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Wednesday, May 25, 2011



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From left: Jay Chugh, Blake Marggraff and Matthew Feddersen

Photo Doug Kohen

Acalanes Student-Scientists Take International Prize

By Lou Fancher

Two Lafayette students, Matthew Feddersen and Blake Marggraff, took first prize at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair on May 13th.

The global fair is the world's largest high school science research competition. This year, over 1,500 students were selected to enter, with 17 Best of Category winners from the United States, India, China, Thailand and South Korea taking

home prizes.

Breaking any stigma about Friday the 13th and making good on what the Lamorinda community holds dear—it's celebrated schools—Marggraff's and Feddersen's project offered the potential for developing a less costly and more effective cancer treatment.

The simple exhibit, describing how the two Acalanes sen-

iors injected tin in yeast cells to capture and repurpose radiation aimed at a tumor, carried a hefty title: "Simulated Treatment of Cancer with Compton Effect-Produced Secondary Radiation".

Marggraff said he came up with the idea four months after reading an article about secondary radiation in a nuclear power plant.

... continued on page C10

Quote of the Week:

"It was always a rule in my family that talking politics was rude."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A9

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Finally a Permanent Stage at the Reservoir

Finally a Permanent Stage at the Reservoir

By Cathy Tyson



From left: John Coleman, Carol Federighi, Dick Holt, Ann Grodin, Don Jenkins, Geoff Zimmerman

Photo Doug Kohen

With plastic yellow hard hats and glasses of champagne, assembled dignitaries and a bevy of Rotary members toasted the ground breaking of a permanent stage at the Reservoir that has been seventeen years in the making. The stage will be used for the annual Rotary fundraiser, Concert at the Res, but for the balance of the year it's a gift to users of the recreation area. Although organizers had to jump through a number of

hoops to make this dream a reality, the stage will be a community asset to be enjoyed for years to come.

"Thank you to EBMUD for their cooperation and thanks to Rotary - their vision and tenacity made this happen," said Don Jenkins, President of the Lafayette Community Foundation, at the ground breaking ceremony. "We want to be a catalyst for change in our community."

... continued on page A8

Commons Concerts in Jeopardy?

By Sophie Braccini

The California Court of Appeals has dismissed the Town of Moraga's appeal of an earlier decision that denied the Town the right to exempt itself from abiding by its own noise ordinance.

The plaintiff who brought the original suit lives near the Moraga Commons Park and has been

complaining for years about the noise generated by the summer concerts. In order to protect the Moraga Park Foundation, which organizes the concert series, from lawsuits the Town passed a noise ordinance - creating what it thought would be an umbrella under which the Foundation could operate.

The Court of Appeals' decision will force the Town to either shut down the widely popular music events or comply with the California Environmental Act and prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the concerts.

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Sports C6-C8

High School Swim Teams Finish at the top of DFAL

By Marissa Harnett

The rain held off on Saturday, May 14th until the seven teams within the Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL) finished swimming to determine league champion.

...read on page C6



Life in Lamorinda C1-C5

Cal Shakes Opens Season with Titus Andronicus

By Lou Fancher

The California Shakespeare Theater's 2011 season gears up with the first ever Titus Andronicus in previews June 1st through 3rd and opening night festivities Saturday, June 4th.

Led for the past ten years by Artistic Director Jonathan Moscone, the regional ... read on page C1



Our Homes D1-D8

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian The Language of Flowers



Gallantry, happiness, purity, fidelity, and marriage were the unspoken words voiced from the shield-shaped bouquet of Kate Middleton as she wed Prince William at Westminster Abbey. The ivy symbolized marriage, the myrtle fidelity, lily-of-the-valley was ... read on page D1

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Celebrating Opening with Sourdough

By Cathy Tyson



Breaking a loaf of sourdough under the eyes of the first customers

Photo Doug Kohen

“This is a homecoming for me,” said Gary Ramirez, Store Team Leader, welcoming shoppers to the opening of Whole Foods, “I went to Lamorinda schools and got my first job at a deli in Lafayette.” While thanking everyone for their patience in bringing the store to fruition he added, “it’s worth the wait.” Instead of a ribbon cutting there was the

breaking of a gigantic loaf of sourdough bread by key Whole Foods Team Members and land owner Joan Bruzzone.

“After five plus years of rumors and speculation, it’s finally here,” said Jay Lifson, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce. “Good luck and congratulations to the Bruzzone family.” He joked that he had some

notes disguised as a grocery list, and commented on parking concerns “that can be a good problem to have,” referring to an abundance of customers, “but we’ll figure it out.” Part of the negotiations between the store and City was providing adequate parking for shoppers and employees. To remedy the situation, Whole Foods purchased land and developed a lot on the corner

of Deer Hill Road and First Street to accommodate employees, removing a sizeable number of cars from the lot directly in front of the store.

Ramirez introduced Harve Singh who described his job for Whole Foods - Local Forager. Over the past three and a half years, he’s been responsible for scouting out local vendors for Northern California stores. “We have a commitment to re-invigorating local purchasing, and we help scale up local producers through our Local Producer Loan Program,” said Singh. Ritual Coffee Roasters of San Francisco received a check for \$50,000 and Gelateria Naia of Hercules got \$25,000 at the store opening as a low interest loan to help them grow their businesses. Singh invited anyone with local product to come to customer service desk and pitch their product.

With the store opening a week prior to the Lamorinda Weekly publication date, hopefully some of the initial curiosity will taper. But if the parking lot is any indication, the store is off to a good start.

Drizzle Doesn’t Dampen “Taste”

By Cathy Tyson



Deborah Kwan and Susan Sohrakoff

Photo Cathy Tyson

It was a good thing that Jay Lifson, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, announced, “We have you covered!” and “When it rains, we still pour!” on e-mail blasts just prior to the annual Taste of Lafayette. A large, hastily erected tent was put to good use due to the constant drizzle that threatened to put a damper on the event. Despite the gray skies, this year’s party had a more intimate, friendly feel – perhaps partially due to the cozy space, or chalk it up to cheerful Lafayette resi-

dents. Now in its ninth year, this event benefits the Lafayette Community Foundation and the Services and Programs of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and brings out diners ready to compare and contrast the signature dishes of many of restaurant row’s finest establishments including Chevalier, Pizza Antica, Oyama Sushi, Yankee Pier, Postino and more. The neighborhood block party and moveable feast combo started with wine and appetizers at Plaza



Marty & Tom Dejonghe

Photo Linda B. Jenkins

Park. Brand new Lafayette resident, by way of Saratoga, Carol Fara called the seared scallops with shitake mushroom on a wonton crisp, provided by the Lafayette Park Hotel, “so delicious.” Perky volunteer wine staff Deborah Kwan and Susan Sohrakoff called themselves the Gilmore girls since they were working for Barbara Gilmore of the Chamber. Wine was generously provided by Wine Thieves. Just a couple of blocks from the tent, Amarin Thai was serving its sig-

nature Yellow Vegetable Curry with chicken and steak, a favorite of many attendees. The highlight of the evening for Marty and Tom Dejonghe was winning a week in Maui from the Community Foundation raffle. Turns out it was Marty’s actual birthday. “The weather kept some people away, but it was fun – seemed like everyone had a good time,” said Lifson. Norma Evans, an ambassador/volunteer describes the event as wonderful, lots of younger people and first timers this year.

Significant Savings on Downtown Streetlight Project

By Aleksandr Auzers

In a unanimous decision on Monday, May 9th, Lafayette’s City Council approved a disbursement of \$137,000 for the retrofit of 189 streetlights along Mt. Diablo Boulevard between Pleasant Hill Road and Risa Road. This will ultimately cost Lafayette next to nothing, as the City will receive a federally-sourced grant reimbursement shortly after construction is completed. According to

Project Engineer Jay Yu, the upgraded streetlights are to be significantly more cost-effective than the models currently in service; he projects annual savings of about \$16,000, a remarkable improvement in excess of 46%. The retrofit will entail replacing each light’s lamp assembly and protective globe. As the project’s total cost is slightly higher than the expected

grant repayment, a small supplement of approximately \$4000 will be paid out from the Public Works streetlight maintenance fund. Originally, Lafayette had planned to upgrade 244 lamps, but Yu said the City received bids from contractors that were higher than anticipated. Given the present economic climate, he noted, the City believes it imprudent to upgrade the 55 lamps excluded from

the current retrofit project, unless additional grant-based funding can be secured at a later date. During the construction period, which is expected to commence within two months and last twenty days, City residents may encounter higher levels of traffic congestion, though Yu said both day and night crew shifts are planned, to minimize the impact on traffic flow.

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Lafayette

Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, June 13, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Monday, June 6, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, June 13, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
in the Arts & Science Discovery
Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org



Police Report

Who’s Armed and Dangerous now? 5/12/11 That’s what police want to know. Someone broke the rear window of an SUV parked at Lafayette Park Hotel and stole a Browning handgun. The gun was valued at over \$5,000; \$400 damage was also done to the broken window.

Definitely not soccer mom material, 5/15/11 A thief stole a Toyota van from the Acalanes High School lot. The suspect, 5’ 11 and 180 pounds, was wearing a big red tee shirt, baggy blue jeans and has buzz cut blond hair, and arm tattoos. Don’t hang your arm out the window driving around—someone might recognize you.

No bail, no how...5/9/11 The deal is sweetheart—you’re on probation. Violate that probation (no details available) and you get served with a warrant. Lafayette Police caught up with you on Acalanes Road, arrested you, and took you to Martinez for booking. This time...no bail.

No Free Parking...Go Directly to Jail, 5/3/11 A graveyard shift traffic stop on Mt. Diablo Blvd. and subsequent vehicle search turned up stolen property in the trunk. Police notified victims. One victim identified his property and recognized the vehicle as having been recently parked in his apartment complex. That thief didn’t have a Monopoly on smarts.

Car jacket-ed, 5/10/11 Someone broke the side window of a car at Lafayette Park Hotel, causing \$100 damage and stealing a men’s jacket valued at \$100.

You’ve (not) Got Mail, 5/3/11 A Pine Lane resident lost \$50 in material goods and a lot more in personal aggravation when he discovered his outside mail box was rifled for valuables. An envelope from the DMV thought to contain vehicle registration information was on site but empty.

Got Gas? 5/5/11 A thief crawled inside an Upper Happy Valley home through an unlocked window. \$2,000 went missing, including an ATM. card. The victim cancelled his card, but not before it was used to buy gas at a station in Concord.



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Cycling Through the Process

By Cathy Dausman



Alta Planning + Design's Ian Moore (center, blue sweater) talks with interested residents during a site tour.

Don't hold your breath. The three and a half mile Lafayette Class I bike path proposed along East Bay Municipal Utility District right of way is a long way from holding cyclists. Even the westernmost section would likely be five years or more in the making, or so says Alta Planning + Design's Ian Moore. Moore spoke during a public workshop May 12 at the Lafayette Community Center. The workshop followed a site tour of the route May 7.

For now, the project is just a feasibility study using staff from Alta Planning, Mark Thomas Engineering and Fehr and Peers Consultants and funded by a California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) grant. The proposed trail section runs between Highway 24 and Mt. Diablo Boulevard from Risa Road to Brown Avenue. Moore calls this a "critical piece" along a Highway 24 bike corridor striving to connect cities from Alameda to Walnut Creek via a continuous network of pathways.

The project is included in Lafayette's Bikeways Master Plan, which is part of the city's General Plan. Its current design shows a paved pathway with switch backs, retaining walls, a pedestrian bike overcrossing, street improvements where vehicles and cyclists interact, and one or two traffic signals. To keep the path Americans with Disability Act compliant, limits are set on how steep the inclines and how sharp the switchbacks. Current cost estimates are 3.5 million per mile with an additional \$38,000 annually spent in upkeep. Multiple million dollar grants between one and 1.5 million from Caltrans, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Contra Costa Transportation Author-

ity or the Federal Highway Administration could fund the project.

Moore says Orinda's St. Stephen's bike trail is a good comparison. It has no overpass or signals but needed retaining wall work done. The mile long trail runs near the east-bound lanes of Highway 24, connecting Orinda to the Lafayette Reservoir. Its cost was 1.8 million. In contrast, Walnut Creek's Treat Boulevard pedestrian overpass cost 12 million.

For details about the proposal, go online to <http://www.lafayettepathway.com/>

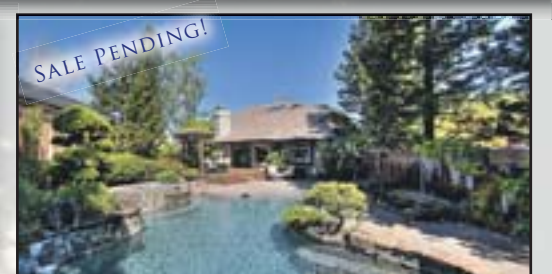


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Moraga

Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, May 25, 7:00 pm
Wednesday, June 8, 7:00 pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, June 6, 7:30 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, June 13, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Liaison

Friday, June 10, 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

Teenager refusing to do chores, 5/16/11 Extra extra - Corliss Drive resident called police to report that the subject's 13-year-old daughter was upset about doing household chores, to the point that she physically threatened her mom. Just a verbal altercation, no injuries. Is 13 too old for a time out? How about losing phone privileges?

D.U.I. 5/15/11 At 2:30 in the morning cops stopped a car travelling south on Moraga Road, going 56 m.p.h. in a 35 m.p.h. The 35-year-old Moraga resident, who should have called a cab, displayed objective signs of alcohol intoxication. Coming home from the Round Up?

Credit Card Fraud, 5/13/11 An unauthorized unknown person used a Moraga resident's Chase Visa card and made purchases at four Walgreens stores in Berkeley. The person who reported the loss, never actually lost the credit card. She wisely suspects that she is a victim of credit card fraud.

Uncontrollable Youth, 5/12/11 Campolindo High School reported an uncontrollable juvenile. Apparently a 16-year-old student left school grounds without permission after being sent to the principal's office for disciplinary reasons. The school just wanted to document the event. She's got some 'splaining to do.

Theft at SMC, 4/26/11 Some-time between 4/26/11 and 5/05/11 five brand new laptop computers were taken from a Saint Mary's College secured storage area. Nothing else was taken. Methinks the storage area was not all that secure.

Drunk college student, 5/07/11 How unusual...a 20-year-old St. Mary's College student, while attending the Galapalooza festival was placed under Citizen's arrest for public intoxication by a St. Mary's Public Officer. They alerted M.P.D and the subject was taken by Moraga police to the Martinez Detention Facility.

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A Chamber the Council Can Call its Own?

By Sophie Braccini

For many years, the Moraga Town Council has held its public meetings in the auditorium at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. The venue was once made available to the Council at no charge, but that changed when the Town decided to stop paying a portion of the maintenance costs for the Moraga School District's sports fields and suggested to the district's governing board that the fields' various users should be responsible for their upkeep. Since what's good for the goose is good for the gander, the district now charges the Town a use fee for the auditorium.

Moraga Town Manager Jill Keimach saw the current seismic retrofitting of the Town's office building at 329 Rheem Boulevard as a cost-effective opportunity to add a Council Chamber to the building so the Town could hold its public meetings free of rent. "Assuming long-term average rent and personnel/overtime costs increase three percent per year, the (current) annual cost of \$14,280 compounds to \$163,704 in ten years," said Keimach of the use fee charged for the school auditorium.

Keimach presented five variations of a chamber-building plan to the Town Council on May 11 and asked council members to select two,

which could be brought back for further discussion and financing strategy. Some members of the council indicated that spending money for a meeting room was not wise at this time, when Moraga residents are likely to be asked to make financial contributions for such things as infrastructure maintenance in the near future (see sidebar).

Most Town staff, including the police, are housed in the building at 329 Rheem. Keimach's proposal would be to reconfigure the first floor to add a large meeting room. Option (a) with 77 seats would add \$170,000 to the cost of the retrofit and option (b) with 105 seats, would add \$260,000. "Since we are doing the seismic retrofit, reconfiguring the space at this time is very cost effective," said Keimach. She added that 90% of council meetings attract less than 60 people. "The downside of Rheem is parking," noted Keimach, "we would have to negotiate an agreement with the owners of the large parking areas across the street."

The other Town properties studied were the Hacienda de las Flores and the library. Both were rejected for reasons of mix-use and/or building cost.

Council members were divided on the issue. "Let's ask the Rheem Theater, Saint Mary's College or

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church (for meeting space) before spending that kind of money," said Council Member Howard Harpham. "I have a problem about spending a quarter of a million dollars when we need to repair pot holes," added Council Member Dave Trotter. "I'm concerned about the cost," agreed Vice Mayor Mike Metcalf, "we should challenge Jill (Keimach) to try to develop it a bit smaller and identify funding ideas."

Mayor Karen Mendonca and Council Member Ken Chew supported building the larger meeting

room of option (b). Mendonca later explained, "I believe in the Buster Brown Shoes philosophy my parents taught me as a kid," she said, "if you get it cheap, you have to buy it again and it ends up costing more."

Keimach is hoping to bring the project back to the Council at the end of June or early July, complete with financing options. "If the decision for the retrofit is made this summer, the drawings will be done in the fall, and after the permits are issued, construction should start in the spring of 2012," she said.

60% of Moraga Voters Support Pot Hole Measure

Late last week, Godge Research released the results of a study commissioned by the Town of Moraga to assess residents' priorities in the areas of infrastructure maintenance, streets and storm drains. With a 5.6 percent margin of error, the results show that voters are either definitely (33 percent) or probably (27 percent) in favor of a potential measure for pothole and neighborhood street repairs. 300 potential voters, selected as being representative of the population as a whole, were surveyed between March 26 and April 1st. "Given the 60 percent base of support among voters for a Moraga Pothole and Repair Measure, we believe that the Town of Moraga should continue the process," concluded the Consultant's executive summary. Predictions are that without a measure to finance repairs, the condition of Moraga's streets and roads will decline and the cost of repairs will increase by 300 percent in 10 years. The next phase of this project will be for the Town to engage in community outreach regarding street repairs and maintenance issues. S.Braccini

Small Town v. Federal Government

Moraga Town Council opposes closure of Country Club post office

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council is joining the fight against the planned closure of the post office on Country Club Drive. The Council was not consulted, nor even officially informed, about the United States Postal Service's (USPS) decision to close the branch near the Moraga Center and it has little say in the matter, "It's David against Goliath," commented Chief of Police Bob Priebe; united against a rare common enemy, the Council decided to take a stand.

"The (USPS) personnel that conducted the public meeting on April 19, 2011, obviously had no knowledge of the situation in this town," said Mayor Karen Mendonca, "they were not informed of the developments that are planned

in that area, or of the fact that this post office is close to two retirement homes populated with residents that have limited mobility." (Read our report about that meeting at www.lamorindaweekly.com.)

The Council indicated that closing the Country Club post office did not make good economic sense because, as the USPS itself admits, it's a profitable branch. Council members noted that the closure of that office would add extra car trips for residents of Moraga and north Orinda. They wondered if such environmental consequences should be reviewed under a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedure.

NEPA, enacted in 1970, requires

federal agencies to incorporate environmental considerations in their planning and decision-making through a systematic interdisciplinary approach. Specifically, all federal agencies must prepare detailed statements assessing the environmental impact of and alternatives to major federal actions significantly affecting the environment. The Town's attorney was asked to check if the closure of the post office could be subject to NEPA regulations.

The Council also decided to send a formal letter to the Postal Service and elected officials to push their agenda. Staff had readied a long, descriptive letter that council members deemed "too polite."

"We are outraged," said Vice

Mayor Michael Metcalf. "We want to be punchy and stay civil," said Mendonca. A revised letter was mailed on May 17, and the mayor agreed to place a call to Congressman John Garamendi.

Town Manager Jill Keimach, who previously worked in Fremont, recounted how residents there saved a post office branch that was scheduled to close: "What made the difference was that people literally flooded the Postal Service with letters." Public opposition was so overwhelming that the postal administration reversed the decision. Keimach appeared perplexed at the half dozen residents who showed up at the meeting to voice their concerns.

Joint Session Meeting Didn't Go to the Dogs

By Cathy Dausman

A joint session of the Moraga Town Council and Park and Recreation Commission was straightforward, mostly on time and fairly lightly attended May 11.

The sudden entrance of eight Moraga Police Department staff late in the joint meeting raised a few eye-

brows. Two on-duty and six off-duty officers appeared, fanning out at parade rest along the back wall. Turns out they were only there for moral support. Chief Robert Priebe and his staff were honored with a proclamation during National Police Week.

Priebe says it is important the

public understands that even though Moraga doesn't experience a high rate of violent crime police work is still dangerous. "I am very proud of the work our officers are doing and the positive attitude they continue to maintain. Due to limited manpower, we have all been required to do more, and everyone has responded," he said.

The final new business item, a Rancho Laguna Park Spatial Separation Proposal, aka the dog park and fencing issue, was little more than an update. Lamorinda Dogs Director Robert Blits announced his group has

raised \$14,000 for fencing, but no one yet knows "what the fence is going to look like." He said Rancho Laguna Park may need fencing regardless of its dog park status because Assembly Bill 1144 requires fenced playgrounds within 200 feet of a hazard. The bill defines a hazard to include close proximity (200 feet or less) to parking lots or roadways. Blits stated that Rancho Laguna Park playgrounds are within that 200 feet parameter. Neither Town Manager Jill Keimach nor Blits could say who would pay for state-mandated fencing.

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A Consequence of a Dollar Tree Dilemma

By Sophie Braccini

The Economic Development Action Team (EDAC) started working on a Community Commercial Ordinance (or retail ordinance) on May 18. Moraga does not currently have a retail ordinance in place, requiring businesses that want to set up shop here to go through a process that sometimes proves to have an unpredictable outcome.

Planning Director Lori Salamack presented a draft ordinance to the 13 members of EDAC. The text is an attempt to make it easier for many types of businesses to open in Moraga, while giving some tools to the public that wants to have some input into the shopping experience in

Moraga.

Salamack proposed rules that would permit most business application processing to be streamlined, to the extent that the owners who are proposing a type of activity that is deemed desirable in town could get essentially get a permit over the counter. Her department listed uses such as bakery, hardware store, bank, offices, hotels, restaurants, antiques, music and electronic stores, and grocery stores as possible candidates for permitted-use permits; the Planning Department has listened to the opposition of some of the residents to the Dollar Tree store and added limitations based on size

and traffic.

Businesses not part of that first permitted-use category could still apply to operate in Moraga, but the application would be subject to findings, meaning more public review, and less predictability in term of timing and outcome.

Some remarked that before influencing what kind of retail experience Moraga should provide, it is necessary to define what that experience should be. The next meeting will address the establishment of a mission statement that will encourage certain types of businesses. Zoning, also a powerful tool to foster a vision, will be reviewed.

Coffee Shop Democracy



On May 20th Moraga's Mayor, Karen Mendonca (right, blue shirt) and Town Manager, Jill Keimach (back, left) began monthly drop-in meetings with Moraga residents. On the third Friday of each month, for six months, Mendonca and Keimach will be available from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the rear meeting room at Terzetto Cuisine, located at 1419 Moraga Way in the Moraga Center, to answer questions and discuss topics of interest with the community. The next open meeting will be on June 17.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Moraga School District Considers Parcel Tax

By Sophie Braccini

Although the results of a recent survey suggest that a school parcel tax may be not be favored by a two-thirds majority of Moragans, the Moraga School District is starting to plan for placement of a parcel tax measure on an upcoming ballot.

The school district's governing board heard a report on May 10 from Brad Senden of the survey firm The Center for Community Opinion. Senden presented the results of a poll, conducted this spring, which are not overly optimistic for the District. Although Moragans overwhelmingly support small class sizes and enrichment programs, the survey did not show that a parcel tax measure would receive the two-thirds supermajority of votes required to pass.

Moraga residents currently pay a school tax of \$313 per parcel; that measure passed in 2004 by a very narrow margin (66.8%) and has no sunset date. Homeowners in Orinda and Lafayette now pay over \$500 per parcel. "Our current parcel tax will no longer fund expenses in 2013-2014," said Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns. "We have been successful in spreading current parcel tax revenue out over more years than planned. However, and when only focusing on the existing parcel tax, we will need to use gen-

eral funds for the first time in 2013-14 to cover the costs of programs funded by the parcel tax. Maintaining small classes requires more teachers and the cost for teachers automatically increases every year."

"According to our survey, about 60% of the residents are in favor of a parcel tax," stated Senden. The survey involved 401 completed telephone interviews with registered voters in the Moraga School District. When given more information about the district's dire financial situation and potential programmatic cuts, the percentage of favorable responses rose to 63.3%, still shy of the required threshold.

By comparison, the results of a January poll in Lafayette showed 72% of Lafayette residents were in support of the Measure B parcel tax that would subsequently pass on May 3rd with 73.4% of the vote.

Although pollsters suggested amounts up to \$280 a year, respondents tended to favor lower figures. Senden recommended the potential tax be set at \$169 per parcel. Burns noted that the district's level of need is unclear because the State budget for 2011-2012 has not yet been established; the school board will determine an amount should it decide to place a measure on the ballot—the likely election looks to be in June of next year.

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Orinda

Civic News

Public Meetings

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

Parks & Recreation Commission
Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 7:00 PM
Room 7, Orinda Community Center,
28 Orinda Way

Planning Commission
Tuesday, June 14, at 7:00 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

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

Orinda Faces Budget Shortfall

By Andrea A. Firth

Orinda's City Council reviewed a long list of spending cuts at a recent Council meeting working to close the gap on a projected \$417,000 budget shortfall. When the Council last met to discuss the budget on May 9th, City staff had estimated the shortfall to be about \$373,000. After pulling back on some revenue assumptions, which included a loss of \$35,000 in fees associated with the playfield rentals at Wilder, the shortfall grew by an additional \$44,000.

The proposed cost reductions were spread across the City departments with cuts to administration, Public Works & Engineering, Planning, and Parks & Recreation totaling almost \$130,000. The police department's canine program was also on the cut list and will save the City \$22,000. According to Chief Jeff Jennings, the canine team was used in Orinda a total of 22 times last year primarily for drug searches, and the majority of ca-

nine calls were to other parts of the County. The police department will not lose any human head count with the cut, and canine call service will be provided by a neighboring city that has a dog unit, probably Richmond.

One of the biggest savings items on the list of options presented to address the shortfall was the realization of \$75,000 in recycling deposit forfeitures. These deposits are one-time fees collected by the City's Planning Department to ensure the appropriate recycling of materials from building and remodeling projects. Contractors are reimbursed upon completion of the project and with proof that the recycling has been done. After three years and multiple notifications, deposits are deemed unclaimed.

Even with the cuts outlined, the City must find an additional \$57,000 in order to balance the budget. "Our biggest cost is personnel expenses," stated City Manager Janet Keeter. She noted

that she would be meeting with the City's union employees to see how they can collectively work to close the remaining budget gap.

Residents Owen Murphy and Carol Penskar each addressed the Council regarding the City's longer-term revenue and expense issues, expressing concerns regarding the City's property tax revenue stream. Both are members of the City's Finance Advisory Committee, Penskar currently serves as chair, but spoke expressing their individual views not on behalf of the Committee.


"The [City's] free ride on the back of rising property values is over," said Murphy. He encouraged the Council to explore new ways to address the City's budget challenges, which he predicts will be ongoing. Murphy suggested that greater use of volunteer manpower might enable the City to use some discretionary funds such as the \$308,000 currently set aside for updating the General Plan.

"I'm also concerned that there

is a structural problem here," said Penskar. She noted that March real estate figures for Orinda from the internet source Zillow were unexpected, down 7% as compared to the same time in 2010. Penskar also raised concerns about rising medical costs and suggested that the City consider looking at restructuring the employees' medical benefit plan.

Penskar also raised the issue that Orinda's residents may be faced with voting on a tax measure to fund road repairs in the near future. "Just think about if we come out next year for the roads," said Penskar. "Consider how your budget will play. Every line item will be seized on when we have this big roads discussion."

Focusing back on the current two-year budget plan and proposed reductions, Vice Mayor Steve Glazer stated, "All of the recommendations seem prudent. This is the immediate future for us. The staff has us 99.7% of the way to a balanced budget."



Police Report

Drunk in Public, 5/11/11 A man was lying down in the bushes near the CVS store. Officers noticed the overwhelming odor of alcohol and slurred speech coming from the gentleman. Definitely not cologne. Turns out he had an outstanding warrant for a probation violation that came with a "Do not consume alcohol" clause. Considering his .23 blood alcohol content, just shy of three times the legal limit, it's a good thing he was picked up to dry out.

Cops nab burglar, 5/06/11 Jackpot! At 2:00 in the afternoon a car was pulled over on Miner Road for a minor violation, turns out inside the vehicle was property stolen from a home just up the street that had been stolen minutes before. The nanny for the family was able to identify all of the stolen property, valued at approximately \$4500.

PARTY AT THEATRE SQUARE



In a joint effort to support the grand re-opening of the Orinda Theatre, on May 14 the retailers and restaurants of Orinda Theatre Square threw a party for the community, featuring a bounce house, live music, treats, and face painting.

Photos Eric Dausman

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Wilder Playfields Delayed Until Late September

By Andrea A. Firth



The new tot lot will not be open to the public until the playfields are ready

Photo Tod Fierner

Michael O'Hara, project manager for Brooks Street, the master developer of Wilder, was in the hot seat at the May 17th City Council meeting. The Council was conducting its annual review of the City's development agreement with OGLLC, the Wilder property owners, for 245 single-family residences and a number of public and private amenities in the Gateway Valley. O'Hara was on hand to explain unpaid invoices and delays in the completion of two ball fields.

O'Hara apologized for the delay in reimbursing the City for its costs associated with the planning process which he attributed to a procedural issue with the City which has now been resolved. Over half of the outstanding invoices had recently been paid, and

O'Hara assured the Council that the remaining balance would be paid by June 15th, and possibly within two weeks.

The majority of the Council's discussion with O'Hara focused on the completion of two of the five public playfields at Wilder. Originally slated for delivery in April then pushed to June, O'Hara said the fields will not be ready until late September. O'Hara pointed to the extensive rains in the past five months as a significant factor in the delay, coupled with the fact that the permit for the synthetic turf fields was not issued until December. The City had expected to get \$35,000 in field rental fees over the summer.

"It's great to see progress and great to see so many people working," said Mayor Victoria Smith,

who recently toured Wilder, but she added, "The not so great news is that we are dealing with the impact of when dates are not met, something that hasn't turned out and which has had an economic impact on the City."

O'Hara also reported that delivery of the City's maintenance facility at Wilder may slip a couple of months as well. Originally scheduled for completion by mid-September, O'Hara estimated the maintenance building will be complete by November 1st. A tot lot adjacent to the two ball fields in progress will be ready this month, said O'Hara, but will not be accessible to the public until work on the fields is finished. The Council will revisit the Wilder development agreement at its June 21st meeting.

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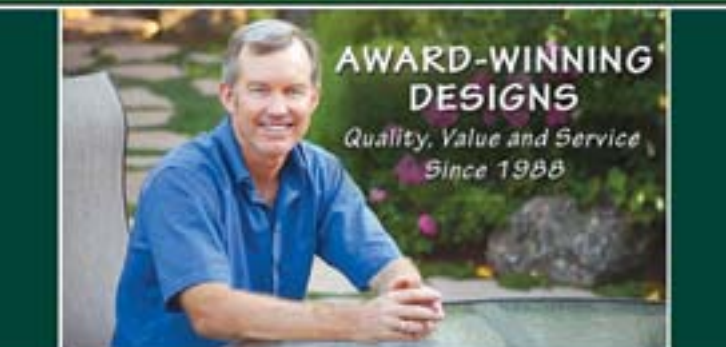


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Community Service

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

A "Home Run" of a Day at Campolindo

Submitted by Kelly Ratchford



Photo provided

On Saturday April 30th, Campolindo High School club "Project Open Hands" hosted an afternoon of fun for all. The Walnut Creek Challenger Giants and Lafayette Challenger Giants worked on skill development with the Cam-

polindo Varsity Baseball and Softball teams followed by a couple innings of scrimmage and award ceremony. Smiles, high fives, and hard warming moments were shared as the Campolindo players worked with the Challenger athletes to improve their

throwing, catching, fielding and batting skills. Everyone hit, ran the bases and scored for their team. Many thanks to Project Open Hands, Karina Hissen, Coach Luckhurst, Ms. Alessandria and all who participated in this day filled with joy.

Lafayette Girl Scouts' Outstanding Leader and Volunteer Awards

Submitted by Chrissa Harley Ventrelle



From left: Tiphonie Ortman, Sharon Evans, Patti McGregor, Lisa Palma, Nicole Carberry, and Renee Sweeney. Photo provided

During Girl Scout Volunteer Week April 17-23, which includes Leader Appreciation Day on April 22, we honored the many outstanding volunteers and leaders in our community who make our world a better place by dedicating themselves to building girls of courage, confidence and character. Each gives selflessly her/his time to make Girl Scouting a meaningful and fun learn-

ing experience for girls. We thank you for all that you do! Lafayette Girl Scouts congratulates the recipients of Outstanding Volunteer Awards for 2011: Patti McGregor, Tiphonie Ortman, and Sharon Evans; and the recipients of the Outstanding Leader Awards for 2011: Lisa Palma (Happy Valley Elementary), Nicole Carberry (Lafayette Elementary), and Renee Sweeney (Lafayette Elementary).

...from Front Page

Finally a Permanent Stage at the Reservoir

... continued from page A1

Partnering with the Rotary has helped make that change a reality."

Former Rotary Club President Dick Holt, founder of the Concert at the Res, always wanted a permanent stage for student band members at this annual event. Half of the funds raised at the open air concert support local school music programs, with the other half going toward Rotary projects. Earlier this month, Rotary members and friends helped, for the very last time, construct and take down a temporary stage on the west side of the Reservoir - no easy task.

"It was a real pleasure to work with EBMUD," said John Sherry, Chair of Design and Construction on the project. "We got everything we wanted - a location on the east side of the dam and a forty by forty foot stage." The project is expected to cost over \$100,000; Rotary members have already raised \$30,000.

With approvals from the Fire Department, City Planning, and EBMUD, actual construction is just waiting on the final approval from the Building Department. Located in a natural amphitheater on the east side of the dam, the stage will be carefully nestled near the Reservoir's edge, an easy stroll from the parking lot and near the playground and bathrooms. The project is ADA compliant, handicapped users will have a separate path with a gentle incline to reach the stage. It took an army of Rotary vol-

unteers to make the stage a reality: prime mover Dick Holt to spearhead and nurture the project; John Sherry - noted above; Larry Blodgett, design; Terry Ring, construction; Sandra Bonderud, architect; Jay Lifson, public relations along with Larry Duson and Bob Shusta, committee members.

Scott Hill, Manager of the East Bay Watershed for EMBUD fully supports the stage, "It will be a tremendous asset for the community." He, along with a team from EBMUD, worked with Rotary to develop a design. They had to consider the request and analyze current and projected use, "We didn't want to adversely impact the Reservoir - it's possible that it may bring in more people than we can handle."

Another concern is that although the stage is a gift to the community, it's up to EBMUD to manage its use. "We're being cautious, going slow at this point because at one million visitors a year carrying capacity is maxed out. We plan to process reservations just like any other site with associated fees," explained Hill. Rotary will use the stage just one day per year for the annual Concert at the Res, but it can be rented out for a variety of functions - small weddings, birthday parties, family reunions.

The non-profit Lafayette Community Foundation is helping raise funds for the concert budget and for stage construction. Visit www.lafayetterec.org for more information.

Commons Concerts in Jeopardy?

... continued from page A1

"We live in a community and we should try to get along," said Park Foundation President, and Town Council member, Howard Harpham, "We want to be good neighbors and make reasonable accommodations for the neighbors of the park, but we would prefer not to lose the summer concerts." Harpham indicated that the Foundation has already signed contracts with all of the bands that are lined up for this

summer's music season and the contracts specify that the Foundation controls the noise level of the concerts, not the bands. The Foundation will meet in mid-June to discuss the issue.

If the Town opts to prepare an EIR the matter will likely take a year to proceed and the outcome would be uncertain. The summer concert series annually attracts hundreds of people of all ages who picnic, mingle and play in the park.

National Charity League Class of 2011

Submitted by Leslie Ryder



Standing: Mita Rittenhouse, Lisa Luckenbach, Elizabeth Landry, Alex Seclow, Jacqueline Garell, Natalie Chan, Meghan Nelson, Casey Reid, Caroline Cook. Sitting: Hannah Borosky, Emily Lindsay, Maddy Cimino, Kaitlyn Stewart, Nicole McCann, Padon Sivesind, Misa Batcheller, Meg Dowley, Lia Kapelke, Morgan DeLuce, Darby Kerr, Haley Rowland. Photo Terry Riggins Photography



From left, first row: Madeleine Godfrey, Gabrielle Gaubert, Nicole Young, Elise Kurkjian, Brittany Anderson, Shannon Garvey. Second row: Alexa Smith, Kathryn Schneider, Emma Smith, Nicole Stanners, Callie Brown, Katrina Kovalik. Third row: Katharine Straughn, Kate Cooper, Amanda Forshay, Chandler Moore, Eleanor West and Danielle Albo. Photo James Brian Fidelibus

The Lamorinda and Acalanes Chapters of National Charity League celebrated their graduating seniors from the class of 2011.

National Charity League, Inc. is a mother-daughter non-profit organization dedicated to serving local communities. There are two chapters located in Lamorinda, with members drawn from all three communities; the Lamorinda chapter was organized in 1989 with the Acalanes chapter following two years later. Participation begins in 7th grade and continues through the senior year. The girls are honored for their many hours of philanthropic work volunteering at The American Cancer Society, California Shakespeare, Juvenile Diabetes, Smiley Dog and Special Olympics among others. These volunteer activities initiate a lifelong commitment to community service and deepen the bond between mother and daughter through these shared activities.

Successful Garden Tour Benefits Tech Trek Camp for Girls

Submitted by Sandy Fox-Sohner



Mary Helene and Deana Davidson of AAUW OML along with John Montgomery of John Montgomery Landscape Architects. Photo provided

When Kendall Montgomery was awarded a scholarship to attend the Tech Trek Science and Math summer camp for girls, it was to change her life. The camp, designed to encourage young 7th grade girls to pursue their interests in science and math, inspired Kendall to deepen her resolve to become a veterinarian. These Tech Trek scholarships, awarded by the American Association of University Women

(AAUW), not only provide young girls with a university campus experience with other girls who share their passion for science and math, but also allow them to access exciting activities, classes, and interaction with women scientists and engineers.

Kendall's parents, John and Cynthia Montgomery of John Montgomery Landscape Architects were so thankful that their daughter was able to participate in the Tech Trek

camp experience that they organized a Garden Tour to benefit the Tech Trek program for the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) branch of AAUW. All proceeds from AAUW ticket sales went directly to the Tech Trek program. This very successful garden tour, which took place on Saturday May, 14, raised more than \$5,000 for the Tech Trek program.

The garden tour, "Life in the Lafayette Garden" brought out many attendees on a chilly Saturday, from 11 am until 4 pm. Supporters from all parts of the Lamorinda area, girls who attended Tech Trek in the past and their parents, as well as current Tech Trek scholarship winners and their families turned out for the event.

Five beautiful gardens, all designed by John Montgomery Landscape Architects, were featured in the Garden Tour. John Montgomery was on hand to discuss the plans, the plants, and the exceptional landscaping. The Montgomery's generous donation will allow AAUW OML to send five girls to Tech Trek camp next year.

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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 writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis.
email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda, or one of its communities, that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to letters@lamorindaweekly.com and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum. We will not accept Public Forum submissions regarding a current ballot measure or candidate for public office. Opinions expressed in Public Forum are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

Editor:
 It was always a rule in my family that talking politics was rude. Reading about budgets or even knowing who my state senator was, was never important to me. Maybe unfortunately, but I think I am most people. I'm ordinary. I'm regular. I'm a 35 year old wife, mother and businesswoman who votes but votes republican at times and democrat at others. I vote from my gut and I vote on issues. I'd rather read Us Weekly than most newspapers (present company excluded). Not anymore. Over the past few weeks I have learned more than I ever wanted to about tax extensions, budgets and who is my representation in Sacramento. Why have things changed? My child's school is about to lose their science lab program, their K-5 music program, many days of school and teacher's aides. This is a short list of the things she will lose and I live in an advantaged district where parents kick back \$1000 a year to help save some programs. Most children are not that lucky.

Things have changed for me because statistics like "California is ranked 47th in the country on school spending" really get to me. The idea that teachers are the bad guys kills me. My daughter's teacher spends more time with her than I do and in no way does she deserve a pink slip every March. That is no "thank you" for what she does every day. I am a level headed person that likes to understand both sides (see my voting record) but whoever works PR for the GOP needs to get the boot. CA GOP is looking pretty evil right about now. I know that many members of GOP leadership have kids that are teachers or grandkids that are students. I have to think they care about schools and are smart enough to understand that consistent and well funded schools are good for the future of California. I think they are smart enough to listen to the people who voted them in when they say that they want tax extensions (these aren't even new taxes!) to make sure schools in their own districts don't lose more and more programs.

This week is going to be a big week in Sacramento. Many decisions will be made that will impact California children. I hope that all members will look back to what they learned in their early years of school: work together.
 Now let me get back to my Us Weekly.
 Andrea Rich
 Lafayette

At the conclusion of its presentation to the Tri-Agency, FAIR called on the Orinda City Council to create a Citizens Emergency Services Task Force to thoroughly investigate the funding inequity claims including the fact that MOFD can solve this with no harm to itself. The Task Force should also generally review the status, needs and desires of the community with regards emergency services so that Orinda is aware of and can reasonably manage its emergency services.
 Steve Cohn
 Orinda

Editor:
 Lafayette's committee to raise taxes wants more money from residents. Road & Drain tax #4 is in the works. This committee is secretly spending \$6.4 million to convert the old library into city offices. Their deeply indebted redevelopment agency secretly borrowed \$5.2 million from the general fund. That totals \$11.6 million that could have been spent on roads, if the committee to raise taxes chose to. Since Road & Drain tax #1 passed in 1995, they have tried Road & Drain taxes two more times. In 2004 they based it on assessed valuations. In 2007 they based it on units. Both times they wanted to go deeper into debt. They raised \$32,768 for propaganda, to the opposition's zero in 2007. In the 2007 election, voters were required to phone the city office to receive information about the debt and their unit assessment. The directions were at the end of the voter information pamphlet's legal analysis, What a sneaky low down trick.

This committee to raise taxes, is everyone on the Lafayette City Council, The Lafayette Homeowners Council, The Lafayette Taxpayers Association, The Chamber of Commerce, some Realtors & some members of the various school boards. According to the city clerks records, Republicans Don Tatzin & Don Lively have put their names & money on the most city tax measures with four each.. Republicans also initiated two police tax measures. Their monetary support came from bankers, venture capitalists, lawyers, developers & CEO's.

The money to support the three Road & Drain measures came from city council members, city commissioners, Realtors, developers & firms who have received or are expecting to receive contracts from the city.
 Bruce R. Peterson
 Lafayette

Editor:
 Thanks to the support of this wonderful community, Measure B passed with a strong 74% of the voters' support and, as a result, the Lafayette public elementary and middle schools will receive approximately \$6.4 million in stable funding over the next four years. This means a great deal to the 3,200 students who are currently in these schools, as well as those who will follow them. We truly appreciate your help as we try to maintain excellence in our schools during these tough economic times. We could not do it without you and we thank you for being our partners. While many people in Lafayette recognize how lucky they are to live in this amazing community, we feel especially fortunate. Thank you for reinforcing our schools and reminding us of one of the many reasons we continue to "Love Lafayette."
 Gratefully yours,
 Juleen Lapporte and Corrine Christensen
 Lafayette

Editor:
 A successful community event like the Moraga Community Faire on Saturday, May 14, is successful only because so many people and organizations come forward with their time, talents, and financial contributions. The Moraga Chamber of Commerce is grateful to its members who took significant jobs, but also to the many members of the community at large who put their leadership skills and creativity towards this event. The Chamber is indebted as well to 14 Moraga businesses who contributed financially as Faire sponsors. The Moraga Country Club was the premier sponsor this year. The other businesses that gave substantial support were: CVS/Pharmacy, 5A Rent a Space, Mechanics Bank, and Moraga Royale, as well as the Lamorinda Weekly, Neighborhood Computers, Dr. Scott Lothamer, DDS, Wells Fargo, Moraga Retreat Care Homes, LamorindaWeb, Rheem Valley Shopping Center, and Senior Helpers. Though not a business, the Moraga Park Foundation funded the climbing wall. Several smaller businesses contributed prizes for the Happy Hour raffle drawing, while still others gave discounts for services rendered and/or a donation of their service. A

BIG THANK YOU to ALL for your support. Businesses like these deserve the support of all Moraga residents, and we can give this by remembering to "SHOP MORAGA FIRST" all year long.
 Ellen Beans
 Moraga

Editor:
 Ellen Beans! She is a champion. She is my hero. She is a role model for all who aspire to being a leader. She is the one responsible for the terrific Moraga Community Faire. Oh, yes, she had a lot of help. But it is Ellen who organized the venture, who rounded up the wonderful and generous sponsors, the one who organized 80 folks to set up a booth that entertained, fed and educated us all, the one who convinced the myriad of volunteers to sign up and serve and the one who marshaled all these varied elements into the cohesive force that produced the most successful Faire yet! (She's already started arranging for the sun to come out next year). Ellen is just about the most modest and dedicated community leader I have had the pleasure to know and work with. Well, one of three anyway. She is a behind the scenes kind of leader who never seeks the spotlight. She just cruises along making things happen. Oh, and she is the one who operates the timely and informative Moraga Citizens Network. My candidate for Citizen of the Year. Thank you Ellen!
 Larry Tessler
 Moraga

Editor:
 The bad news is well known: Orinda has horrible roads. Less well known is some other bad news: The Wall Street Journal on May 12 ran an article on how bad Orinda's roads really are. According to the Journal, "...73% of Orinda's 64 miles of residential roads are rated poor or failed." The Journal also reported: "Mayor Victoria Smith said Orinda's annual budget of \$10 million, which also has to go to support essential services such as police and fire, isn't enough to repair the roads." The Journal's May 12 article is not the first time Orinda has received bad publicity. On July 20, 2009, the Journal, in a nation-wide story, reported that Pete Nowicki, the fire chief of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, was given an annual pension of \$241,000. Mr. Nowicki was 51 years old at the time. There is no excuse for Orinda's bad roads. Fiscal recklessness over the last few years has contributed to the problem. To obtain the money for road repair, Orinda should limit the amount of money paid -- in salary and in benefits for health care and retirement -- to local public employees. Orinda might have had more money for road repair if it had not, a few years ago, spent funds extravagantly to build a new library and new city hall. To obtain needed cash, Orinda should consider selling the library and the city hall.
 Richard S. Colman
 Orinda

Dear Editor:
 We need to have the MERGE arrow positioned on the pavement farther north where Camino Pablo merges onto Moraga Way, in Orinda. Drivers coming off Hiway #24 to go south toward Moraga do not realize that the right hand lane is not the MAIN lane it is supposed to merge into the left lane. Since there is a slope at the right hand turn at the merge, these cars do not see the merge arrows & tend to "pass on the right" & "merge" into the side of the car on their left! At that point, the merge arrows appear on the pavement way too late for the drivers to figure out the situation. I have almost lost my right-hand mirror a few times, with nasty glares from the drivers on the right!
 A little better traffic engineering is required.
 Thanks,
 Mrs. Lee W. Perry
 Orinda

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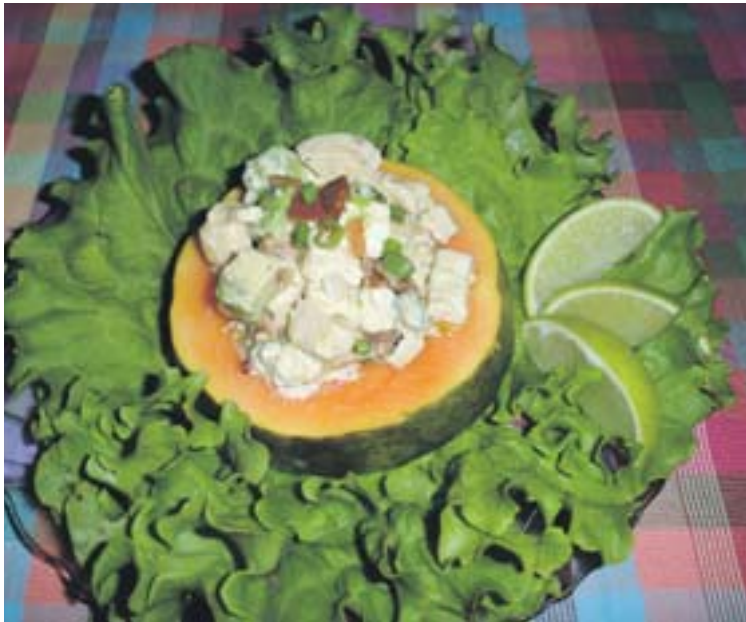


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• Dining • Dining • Dining •

Chicken Salad Takes a Tropical Twist

By Susie Iventosch



Papaya-chicken-avocado salad

Photo Susie Iventosch

and very sweet as well.

Since it was so big, I decided to slice it into rings to use as a decorative (and edible) garnish for a tropical chicken salad. This makes such a pretty dish, with the beautiful peachy papaya color, in contrast with the green hues of the lettuce, lime and avocado. You can use any type of dressing or chicken salad you like in the dish, but here is the recipe I conjured up using lime juice, yogurt and a little bit of fresh ginger, too! You can always replace the yogurt with mayonnaise, if you prefer. And, you could toss in a few candied pecan bits to make a crunchy addition to this salad, too.

If you find regular sized papayas at your market, simply cut them in half, scoop out the seeds and use them as an edible bowl for your chicken salad!

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Papaya-Avocado Chicken Salad

(Serves 4)

INGREDIENTS

- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cooked and cut into bite-sized pieces, or shredded
- 1 avocado
- 4 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
- ¼ crumbled blue cheese
- 1 large papaya, sliced into 1-inch thick rings (can use 2 smaller papayas halved) remove seeds
- 1-2 green onion, sliced very thin, save some for garnish and some for in salad
- 1 recipe of yogurt-lime dressing (below)

DRESSING

- Leaf lettuce leaves for plate garnish
- 3 tablespoons plain low fat yogurt
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar or white balsamic vinegar (depending upon desired sweetness)
- Juice of ½ (large) lime
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 inch piece fresh ginger, finely minced or crushed

Mix all and shake well. Keep refrigerated until ready to use.

DIRECTIONS

In a salad bowl, gently toss chicken, bacon, blue cheese and avocado with dressing. Arrange lettuce leaves on salad plate, and place papaya ring on top. Scoop chicken salad into papaya ring and garnish with green onion.



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 recipe is available on our web site.** Go to: www.lamorindaweekly.com If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at 925-377-0977.

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When Locavore Meets Gourmet

By Sophie Braccini



Chicken farmer Janice Alamillo talks to the diners

Photo Sophie Braccini

is part of the restaurant's everyday philosophy, "We made just a little extra effort, for this dinner, to combine ingredients that we already buy regularly," he said, "A food that is in season and local is a natural part of our offering anyway."

Some local farmers were also part of the evening. Janice Alamillo, the owner of Alamo Farms, talked about her 110 hens that have become a part of her family in Alamo. A nurse by day the mother, who according to one of the guests looks more like a yoga instructor than a chicken farmer, explained the joys of raising a family with that close connection to the natural way of producing sustainable and humane food.

Joe Queirolo, who owns Vicina Farms, was also at dinner. He talked about his business model and how important it is for local farmers to form business relationships with restaurants and produce stores, supporting a thriving local economy.

"I'm very happy to see that people's attitude toward food is evolving, that we move slowly away from mass production and toward local production," said Lafayette resident and locavore Carole Hagglund, "the taste is much better, fruits are seasonal, farmers and breeders are valued and recognized for the quality of their work. In truth it is somewhat more expensive, but may be we can just eat a little less."

Locavores – people who prefer to eat food procured within a 100 miles radius of their community—are sometimes perceived as obsessive militants of the 'eat local' movement, ready to make any culinary sacrifice to eat only what's been produced in their immediate vicinity. But when a restaurant offers a locavore dinner, the effortless experience brings forth both eating pleasure and clear conscience, a good recipe for a summer night meal. Chow Restaurant of Lafayette, in partnership with Sustainable Lafayette, gave that option to about 60 diners on May 12.

"This area we live in has all the potential to go down in history as the place where America rediscovered the pleasure of eating locally," said Tony Gulisano, the founder of the Chow restaurants, who came to talk with the diners. "The food community is so rich with possibilities, it is easy to deepen the ties between producers and restaurants and work together to bring customers the best fresh local taste ever."

"The event had a really relaxed, personal vibe that Sharon and I both really enjoyed," said Sustainable Lafayette's Steve Richards. Chow's young Executive Chef said that cooking with local foods

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see ad

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Phone: (925) 299-1515
www.TheArt-Room.com

Bella Oaks Horse Day Camp (Martinez)

Horseback riding lessons, crafts, games, etc.
Phone: (925) 229-2171
www.bellaoakshorsecamp.com

Cal Shakes (Lafayette)

Acting, improvisation, stage combat, and movement.
Phone: (510) 809-3293
www.summershakespearecamps.org

Camp EDTECH (Moraga)

Digital media art at Rheem Elementary.
Phone: (415) 282-6673
www.campedtech.org

Camp Pura Vida (Boonville) Overnight

A sleep-away program operated by Adventure Day Camp.
Phone: (925) 937-6500
adventuredaycamp.com

Chabot-Space Explorers Summer Camp (Oakland)

Full-day camps for kids entering grades K-8.
Phone: (510) 336-7426
www.chabotspace.org

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www.lafayette.colormemine.com

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Youth Basketball Camp, camp runs from June 20th to June 24th.
www.campohoops.com/news/2011/youthbasketballcamp

DON'S Camp 2011 (Lafayette)

Football camp for incoming 3rd-8th graders.
Contact Head Coach Mike Ivankovich.
Email: mivankovich@acalanes.k12.ca.us

Doug's Drama Camp (Orinda)

see ad

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www.dougsdrama.com

Adventure Day Camp (Walnut Creek)

Traditional summer day camp for children ages 3-14.
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www.adventuredaycamp.com

Ballet/Jazz Summer Classes (Moraga)

see ad

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Email: bbrown@astound.net
www.lamorindawaterpolo.org

Camp EDMO (Moraga)

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

Camp Kefli (Lafayette)

Full day programs for K-8th held at Temple Isaiah.
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www.temple-isaiah.org/kefli

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Email: dmessiersmc@yahoo.com

Lafayette Parks & Recreation (Lafayette)

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

Lorne Smith Lacrosse (Moraga)

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

Moraga Parks & Recreation (Moraga)

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

Orinda Parks & Recreation (Orinda)

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www.cityoforinda.org

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www.mvpctoday.org

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Alphabetical listing of all
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Camp listings collected and compiled by Wendy Schreck



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www.lafayettejazz.wordpress.com

Lamorinda 4H Vineyard Project (Moraga)
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Email: susan@captainvineyards.com

Oakland Strokes (Oakland)
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www.oaklandstrokes.org

Orinda Academy (Orinda) see ad
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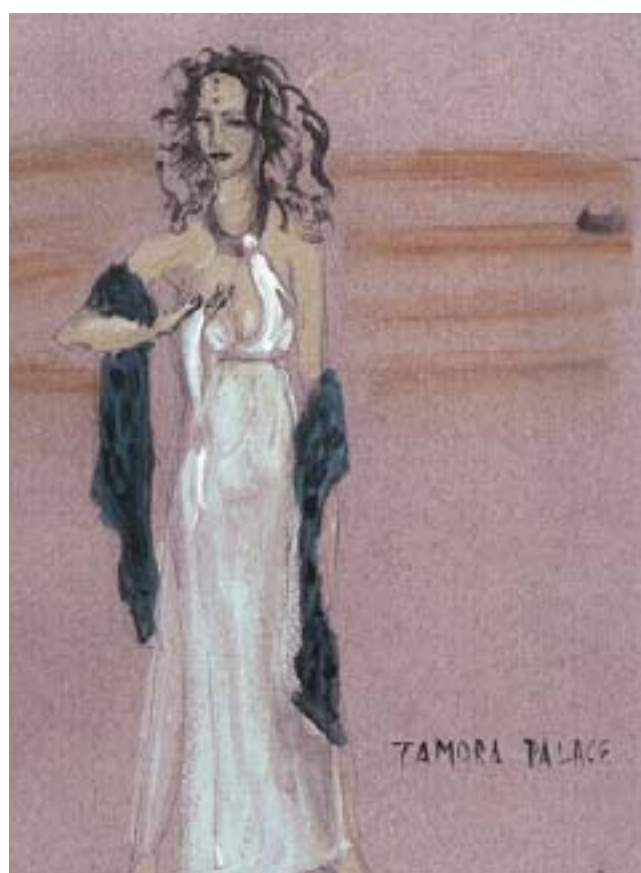
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Life in LAMORINDA

Cal Shakes Opens Season with *Titus Andronicus*

By Lou Fancher



Costume sketch for Cal Shakes' upcoming production of *Titus Andronicus*; drawings by costume designer Paloma H. Young.

The California Shakespeare Theater's 2011 season gears up with the first ever *Titus Andronicus* in previews June 1st through 3rd and opening night festivities Saturday, June 4th.

Led for the past ten years by Artistic Director Jonathan Moscone, the regional theater group promises to make Shakespeare and the classics relevant to the lives of every man, woman and child willing to brave the elements in Orinda's outdoor amphitheater.

Last year, a stunning renovation made that a whole lot easier and resulted in the opening of the Sharon Simpson Center. With a "living roof", trendy cafe, open plaza perfect for sipping pre-show wine or spinning in the setting sun if you are under the age of 12, (or even, if you're not!) the additions were crowd-pleasing.

Artists benefited too, with a true green room for receptions and dressing rooms that no longer required traipsing along muddy paths to reach the stage.

Moscone's voracious appetite for outreach did not diminish amidst the ladders and lumber and this year is no different. Cal Shakes is adding a special Teen Night for Titus, as well as the standard Grove Talks, Tasting Nights, InSight Sundays and Meet the Artists matinees.

And then there's Inside Scoop, the Monday night Loard's ice cream and Peet's coffee hours held at the Orinda Library before each production opens.

May 16th, Director Joel Sass, Dramaturg Philippa Kelly, and actors Stacy Ross and Shawn Hamilton lined up on the small stage, sandwiched between a black, robe-like costume and the modern, gray-walled set model for *Titus Andronicus*.

Sass said it was fantastic to be back at Cal Shakes, after directing *Macbeth* last season.

"Twelve years ago, funded on a \$3,000 credit card, I thought [*Titus*] was an incredible show," he said, about the first time he directed the production.

"Having grown up as a child with a violent imagination, it seemed the perfect play to investigate," he added lightly.

Philippa asked Hamilton why he wanted to accept the role of *Aaron*.

"It was the chance to play a ruthless, violent man who got to wear charming clothes," he joked.

"I've never seen Titus," Ross admitted, when confronted with the same question. "I wanted to work with Joel again, so that was a draw. I had the idea that *Tamora* was a Goth, that she was savage. Then I found out that she was witty, pragmatic. I found that to be a delightful surprise."

She paused, reflecting on her answer, then added, "And of course, I get to be surrounded by hot men, so that's a fringe benefit."

Titus is a simple revenge drama, Kelly explained. The complexity lies within the overt plot, with subplots that inject racial, class and gender story lines.

"There are twisting coils of plots and you see these [characters'] minds weaving amidst each other," she said.

Questions from the audience fill the second half of Inside Scoop evenings. Here are a few of the highlights:

How does a director determine how far to go [with violence and bloody scenes]?

"There are revenge actions, so I don't think it's going to be a dry show. However, it's important you don't overindulge in histrionic blood letting. A director needs to be aware of that," Sass answered.

Hamilton explained that stage blood was made of Karo syrup with red food coloring in it, adding, "And peanut butter—if you want some chunks in it," which was greeted with both laughter and groans.

Is there a historical antecedent for the story of Titus?

"There are no historical events, but there are stories with shared mythology that are found in the play," Sass said.

Another question returned to the violence and criminal behavior and how it reflects headline stories of today.

Sass suggested that although the play has heroes and villains, helping an audience understand the characters' actions—whether despicable or honorable—is important for a director to achieve.

What should I pay attention to immediately, at the start of the play, to get the most I can out of the show?

"Watch the bodies," Philippa answered.

"It's tough, I think the language is hard to get used to," Ross agreed.

"The first scene is like the pilot episode of a miniseries. It comes right out and addresses you [the audience] as citizens of Rome," he said. According to him, the directness will make it possible for viewers to jump right in to the plot.

Was it difficult for you to humanize these very larger than life, ancient citizens? Will I relate to them? I like to cry.

"It's very primal and if you like to cry, bring a bucket," Hamilton replied.

The season will also include Amanda Dehnert directing *The Verona Project* in July, Moscone leading the cast through *Candida* in August, and former Associate Artistic Director Shana Cooper making her directorial debut with *The Taming of the Shrew* in late September/October.

Cal Shakes' *Titus Andronicus*

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A Fast-Growing Small Business: Insight Resource Group of Orinda

By Sophie Braccini



Scott Mollahan with displays created by IRG for a winery. Photo Sophie Braccini

When Inc. magazine ranked the 2010 top growing companies in the United States, Orinda's Insight Resource Group (IRG) ranked 82nd nationally with a 2,917% growth over the last three years – within its industry, business products and services, IRG ranks 7th in the country. Scott Mollahan, who founded the company with his wife Valerie, was both surprised and validated. “We are in our growing phase,” he says, “so it is normal that we’d be growing so fast.” The humble entrepreneur, who started his promotional display and printing company four years ago, operates in a very competitive field. In order to thrive, IRG had to come with a very solid offer, but also provide unique value-added services that contribute to its

customers' bottom lines.

Mollahan previously worked for Applied Graphics, where he specialized in selling in the beverage industry and learned about the printing of marketing material, packaging and gifts-with-purchase promotions. When Applied Graphics was sold, the Mollahans launched IRG in the city where they've lived since 1998. “I was tired of the San Raphael commute,” he says, “I wanted to work close to home and so do our employees.” The proximity to home makes things easier for the Mollahans, who have four children between the ages of five and eleven.

Building relationships has been at the heart of the Mollahans' success from the start. “A large part of our business is ‘point of sale’ (POS) in-store retail displays and custom racks that attract customers' attention in stores or restaurants,” explains Mollahan. “Some of them are standard and just need to have the right message printed on, but many others are custom-made. So trusting high quality and cost effective manufacturers is key.” For more than 10 years now Mollahan has been working with a Chinese company with whom he converses through Skype at least twice a week. “We work with manufacturers in the United States and Mexico as well,” says Mollahan, “one of our competitive advantages is that we deliver quality, cost effective products.”

Another of IRG's assets is the integration of the services they provide. When a customer has an idea for a campaign, IRG's team can develop the concept and bring it to reality, using different media such as metal, wood, fabric, and paper. “We do not own large printing equipment,” says Mollahan, “that makes us flexible; we don't have to push printed paper.” For example, when Sonoma winery Chateau St. Jean prepared the promotion of its

Dream Wedding Giveaway sweepstakes that included a style consultation with a Martha Stewart Weddings magazine expert, IRG created a custom display that looked like a small kitchen island.

Mollahan has also been working on an automated production management system that aggregates orders coming from different clients and allows the company to reduce its price. “In our industry, people prepare their campaigns months in advance,” says Mollahan. “If someone orders a specific rack at one time we'll quote him a price that will be his maximum. As others purchase similar products, the orders will be consolidated and the price will go down for everyone.”

Mollahan is starting to give to his biggest customers the software he developed so they can use it to track the individual performance of the displays they've acquired. “It is important for us to provide extra value to our clients,” says the entrepreneur. By the same token, IRG organized a seminar on integrated marketing with Affinitive, a firm specialized in social media marketing for the beverage industry. “We help them integrate the different aspects of marketing,” says Mollahan, “our displays can include an LCD screen with a video, printed text encourage the customers to ‘friend’ our clients on their Facebook page, and we will produce the gifts our clients will give out as part of their word of mouth campaigns.”

Today, more than 50% of IRG business is in the beverage industry, but the company is diversifying and new clients include Bay Area businesses such as Leap Frog, Bay Alarm and D|A Financial Group.

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

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Jamie and Dana Finegold launched JD Fine and company in 1996; the Tart Collection represents, in their own words, “the timeless, sultry silhouettes” that are their true calling. The clothing line is distributed in department stores and boutiques, and the Finegolds recently opened a retail store in Lafayette, between Sandy's Boutique and Radio Shack in the Clock Tower building on Mt. Diablo Blvd.

J. Rockcliff Realtors
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89 Davis Road, Suite 100 (925)253-7000

J. Rockcliff Realtors named veteran Realtor Mike Clancy as the new vice president and manager of the company's Lafayette and Orinda offices. He is a director for both the California Association of Realtors (CAR) and Contra Costa Association of Realtors (CCAR). A licensed real estate broker since 1979, Clancy has earned the Certified Real Estate Brokerage Manager (CRB) designation and is also a Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designee.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Coldwell Banker reported that it ranked first in sales volume and transactions among the San Francisco Bay Area's real estate companies in 2011, as listed in the industry trade journal REAL Trends 500 report issued at the beginning of May. The company also announced that Jason Evans has joined the company as a sales associate in its Orinda office. Evans has lived in Moraga for the last 12 years and has been involved with the Moraga Planning Commission, Moraga Design Review Board, Kiwanis, Moraga Chamber of Commerce, International Council of Shopping Centers, Urban Land Institute, National Society of Professional Engineers, National Association of Watch and Clock Makers, Diablo Valley Corvette Club, Ducks Unlimited and Pittsburgh Yacht Club.

Lamorinda Realtor Meetings Every Other Tuesday

Every other Tuesday morning LamorindaREGroup holds a free realtor meeting where new and old listings are presented and a featured speaker brings relevant information to the audience. Coming up on June 7: Kitty Cole, Real Estate Trainer, will talk about “Doing What It Takes to Be Productive in This Market.” The meetings are held from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the meeting room of the Lafayette Lower Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For more information go to LamorindaREGroup.com.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

- Ribbon Cutting at Zahra Boutique Salon, 3578 Mt. Diablo Blvd., May 26, 5:00 p.m.
- Business Issues/Governmental Affairs Meeting on Friday, May 27, 8:00 a.m. in the Chamber Conference Room.
- Green Business Open House on Tuesday, June 7, at noon in the Chamber Conference Room.

Moraga

- New Rheem Theater 1st Anniversary celebration June 25th, 6:00 p.m. in the Theater. Food, wine and movies will be on agenda. Save the date!
- Chamber Mixer after hours on Tuesday, June 28, 6-8:00 p.m. Co-sponsored by 5 A Rent A Space and Neighborhood Computers.

Orinda

The first Business Neighborhood Watch was held on Tuesday, May 24, at First Republic Bank in Orinda with Sergeant Neil Rafanan of the Orinda Police Department. A complete report of the meeting and details about how to promote awareness and discourage crime targeted at Orinda businesses will appear in the next issue of the Lamorinda Weekly.

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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Lafayette's Award-Winning Young Filmmaker

By Rebecca Eckland



Samantha Bell with Jesse Harris, Executive Director of the National Film Festival for Talented Youth
Photo provided

Samantha Bell is a sixth-grade student at Stanley Middle School. Blonde and slender, she likes to play soccer and write stories. She also recently won the "Most Promising New Filmmaker Award" at the National Film Festival for Talented Youth which was held in Seattle on April 28-May 1. Her mom, Julie, said the event was remarkably crowded, "There were young people there from 30 states and 15 countries." The award-- just like the film-- was unexpected.

One and a half years ago, Bell was taken to the Children's Hospital in Oakland (CHOO) where a series of tests confirmed she had a staff infection. "She was feeling awful," Julie remembers, Bell says she only vaguely remembers Baykids approaching her about a film project.

Baykids is a nonprofit organization which teaches filmmaking to hospitalized children, leading them through the steps of film production to tell their stories. They asked Bell what she wanted to do a film about. "I didn't want to do a documentary; I didn't want to be on camera." So Bell focused on another aspect of her recovery: origami.

She knew how to fold birds and boxes; skills acquired from school and a workshop at the hospital. To cheer Bell up, friends brought her origami cranes. It's no wonder, then, that the characters that populate Bell's film are these "creatures" that kept her company.

Bell made the film from a table propped on her lap in the hospital bed. Described as "whimsical", the resulting project titled "Owl and Friends" is two minutes long.

Bell claims her film is "not a story." And yet, the origami figures which come to life speak to the theme of transformation. The owl-- a figure which opens and closes the film-- steps aside while paper objects dance and turn. An open box appears: the paper shapes fall inside and come out again as cranes.

"It took 500 frames to make the film," Julie recalls. Bell set the scene, took a photograph and then moved the figures slightly and took another frame, a film technique called "stop-motion." She was also involved in the editing process. "She had originally wanted the soundtrack to the film to be *Fireflies* by Owl City, but she couldn't have that song," says Julie. Baykids, then, wrote an original score for the short film which has a similar feel to the song Bell had wanted.

The first time Bell saw her film was at the in-hospital film screening (an opportunity for every Baykids filmmaker). "I thought it looked really cool," she says

Bell's film attracted the attention of a Pixar executive who happened to be present. He was impressed and told the Baykids board that this film would be a potential winner at film festivals. Weeks later, Bell learned she'd been accepted to NFFTY's festival in Seattle. Once there, she gave a speech in front of a very large audience.

Thanks to Baykids, Bell has more than one way to tell her stories.

Spinning Wheels in Lamorinda

By Cathy Dausman



Bikers stopped by at the Energizer Station at Lafayette Plaza Park
Photo Cathy Dausman



Bikers in Orinda pose with the Energizer Station volunteers
Photo Tod Fierner



The owner of this 1950 Cadillac convertible had a perfect day to cruise into Lafayette on Moraga Road...except that it was also "Bike to Work" day. He found this car in New York in a "grandma's garage" and brought it to California to enjoy.
Photo Cathy Dausman

Sunshine, no breeze, camaraderie and free snacks--biking doesn't get much better than that. And if you're headed to work, well, there's Bike to Work Day. The Contra Costa Transportation Authority says its 17th annual Bike to Work Day was "a promotional event to encourage non-bikers to try commuting by bicycle."

Brad Crane, Lafayette Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) hosted an Energizer Station at Lafayette Plaza Park the morning of May 12. The table would re-open late afternoon hosted by Lafayette Chamber of Commerce members.

Other Lamorinda stations were at Lafayette BART (hosted by Hank & Frank Bikes), and Moraga Way at Brookwood Road, in Orinda (City of Orinda, host). One hundred such stations were staffed throughout Contra Costa County.

Crane says BPAC wanted to "feed and support cyclists who make commuting a daily effort." He says Bike to Work Day "gets bigger every year." In the spirit of the day, Crane biked to the station from his Lafayette home, towing a trailer to hold his equipment.

The 6:00 a.m. hour saw mostly

west bound commuters, those heading away from Lafayette and Lamorinda. Those who work in Lafayette arrived an hour or so later.

Russ Moore was on his way from Oakland to Concord, a 23 mile, 75 minute bike commute. It's his fifth year participating in Bike to Work Day. Moore, who said the Lafayette stop was "right in the middle" of his ride aims for 24 commutes a year when the weather is good.

Steve Biggs rode an hour from Clayton to his work place in Lafayette. It was his first day riding to work, and he took advantage of two Energizer stops in Walnut Creek before hitting the Plaza Park location. "See ya next year," Biggs said as he rode off.

By 8:00 a.m. Crane had tallied 30 station visitors and another 25 bikers passing by. "We're on target for a record day," said Lafayette Transportation Planner Leah Greenblat. She noted the weather, gas prices and the economy have conspired to increase bike ridership.

A contingent of eight representing the City of Orinda also biked to work. Dorothy Dickson-Dodds, Orinda Planning Department, has ridden the event for five years and organized the ride. The group included City Manager Janet Keeter (who rode in 2008), Kathrine Nasset (Planning), Richard Yee (Planning), Jeanette Irving (Police), Scott Tracy (Police), Joyce Boeckner-Colabianchi (Parks and Recreation), and Cathy Terentieff (Engineering). "Five of us began in Walnut Creek; one began in San Ramon, one in Alamo and one in Lafayette. We just meet along the way to Orinda," says Dickson-Dodds. "Richard Yee bikes to work two or three times a week; I bike home two times a week." Fortunately city hall has "bike lockers, bike racks, and a shower with a small locker room." She says the group "most certainly" will do the ride again and would love to challenge like-minded Lafayette and Moraga staff.

For information about biking in Contra Costa County, or the Bike to Work event, go online to <http://511contracosta.org/>.

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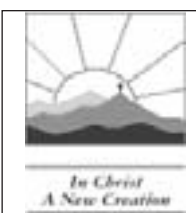
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ART

Gift of the Gods: Exploring Maize, Culture and Indigenous Art in the Americas, is on view through June 19 at the Hearst Art Gallery, the museum of Saint Mary's College. Artifacts include maize belts from Northern Peru that trace back to an ancient Inca tradition, harvest festival masks from Ecuador, Navajo rugs, Hopi katsina figures and a pollen pouch, Hopi, Acoma and Mata Ortiz pottery, Tarahumara grinding stones, corn storage baskets, elaborately embroidered tortilla cloths and clothing from Mexico and Guatemala. The Gallery is open to the public Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 am to 4:30 pm. Adult admission is \$4, students and Gallery members are free. For more information, call (925) 631-4379. Website: www.hearstartgallery.org.

Valley Art Gallery's juried "Slopes of Diablo 2011" show is open through June 24. While the subject is Mt. Diablo, different styles and painting mediums express a wide variety of very personal views of the iconic mountain that dominates this region. The work is for sale and for rental as are all the paintings in the Gallery. All together, over 300 paintings are available. Valley Art Gallery is located at 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek; www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311.

The Lafayette Gallery's newest exhibit, "Sun Kissed",



runs from May 24th to July 23rd. Bring some sunshine into your day-the gallery will be filled with the brilliant light, color and energy of the season of sunshine. As a part of summer celebration, this exhibit will also include two outdoor artist markets on June 19th and July 16th. Free to attend; www.lafayettegallery.net, (925) 284-2788. Photos saved

Moraga Art Gallery's show, Chiaroscuro:



Light and Shadow runs through June 4. Gallery member Donna Arganbright and guest artist Sharon Tama will be featured in a new show, Off the Wheel, Off the Canvas, June 7-August 13. The public is invited to view Arganbright's original stoneware and Tama's acrylic paintings along with gallery members' work at the show's opening reception, June 11, 3-5 p.m. The Moraga Art Gallery is located at 570 Center St in Moraga. For more information, go to www.moragaartgallery.com or (925)376-5407.

MUSIC

Summer Music Series—First Thursday of each month 5:30-8:30pm. June 2nd, July 7th and Aug. 4th: Bob Athayde and Friends' Quartet. Sept. 1st: 747 Express featuring Ed McClary & Michael Hatfield. Free, see details at: www.orindatheatre.com/events/summer-music-series.

Lafayette's annual Jazz Café will be held Friday, June 3 at 6pm in the Stanley Middle School Auditorium. General Admission is available at the door for \$10.00 per person, children under 6 are free. There is a fabulous lineup featuring: The Stanley Groove Merchants, The Stanley Thundering Herd, The Gypsy Chix, The Acalanes Jazz Ensemble and The Stanley Jazz Messengers. If that's not enough, Chef's Touch will be selling scrumptious food from 5:30 - 7:30 pm, and there will be dessert, coffee and beverages available for purchase all evening. Jazz Café has become a real favorite for the city of Lafayette. Don't miss out on this once a year treat!

THEATER

OZ Comes to Lafayette Elementary. Lafayette School's Drama Club is proud to present their rendition of the classic "The Wizard of Oz." Come follow the Yellow Brick Road with Dorothy, Scarecrow, Lion, Tin-Man, and Toto. Performances will be held at Lafayette Elementary's Multi-Purpose Room on Thursday and Friday, June 2nd and 3rd. Showtimes are 1pm and 7pm. Tickets can be pre-ordered by visiting the school office or purchased at the door based on availability. Tickets are \$5 for adults and teens, \$2 for children 12 and under.

Town Hall Theatre is proud to present Shakespeare's classic comedy, "Twelfth Night," June 4 - 25. This production features wonderful, original music using Shakespeare's text, written and performed by Artistic Director Clive Worsley as Feste the clown. For tickets contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office at (925) 283-1557, or purchase online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

Outdoor Move Night in the Plaza, Thursday, June 16 - "How to Train Your Dragon." Invite your friends, family, and neighbors, bring a blanket or two, shop at the farmers market for a fresh and delicious picnic or pick-up a meal to go at the nearby restaurants, and stake out your spot on the Lafayette Plaza greens for the free family entertainment. The free movie will follow the farmer's market at sundown. Sweets and drinks will be available for purchase.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Free Ergonomics Lecture Tuesday, May 31, at 7pm. Lafayette Physical Therapy, Inc. is hosting an informative talk for the Lamorinda Community. Lynn Harrington, Physical Therapist, and Certified Ergonomist, will speak on "Home Office Ergonomics: Injury Prevention". No cost. Seating is limited, please RSVP to (925) 284-6150 to hold your seat. 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Suite B110 in Lafayette.

Friends of Orinda Library monthly sale is Thurs, June 2, 10am-6pm in the Book Shop and Sorting Room. Summer reading ideas for all interests and ages. Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. (925) 254-1358.

"Let Me Down Easy" The Orinda Library will host a Berkeley Repertory Theatre docent talk on Tuesday, June 7 at 7pm on the renowned play by monologist Anna Deavere Smith, "Let Me Down Easy." The piece, a look at the human body and the care needed to keep it going, is written by Smith and directed by Leonard Foglia. The program will take place by the fireplace inside the library. It is free of charge and will last about an hour with time for questions and answers. For more information, please call (925) 254-2184 or visit the library website at ccclib.org.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Camp Day for Families. Saturday, June 4th 11am-1pm. Come out to the Lafayette Reservoir to enjoy fishing, crafts, nature scavenger hunts, games, and camp tours at Roughing It Day Camp. For more information, see www.roughingit.com/campday-forfamilies.

Campolindo Grad Night 2011. Join us for a special preview of the theme "Wizard of Oz" on Thursday, June 9th 7-9:00pm "Somewhere over the rainbow, dreams really do come true!" Campolindo High School, 300 Moraga Road, Moraga.

OTHER

"Walnut Creek Aquanut's Annual, "Night of Champions" Event is May 28th 5pm at Heather Farms, Clarke Memorial Swim Center, features the best of our Team and Individual technical routines that are performed in both National and World competitions. Please come out and support our athletes so they can achieve their local, national, international and Olympic dreams! For tickets visit: aquanuts.org or email: aquanutpress@yahoo.com.

Acalanes Ridge Dedication. Saturday June 4, 2011 10:00am. Please allow 20 - 30 minutes walking time from Larkey Park to the Dedication Area. A treasured oasis in the community, this 23 acre property features a striking 360-degree panorama and the highest promontory on Acalanes Ridge. The official dedication will be followed by a docent led hike from the dedication area to the top of the ridge. This guided hike will include steep inclines and may not be suitable for everyone. Additional hiking and exploration of the Acalanes Ridge Open Space is encouraged. RSVP gunther@muirheritagelandtrust.org or call (925) 228-5460. For more information visit: www.muirheritagelandtrust.org/calendar.htm.

Summer Solstice Labyrinth Walk—Friday June 17. Come-and-go event, 7- 8pm . A flutist will be playing selections by Haydn, Schumann and Corelli. Labyrinth walkers are encouraged to celebrate the coming summer and reflect on past ones. Join us for a quiet evening walk in preparation of summer. All are welcome. Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. (925) 283-8722, or (925) 820-4332.

The annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer for Contra Costa County will be held on Saturday, June 18th (Registration: 8am; Event Start: 9am) at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek. Teams of walkers will complete a 5K non-competitive course and take part in activities before/after the walk. For more information or to sign up for the Walnut Creek Making Strides event, email makingstrideswalnutcreek@cancer.org or call (925) 927-5011 or visit http://makingstrides.acsevents.org/walnutcreek.

CLUBS

The Lafayette Hiking Group invites on May 28 to the next hike: Lafayette Ridge, Briones Loop. We will walk from BART to the Elizabeth Street trail, then up to the ridge to enjoy beautiful views of Lafayette, the Diablo Valley and Mt. Diablo. We will climb to Russell Peak, then exit the park at Panoramic Drive, and return to BART via Happy Valley Road. Hilly, 5 - 6 miles. Leader Alison Hill. Meet in the parking lot out from Lafayette BART's main entrance at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch, water, layered clothing, good walking shoes and sun protection.

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Holiday Indies Film in Orinda and Moraga

By Andrea A. Firth



Derek Zemrak (center) and Leonard Pirkle (right) on a film shoot in Orinda

The sleepy bedroom communities of Lamorinda are best known for their high-quality public schools and beautiful semi-rural setting—a perfect place to raise a family. So it should come as no surprise that two Bay Area filmmakers picked Orinda and Moraga as “perfect” locations to film their holiday family films.

Independent film producer and director Derek Zemrak recently filmed scenes for his latest movie *Santa’s Dog* at Sweet Dreams in Orinda, and he’ll be back in the city on May 31st to do more filming. “We needed a toy store location, and Sweet Dreams’ location on a corner in Theater Square provides the perfect setting,” says Zemrak.

Zemrak has a close connection to Orinda and Theater Square. He and partner Leonard Pirkle recently took over operations of the Orinda Theatre. They have been managing the New Rheem Theater in Moraga for almost a year. Zemrak’s local indie film roots

run deep. He is also Founder and President of the 13-year old California Independent Film Festival Association. The Festival was based in Orinda in 2010 and in Moraga in 2011.

Santa’s Dog features the pit bull Hercules from Animal Planet’s reality television show *Pit Boss*. “Hercules helps out with the Santa’s naughty and nice list,” says Zemrak. The dog chooses to help Max Moog, a mischievous 12-year old orphan, make a move to the nice list. *Santa’s Dog* is scheduled for a 20-city theatrical release, and Zemrak hopes the Bay Area premiere will be held at the Orinda Theatre.

“Moraga has a nice family feel to it. You notice it as soon as you arrive. It’s a neighborhood kind of town,” says filmmaker Adam Reeves, who will shoot his movie *December Dilemma* in Moraga for three weeks in July.

Reeves became familiar with Moraga’s small town feel through his

work on the California Independent Film Festival. He runs the Festival’s popular Iron Film Contest.

December Dilemma explores what happens in a mixed religion family when Christmas and Hanukah fall at the same time. Reeves wrote the screenplay himself – “Everyone who has read the script has liked the concept,” he says. He first shared the script with actress Beverly Washburn. Reeves met Washburn, who played Lisbeth Searcy in the 1957 film *Old Yeller*, when she was in Moraga for a screening of the film as part of the New Rheem Theater’s classic film series. In addition to Washburn, Reeves has also recruited veteran Hollywood talent Tony Dow (Wally from *Leave it to Beaver*) and father and son actors Richard and Ross Benjamin.

So if you are walking down the street this summer and you hear someone yell, “Action!” be sure to smile.

Photo Doug Kohen

Seniors Fare Well at Health Faire

By Cathy Dausman

“This generation in this room is too darn polite for their own good.” So said Judge Joyce Cram to the 40-plus seniors in attendance at Moraga’s Hacienda de las Flores Health and Information Faire on May 17. With that the founder of the Contra Costa County Elder Court launched her session on avoiding identity theft.

Through role-play, Cram debunked several telephone scams that prey on the elderly, including the grandchild in trouble, winning the Canadian Lottery, and a tax reward income. Such financial fraud happens because the elderly often lose their

ability to withstand undue influence, she says. Cram invited her audience to visit her when Contra Costa County Elder Court is in session Tuesday mornings.

Cram was one of several presenters at the 2011 health faire. Others included Love Is the Answer director Victoria Ryan, who recruits volunteer visitors for elderly and disabled; Alayne Balke, Fall Prevention Coalition; Gina Murrell, Mt. Diablo Memory Center and yoga instructor C.C. Kelly. Murrell offered attendees one-on-one memory screening using the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MOCA) test and emphasized the im-

portance of early diagnosis of Alzheimer’s and Vascular Dementia. Certain memory losses, she said, can be reversed.

Food and drinks were provided by Sweet Tomatoes and Aegis of Moraga; vendors included Orinda Convalescent Hospital, Diablo Foundation for the Aging, Manor Care, Halo Monitoring Devices, Senior Helpers and Volunteer Center of the East Bay. Music was provided by jazz pianist Brian Teal. The program was presented in partnership with the Town of Moraga and Senior Helpers. The next Moraga Senior Faire takes place in spring, 2012.

Goal of Chemotherapy for Pets

By Mona Miller, DVM

The goal of chemotherapy in our pet friends is vastly different than for that of humans. Many pet owners don’t want their furry friend to suffer through cancer treatment with the same negative experience that they have witnessed in friends and family members, and this concern is valid. Veterinarians feel that the treatment should not be worse than the disease.

In humans and animals, chemotherapy is medicine given to kill rapidly dividing cells, notably cancer cells. There are three major organ systems in the body that contain normal and healthy rapidly dividing cells; these three systems are the gastrointestinal tract, the bone marrow and the hair follicles. Chemotherapy medications do not differentiate between cancer cells and normal rapidly dividing cells, so these three systems are often negatively affected. This is why common side effects of chemotherapy are nausea, vomiting, inappetance and diarrhea, low red and white blood cells and loss of hair. Often, veterinarians and clients will tolerate lack of fur regrowth in areas that have been shaved for intravenous catheters, ultrasounds or surgical biopsy procedures.

Negative side effects on the gas-

trointestinal tract and bone marrow are not tolerated, however. Commonly, veterinary cancer specialists will prescribe anti-nausea medications to be given concurrently with the chemotherapy drugs, as well as mild narcotics for pain. When bone marrow suppression does occur, the chemotherapy protocol is often changed, whether by decreasing dosage or increasing the interval between injections, or by changing chemotherapy drugs completely.

Cancer cells can develop resistance to chemotherapeutic drugs, much like bacteria can to antibiotics. It is important in cancer treatment to prepare an initial attack that is deliberate and assertive in order to avoid this phenomenon. I counsel my clients that it is best to start treatment according to the veterinary oncologist’s protocol, and to decrease or stop only if negative side effects are not tolerable, rather than to start with “just a little bit” of chemotherapy to see if it might work.

In human medicine, often the goal of cancer treatment is to cure the patient. In order to do so, all the rapidly dividing cells in the body are affected, and the patient often must suffer through the negative side ef-



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

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As seen in Lamorinda... Saint Mary's Graduation on May 21st

Photos Cathy Dausman



Photographer's assistant Midas is well-equipped
Photo Eric Dausman

LAMORINDA SPORTS & SCHOOLS

High School Swim Teams Finish at the top of DFAL

By Marissa Harnett



Photo Doug Kohen

The rain held off on Saturday, May 14th until the seven teams within the Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL) finished swimming to determine league champion. As expected, the competition was stiff with many close races. At the end of the day at Campolindo's Soda Center, nine meet records fell (see sidebar) and all three Lamorinda high schools finished extremely well.

On the men's side, Miramonte achieved first place over top-ranked Campolindo by a very small margin. Third place went to Acalanes. In the women's competition, Campo was the overall winner with Miramonte placing second. Acalanes came in

fourth behind Las Lomas. Swimming is not so much about team scores as it is about individual performances and achieving personal bests. Miramonte sophomore Charlie Wisner had a great day, finishing first in both the 200 yard IM and the 100 yard breaststroke – both with comfortable two-second margins. The explosive men's 50 yard freestyle was over just 20.71 seconds after the starting gun with a new record set by Acalanes senior Piankhi Gibson. Campolindo senior Jeffrey Strausser, who was the top seed and previous record holder, gave Gibson a run for his money finishing a half second behind him.

Campolindo senior Dana Holt

also had a fantastic meet. Holt won the 50 yard freestyle with a half second margin over Miramonte senior Sierra Robbins; they finished with the times of 23.54 and 24.04 respectively. In the 100 yard freestyle Holt touched out Las Lomas' Taylor Carlson in a hold-your-breath finish.

Although nine records were broken, Miramonte coach Don Heidary stated, "I was not surprised that many records were broken. The league is very competitive and there are a number of nationally ranked swimmers. I would imagine that most of the records were set as unshaven swims, which makes it that much more impressive."

DFAL Records Broken

Event	Previous record	NEW record	NEW record holder
Women's 200 yd Medley relay	1:43.94	1:43.92	Las Lomas
Men's 200 yd Freestyle	1:40.18	1:38.19	Jackson Miller – Las Lomas
Men's 50 yd Freestyle	20.89	20.71	Piankhi Gibson – Acalanes
Women's 100 yd Butterfly	56.02	55.70	Jaclyn Amog – Las Lomas
Men's 100 yd Butterfly	49.60	49.21	Piankhi Gibson – Acalanes
Men's 500 yd Freestyle	4:33.78	4:32.62	Jackson Miller – Las Lomas
Men's 200 yd Freestyle relay	1:25.69	1:25.64	Campolindo
Men's 100 yd Backstroke	51.36	50.52	Sven Campbell – Campolindo
Men's 400 yd Freestyle relay	3:08.40	3:07.15	Campolindo

Campolindo Men Take NCS

In the NCS finals held this past weekend the Campolindo men – six time defending champions—once again came out on top. Coach Dave Schurhoff said, "NCS is the pinnacle of our season and the biggest stage for swimmers on the high school level in the east bay. North Coast has been a focus for our men's team all year."

Acalanes took fifth place, and Miramonte came in sixth out of the field of 40 schools. The Campolindo women finished in 3rd place, followed by Miramonte and Acalanes in 7th and 11th place, respectively, out of 37 schools.

In a DFAL rematch, Acalanes senior Piankhi Gibson once again edged out Campolindo senior Jeffrey Strausser, this time by only .08 of a second, to win the 50 yard free; Gibson also won the 100 yard butterfly. The Campolindo women took the 100 yard freestyle relay, and senior Dana Holt won the 50 yard freestyle.

Two NCS records changed hands between Campolindo and Miramonte. In the men's 200 yard medley relay, Miramonte seniors Nick Deaver and Aleck Ryner, junior Robbie Fluegge, and sophomore Charlie Wisner broke a record set by Campolindo in 1984, finishing at 1:34:16. Campolindo in turn took a record that had been held by Miramonte since 1987, in the 400 yard freestyle relay—the team of Strausser, juniors Robert Ashby and Tor Jensen, and sophomore Sven Campbell came in at 3:03:97.

Other new NCS records include:
 Men's 200 yard IM, sophomore Steven Stumph (Campolindo), 1:49:46
 Men's 200 yard freestyle relay, Campolindo, 1:23:35 (seniors Jeffrey Campbell and Nick Zolintakis, Ashby, and S. Campbell broke their own record, set in the preliminary round)
 Men's 100 yard breaststroke, Charlie Wisner (Miramonte), 55.27
 Men's 100 yard backstroke, Sven Campbell (Campolindo), 49.74
 L.Borrowman

Orinda Rotary Field Day

Submitted by Andrew Bathgate



Photo provided

The Rotary Club of Orinda recently held its annual Field Day, for 3rd-5th graders, at Del Rey Elementary School. Violet Bathgate, pictured above winning the 50 yard dash, took two first place and one second place finishes. Bathgate has won top-point honors three years in a row.

SMC Player Reaches NCAA Singles Championship

By Rebecca Eckland



Alex Poorta

Photo Tod Fierner

Alex Poorta is no ordinary collegiate tennis player; today she becomes Saint Mary's College's first female tennis athlete to participate in the NCAA Singles Championship in Palo Alto, adding yet another notable accomplishment to her extraordinary career.

Poorta, whose parents are both tennis players, began playing at the age of nine in her hometown of Amsterdam. "I played tennis and field hockey at the time and I decided to stick to tennis," she said. By the time she was 13, she practiced daily. By 16, she was playing internationally and was recruited to play under scholarship for the Gaels.

SMC tennis coach Lisa Alipaz said Poorta's presence has brought many noticeable changes. "She incited a level of professionalism that wasn't in the program before. Her

work ethic, training intensity and the hours she puts in to be in peak competition shape—both on and off the court—has made everyone else better."

Poorta's absolute dedication to her sport has led to a list of accomplishments few athletes can boast of. She was the first Gael to compete in the All-American Championships and the 2011 WCC Athlete of the Year. But Poorta's smile spreads wide when she says that her most memorable accomplishment of the past four years was beating the top nationally ranked tennis player in a match. "Last year, we won Conference. It was the first time," says Poorta, who is proud of her team.

The team's first round of NCAA Conference Tournaments on May 14 ranked them third in the conference; yet Poorta's excited for her debut at

the Singles Championship. She has continued training since the NCAA Tournaments for the singles match on May 25. "It's good the match is later; she'll have finals out of the way and can focus on her tennis," said Alipaz.

"She really deserves all the credit," said Alipaz. "She's so self-driven and has worked so hard to better her game. Not every college player gets better, but every year she has focused on some aspect of her game and improved it and has added new dimensions to her sport. I applaud her for always trying to improve-- and always getting better."

Will Poorta continue to play following graduation? Her coach hopes so; but Poorta isn't sure. She plans to remain in the Lamorinda area and when asked if she'll stop playing, she said: "Maybe-- but I might miss it too much."



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Moraga Baseball Association Box Scores

Submitted by Jin Meng

May 7, 2011

Mustang Division

Yankees 7, Giants 5

Yankees Highlights: Tommy Raftis 1-for-2, RS; Rex Curtis 1-for-2, 2B; Mark McCurdy 2RS, 4SB; Ryan Fritch 1-for-2, RS.

Giants Highlights: Steffen Westphal 2-for-3, 2B; Dominic Gillibert 1-for-2, RS; Cole McNeil 2-for-2; Cason Johnston 2-for-2, RS, 2B.

Angels 11, A's 3

Angel Highlights: John Campo 2B, 1RS, 2RBI, 7Ks, 3IP; Peter Schmitz 2B, 2RS; Derek Schmitz 1B, 1RS, 1RBI; Stephen Chilimides 2B, 2RBI. A's Highlights: Paul Gannett 1B, 1SB, 1RS; Jake Crumbaugh 1B, 1RBI; Luke Ahearn 1RS, 1SB; Mason Loyet 1RBI.

Red Sox 18, Cardinals 3

Red Sox Highlights: Jeremy Gundersen 2-3, 2B, 2RBIs, RS, 4SB; Connor Gregg 2-3, 2B, 3RBIs 2RS, 4SB; Bryson Lothamer 2-3, 2B, 2RBIs, 2RS, 1SB; Jacob Filler 3IP, 1ER, 5Ks, Win. Cardinals Highlights: Cayden Hein 1-2; Ian Concepcion 1RS, 3SB; Bryan Kikugawa 1RS, 3SB.

Cubs 8, Pirates 6

Cubs Highlights: Will Bishop, 2-for-2, 2RS, 1RBI; Jonathan Gong, 1-for-2, 1RS, 2RBI, 2 1/3 IP, Maceo Lopez, 1-for-3, 1RBI; Michael Evans, 1-for-3, RBI, 1IP. Pirates Highlights: Nick Kronenberg, 2-for-3, 2RS, 1 2/3 IP; Cameron Fara, 2-for-3, 1RS, 3RBI, 1 1/3 IP; Ryan Lenahan, 1-for-2, 2RBI; Michael Crews, 2-for-2, 2RS.

Pinto Division

Dodgers 21, Giants 8

Dodgers Highlights: Shane Nelson 5-for-5, 3 2B's, 4RS, 3RBI; Michael Coane 3-for-4, 2RS, RBI; Cole Curtiss 2-for-4, 2RS; Jack Williams 3-for-5, 4RS, RBI. Giants Highlights: Sam McGonigle 1-for-3, 1RBI; Jack Erickson-King 1-for-2, 1RS; Jake Leuteneker 1-for-3; Jason Simi 1-for-2, 1RBI.

May 8, 2011

Mustang Division

Yankees 14, Redsox 13

Redsox Highlights: Donovan Robles 3-2, 3-2B, 3RS, RBI; Tom McGuire 2-3, 2RBIs; Blake Pollock 1-3, Run, SB.pres.

Yankees Highlights: Will Windatt 2-3, 9SB, 4RS; Tommy Raftis 2-3, 2RBIs, 2IP for 5Ks; Grant Harper 2-3, 2RS, 4SB, 2IP for 4Ks.

May 9, 2011

Pony Division

Moraga Cougars 17, Moraga Tigers 9

Cougars Highlights: Patrick Ratchford 3-for-4, 2-2B, 2RS, 2RBI, 3IP, 1R, 6K; Wyatt McNeil 3-for-4, 2RS, 2RBI; Sean Pappa 3-for-5, 2-2B, 4RS, 4RB; Tanner Hinds 2-for-5, 3B, 2RS, 3RBI; Sam Phillips 2-4, 3RS.

Tigers Highlights: Will Coates 2-for-4, 1RBI; Ryan Geisreiter 2-for-3, 1RS; Scott Chen 2-for-3, 3B, 2RS, 1RBI; Scott Smoot, 2B, 1RS, 1RBI.

May 10, 2011

Mustang Division

Yankees 5, A's 9

A's highlights: Brian Gross 3-for-3, 2RS, 4SB; Will Weaver 1-for-2, 2RS, 2SB; Paul Gannett 1-for-3, 2RS, 2RBI, 6SB, 3IP, 7K, 1H. Yankees highlights: Tommy Raftis 2-for-2, RS, RBI, 5SB; Grant Harper 2-for-2, 2RS, RBI, 5SB; Rex Curtis 1-for-3, RS, RBI, 2SB, 1IP, 1K, 0H.

Pinto Division

Red Sox 7, Cubs 19

Red Sox Highlights: Arik Rahan: 3 for 3 with a triple, double and 3 runs, Chase Bennett: 3 for 3 with 1 RBI and 1 run, Ty Huckuntod: 3 for 3 with 1 RBI and 1 run. Cubs Highlights: Drew Isola: 4 runs 2RBI, Alex Clare: 2 runs, Casey Linden: 4 runs 2RBI, Sean Lee: 3 runs 5RBI, Joe Schmidt: 3 runs 3RBI.

May 11, 2011

Mustang Division

Angels 11, Cubs 6

Cubs Highlights: Jonathan Gong, 2-for-2, 2RBI; Ryan Jeter, 2-for-3, 2RS, 1RBI, 1IP; Billy Woolsey, 3-for-3, 1RS, 1RBI, 1 1/3 IP; Michael Holloway, 1-for-3, 1RS, 1RBI. Angels Highlights: Kyle Sintchak, 2-for-3, 2 2B, 1RBI, 1RS; Conner O'Brien, 2-for-3, 2 1B, 3IP, 6KO; Stephen Chilimidos, 1-for-3, 2B, 2RBI; Derek Schmitz, 1-for-3, 1B, 2RBI.

Pinto Division

Dodgers 12, A's 11

Dodgers Highlights: Brody Crouch 4-for-4, RS; Nate Powers 3-for-3, 2RS, RBI; Sean Donovan 1-for-3, 2B, RS,

2RBI. A's Highlights: Nico Mossotti 2-for-3, 2RBI; Nolan Flanagan 3-for-3, RS, RBI; Oliver Bak 2-for-3, 3RBI; JT Clark 3-for-3, 2RBI, 3RS.

Yankees 15, Giants 14

Giants highlights: Ryan Erickson-King, 1-for-4, 2RS, 1RBI, 2 2B, Evan Yabu: 3-for-3, 2RS, 2RBI, 2 2B, Brady Manz: 4-for-4, 2RS, 2RBI, 2B, and Sam McGinagle: 1-for-3, RS. Yankees Highlights: Jack Daugherty: 4-for-4, 2HR, 3RS, Ben Oxendine: 4-for-4, 1RS, and Tyler Kivelson: 2-for-4, 1RBI, 1RS.

May 14, 2011

Bronco Division

Moraga Giants 14, Orinda Owlz 12

Giants highlights: Vince Mossotti 2-for-3, 2 3Bs, RS, RBI; Danny Nelson 2-for-4, 3RS, RBI; Luke Jeffrey 2-for-3, RS, RBI; Jake Walgenbach 1-for-3, 2B, 2RBI. Owlz highlights: Matt Weisenfluh 2-for-2, 2B, 4RS; Matthew Peterson 2-for-3, 2B, RS.

Mustang Division

Cubs 9, Red Sox 8

Cubs highlights: Michael Holloway 3-for-4, 1RS, 2 1B, 2 3B, RBI, Will Bishop 2-for-3, 2 1B, 3RBI, Drew McGill 0-for-1, 2BB, 2RS and Eric Moore 0-for-1, 2BB, 2RS. Red Sox highlights: Luka Brown 2-for-3, 2 1B, 1RBI, Jacob Filler 1-for-3, 1 1B, 2RBI, Andrew Fenske 1-for-2, 1 1B, 2RS, 1RBI and Bryson Lothamer 0-for-1, 2BB, 2RS.

Giants 12, A's 6

Angel Highlights: Aidan Lyon 3-3, 2B, 2RS, SB, 2IP, 2K, 0R; Jake O'Balle 2-3, 2RS, 2RBI, SB; Steffen Westphal 1-2, BB, 2RS, 3SB, 2IP, 3K; Spencer Drennan 2-2, 2B, RS, 2RBI, SB. A's Highlights: Brian Gross 2B, RS, RBI; Sam Nunn 2SB, RS; Blake Hoover 2SB; Brady Hoover 2SB, RS.

Pinto Division

Red Sox 17, Giants 7

Giants Highlights: Jamie Murray (1-for-3, RS, 2RBI); Jason Simi (1-for-2, RS); Sam McGonigle (1-for-3, RBI, 2B); and Jackson Rusconi (1-for-3, RBI). Red Sox Highlights: Cole Jeter (4-for-4, 4RS, 2 2B); Arik Nashan (4-for-4); Logan Filler (3-for-4, 3RS); Cade Bennett (2-for-4).



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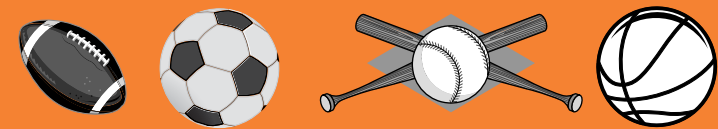
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Cal Rugby's Clark Gives Keynote Address

Submitted by Peter Evans



Campolindo Sports Boosters Annual Fundraising Dinner welcomed keynote speaker, Cal men's rugby coach Jack Clark, on April 30th. Cal rugby has won 25 national championships.

Photo Nicki Schroeder

CYO Track Season Concludes

Submitted by Jeanne Balczewski



Photo Michael McCullough

The Lamorinda parishes, St. Perpetua, St. Monica and Santa Maria concluded a successful CYO track season at the Diocesan track meet on May 7 at Granada High School in Livermore. The relay team pictured, comprised of Ingrid Neukirchen, Alexandra Gold, Sasha Sadoff, Jackie Geannacopulos, finished first in the 4x100 relay.

Submitted by Beth Colombini



Photo provided

The 4th Grade Girls from St. Monica's delivered a personal best of 2:25:21, earning them 2nd place in the 800 meter Spring Medley Relay at the Diocesan meet at Granada High School in Livermore. Pictured from left: Emily Huston and Anna Wong of Orinda; Julia Colombini and Caroline Coates of Moraga.

DFAL Dive Meet Results

Submitted by Marie Estorge

Campolindo hosted the DFAL Dive Meet on Thursday, May 12. Lamorinda divers had top finishes.



From left: Coach Emily Wetzel, Maren Kjell, Asher Lichtig, Alyssa Parsons, Alexis Cravero, Head Coach Marie Estorge, Coach Sarah Pennington

Photo provided

DFAL Athlete	School	Division	Total Points	Place
Girls - Varsity				
Maren Kjell	Campolindo	V	388.40	1
Alyssa Parsons	Campolindo	V	334.25	2
Alexis Cravero	Campolindo	V	331.05	3
Donna Brackett	Acalanes	V	299.55	4
Boys - Varsity				
Asher Lichtig	Acalanes	V	346.50	1

Seniors to Play at Collegiate Level

Submitted by Tony McKenzie



From left, back row: Michael James (Captain), Sam Parague, Tom Howells, Kyle Perra, Quinn Veseley, Anthony West; front row: Jared O'Rourke, Nick Valvur, Ross McKenzie (Captain); not pictured: Wes Van Tonder, Robbie Day, Gabriel Sierra, Sam Larson, Alex Currier

Photo Tony McKenzie

The Lamorinda Rugby Club is sending graduating seniors to play at the collegiate level. Athletes include:

Michael James, University of Colorado at Boulder; Sam Parague, University of British Columbia in Vancouver; Tom Howells, UCLA; Kyle Perra, Central Washington University; Quinn Veseley, Oregon State; Anthony West, Chico State; Ross McKenzie, University of Oregon; Wes van Tonder, Central Washington University; Robbie Day, UC Santa Cruz; Gabriel Sierra, Santa Barbara Junior College and will play for UCSB.

Acalanes High School | Bentley School | Burton Valley | Camino Pablo | Campolindo | Contra Costa Jewish Day School | Del Rey Donald L. Rheem | Glorietta | Happy Valley | Joaquin Moraga **Lamorinda Schools** Lafayette Elementary | Los Perales | Miramonte | Orinda Academy Orinda Intermediate | Saklan Valley School | Sleepy Hollow Springhill | Stanley Middle | St. Perpetua School | Wagner Ranch

Pre-Prom Party



The sun shone on pre-prom festivities for students and parents before Acalanes' Senior Prom on Saturday evening.

Photo Doug Kohen

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Family Focus

Helping a Child Who Procrastinates

Part 1: Age Eight and Below

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

When all procrastinate at times; it is normal and natural. Many of us are really good at finding lots of other things to do when laundry is piling up, home repairs require attention, or closets need organizing. It is when procrastination is chronic and we miss deadlines, commitments, or responsibilities that it becomes a problem.

One frustrating challenge for parents is having a child who frequently procrastinates, especially if you are at the other end of the spectrum and enjoy getting tasks done way ahead of time. But even if you also tend to procrastinate, your child's behavior may disturb you if it taps into your own dissatisfactions with yourself.

It is important to address procrastination as early as possible. It may become a more entrenched behavior as a child ages, and older children are typically more resistant to parents' intervention. First we will look at how to help your young child, under the age of eight, and in a future column we will consider strategies for older children.

The first rule of thumb is never let your child hear you identify him as a procrastinator. Young children tend to define themselves as their parents see them, and you want to avoid having your child label himself negatively. In fact, in order to overcome procrastinating tendencies a child needs to think highly of himself and his abilities. If a child regards himself as a person who can't please his parents and teachers, doesn't do things "right," or is "lazy," he will become discouraged and will be less likely to improve.

Children respond well to having tasks broken into small parts that they can master. They need to learn to work hard, take a short break when needed, and then work some more

until a task is completed. Parents can show empathy along the way, saying that you know it is difficult to keep working and focusing. Remind your child how good it feels when he has completed a task and how proud you are of him.

It is essential for you to maintain a positive and encouraging approach (even if you are ready to scream inside!). If parents show irritation or impatience, a child may become frustrated or discouraged, and these feelings will get in the way of his progress. Your child needs to experience the satisfaction of completing a task on time in a positive atmosphere so he can build greater confidence and self-discipline.

Charts with incentive rewards are usually highly successful. Target one specific behavior at a time and follow through until your child has mastered it. For example, each day you can chart that your child completed his homework or practiced his musical instrument for the required time. For a much younger child you can pick a task such as putting away his toys. Only note your child's successes on the chart and leave out his lapses.

In the beginning it doesn't matter whether he does the task completely on his own. You may need to prompt him a bit or even help him. But later it will be time to see if he can achieve success without your help.

Many parents tell me that it is hard to be consistent when using charts, and that they forget about them over time. The trick is to make a chart for just one week at a time. Pick a week when you know you will be able to monitor the behavior you want. Then skip some time if necessary and go back to charting for another week. When the behavior becomes consistent, pick a different

behavior and change the reward. Use stickers for one chart, stars for the next, and perhaps happy faces for the next.

A few things can get in the way while helping your young child. An attitude of perfectionism, either yours or his, can sabotage his ability to work steadily until he completes a task. Procrastinators often say that they are afraid to start a project or task unless they know they can be perfectly successful. This all-or-nothing approach can be very inhibiting. Encourage your child to try and not to be afraid of making mistakes along the way.

Impatience can also get in the way, either on your part or his. Try to see the bigger picture when your child is slow to shed his procrastination tendencies. You are working toward a long-term goal. Be a cheerleader for each small positive effort he makes and help him realize that it takes time to change habits.



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

Pack 114's Pinewood Derby

Submitted by Kim Vaughn



Lafayette's Cub Scout Pack 114 recently held its Pinewood Derby. Trophy winners were St. Perpetua students (from left) Christopher Ruane, Ryan Vaughn and Marcus Erickson. Photo provided

Miramonte Student Named to NCL Youth Council

Submitted by Dan Pittman



California-based National Charity League, Inc. (NCL) has recently appointed Alicia Macler to its 2010-2011 Tick-tocker Advisory Council. She is a member of the organization's Acalanes Area Chapter as a Tick-tocker (girls in grade 7-12) and is a junior at Miramonte High School. Photo provided



Checkmate: Los Perales 2nd Place

Submitted by May Lo



Top Row: Hari Stoyanov, David Stambuch, Ryan Yick, Sean Donovan, Jack Yang Bottom Row: Suleman Syed, Richard Gross, Delu Zhao, Zack Donovan, Leopold Gross, Jillian Yick Photo May Lo

The ten members of the Los Perales Elementary School chess team are celebrating their second place win at the Berkeley Chess School Elementary School Tournament held on Saturday, May 7, at Cragmont School in Berkeley. One hundred and sixteen students from thirty four schools in five Bay Area counties competed in six games of chess during five hours of play. Los Perales and Ocean View (Albany) were tied for first place through the fifth game. Two other Lamorinda schools, Glorietta and Burton Valley, were also in attendance.

Los Perales third grader Sean Donovan went undefeated, winning all six games, and fourth grader Ryan Yick won five out of six games. Donovan's and Yick's individual scores were also ranked among the tournament's top ten scores. Six year old kindergartener, Zack Donovan, the youngest participant in the tournament, won three of his six games. Los Perales' top four players, Sean Donovan, Ryan Yick, Hari Stoyanov, and Jack Yang received trophies and the remaining team members received medals.

The Los Perales (LP) chess team is comprised of students from every grade and is coached by Berkeley Chess School instructor David Stambuch in LP's chess after school enrichment program.

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Monday, June 6, 4pm

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Wednesday, June 22, 7pm

Moraga School District
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
Tuesday, June 14, 7:30pm

Troop 233's New Eagles

Submitted by Kevin Nitsos



From left, front row: Alex Hoff, Ian Woods, Matthew Lai; back row: Sean Lerner, Connor Nitsos, Camron Stevens Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 233 is proud to announce that six new Eagle Scouts have joined the troop's Eagle family. Alex Hoff, Matthew Lai, Sean Lerner, Connor Nitsos, Camron Stevens and Ian Woods will be honored at Troop 233's Eagle Court of Honor on June 4th at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church.

Scoutmaster Don Larwood will be presenting the Eagle awards, the highest rank in Boy Scouting.

The Eagle Scouts and their projects:

Alex Hoff (Miramonte) planted redwood trees at the Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Orinda. These will replace some Monterey Pines which the City of Orinda and the Orinda-Moraga Fire department have both requested to be taken out due to fire hazard.

Matthew Lai (Acalanes) constructed and installed a six foot by three foot cross at the Main Hall for the Contra Costa Gospel Church at Walnut Creek California. He also

built three wooden benches for the church to enhance outdoor activities.

Sean Lerner (Miramonte) developed a project protecting the native Bay Oak from being overcrowded by invasive non-native weeds and trampling by cows. He protected fifty Oak's that were deemed by the Briones ranger to be weak with wrap-around chicken wire enclosures.

Connor Nitsos (Acalanes) installed numbered disks to existing trail markers over 23 miles of trail in Briones Regional Park, benefiting people unfamiliar with using a trail map, giving them numbered references to follow.

Camron Stevens (Miramonte) honored family friend and longtime Glorietta teacher's aide, Toni Russell, by constructing a memorial bench and redwood trellis feature at Glorietta Elementary School.

Ian Woods (Miramonte) created a hexagonal bench around the tree near the 4th and 5th grade playground at Wagner Ranch Elementary School.

Submit stories to
schooldesk@lamorinda weekly.com

Los Perales Chess Team

- Sean Donovan (3rd Grade)
- Zack Donovan (Kindergarten)
- Leopold Gross (1st Grade)
- Richard Gross (3rd Grade)
- Hari Stoyanov (2nd Grade)
- Suleman Syed (5th Grade)
- Jack Yang (5th Grade)
- Jillian Yick (5th Grade)
- Ryan Yick (4th Grade)
- Delu Zhao (2nd Grade)

Top Ten Schools

1. Ocean View 21.0 (Albany)
2. Los Perales 19.5 (Moraga)
3. Marin 17.5 (Albany)
4. Head Royce 17.5 (Oakland)
5. Cornell 16.5 (Albany)
6. Havens 16.0 (Piedmont)
7. Kaiser 15.5 (Oakland)
8. Dorris-Eaton 15.0 (Walnut Creek)
9. Beach 14.0 (Piedmont)
10. Jefferson 13.5 (Berkeley)

Acalanes High School | Bentley School | Burton Valley | Camino Pablo | Campolindo | Contra Costa Jewish Day School | Del Rey Donald L. Rheem | Glorietta | Happy Valley | Joaquin Moraga

Lamorinda Schools

Lafayette Elementary | Los Perales | Miramonte | Orinda Academy Orinda Intermediate | Saklan Valley School | Sleepy Hollow Springhill | Stanley Middle | St. Perpetua School | Wagner Ranch

Big Fun Won at Wagner Ranch Auction

Submitted by Julie Oxner

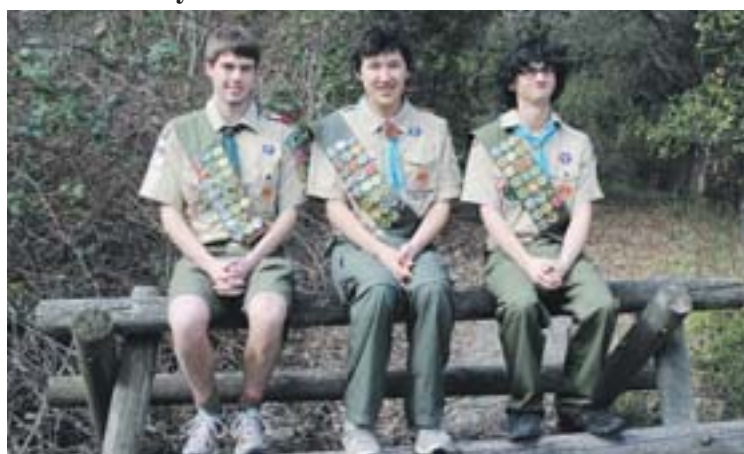


From left: Patrick Ahern, Gina Ahern, Rosemary Bullock, Tracy Gong, Kim Fineman, Susan Vandergrift, Mia Blackler, Andrea Persinger, Phil Simon, Whitney Simon, Courtney Brothers & Julie Oxner Photo provided

Wagner Ranch is one of the only elementary schools to still host an annual auction. This year there was a focus on parent parties and kid parties as a means for fundraising while also building community relationships. The moms (and a couple of dads) pictured had a great time with one of the prizes. On Saturday, May 14th, 12 people hopped on a party bus at the Old Orinda Library after enjoying mimosas and muffins. The group then went to Concannon winery, Red Feather Winery, and White Crest Winery. The participants enjoyed boxed lunches from Orinda's Table 24.

Eagles of Troop 241

Submitted by Laura Kaufman



From left: Ian Lundgren, Harrison Kim, Ted Kessler Photo provided

Lafayette's Troop 241 added three new Eagle Scouts to its ranks at a special Eagle Court of Honor held on May 1 at the Lafayette United Methodist Church. Ted Kessler, Harrison Kim and Ian Lundgren achieved the highest rank in Scouting. All three are seniors at Acalanes High School. For his Eagle project, Ted Kessler designed a curved fence to protect hikers and bikers from an eroding cliff above Las Trampas Creek in the Lafayette Community Park. Harrison Kim replaced a retaining wall at the Lafayette United Methodist Church, installing a sup-

porting post and 72 feet of top boards. Ian Lundgren worked with the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department to create a new picnic area on the Silver Springs trail in Lafayette. The Court of Honor was presided over by Troop 241 Scoutmaster Bradford Prescott, M.D., and Unit Commissioner Phil Chernin. Keynote speaker was Acalanes High School Social Sciences teacher Michael McAlister. Vice Mayor of Lafayette Carol Federighi presented each boy with a proclamation of their own Eagle Scout Day.

Saklan Spring Arts Festival



Saklan Valley School, a small private school very appropriately located on School Street in Moraga, celebrated its students and their artistic productions during the annual Spring Festival. Wednesday, May 18, featured art exhibits, musical performances, interactive tables and more.

S.Braccini

A group of 2nd grade students in a courtyard where art production is displayed

Photo Sophie Braccini

Acalanes Student-Scientists Take International Prize

... continued from page A1

He and Feddersen tried to develop a drug or material that could combine with radiation to increase its lethal effect on tumors.

"We used tin metal, with no special isotopes. We used tin because it's not toxic, it has the electron binding

properties that allow it to create secondary radiation, and it's a soft, malleable metal," said Marggraff.

The \$75,000 Gordon E. Moore Award, given in honor of the Intel co-founder and retired chairman and CEO, sent Marggraff and Feddersen

into a tornado of media attention.

"This is like nothing I've ever experienced before. It's not quite as scary as I thought it would be. It started before we won; the camera operators knew, like, two days before we knew! From there, it just got cra-

zier and crazier," remembered Marggraff.

Feddersen said they didn't see it coming.

"The team that got first at State, where we got second, was just two booths away from us in L.A. We saw that and thought, 'Maybe, just maybe, we could win fourth,'" he said.

The awards were announced in a grueling fashion, with numerous fourth place awards given in each of the 17 categories.

"It goes on forever," Feddersen recalled. "Everyone is squirming in their seats. When we won, it was wild. The atmosphere was electric. It still hasn't quite sunk in."

Which doesn't mean the students are not looking to the future. "Our award comes with opportunities," Marggraff said. "We'd like to move to real cancer cell testing; possibly animal testing. The night before we won the prize we sat down and discussed it. I have no doubt it would be worthwhile to advance the project as much as possible."

"We're going to want to stay together, especially for the provisional patent and developing future research," Feddersen agreed.

The back-story—their long-time collaboration—also holds indications for what lies ahead.

"I've had a lot of ideas over the years," Marggraff said, "and Matt, every time, is the best person I can speak to. With this project, we both started researching and got really excited. As far as I'm concerned, this is a project we both developed."

He said the partnership is successful because he and Feddersen are different. He likes biology and chemistry. Feddersen is talented when it comes to applying math to science.

"He sees flaws and opportunities that I would miss. It makes it possible for us to combine our ideas and find things that wouldn't have been possible if they came out of a single field of view," Marggraff explained.

"We've been friends since fourth grade," Feddersen added. "We've had conflicts over the years and there have definitely been stressful times. Sparks will fly, but overall, it's a good mix. It's pretty equal."

They are also united when it comes to their teacher, Jay Chugh, who led them to and through the science fair.

"He doesn't like the rote, fact-based learning. He's a proponent of hands-on, project learning. He's had us do a lot of lab projects where we come up with the questions and ideas ourselves," said Feddersen.

"He's been absolutely fantastic," Marggraff exclaimed. "His teaching style is to inspire and motivate. Students don't realize how important that is. I think it boils down to conversation and discussions in class.

He gets students to talk, to solidify ideas and to advance questions."

Jay Chugh has taught science at Acalanes for eight years. He's learned to never underestimate his students.

"Blake is by far the most genuinely curious student I have ever taught," Chugh said. "His zest for science is contagious, it's unparalleled. Because of that, he is the brain trust of the whole operation."

"Matt is the strongest possible co-pilot. He's equally bright, and verbal; being able to speak articulately about the project contributed to them doing so well."

Chugh is exceptionally proud of the fact that his students, unlike most of the other teams at the competition, won the award without the assistance of professional scientists, or even a class devoted to preparing for the science fair.

"As a teacher, this is as good as it gets. Luckily, for me, no matter what happens in the future, I'll always know I helped two students get to the International Science Fair—and win!" he said.

Feddersen, asked to consider the larger implications of the project, had plenty to say about cancer and the three criteria the judges identified in selecting the winners: projects had to demonstrate innovation in science, contain an original idea, and have application for real world improvement.

"One of the things we showed our judges was a map about radiation treatment in Africa: many of Third World countries have limited access to equipment. We showed that the ratio of equipment to patients is 1 to 500 in LA. In Africa, it's 1 to 1 million at the low end, and up to 1 to 10 million at the high end," Feddersen explained.

Their project, if developed, would improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of radiation treatments that are largely expensive and inaccessible to Third World cancer patients.

"We both have relatives with cancer. It's something you don't think will happen to you, but it affects so many people," Feddersen said.

He called the financial award "fortuitous" and will no longer have to take out a student loan to attend the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana next year.

Marggraff, too, will apply his \$37,500 share towards tuition at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

They both said they plan to continue working together, even though geographic distance will make it tricky.

Fortunately, these two young men are masterful at coming up with simple ways to solve complex problems.

Campolindo Grad Night 2011

Join us for a Special Preview Thursday, June 9th - 7-9:30 pm



Wizard of Oz

Grad Nite

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June 10th, 2011

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 6 Wednesday, May 25, 2011



Century plant in Lafayette ... read on page D7

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

The Language of Flowers

“Flowers are Love’s truest language!” Park Benjamin



A boastful message of magnificent beauty and heartlessness with the magenta hydrangea and white calla lily.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Gallantry, happiness, purity, fidelity, and marriage were the unspoken words voiced from the shield-shaped bouquet of Kate Middleton as she wed Prince

William at Westminster Abbey. The ivy symbolized marriage, the myrtle fidelity, lily-of-the-valley was happiness and purity, and sweet William meant gallantry, a

quite fitting combination for a royal roundup.

Flowers have a language all their own. Although floriography, the language

of flowers, may be a dying form of coded communication, there is a simplicity and beauty in expressing oneself through the flowers, herbs, and plants that we grow in our Lamorinda gardens.

Rooted in ancient traditions, flowers have been used throughout the ages as an informal messaging system. In Greece, bridesmaids created posies as thank you gifts from nature for the bride, groom, and families. Historical journals indicate that Anthony and Cleopatra consummated their love on a bed of roses. In the 17th century, illiterate Turkish concubines communicated with one another by giving meaning to various flowers and sharing the blossoms. Europeans became fascinated with the idea when writer Lady Mary Wortley, the woman who introduced the Turkish inoculation (variola-tion) against smallpox into the Western medicine, and wife of the British Ambassador to Constantinople wrote about her discovery of a “secret language of flowers” between the women of the Ottoman Empire. *Le Language des Fleurs*, a small reference book, was published in 1819 by Louise Cortambert, under the nom de plume, Madame Charlotte de la Tour, and became the popular tome of the time. From 1837-1901, during the reign of Queen Victoria of England, a time of puritanical propriety, the language of flowers flourished. Floriography was a discreet and simpler method to “say it with flowers” than with words.

... continued on page D4

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Lafayette ~ Mt. Diablo Views



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Lafayette ~ Happy Valley



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Lafayette ~ Burton Valley



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

LAFAYETTE	Last reported: 9
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$668,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,328,500
MORAGA	Last reported: 8
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$192,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$860,000
ORINDA	Last reported: 4
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$508,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,162,000

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

3112 Del Oceano Drive, \$668,000, 4 Bdrms, 1915 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-26-11
979 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,019,000, 3 Bdrms, 1975 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 4-25-11;
Previous Sale: \$1,028,000, 06-07-10
632 Los Palos Drive, \$1,075,000, 5 Bdrms, 2313 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 4-22-11;
Previous Sale: \$790,000, 09-27-10
501 McBride Drive, \$1,025,000, 4 Bdrms, 2880 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-29-11;
Previous Sale: \$600,000, 07-22-99
1090 Orchard Road, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2831 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 4-21-11;
Previous Sale: \$253,000, 08-10-95
1252 Quandt Road, \$1,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 3035 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 4-22-11;
Previous Sale: \$639,000, 02-12-93
3389 Rossi Street, \$1,328,500, 3 Bdrms, 2605 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 4-22-11;
Previous Sale: \$575,000, 11-05-96
3919 South Peardale Drive, \$1,275,000, 6 Bdrms, 3236 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-29-11; Previous Sale: \$341,000, 02-28-91
16 Surmont Court, \$805,000, 5 Bdrms, 2956 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 4-27-11;
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 04-03-06

MORAGA

148 Ascot Court #4, \$192,000, 2 Bdrms, 945 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 4-26-11;
Previous Sale: \$389,000, 07-07-06
2135 Ascot Drive #7, \$290,000, 2 Bdrms, 1643 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 4-21-11;
Previous Sale: \$162,500, 02-23-90
1476 Camino Peral #A, \$230,000, 1 Bdrms, 951 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 4-29-11;
Previous Sale: \$407,000, 05-22-07
725 Crossbrook Drive, \$821,000, 4 Bdrms, 2186 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 4-29-11;
Previous Sale: \$140,000, 09-12-77
809 Camino Ricardo, \$860,000, 4 Bdrms, 1899 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-22-11;
Previous Sale: \$565,000, 10-21-10
2011 Donald Drive, \$649,000, 4 Bdrms, 1517 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 4-22-11
15 Josefa Place, \$600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2095 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 4-27-11;
Previous Sale: \$510,000, 05-24-02
15 Ketelsen Court, \$850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2213 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 4-22-11;
Previous Sale: \$589,000, 04-28-99

ORINDA

25 Crescent Drive, \$508,000, 3 Bdrms, 1214 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-28-11;
Previous Sale: \$780,000, 09-12-07
6 Oak Flat Road, \$680,000, 4 Bdrms, 3060 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 4-28-11
108 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,162,000, 4 Bdrms, 2390 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-26-11
2 Southwaite Court, \$705,000, 4 Bdrms, 1938 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 4-26-11

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

ORINDA

2 Camino Del Cielo, 94563, Landcore & Yjk Group, 04-28-11, \$706,400, 4083 sf, 4 bd
77 Underhill Road, 94563, Bank of America, 04-04-11, \$497,774, 1251 sf, 2 bd

MORAGA

2135 Ascot Drive #23, 94556, Federal Home Loan Mortgage, 04-21-11, \$355,529, 1529 sf, 2 bd

69 Tara Road, Orinda



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Price...\$1,865,000

5 Woodcrest Drive, Orinda



3.86 acre Estate setting up a long drive brings to light an exception 4 bedroom + office, 2 bath and two half bath home of approximately 3900 sqft of one level living. Style and exciting decor is evident in all fully renovated rooms bringing one of the most beautiful homes and settings for entertaining or family living comfort to the new listing market. Phenomenal quality and top of the line amenities evident in every room. Pool too. Truly fabulous!

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

The Language of Flowers

... continued from page D1



A summer hanging basket of fuchsia and violet hued verbena looks perfect on the patio.

Nosegays (fragrant flowers to keep the nose happy), posies (small bouquets of sweet smelling flowers worn around the head or bodice), tussie-mussies (symbolic flower fashion accessories wrapped in lace and tied with satin ribbon) and sachets (perfumed bags) are as appropriate in the 21st century as they were in the 19th.

June is the most popular month for weddings. Calla lilies, asters, roses, forget-me-nots, gardenias, orchids, jasmine, peony, ivy, and violets are colorful cryptograms to ensure a long, loving, happy marriage. June is also the season of graduations and Father's Day whereby a mixed bouquet of sunflowers for congratulations, basil for best wishes, white bellflowers for gratitude, heather for admiration, sage for wisdom, and fern for sincerity may be the vocabulary of choice.

Whenever you want to speak to someone without talking, take a walk around your garden to find the perfect floral words. I have created a simplified flower-speak dictionary of my favorite flowers, herbs, trees, and blossoms growing in my garden culled from years of gardening lore to help you plant the sensations you wish to express in your next bouquet. Whether you want to express appreciation, love, sympathy, friendship, or fascination, there is a plant to help you share your feelings and express explicit emotions.

... continued on page D6

PLANT	MEANING	PLANT	MEANING
Allium	Patience	Larkspur (Delphinium)	Freedom
Almond	Hope	Lavender	Good Luck
Alstroemeria	Friendship	Lemon Balm	Sympathy
Amaranth	Immortality	Lilac	First Love
Amaryllis	Pride	Lily	Modesty
Anemone	Forsaken	Lily-of-the-Valley	Purity
Angelica	Inspiration	Magnolia	Perseverance
Anthurium	Heartfelt	Marigold (French)	Jealousy
Artemisia	Power	Mint	Virtue
Aster	Love	Mistletoe	Kisses and Love
Astilbe	I'm Waiting	Mock Orange	Brotherly Love
Bachelor Button	Celibacy	Moss	Maternal Love
Basil	Success	Myrtle	Fidelity
Bay Leaf	Faithfulness	Narcissus	Self-Esteem
Bell Flower	Gratitude	Nasturtium	Patriotism
Black-Eyed Susan	Justice	Oak	Strength
Borage	Courage	Oleander	Beware
Buttercup	Money	Olive	Peace
Bleeding Heart	Elegance	Orchid	Love, nobility, refinement
Caladium	Delight	Pansy	Loving thoughts
Calendula	Remembrance	Parsley	Festivity and Thanks
Calla Lily	Magnificent Beauty	Peony	Health, Wealth, Happiness
Camellia	Excellence	Periwinkle	Pleasant Memories
Carnation (striped)	Regrets	Phlox	Agreement
Carnation (white)	Remember Me	Poppy (red)	Consolation, Rest, Sleep
Cherry blossoms	Chivalry	Queen Anne's Lace	Protection
Chrysanthemum	Optimism	Rhododendron	Warning
Clematis	Ingenuity	Rose (colors determine sentiment)	Love, Friendship, Grace
Coreopsis	Love at First Sight	Rosemary	Remembrance
Coral Bells	Challenge	Sage	Hospitality
Daffodil	Respect	Snapdragons	Desire
Dahlia	Dignity	Spruce	Farewell
Daisy	Friendship	St. John's Wort	Protection
Euphorbia	Welcome	Stock	Promptness
Fern	Sincerity	Sunflower	Congratulations
Forget-Me-Not	True Love	Sweet Pea	Departure, Sweet Memory
Freesia	Innocence	Sweet William	Gallantry
Gardenia	Ecstasy	Thistle	Austerity
Gladiolus	Generosity	Thyme	Bravery
Heather	Dreams and Wishes come true	Tuberose	Voluptuousness
Hemlock	Death	Tulip	Fame
Hyacinth	Forgiveness	Verbena	Sensibility
Hydrangea	Boastful, Heartless	Violet	Simplicity
Iris	A Message for You	Wallflower	Loneliness
Ivy	Fidelity, Friendship, Marriage	Wisteria	Daughter's Sweetness
Jasmine	Grace	Yarrow	Healing
Jonquil	Wisdom, Return my Affection	Yew	Sorrow
Lamb's Ear	Surprise	Zinnia	Thoughts of Lost Friends

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- 4) Downsize, and sell in Lamorinda, where the market has not dropped as much, then buy a great one-story home at a bargain price in a nice neighborhood where homes have dropped more. Keep a low property tax by transferring it to the new house within Contra Costa County.

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian The Language of Flowers

... continued



Sunflowers are the perfect flower for the graduate as they shout "Congratulations!"

Depending on the source, there may be multiple meanings for the same specimen, sometimes with completely opposing connotations. Color and number of stems may also weigh into the interpretation for the recipient, especially when it comes to the rose, which enjoys the status of the plant with the most definitions. For example, a red rose implies passionate love, whereas a crimson rose indicates mourning. A fresh white rose speaks of innocence and purity while a dried white rose denotes "death is preferable to loss of virtue!" The significance of giving ten roses signifies that "you are perfect", thirteen roses means "friends forever", fifteen roses says "I'm truly sorry", twenty-four roses kisses with "forever yours" whereas twenty five roses signs "congratulations." Perhaps it would be wise to count properly as we wouldn't want to confuse those numbers and import the incorrect gist. If you are contemplating a marriage proposal, 108 red roses on a bended knee whispers, "Will you marry me?"

Whether it's Happy Birthday, I Love You, Get Well Soon, Sincerest Condolences, Thank You, Forgive Me, or Just Because, Mother Nature provides the verdant language. With the language of flowers you can have an entire conversation without uttering a word!

CYNTHIA BRIAN'S GARDENING GUIDE FOR JUNE

"Summer afternoon -- summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language." Henry James

School is winding to a close, the days are getting longer, and we are all itching for the summer time hues. It's time to spruce up the patio, fire up the barbecue, and start living in our dressed up outdoor spaces. The longest day of the year occurs on June 21st, the summer solstice, as the sun "stands still" while the earth begins to tilt away. Our roses shine in their prime releasing their sweet fragrance onto the hands that pluck them. Herbal concoctions make great iced-teas and tonic elixirs, and our mixed greens are ready to be tossed as a fresh, crisp salad. Put out the welcome mat! It's hammock time.

- **SPRUCE** up your patio furniture with a coat of paint or lacquer.
- **POWERWASH** your brick, concrete, driveway, and deck to rid them of the winter mold and moss.
- **REPOT** plants that have outgrown their containers. Choose one or two sizes larger, add new potting soil, being careful to separate the roots, and water thoroughly.
- **REPEL** the hungry deer and rabbits with frequent reapplications of organic repellents available at your favorite garden center.
- **COOK** up your pea shoots, beet tops, sorrel, and bean blossoms for a tasty tendrill treat.
- **MAINTAIN** your weeding regimen. Pull weeds by hand before they go to seed. Using a mechanical weed eater spreads the weed seeds.
- **FILL** birdbaths with fresh water weekly providing our feathered friends with their own private lake.
- **SNIP** the blossoms of bee balm, chamomile, and lavender for a tangy tea. Hot or iced, every delicious sip is loaded with nutritious health benefits.
- **READ** labels when fertilizing. Overfeeding breeds weaker growth.
- **ADD** rose petals to your salads, desserts, and bath water.
- **PRUNE** dead palm fronds. You may need to hire a tree service if the limbs are taller than the ladders and extenders you have.
- **TOSS** your mistakes on the compost pile. Remember failure is fertilizer.
- **SPRINKLE** crushed eggshells onto your soil. They repel snails, slugs, and cutworms while being a great organic fertilizer.
- **CLEAN** up the final dried leaves from your spring blooming bulbs. If the foliage is still green, don't cut them back until they are brown and crackling as they are still photosynthesizing nutrients for next year's show stopping season.
- **WATCH** your landscape for necessary watering needs. Containers require a daily drink. Water lawns in the early morning to eliminate insect infestation.
- **EXPERIMENT** with floriography, the language of flowers, by designing a personalized tussey-mussey.
- **COZY** up to your outdoor fireplace or buy a portable fire pit for those chilly Lamorinda summer nights.
- **EXPLORE** a local garden, take a trail walk, pack a picnic with juicy fruit you grow. Purple plums ripen by June 22.
- **PREPARE** for fire season by clearing brush, limbs, grass, and weeds from the perimeter of your home and fence.
- **SUPPLEMENT** your outdoor rooms with spectacular hanging baskets of ferns, fuchsias, verbena or lobelia.
- **EXPERIENCE** a new shade shrub in your garden. How about adding a blueberry plant for its year round beauty and anti-oxidant rich produce?
- **CELEBRATE** the summer solstice on June 21st with a roaring bonfire, midnight swim, or dancing in the dark!
- **KICK** back, relax, and relish the lazy, hazy daze of summer.

Wishing sunflowers and lavender to all the jubilant graduates, pansies and parsley to the dedicated dads, and to all of my loyal readers, may you enjoy a summer of peonies, roses, and heather!

Happy Gardening to You!

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Cynthia Brian

The Goddess Gardener

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925-377-7827

My virtual door is always open. I am available as a speaker and consultant. Feel free to contact me.



Cynthia Brian lets freedom ring with Delphiniums.



Before he retired, Warren DEMeritt, now 91 years old, received a small cactus plant as a gift and he planted it in the front garden of his Lafayette home. For 35 years, the Agave plant remained small and unobtrusive. This spring, the plant began to grow a tall stem – up to 3 inches a day. By last week the flower stem was over ten feet tall and was just beginning to bloom; Agave plants only flower once and then die. Photo Doug Kohen

Recycling in Lamorinda

The numbers below are provided by the Central Costa County Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA) and will be included in the Lamorinda Weekly on an ongoing basis when available.

March 2011	Tons Recycled	% change	Tons Landfill	% change	% Recycled
Lafayette	785	+32	456	+12	63
Moraga	486	+32	245	+4	66
Orinda	658	+32	333	+4	52

To register with Recycle Bank:

If you've lost the letter that contained your PIN number, no problem – Go online to recyclebank.com and click on 'register.' Enter your information, including your address. Get a new pin by mail or immediately with a message sent to your cell phone; now you can complete your registration.

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341 Camino Sobrante
Mid-century OCC stylish 4bd/4ba hm of design distinction & character w/vaulted ceilings, redwood ext/int + an abundance of windows. Updated lg modern kitchen & baths. Easy access to sunset views, gardens & pool. **Offered at \$945,000**



8 Irving Court
Quintessential Sleepy Hollow 3bd/2ba charmer - updated rancher on cul de sac, vaulted ceilings, hdwd flrs, ready to go! Level out yard. Photos: www.8IrvingCt.com. **Offered at \$949,000**



108 Van Ripper Lane
Custom 5bd/3ba Cape Cod style hm blt in 2000. Attention to detail & quality in every aspect! Fully landscaped yd w/expansive lawns. Lots of French doors, covered front porch, 5th bd/office. **Offered at \$1,850,000**



69 Tara Road
Very special 4bd/3.5ba hm of great style, lovely decor & quality enhancements. 4382 sf of ideal spaces, light rms, high ceilings + office. Pvt, gated 1 acre w/outstanding outdoor areas incl patios, pool, sport court. Views too. **Offered at \$1,865,000**



73 El Gavilan
Mid century modern 5bd/4.5ba with exceptional updating throughout! Spectacular views, lvl yd off kit/fam rm, pool & guest apt in great OCC location. Extensive use of wood, stone, copper & walls of glass. **Offered at \$1,975,000**



818 Augusta Drive
Spacious MCC townhouse w/idyllic setting. Backs to babbling brook. Frml living & dining. Fam area off kitchen. 3bd/2.5ba plus bonus room. Ownership incl club amenities. Top-rated schools. New clubhouse under const. **Offered at \$639,000**



151 Cypress Pt. Way
Super sharp very-well maintained 2060 sf 3bd/2.5ba 1-lvl detached hm in MCC. Exceptional style, numerous enhancements. Easy access outside from all rooms to ideal private yard. **Offered at \$889,000**



1843 St. Andrews Drive
3424 sf home in MCC w/pvt patio, decks & views. New stainless applis, cathedral ceiling, dual panes, 3 frplcs. Many upgrades by orig owners. All MCC benefits, top schools. **Offered at \$925,000**



927 Augusta Drive
Incredible value! Located at end of cul de sac this professionally decorated 4+bd/2.5ba home is most desirable. Privacy, views, & an open space feeling make this a choice spot in MCC! **Offered at \$949,000**



3363 St. Mary's Road
Classic 4bd/2.5ba ranch on prem lot set back from road. Nr Laf/Moraga trail. Great oppty for Laf schools. Nice outdoor spaces + pool. Living rm w/frplc, vaulted beam ceiling. **Offered at \$819,000**



1268 Redwood Lane
A truly incredible find! Orig owners, 4bd/2.5ba in the heart of Happy Valley, a home in this condition & price on a 1.65 ac lot on a cul de sac rarely becomes available. Potential galore! **Offered at \$1,095,000**



3242 Glenside Drive
Trail neighborhood remodel. Trad 1940's 4bd/2.5ba ranch style cottage uniquely blending Old World charm w/"green" materials. Fab sgl lvl 3018 sf on flat .28 ac w/saltwater pool. **Offered at \$1,429,000**



15 Candlelight Lane
Perfection in this stunning 3417 sf Craftsman-style sgl lvl hm blt in 2005, fab floor plan, many impressive finishes & features, a very exceptional 4bd/3ba home. **Offered at \$1,575,000**



8 Hawks Hill Court
Absolutely stunning pano views of Mt. Diablo, hills & Carquinez straits. Custom blt by owner in 2006 w/master suite, LR, DR, FR, kitchen on main lvl, 3 more bdrms & 2nd fam rm downstairs. **Offered at \$1,798,000**



3460 La Caminita
Stunning Tuscan-style 4200 sf custom 5bd/4ba home blt in 1991 on 3 acres! 18' ceilings, maple floors, views, privacy, geothermal heating/cooling system. **Offered at \$1,998,000**

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