef's kitchen has marble counter tops, 6-burner Dacor range and much more. The family room has a built-in media center. Master bedroom suite with walk-in closet and luxurious bath. Spacious, level yard with lawn, patio, sports court, dog run, fruit trees and hot tub.

\$1,098,000



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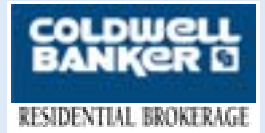
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Staging—First Impressions Count

...continued from page F 1

“We want the buyer to be able to picture themselves in the home,” says Hynes. She and Brunk keep a small inventory of linens and accessories and rent furniture through a large supplier in San Francisco. “They constantly turnover their inventory and keep up with the styles and trends. It’s a fabulous resource,” says Brunk.

Less is more for stagers who universally find that clutter is distracting and personal items don’t sell a home. But in today’s market, sellers are often still living in the staged home, so the stager is faced with striking a workable compromise. “There is a delicate balance to be achieved, because selling and moving is often emotional for the homeowner,” says Layng, “Good stagers are sensitive to the homeowner’s needs and have away of making him or her feel good about the staging process.”

With the widespread use of online real estate marketing, stagers are now also faced with staging for both the live and virtual tour. “People are buying houses using the internet, so you want to be sure that the house looks great in photographs, too,” says Isely. And, the details count when it comes to staging. A newly painted mailbox, clean windows, a new doormat – all give the impression that a house is well maintained. “All those little things do matter,” says Isely, “It’s all about making a great first impression.”



Furniture and accessories housed at Barbara Winters' warehouse in Lafayette.

Photos Doug Kohen



Staged rooms are clutter-free and incorporate attractive accents.

Nikolene Isely
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578 Monarch Ridge, Walnut Creek



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ORINDA



New Listing

6 Oak Flat Road

Charming 4bd/2.5ba contemp on .75 ac lot in prime loc. Highlights incl eat-in kitchen w/breakfast rm, DR, lg fam rm w/frplc, cathedral ceiling, hardwood flrs & walls of windows. Top schools.

Offered at \$599,000



ORINDA



New Listing

97 Coral Drive

Fabulous 4bd + office on sought-after Ivy Dr. neighborhood. Beaut updated chef's kitchen opens to fam rm. Hardwood flrs, skylights, dual pns. Walk to top schools.

Offered at \$989,000



ORINDA



New Price

5 Kenmore Court

Updated 4bd/3ba home with in-law suite, 2500 sf on 1.19 acre, great views, 3-car gar + carport. Addl. ofc/ playhouse, horse stall, orchard & gardens. Just move in!

Offered at \$995,000



ORINDA



New Listing

29 La Vuelta

This OCC Lake Cascade Mediterranean retreat offers comfortable indoor/outdoor living, 5bd, 4.5ba, nearly 3,700 sqft, pool and gourmet kitchen.

Offered at \$1,345,000



ORINDA



New Listing

457 Dalewood Drive

New Listing... never on the market. Owner built with TLC. Great Contemporary on one of the biggest Orinda Downs lots. 5 Bd, 2.5 Bath, 2 fireplaces, 2700+ sq ft. Room for expansion.

Offered at \$1,400,000



ORINDA



New Price

484 Dalewood Drive

Huge price reduction! Orig owner, cared for w/lots of TLC. Quality bld, x-lg rms, open & airy, lots of storage, sep library, 5th bd on one wing. Fantastic yd w/pool & spa, changing rms.

Offered at \$1,695,000



ORINDA



New Price

136 Manzanita Court

Spectacular newly bld 4000 sf custom Santa Barbara style home seldom found in area, 4bd/3.5ba of incredible design & custom appointments. A world of charm.

Offered at \$1,995,000



MORAGA



New Listing

1027 Larch Avenue

White picket fence & Dutch door entry will dazzle you. Ideal 3bd/2ba home for indoor/outdoor lifestyle. Beautiful creekside setting w/freeform pool & year round flowers/color.

Offered at \$765,000



MORAGA



New Listing

1383 Camino Pablo

Light & bright turnkey 2,800 sqft 5bd/3ba entertainers delight with hw floors, dual pane windows and granite kitchen and baths. Large private backyard & close to top schools.

Offered at \$975,000



LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3419 Shangri La Road

Totally charming 3100 sf 5bd w/updated eat-in kitchen (granite/gas cooktop), huge fam rm plus bonus rm., 3-car gar. Lg 1.07 ac lot w/pool & use of riding arena. Great Reliez Valley location.

Offered at \$1,175,000



LAFAYETTE



New Listing

4090 Coralee Lane

Beautiful .61 acre setting. Close in 5bd + office with 4 baths. Remodeled kitchen, open floor plan.

Offered at \$1,250,000



LAFAYETTE



New Listing

819 Las Trampas

Custom bld 3548 sf 4bd/4.5ba hm on oak studded 1 ac lot in Las Trampas trail neighborhood. Pool & extensive landscape/hardscape. Fabulous flrpln w/grand spaces.

Offered at \$1,495,000



LAFAYETTE



New Listing

15 Candlelight Lane

Perfection in this stunning 3417 sf Craftsman-style sgl lvl hm bld in 2005, fab floor plan, many impressive finishes & features, a very exceptional 4bd/3ba home.

Offered at \$1,695,000



LAFAYETTE



New Listing

20 Monticello Court

Spectacular one-of-a-kind estate tucked away in Happy Valley area. 1.6 ac built in 2000. Incredible yard - maybe the best in all of Lafayette. Reduced \$500K from last year.

Offered at \$2,999,000



WALNUT CREEK



New Price

987 Monet Circle

4bd/2.5ba built in 2000. High ceilings, loads of light. Convenient location close to shopping, commute, trails, etc. Elegant, functional home.

Offered at \$695,000



WALNUT CREEK



New Price

314 Warwick Drive

Charming 4bd hm in Scottsdale w/sidewalks nr Heather Farms, Northgate HS, recreation areas & trails. Lots of updates, hdwd flrs, great yard, large bedrooms.

Offered at \$705,000

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