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Wednesday, June 8, 2011

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From left, Campolindo students Emily Berglund, Brooke Manini, Aya Lakers, Courtney Norton, Aeron Brackenbury, Sherry Griest, Sara Torchio, Bailey Finegold, Becca Frazier Photo Doug Kohen

Another Year of Memories!

One sure sign that the end of the school year is near is the distribution of yearbooks. As students across Lamorinda eagerly line up for this year's edition, scrawling cheerful notes across the pages of a year's worth of memories, seniors prepare for the big event and everyone looks forward to a fun-filled summer. Congratulations to Lamorinda's graduates, whether you're done with grade school, high school or college; we wish you the best of luck as you take the next step!

Quote of the Week:
 "The Friends of the Orinda Library, a non-profit organization, is the owner of Orinda's wonderful library."
Read Letters to the Editor, page A9

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Dollar Tree Opens For Business in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Sally Cony, who works in Lafayette, came up from Alamo with her husband Keith to check out Moraga's new Dollar Tree. Photo Andy Schreck

Dollar Tree celebrated its soft opening in Moraga's Rheem Center last Sunday with coffee and donuts. The morning event attracted many people in addition to the Town officials who came out to greet the newest store in the prolific and successful retail chain. Most came out toting bags containing products sold for just \$1.00. The store's official grand opening will take place on June 18.

"Dollar Tree continues to grow and we are excited to be joining the community," according to spokesperson Chelle Davis. "Our store is conveniently located, open seven days a week, and provides the things customers want and need."

... continued on page A10

Banner Days Continue in Lafayette

By Cathy Dausman

They call to you wordlessly along Mt. Diablo Boulevard, urging you to visit the reservoir, support the arts, or touting our great schools. They may or may not be star-spangled, but the banners do proudly wave in downtown Lafayette, as they've been waiving since 1999. And will continue to wave, at least in the near future, despite the recent threat of budget cuts.

Lafayette City Council members voted 3 to 1 on May 23 to continue funding the program that City Manager Steven Falk calls, "a rotating public art program."

When a downtown beautification project in the mid 1990's moved Mt. Diablo Boulevard utility lines underground, the city brought in Battery Park-style streetlights with banner poles. When the poles were in place, the banners quickly followed.

While mass-produced, generic banners are readily available, Falk says Lafayette wanted its banners to be "custom-designed and unique." The banners, all twenty or thirty sets, are usually changed out monthly but the current design, "Land of the Free," aptly stays up through the Fourth of July.

Former Lafayette mayor and City Council member Anne Grodin was an early advocate for the banners. Also active in the city's Chamber of Commerce, Grodin saw banners used in other towns and felt this was a great project to bring to Lafayette. She felt the banners gave Lafayette more of a "hometown feel" and "encouraged people to shop locally."

Banners cost \$5,000 to design and \$5,000 to produce, and an additional \$35 in city time and labor to hang each double-sided set.

... continued on page A10

Sports B1-B4

Freshman Golfer is One to Watch



By Marissa Harnett
 Imagine watching a five year boy practice chip shots out of a bunker for five and a half hours while his sister plays in a golf tournament. Child prodigy or just bored? While the latter may contain ...read on page B1

Life in Lamorinda C1-C5

Can You Canoe? This Crew Can!



By Cathy Dausman
 "Welcome to the best kept secret in Lamorinda," says Ron Brown, as he opens the door to a wondrous workshop. The 20 by 45 foot bay (to call it a garage is to call the Fourth of July a "modest civic celebration") seems to hold every handheld and machine powered ... read on page C1

Our Homes D1-D8

The Cutting Edge of Water Use and Reuse



By Sophie Braccini
 When John and Gwenn Lennox decided to rebuild their home in Lafayette, they knew they wanted it to be energy efficient, to incorporate sustainable materials and have a drought resistant landscape -but they never imagined they would end up read on page D1



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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 20, 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

Rude Wake-up Call, 5/24/11 A woman woke up to find an intruder hovering over her in her residence. He punched her in the face; she called police. He grabbed her keys and fled in her car, taking her cell phone and \$1,000 in cash with him.

One DUI Wasn't Enough? 5/28/11 Police running a DMV check during a routine traffic stop uncovered two outstanding warrants (\$25,000 each) on the driver. The charges were DUI related, and the suspect had a suspended license. The suspect was booked at Martinez Detention Facility, where, presumably, there will be no more driving.

The Best Intentions, 5/24/11 An octogenarian sent three checks totaling over \$63,000 to a phone scam artist before reporting the incidents to police.

Who Let the Dogs Out? 5/28/11 Police from Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda were involved in responding to a burglar alarm set off on Canyon Road in Lafayette. They shortly responded to a second trespassing in the area and called in the dogs. Sheriff's department K-9 team failed to find the suspect, described as a twenty-something male.

Bitter Coffee Break, 5/29/11 After stopping at a coffee shop, a woman searched to find the wallet she thinks she dropped in the Whole Foods parking lot. She didn't find the wallet, which was said to contain her driver's license, credit cards and \$2,000 in Nordstrom gift cards. Sounds like a stakeout in Walnut Creek might be in order...



Lafayette City Budget Balanced

By Cathy Tyson

This year's Lafayette budget is looking just a little rosier than last year for a number of reasons. Due to improving retail sales – apparently residents really are shopping Lafayette first – General Fund revenues have increased over \$200,000 from last year; throw in no pay increases or cost of living adjustments for city employees and keeping actual expenses below projected amounts and it adds up to a balanced budget with an extra \$223 to spare.

The next fiscal year could be even brighter, according to City Manager Steven Falk, “We have seen encour-

aging signs of growth in the local economy that we believe will increase Lafayette's sales tax receipts by as much as \$300,000 next year.”

The City's savings account is nothing short of spectacular - reserves are projected to be \$9.8 million – the equivalent to 86% of General Fund expenditures, substantially over the City Council's target of 50%. That's like a family having over ten months worth of salary earning interest in the bank. “The five year forecast suggests that by continuing to budget conservatively and control expenses, the City will continue to meet its reserve targets in

the foreseeable future,” said Falk.

Cuts made in December, the middle of the budget cycle, helped keep the overall budget balanced. The biggest savings came from eliminating the canine officer position and trimming city support for the Art and Wine Festival and the Reservoir Run, eliminating the Planning Intern position and stretching out the time between landscape maintenance along with adjusting fees for use of city ball fields.

Support of the banner program was on the chopping block and a request by the Town of Moraga for

Lafayette to pay a share of the parking cost at the Skate Park was discussed at a recent City Council meeting. “It's a safety issue,” said Jay Ingram of Moraga Parks and Recreation. He asked both Lafayette and Orinda to pitch in 25% each of the cost to pave the gravel parking area.

Although the skate park is located in Moraga, all three Lamorinda municipalities shared the cost of construction and on-going maintenance. The Town of Moraga is now asking Orinda and Lafayette to contribute 25% (or \$67,000) each, while Moraga picks up 50% of the cost of paving.

Playing Ball Just Got More Expensive

By Cathy Tyson



Lafayette Little League players Ross Ney, Jack Larsen and Michael O'Donnell pose after winning a game at Buckeye Fields. Photo C. Tyson

Come July, it's going to cost more to play ball in Lafayette. Since the last fee increase for field users was more than ten years ago, and a recent analysis showed fees were \$20,000 short of covering their share of maintenance costs, users will soon be asked to pitch in a bit more.

The \$20,000 shortage is a problem, since City Manager Steven Falk took a close look at all city expenses and recommended cutting \$500,000 in annual general fund expenses as part of the 2010-2011 mid-year budget review. Presuming flat revenue and increasing police costs, all city departments, including Parks Trails and Recreation, were instructed to eat their fair share of the budget-cut pie.

Jennifer Russell, Parks Trails and Recreation Director, held four meetings and invited all of the sports field users to help look for a solution, “We had a good back and forth discussion, although we didn't always agree. We

looked at established policies and actual maintenance and utility costs,” she said.

Parks Trails and Recreation Commission Vice-Chair Mark Poole explained that everyone understood the need for the fee increase, “The question was how much and on whom?”

It's complicated dividing up a limited resource among disparate user groups, while keeping in mind the need for adequate field time. A number of factors were analyzed: established fee policies and the existing preferential use agreement with Lafayette Little League, a variety of league sizes – some are substantially larger than others – whether an organization is completely run by parent volunteers, and more. One important component is the quantity of Lafayette children who play in Lafayette Little League – their parents are paying taxes to the city.

Soccer and Lacrosse fees are already slightly higher than baseball

and softball because of greater wear and tear of the fields, but their fees will rise too.

There's a substantial range of field use time, for example Lafayette Little League uses Buckeye Fields on St. Mary's Road for approximately 2,500 hours per year, while Lafayette Moraga Youth Association (LMYA) soccer only uses it for 275 hours. The Community Park fields are also heavily used by Lafayette Little League at 1,500 hours, while the Lamorinda Baseball Academy uses them for only for 184 hours.

At a recent City Council meeting Randy Russo, Board Member of LMYA said, “Field cost is our biggest expense. We went through the numbers, and we can handle an increase now – but a future increase will be very difficult.” He added that LMYA is a recreational league; they strive to keep prices reasonable.

Maintenance and utilities for the entire Lafayette Community Park costs \$129,000 per year, most of that, \$107,700, is spent on maintenance and utilities at the sports fields, and

supporting facilities. Buckeye Fields' costs are similar, with maintenance and utilities of \$122,300; \$101,200 of that is spent on upkeep of the sports fields.

All of the various versions of plans were weighed to arrive at an hourly rate that could be applied uniformly. The new fee schedule divides user groups into categories: established seasonal leagues with over 75% Lafayette residency, Club or Select teams, daily camps, clinics and tournaments, then finally hourly short-term rentals.

In the old system Lafayette Little League and Lafayette Soccer paid a set amount per team; starting in July, instead of the set fee, it will cost Lafayette Little League \$8 per hour per field; Lafayette Soccer Leagues will pay \$15 per hour per field. Club and Select teams that had paid \$8 to \$12 per hour per field in the past will start paying \$20 - \$25 per field, per hour. Finally day camps and clinics will see their rates go from \$115 per day for baseball and softball to \$180, with similar increases for soccer and lacrosse.

What's going on with the Bike Park?

The long anticipated Lafayette Bike Park is in a holding pattern while government agencies are doing lengthy reviews as part of the required permit process. The City of Lafayette Parks Trails and Recreation Department has been working with bike park consultants, Hilride, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Army Corps of Engineers along with a biological consultant to ensure the proposed bike park is in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and state and federal permit regulations. “We appreciate your patience while we work through this process. We are committed to complying with the environmental regulations and creating a safe and fun bike riding facility for people of all ages and skill levels in the community of Lafayette,” said Jennifer Russell, Parks Trails and Recreation Director.

Sally Holmes Explosion at Mt. Diablo Nursery and Garden




Although they were pruned down to canes this winter, these Sally Holmes roses, planted by shop owners Garth and Marcia Jacober, are in full bloom near the rear of the store.

Photo C. Tyson

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Road Repair Campaign Begins

By Cathy Tyson



Petition Co-Chairs Ann Burns and Traci Reilly with Committee Co-Chair Guy Atwood Photo C. Tyson

Don't be afraid, that really isn't someone selling magazines on your front porch. Committee Co-Chairs Guy Atwood and John Hall are just ramping up the Fix Our Roads campaign. Their goal is to gather the 2,000 signatures necessary to get a road repair initiative on the November ballot; the signed petition would need to get to the City Council by approximately July 1 to be included on the ballot.

They propose a flat tax of \$89 per equivalent residential parcel, for a period of ten years or less, to repair the City's remaining failed public roads and drains. If the measure gets on the ballot and passes, the City Council has committed to contributing \$3 million to the road repair effort.

"We sent out a postcard about a week and a half ago to those people living on failed roads and recently re-

paired roads to alert them that we would be collecting signatures shortly," said Atwood. This will be the first test for the proposed measure – if residents on failed roads aren't willing to support the measure, that's as far as it will go, said Atwood.

In 2007 a measure came close, with 63.6% of the vote, but didn't garner the 66.6% required by law. This effort is different – the tax amount is \$89 compared with \$150, and tax timeframe is ten years, rather than a thirty year bond repayment schedule. Commercial properties and apartment buildings will pay their fair share, and there will be no bonds, no debt and no interest.

The Acalanes Valley Homeowners Association, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the Lafayette Homeowners Council are supporting the proposed measure.



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CONCORD Vineyard Center (925) 827-0330
SONOMA Marketplace Center (707) 996-4465
NAPA Napa Town Center (707) 255-9375



Moraga

Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, June 8, 7:00 pm
 Wednesday, June 22, 7:00 pm
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, June 20, 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

Scream, not the movie, 5/30/11 Officers responded to a report of someone screaming in the Augusta Drive area. Turns out, there was a married couple who had been drinking and having a heated disagreement. Cops determined no physical contact was made and both subjects agreed to stay in separate rooms (neutral corners?) for the night.

Car accident, 5/30/11 At Moraga Road and Corliss Drive a car drove off the roadway and the female driver was injured at just after 10:00 in the morning. An off-duty paramedic and a doctor were able to stabilize the driver until paramedics arrived. At this time, it's unclear whether the driver was under the influence or suffered a medical condition that lead to the collision.

Runaway, 5/27/11 Police were dispatched to a Moraga home on a report of a missing male juvenile. The father informed cops that his 15-year-old son had left home in morning, leaving a note that said he was running away. Turns out, after making some phone calls, the young man was with a friend in the Walnut Creek area.

Chest pains, 5/26/11 A 19-year-old Ascot Drive resident was worried that he might have overdosed on methamphetamine, so he called 911. The subject was having chest pains after smoking crystal meth. Paramedics transported the young man to John Muir Hospital.

False alarms, 5/26/11 - 5/30/11 Officers responded to alarms going off at three residences - Merrill Cirlee, twice at Lenelle Court and Hardie Drive. Each time cops surveyed the perimeter and there appeared to be nothing unusual or suspicious and no signs of forced entry. Perhaps the alarm scared off potential burglars, or maybe the alarms malfunctioned.

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Moraga's Budget: No Fat Left to Cut

By Sophie Braccini

Emily Boyd, Moraga's Interim Administrative Services Director, presented a balanced operating budget for 2011/2012 to the Town's Audit and Finance Committee on May 25. The story is a familiar one - Moraga operates within its means; Moraga is lean; Moraga is frugal; and Moraga is 'the new normal.'

This begs some questions. After all non-essential items have been cut, doesn't the Town now have to curtail expenses that will impact services to residents? Won't the lack of investment and projects for the Town end up creating an economically stagnant community? Both the Town Manager and the Mayor answer 'no', and despite harsh times for municipal finances, these public officials say they want to develop a long-term vision for the Town.

One of the cost-saving features of the 2011/2012 budget is that the position held by Senior Planner Rich Chamberlain will not be filled when the long-time staffer retires in No-

ember of 2011. Planning Director Lori Salamack is leaving this summer; she will be replaced - Town Manager Jill Keimach indicated that she is interviewing some very interesting candidates at this time. The only staff left in Planning who possess institutional knowledge of the town's history will be Assistant Planner Kelly Suronen and Administrative Assistant Kelly Clancy.

"Rich's (Chamberlain) position will not be filled for now," says Keimach because, "we do not foresee a volume of development in Town requiring the filling of that position. But we are not suppressing it. When things start to pick up, and additional revenue comes in, we will hire someone." Keimach does not believe that projects such as Rancho Laguna, Palos Colorados, or the Moraga Center Specific Plan Area will start generating staff work for many months.

The tight budget does not allow for many capital improvement projects. A large part of the revenue for

capital improvements comes from one-time grants and is assigned to specific projects; like the \$737,000 in funding from Measure WW that must be used for parks and recreation and is financing the renovation of the Camino Pablo Elementary School sports field.

The only significant improvement project is the continuation of the renovation of the Town-owned building at 329 Rheem Blvd. Many of the other tasks aimed at reviving the town are managed by volunteers who offer free expertise when they have the time; such as the Town Council and the Economic Action Team.

"One of the Council's goals for the year is to develop a long term strategic financial plan," says Mayor Karen Mendonca, who is among those not paid to serve, "Jill (Keimach) and I are used to working with such plans. That helps for developing a long-term strategy." The Town Council will approve the budget at a future meeting.

Better Yield for Developer's Fees?

The two million dollar fee the Town of Moraga received from the Richfield Investments Corporation, which will eventually construct 100+ homes on its Palos Colorados property, sits in an account with a very minimal yield. No investment strategy was ever proposed for this money, other than to keep it as "bank" for the Town. Council members have asked staff, in the past, to seek other options. The challenge is to find a safe investment with high liquidity. At a May 25 meeting, Finance Committee member Gary Breaux offered to look into options that could double the yield without compromising the safety of the investment; he will report back.

Summer Concerts Start Next Week at the Commons

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Park Foundation is ready to begin the popular free summer concert series at the Moraga Commons Park (corner of Moraga Rd. and St Mary's Rd.) According to the Foundation, the lawsuit that a resident living in the vicinity is pursuing against the Town does not impact this 25+ year old tradition because, "The lawsuit (is) related to a provision of the Town's sound ordinance and will not directly impact the Summer Con-

certs," wrote the Foundation in a press release, "Summer concerts will go forward as planned."

The 2011 concert season kicks off on Thursday, June 16 with Rukatan, a Latin and Reggae music group. The free concerts will continue every Thursday evening, with the exception of the first week of July, when the Thursday concert is replaced by a Monday concert that is part of the day-long 4th of July festivities.

All shows 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 16	Rukatan	Latin & Reggae
Thursday, June 23	GatorBeat	Cajun
Thursday, June 30	Pladdogh	Celtic (local)
Thursday, July 14	Lady K & the Kings of Swing	Big Band & swing
Thursday, July 21	Moonalice	Early SF rock
Thursday, July 28	Mixed Nuts	Standards & covers
Thursday, August 4	Because	Beatles tribute
Thursday, August 11	HouseRockers	Winner KFOX's 2011 "Last Band Standing" competition
Thursday, August 18	littledog2	Moraga's rock band

Popular Process Works

By Sophie Braccini

By all appearances, Moraga residents who favor traffic calming measures are more likely to get their wish for new stop signs on Campolindo Drive than on Larch Avenue. Two groups of neighbors followed the same process of public meetings and petitions outlined in the Traffic Calming Guide. A group of Larch residents were stopped in their tracks because half of the abutting neighbors opposed new stop signs; but some Campolindo residents will proceed to the Town Council with a favorable recommendation.

It's been eight months since Rebecca and Christopher Maher started expressing their interest in having two new stop signs added at the intersection of Campolindo Dr. and Calle La Montana—at this time, there are stop signs only on Calle La Montana. The Mahers, who live a short distance from the intersection and have four young children, communicated concerns about the excessive speed of vehicles traveling on Campolindo Dr. and about the grade and bend in the roadway near the intersection that limits visibility for drivers entering Campolindo from Calle La Montana. A report from Chief of Police Bob Priebe supported their concerns.

The Mahers were informed by the Town of the requirements set by the Traffic Calming Guide: The owners of at least 75% of the properties abutting the sign area must approve of the new stop signs; and

70% of those who own nearby properties must approve. "For us it was a matter of getting signatures from 65 homes, and it was quite a challenge with 4 young children," said R. Maher, "that's why it took so long."

Although 100% of the owners of properties abutting the intersection approved of new stop signs, they came up two signatures short of 70% approval from nearby properties.

"Some neighbors further away said they would not be affected (by new signs) because by the time drivers reached their homes they would already have sped up," said R. Maher, "so they declined to have their name and phone number listed."

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) member Rev. John Valentine expressed the concern that approving the project could set a precedent. "The document (Traffic Calming Guide) requires that 70% approve via petition," he said, "We need to be alert to the fact that in the future ... we might get a resident would refer to today's decision." Valentine nonetheless moved to approve sending the project to the Town Council for discussion; the Committee agreed, demonstrating a willingness to abide by the spirit of the Guide rather than the letter.

If the Council approves the new installation, the cost of the signs and related red curbing will be borne by the project proponents with no net cost to the Town.

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Controlling the Wild Things

By Sophie Braccini



Adrian the cat surveys a skunk in the backyard.

Photo Cherie Grant

a free service. As far as skunks are concerned, Vector Control can intervene if the animals are considered a potential rabies vector, but not for odiferous issues. The free public service was established at the beginning of the 20th century to prevent the spreading of diseases such as malaria. Today Vector Control continues its efforts to protect the public from emerging diseases. They are well known for mosquito control programs, and removal of ground-nesting yellow jackets. They also assist cities that have problems with mice and rats. But Vector Control does not offer a solution for raccoons or turkeys.

In Moraga, turkeys continue to fly around and nest in the hills.

... continued on page A10

The cover story of the late May edition of The Economist is about the 'Anthropocene,' a new geologic chronological term for our time characterized by the reshaping of the planet by humans. Wilderness is becoming increasingly irrelevant, because the world's ecosystems are increasingly dominated by creatures that fare well in an environment dominated by humans while their wilder, natural predators are disappearing. In the suburban environment, where readily accessible food abounds, we see the proliferation of what some call pests - such as skunks, raccoons or turkeys - while mountain lions and other predators that could control these populations are pushed further away. Humans do not always react positively to this cohabitation with semi-rural wildlife.

Moraga's peaceful neighborhood that adjoins open space. In a recent letter to her neighbors, the former Moraga mayor explains the steps she took to address the increasing skunk problem on her property. She contacted Contra Costa Vector Control and Inspector Joe Cleope came to her house to survey the problem.

"He (Cleope) has apparently removed about six skunks from our area, and has had several other calls," she said, "Unless we all cooperate, the problem will become increasingly worse." Cleope could not find a skunk den at Grant's house and will have to trap somewhere else. "The problem is that some residents are leaving cat food outside their homes," adds Grant, "and it encourages all sort of animals to get closer to homes."

She hopes that more neighbors will call on Vector Control, which is

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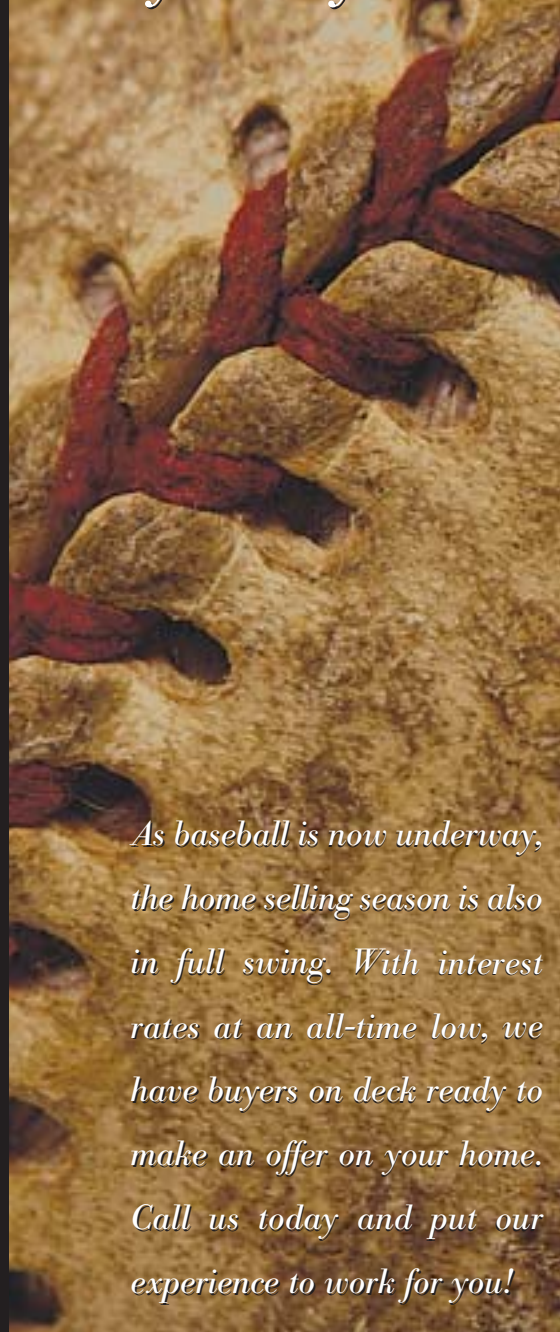
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\$995,000 Alan Marks



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\$1,099,999 Debra Trevarthen

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Orinda

Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council
Tuesday, June 21, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Art in Public Places Committee
Monday, June 20 at 3:30 PM
Orinda Library, May Room
26 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

Burglaries and Arrests Up in Orinda

OPD launches prevention program

By Andrea A. Firth

There were 26 residential burglaries in Orinda between January and April, a fairly significant increase in property crime for a community that typically has an average of two to four residential burglaries a month. Orinda's increased number of home break-ins corresponds directly with an increase in the number of residential burglaries in several nearby cities during the same period, according to Orinda Police Chief Jeff Jennings.

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department was able to provide Jennings and his team with a crime map and statistical data to help them develop a plan of action. The Orinda Police Department (OPD) also reached out to the community through emails alerts to help track down leads. A tip line was also established which led Orinda Police to two separate suspects. Subsequently in April and May, the OPD made ten arrests related to commercial and residential burglaries and possession of stolen property.

Jennings says recently the OPD has found burglars working in groups of two to four. Often they choose a home where the entrance is not clearly visible from the street or by neighbors. If the perpetrators find no

Business Watch in Orinda

A group of Orinda business owners/representatives recently attended a meeting, hosted by Dina Zapanta of First Republic Bank, with Orinda Police Sergeant Neil Rafanan to discuss crime prevention in their downtown businesses. These new Business Watch members, supported by the Chamber of Commerce, will meet every month to discuss issues and prevention measures.

"There is much interest in this topic and I'm glad the Chamber is filling the need," said Chamber President Sue Breedlove after the meeting, "As an advocate for the business community, this is something we should definitely take the lead on."

One hot topic was the after-school crowd - apparently some of the middle school kids are creating problems. "They run into Loard's, steal candy, and run out," said Breedlove, "The toy store in Theatre Square limits (unaccompanied) kids to three in the store at one time because of the problems they create as a crowd."

The next Watch meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on June 28, at Table 24. "The group expressed interest in meeting every month for these first few months and then move to quarterly," added Breedlove, "the following month we'll move to the other side of town or meet at City Hall." The meeting is open to all Orinda businesses. *S. Braccini*

Miramonte Students Create Digital Model of Downtown

By Aleksandr Auzers




One portion of the virtual model of Orinda's downtown.
Photo A. Auzers, courtesy of A. Gell and M. Wilcox

Both Hasselman and Woodcox are members of OrindaVision, a group which has proposed ideas for how the land- and streetscape of Orinda's Crossroads and Village might evolve in the future. According to Woodcox, OrindaVision wants to promote a dialogue in the community, to spur residents to think about the City's architectural future. The model, as a component of that goal, is intended as a sort of "conversation starter" for area residents.

The students' model is impressive. Produced with inexpensive software running on ordinary computer workstations, the digital replica of the city can be viewed from any angle. With a few clicks of the mouse, it's even possible to get a pedestrian's view of the downtown buildings, which sprout up on both sides of a virtual Moraga Way, proportionally-accurate and quite lifelike.

... continued on next page



Police Report

Residential burglary, 5/30/11 A Scenic Drive resident was out of town for the weekend and asked his mom to check on the house. Upon her arrival, she noticed that the place had been burglarized. Alleged thief or thieves jumped over a small locked fence and forced entry via a bathroom window. Several items were taken; an exact inventory is still being compiled.

Burglary, 5/20/11 An Estates Drive resident left home in the morning and came home in the evening to find the back door and garage door smashed. The victim is not sure if anything besides two coin jars valued at approximately \$150 were taken. Damage to doors and frames estimated at \$800.

Burglary, 5/27/11 An unknown suspect entered an unoccupied El Verano home and removed unidentified property worth approximately \$1500. No fingerprints or witnesses at this time.

5/24/1, Again an unknown suspect forced entry through the front door into a home on El Toyonal. A computer was taken, along with a digital camera, two game systems and consoles plus games. Burglar(s) took a 52" flat panel TV from the living room, but left it in the kitchen.

Burglary, 5/23/11 Someone forced entry into an El Gavilan home between 8:00 and 4:00 p.m. and removed property worth approximately \$2,000. Unfortunately nothing was seen or heard.

Burglary, 5/23/11 Once again an unknown suspect kicked in a front door of an Estates Drive home and took jewelry, electronics and a 52" TV and exited via the front door. The lower level of the home appeared to be untouched. Estimated loss \$14,800; \$1,500 worth of damage to the door.

Teacher Aileen Gell is proud of what the students in her Architectural Design course at Miramonte High School have achieved this year. For the past several months, Gell's class has labored to produce a three-dimensional digital model of Orinda's downtown, which is now nearly 75% complete. When finished, the model could serve as an integral tool for facilitating community discussion regarding the future planning of Orinda's commercial district.

To create the model, the students have been mentored by Orinda residents Peter Hasselman, an internationally renowned urban planner, and designer Michael Woodcox; these professionals have led lectures and discussion periods, and coached students in the use of computerized modeling tools. This unique collaboration has given the Miramonte students the opportunity to work on a real-world project, and access to expertise seldom encountered outside of the workplace.



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Summer Concerts in the Park

The Tuesday night Summer Concert series, sponsored by the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary, gets underway on June 21st and runs through July. Pack a picnic dinner and join your friends and neighbors at the Community Park from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for some food, fun, and music.

June 21	Mixed Nuts	Rock, Blues, Oldies
June 28	Cal Alumni	Big Band, Big Band Jazz
July 5	Pacific Coast	Classic Rock & Pop
July 12	Stone Soup	Classic Rock
July 19	Orinda Idol	Variety
July 26	Pladdohg	Celtic Rock

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Yarn Art Hits the Plaza



Photo A. Firth

The colorful wool sock that now serves as a sheath for the undulating metal bike rack in Orinda's Library Plaza is a perfect fit. The City's Art in Public Places program has

filled the outdoor space with vibrant sculpture by several Bay Area artists, and the incorporation of some textile art makes a logical progression. But the City had nothing to do with the

addition of this artistic knitwear in its suburban landscape. The yarn installation is the work of the street artist "Streetcolor" – she's a yarn bomber; a member of a growing community of knitting graffiti artists.

Berkeley-based Streetcolor doesn't venture east through the tunnel often, so why did she choose Orinda? Because, hey, it's pretty cool to have a library with a café, and when she chanced upon the art-filled plaza and the naked rack, she thought, "This has gotta be the most perfect spot." There is no way to knit and dash, so Streetcolor returned the next day and settled in with four, nine-foot long knitted sections that took her and a friend two and half hours to sew on. Yes, Orinda, you've been tagged. [Streetcolor's yarn installation has weathered the week's rains and remained in place as of press time.] *A. Firth*

Norcal Kids Tri Moves to August



The NorCal Kids Triathlon will be held on August 27th this year to accommodate the many young people who want to compete in the popular three-event race. "The date has been moved to late August to minimize conflicts with other sporting and

community events that happen on the weekends in September and October," said organizer Sue Severson. "We hope that the last Saturday in August will be the future permanent date—after swim season ends and school starts, and before Labor Day weekend and

the soccer and MOL football games." Participants also indicated they preferred a morning event, according to Severson, so this year the triathlon will be conducted between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Participants, girls and boys through high school age, swim, bike and run the triathlon course as individual competitors or as part of a relay team. The course lengths are adjusted by age group. "We had over 300 participants the first two years, and there is room to grow," said Severson. For more information go to www.norcalkidstri.org, early registration ends June 15th. *A. Firth*

Miramonte Students Create Digital Model of Downtown

... continued from page A6

Though Gell's students, like professional designers, continue to build paste-and-paper models as well, the advantage of the digital model is its limitless, effortless mutability. The students can erect new buildings, destroy old ones, and make other modifications with a few keystrokes.

Many of Gell's students are graduating seniors like John Krakowski, who says Architectural Design was his favorite class; he plans to attend the University of Oregon at Eugene and major in architecture. Krakowski worked with classmates to create the model's Wells Fargo building. Asked about changes he would like to see in Orinda's downtown in ten years, Krakowski said he would appreciate more businesses, noting that downtown currently "seems really underdeveloped."

Gell's course is the capstone in a multi-year sequence of design instruction. Next year, new students will join veterans of the current Architectural Design program. They will all work together to complete the digital downtown model, and time and resources permitting, to assemble a physical replica.



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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.

Community Service

The Lafayette Community Foundation Spring Grants

Submitted by Cheryl Noll



From left, LARC's Beth Hofinga, Program Director; Cookie Bedford, Activities Leader; and Betty Zingale, volunteer.

The Lafayette Community Foundation (LCF) is pleased to announce the recipients of its Spring 2011 grants. Since 2000, LCF has given over \$250,000 in grants to a variety of local organizations, making a significant impact on their projects. These grants are possible due to generous contributions by the donors of the community of Lafayette. A total of \$10,000, parceled into multiple grants, was given to area organizations this spring in order to further the Foundation's mission of: "Investing in programs and projects that promote and enhance the civic, cultural, educational and environmental health of Lafayette and beyond." Two of the grant recipients for the Spring 2011 grants were WomenSing and The Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (LARC). For additional information on the Lafayette Community Foundation and to find information about how you can become involved, please visit www.LafayetteCF.org.

Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (LARC) is a non-profit, state licensed, social Adult Day Program for those with Alzheimer's or other related dementias, offering respite for caregivers by providing exemplary care and stimulating activities for their loved ones. Open Monday through Friday 11:00 am - 3:00 pm, they provide interesting and engaging activities such as games, crafts, exercise, friendships and daily live musical entertainment. LARC participants feel safe, cared for and valued. The center's paid staff and caring trained volunteers foster dignity and self-worth in the participants (and they laugh a lot!). The grant from the Lafayette Community Foundation will allow the LARC program to continue to

meet the needs of the community by expanding and improving their services. The funds will be used to create a Caregiver Resource Library with relevant books and DVDs to lend on dementia and related topics, to purchase colorful flowers for participants to plant in the patio garden pots, and for special intergenerational activities with the neighboring preschoolers. LARC is 100% privately funded and neither solicits nor accepts government funding. This generous grant from the Lafayette Community Foundation enables LARC to continue their mission and enrich the lives of many. LARC is located at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda. 925-254-3465; email larc@holyshepherd.org; www.holyshepherd.org.

WomenSing is a unique organization that began 45 years ago, devotes itself to the study and performance of choral music. WomenSing, with its 50 auditioned members, delights audiences with its

beautifully blended sound not only in Bay Area but also in Europe, Asia, Latin and South America and Canada. This, local, non-profit organization has an exciting musical outreach program named Youth Inspiring Youth that partners with "River of Words" collection of poetry. Composers and poets as young as 8 and 14 inspired by nature are chosen and their works are mentored by nationally recognized composer Libby Larsen. This treasure trove of inspiring works is given voice by WomenSing under the direction of Artistic Director Dr. Martin Benvenuto. The group regularly holds their workshops at Veterans Memorial Hall in Lafayette in front of an interested, large audience. WomenSing will use this year's grant from Lafayette Community Foundation to help expand the Youth Inspiring Youth project.

The next concert by WomenSing "Stepping Westward" will be on June 8, 8:00 pm, at Lafayette/ Orinda Presbyterian Church, Lafayette.



Dr. Anita Rama (left), Lafayette Community Foundation Board member; Dr. Martin Benvenuto, artistic director of WomenSing; and Ann Dzuna, President of the Board of WomenSing. Photos provided

Moraga Rotary Collects Nearly Five Tons of E-Waste

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Moraga Rotarians Mary Elena Dochterman, Debbie Roessler, Rich Render, Lad Lynch, and Kevin Reneau complete filling a pallet box of e-waste.

On April 23, Rotary Club of Moraga collected from local citizens almost five tons of electronic waste, 9,627 pounds, and has recycled it according to California law. The four semi-annual e-waste collections held at the Moraga Shopping Center operated by Moraga Rotary have collected a total of about 15.75 tons of discarded electronic items. Rotarians working at this community service event were Lad Lynch, John Erickson, Cliff and Mary Elena Dochterman, Debbie and Lou Roessler, Kevin Reneau, Mike Rosa, Frank May, and chairman Rich Render.

Citizens dropped off their e-waste at the Moraga Shopping Center at the site where the Farmers Market is held on Sundays, no appointment required. Televisions, monitors, laptop computers, flat screens, cell phones, CPU's,

cell and wired phones, printers, copiers, DVD players, fax machines, VCR's, stereos, ink jet cartridges, and video games were dropped off. Many items were dropped off at no charge, but there was a small charge for some items.

The next Moraga Rotary e-waste collection will be on September 24, 2011 in the same location, according to Render. Moraga Rotary thanks the Bruzzone family, owners of the Moraga Shopping Center, for supporting this vital community service, and thanks all the citizens who dropped off e-waste at these events.

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



Nick Hooks (foreground) and friends bond with Blaze (foreground) Pippin and Oscar at Saint Mary's College during finals week. The dogs are Pet Hug Therapy animals from the Animal Rescue Foundation Photos Cathy Dausman

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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

Editor:

A recent article in The Wall Street Journal about the sad state of Orinda's roads received much coverage in our local press. In the story, an Orinda businessman is quoted as saying that the city spent a lot of money on the new (opened in 2001) library. This is simply not true.

Many people, Orindans as well as others, do not realize that the Friends of the Orinda Library raised over \$5 million in donations for library construction. The Friends also owned the old library and received almost \$2 million for that building. The city's contribution, about \$3 million, was from developer fees negotiated with the company which is currently building a new housing development called Wilder. Those developer fees are restricted by state law for public facilities, and could not have been used for road repairs.

The Friends of the Orinda Library, a nonprofit organization, is the owner of Orinda's wonderful library. The Friends board members are proud that we were able to raise the money and provide such a warm, welcoming and well-loved facility for everyone who comes to enjoy it. Ours is the only library in the county owned by a Friends group. We just want to set the record straight.

Linda Landau (Treasurer, Friends of the Orinda Library)
Orinda

Editor:

A year or two ago, I wrote to share my opinion that the police activity columns were too casual, or even jocular, about serious events. This morning, I read in the Moraga column about a mother who called 911 after her teenager threatened her, and about a drunk driver on one of Moraga's main roads. Both of the stories were presented with dry humor that I thought was inappropriate. What must have been going on that a parent felt the need to call 911 after being threatened? Does humor really have a place in a story about someone who was presumably driving unsafely and while impaired (this in a town that not so long ago had a drunk driver kill a pedestrian)? I get that some situations fit a tongue-in-cheek approach, sort of a "people do the darndest things" tone. Years ago, in a competing publication, I enjoyed reading how someone had called the police when the ATM would not return his card (the reporter noted that police advised the man to call his bank's customer service line), and how a homeowner had complained that a neighbor had filled up a swimming pool ... using the homeowner's hose and water (the neighbor admitted the hose was strung across the fence, but denied knowing how that had happened). Those are "life in a small town" amusing anecdotes. Domestic arguments that result in a 911 call and drunk drivers are not. Please pick and choose which events get the dry humor more carefully, and remove this unnecessary weakness in your quality publication.

Tony Rodriguez
Moraga

Editor:

High-speed rail--another low-brain bandage for a self-inflicted wound, i.e., too many people. Show me an audited financial report of a passenger rail system anywhere in the world in which passengers' fares are not subsidized by non-passengers ... and I'll show you an incompetent auditor.

"USA Today" quotes Zhao Jian, a railway economics expert at Jiaotong University in Beijing: "In no country worldwide has high-speed rail ever been profitable." Of course, the central-control socialist government of China believes in taking whatever it wants from whomever it wants to do whatever it wants without restraint from a constitution. Whereas in this country ... Oh, never mind.

Edward C. Hartman
Moraga

Dear Editor:

I am responding to your many articles and Letters to the Editor regarding the budgetary problems in Lamorinda and California.

Let's be objectif: The median household income in California is less than \$77,000 and in the U.S., less than \$55,000. Yet the cost of educating a child a year alone averages well over \$9000 and can exceed \$14,000 if the child receives the so-called bilingual education. Our state government also has to spend money on the construction/maintenance of roads/bridges, fire/police/emergency/prison/court prison services, pollution/traffic control, health care, unemployment/welfare benefits, etc. When will Americans realize that although some U.S. and foreign-born individuals are great assets, adding 3 million people every years to the U.S., and hundreds of thousands to California, essentially means more jobseekers, students, patients, welfare recipients, drivers, users of energy, and additional pressure on our fiscal and natural resources? Teen births reportedly cost California \$1.7 billion a year. In 2002 alone, according to the Census data, legal immigrant-headed households in California received welfare, cash and non-cash, costing taxpayers \$6 billion. Why don't we urge Sacramento and Washington, D.C. to take serious measures to stabilize our population? A number of experts already warn that the U.S. fiscal crisis can be worse than Greece's. Raising tax burden on the struggling middle class or continuing to borrow massively from China and other countries will not solve our budgetary, unemployment or education problems.

Sincerely,
Yeh Ling-Ling
Orinda

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Civic News Lafayette, Moraga

Dedicating the Acalanes Ridge Open Space



Photo courtesy Paul Garber

Under stormy skies, scores of supporters of the Acalanes Ridge Open Space made the muddy uphill trek for the official dedication ceremony on Saturday. The City of Lafayette, Walnut Creek, the East Bay Regional Park District and the Muir Heritage Land Trust col-

laborated to purchase the prominent twenty-three acre parcel behind Acalanes High School. Organizers of the celebration called it a "treasured oasis" in the community; the property features spectacular views from the Carquinez Straits to Mt. Diablo. C. Tyson

Banner Days Continue in Lafayette

... continued from page A1

Banners typically last five or six years (hanging one month per year) before fading and tearing; then they're destroyed. Lafayette and the Chamber of Commerce share in the cost of the program, with the Chamber contributing roughly twenty five per cent. The city's share runs \$25,000 annually.

San Francisco graphic artist Jennifer Morla has designed Lafayette's silkscreen-on-canvas banners since 2002. "Design time takes about two to three weeks," says Morla by e-mail. "Our ideas are generated by the nature of the title and how that title relates to the town of Lafayette. We often reference the town's landscape, civic structures or retail/restaurant community when developing the illustrations." Limiting designs to two ink colors (to manage cost) "is the most difficult aspect of the design process," but Morla says what's most important to her is that the posters "have a sense of whimsy and verve that mirrors Lafayette's wonderful, sunny attitude."



These banners will remain up through the Fourth of July. Photo C. Dausman

Dollar Tree Opens For Business in Moraga

... continued from page A1

On Sunday morning, a full squadron of local and corporate staff was present, making sure that everything ran smoothly and the newly hired staff, about 15 students from local high schools and colleges, was operating successfully.

Moraga's Mayor, Town Manager, Chamber of Commerce president, and members of the Economic Development Team (EDT) all showed up to wish them well. "I think it will be successful and I invite the community to shop here," said EDT member Renée Zeimer.

What can you buy for a dollar? "I bought tinfoil containers, granola bars, and bubble wrap," said Moraga Town Clerk Marty McInturf. Resident Dona Ward was looking for specific items - "I've been a 'room-mom' for three years," she said. "You can find a lot of craft items at a Dollar Tree store," she added, although she did not find the sheets of stick-on jewels she had seen at another store.

"This store is not huge, so we had to make some choices," said a manager. "We've heard that we should expand our party supply section though, and will be working on that." He added that every store manager has some latitude to choose items from the pool provided by the company.

Small groups of teens roaming the store thought students leaving Campolindo High School in the afternoon would come to the Dollar Tree for candies and sodas. A future Saint Mary's freshman pointed out items of interest

such as school supplies and energy shots.

Mayor Karen Mendonca was found in one aisle, talking with District Manager Gary Ferguson. "It's a lovely store," she said, "keep it clean and we'll be happy," said the mayor. The store is very neat, almost striking with its bright signature green everywhere.

In the middle of the store food items are aplenty, including bags of candies, canned soups, boxes of pasta, bags of trail mix, and bottles of water; frozen foods are at the back. School and party supplies occupy one side of the store, including a double rack of cards. On the other side are home products - plates, containers, cleaning products, utensils and more. The beauty section offers creams, soaps, shampoos, tooth brushes and the like.

EDT member Rich Larsen commented that he believes that the store might draw people from outside of Lamorinda and contribute positively to the Town's bottom-line, while Chamber of Commerce President Edy Schwartz noted that the store had joined the Chamber and she was looking forward to having it become an active part of the business community.

Many of the residents who voiced opposition to the Town's decision to allow Dollar Tree in Moraga chose not to come to the opening, citing concerns regarding product safety and a desire to support other types of businesses.

Controlling the Wild Things

... continued from page A5

Kiwanis President John Haffner, who asked the Moraga Town Council not long ago to do something about the turkey issue, recently obtained a depredation permit for his home from California Department of Fish and Game Warden Nicole Kozicki.

The permit gives Haffner the authorization to kill the birds himself; but he thought it more humane to contact Peter Lacy, a trapper with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services program, who would catch the large birds. "Pete explained that the turkeys visit our neighborhood because of the olive trees they feed on," said Haffner, "and the pine trees they roost in. He can help individual homeowners who get a depredation permit, but not a whole neighborhood, unless a homeowners' association contacts the Department with a permit of its own."

Lacy's philosophy is to manage wildlife, not eradicate it. He believes that many problems can be solved with behavioral change on the part of humans, like removing sources of food.

Haffner could cut down his pines and harvest all his

olives, but he believes that it would not solve the problem at the neighborhood level; he sent letters to his neighbors asking for their input. "Some asked me what they could do to help," said Haffner. Lacy indicated that trapping at this time, when there is an ample food supply in the area, would not be very effective and that he could come back in November when hungry birds would be more easily enticed by food left in traps. "I do not see a solution to the problem yet," says Haffner, "And right now all the females are nesting, preparing a new generation of turkeys for next year."

Fortunately for Moraga, urbanized wild life has not reached the level of Cape Town, South Africa, where baboons open windows, refrigerators, and garbage bins in search of food. And anyone who vacations at Lake Tahoe knows that the local bears will help themselves to just about everything - reportedly even wandering into a popular North Shore restaurant last fall as diners hastily made their way out the other door. One might hope nobody teaches Moraga's turkeys and skunks to do that.

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lamorinda Baseball Advances to NCS Finals



Spencer Henderson

Photo Doug Kohen

All three Lamorinda high school baseball programs advanced to the final rounds of the North Coast Section tournament. Both Campolindo and Acalanes competed for the NCS title on June 6 and June 7 respectively, after the press deadline.

Campolindo captured the DFAL title finishing atop the standing. The Cougars, competing in division II, were rewarded for their 15-8-1 record with a four-seed. The Cougars took the NCS title last season and looked to repeat this year. Campolindo opened the tournament with a game against local Concord High School and narrowly escaped with a 2-1 vic-

tory. With the win, Campolindo was pitted against Casa Grande and again the Cougars won by a one run, 4-3. On Thursday, June 2, it took Campolindo extra innings to defeat Alameda 2-1. Campolindo played for the championship on June 6 against #2 Clayton Valley.

Both Miramonte and Acalanes competed in division III play. Miramonte came in third in the DFAL behind Las Lomas while Acalanes came in sixth out of seven. With a 17-7 record, the Matadors took the #2 seed while Acalanes was given the #3 seed with a 14-10 record.

Miramonte also looked to repeat

as NCS champions. The Mats opened tournament play with a 17-0 blasting of #15 Hercules. They continued their route in the next round, defeating Alhambra handily 10-0. Miramonte then met up with Acalanes in the semi-finals on Thursday, June 2. The Dons shocked the Matadors with an 11-8 upset.

The Dons reached the finals having defeated John F. Kennedy 3-1 in the opening round, and Sir Francis Drake 9-1 in the second round. They then knocked off Lamorinda rival Miramonte to reach the finals. The Dons played #1 San Marin on June 7.

C.Graveson



Ryan Hooper of Campolindo (7)

Photo Andy Scheck

Freshman Golfer is One to Watch

By Marissa Harnett

Imagine watching a five year old boy practice chip shots out of a bunker for five and a half hours while his sister plays in a golf tournament. Child prodigy or just bored? While the latter may contain some truth, the former is likely closer to the truth in the case of Will Breuckner. A freshman at Acalanes High School, he recalls playing golf ever since he could walk. "I always had a club in my hand" he remembers.

By the time he was eight, he was playing in tournaments. Now at age fourteen, tournament play is routine. Unless its winter and he's taking a break to play basketball, Breuckner devotes his time to golf and summer is the biggest tournament season. There isn't much about golf that he doesn't love. "You meet great people...It's new every time... you get to play in a beautiful setting."

Looking at Breuckner's record he has little reason not to love his chosen sport. Just this year as a mere freshman, he captured the DFAL title followed by the NCS qualifier and then went on to win the NCS title. He was named MVP of DFAL and was identified as one of the top 100 athletes of the East Bay.

He has enjoyed high school play. "(It was) just incredibly great. Tim Scott is the best coach in northern California...the Acalanes team is (both) hilarious and supportive." He added that it "felt awesome" to have such an impact at such a young age at the high school level. He doesn't feel a lot of pressure since he's "just" a freshman.

Breuckner says he's never had a bad experience playing golf. For

many, golf can be extremely frustrating when one's game just isn't up to, well, par. Even when pressed, though, he maintains that he never gets frustrated. "Golf is a fun life."

Breuckner aims to continue the fun at the college level perhaps in golf mecca North Carolina. He hopes to capture a scholarship before going on to play on the PGA tour. That would be his ideal life, but if a pro career doesn't materialize, Breuckner would at least like to have a career relating to golf in some way.

If Breuckner's coach, Tim Scott, can see the future, he will be playing on the PGA tour someday. "He's quite the golfer. He's just absolutely one of the best golfers, I think, in the state of California." Scott says simply. In his twenty four years coaching at Acalanes, Scott says, he's never seen anyone as good as Breuckner; let alone a freshman. Along with a "super supportive" family, Scott attributes Breuckner's dedication, tremendous work ethic, and great hand-eye coordination for his success. "He works all the time very hard on his game." Breuckner agrees that, although much of golf comes naturally, he still has to work on it everyday especially because he is still growing requiring him to make necessary adjustments to his game.

Without hesitation Breuckner declared his favorite place to play as Cypress Point in Pebble Beach - the 16th hole with its island green to be exact. But he has his sights set on Augusta National - home of the elite Masters tournament - as a future dream course to play. And from the sounds of it, the world may even see his name on the

leader board, and perhaps, see him practice his chip shots.



Photo provided



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SMC Baseball Plays Last Game at Guisto



Martin Agosta Photo Tod Fierner
Saint Mary's baseball played their last game at Louis Guisto Field on May 24 and retired it a winner. The Gaels defeated UC Davis 8-2. The Louis Guisto Field opened in the 1928-1929 school year. The field will be replaced by a new recreation center and a new baseball facility will open next season.
C. Graveson

Lamorinda United 97 U13 Takes First

Submitted by Julie Morgan



After having an amazing run at State Cups in February, the Lamorinda United U13 girls quickly went right into spring practices with long runs at the Lafayette Reservoir during rainy days and field practices during the very few dry days. All their hard work and bonding during their spring practices paid off when they finished NorCal Premier's Spring League in first place in the Gold Region division. The girls won eight of their nine games with a total of 37 goals while only giving up 9 goals.

Back: R.Fraser (Moraga), A.Morgan (Moraga), E.Holbrook (Moraga), G.Crosetti (Oakland), M.Casey (Orinda), V.Larson (Moraga), A.Ikeya (Lafayette), Akeem Rashidi (Coach); Middle: D.Brown (Moraga), A.Smith (Lafayette), J.Mano (Moraga), N.Taylor (Moraga); Front: S.Settle (Moraga), J.Buckley (Orinda), B.Yuen (Moraga), G.Diaz-Valdes (Moraga); Missing: M.Grillo (Orinda)
Photo Alan Ikeya

Lamorinda Tennis Reaches NCS Finals

Lamorinda was represented in the NCS boys' tennis tournament by Miramonte and Campolindo. In singles play, Nolan Richard of Campolindo defeated Jeff Matteri of Freedom High School 6-1 and 6-0 to qualify for the second round of the singles tournament. Richard lost #1 Shaun Chaudhri of Monte Vista, the eventual winner of the tournament, 6-1, 6-0. For Miramonte, Andrew Pises looked to protect his crown. Pises won last year's NCS tournament. Ranked #2, Pises made it to the semi-finals but was upset by #3 Bernardo Saraiva, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3. In doubles play, two Miramonte pairs represented Lamorinda. Chad Boersma and Michael Krakaris defeated Northgate's pair, 6-2, 6-1, to qualify for the second round. They then lost to the eventual winners Jon and Matt Wang from Piedmont. Brian Tan and Luke Bohuslav were ranked #4 heading into the tournament. They upset #2 Monte Vista to reach the finals, but like their Matador teammates, lost to Piedmont.
C. Graveson

Moraga Baseball Association Box Scores

Submitted by Jin Meng

May 21, 2011 Mustang Division
Giants 9 Cardinals 0
Giants' Highlights: Aidan Lyon 2IP, 3K's 0ER 0BB 1H, 3-4, 2B 2B, 3RS, 3SB; Cason Johnston 2-for-3, 3RBIs, 3SB; Spencer Drennan 1-for-3, 2RBIs 1RS, 1SB; Cole McNeil 2-for-2, 1BB 1RS, 2SB.
Cardinals' Highlights: Matt Schoenberger 1-for-2, 2B, 1SB; Nolan Wilson 1-for-1, 1BB, 1SB; Bryan Kikugawa 1-for-2; Adrian Hyatt 2IP, 3K's 0ER 1BB 0H.
May 22, 2011 Mustang Division
Angels 17 Pirates 5
Pirates' Highlights: Nick Kronenberg 3-for-3, three 1B, RBI, 2 RS, 5 SB; Ryan Lenahan 1-for-2, 2B, RS, SB; Cameron Fara 1-for-3, 1B, RBI, SB, 1.5 IP, 4 KO; Michael Crews 1-for-3, 1B, BB, SB, RS, SB.
Angels Highlights: Joel Kofman 2-for-3, 2-1B, 2 RBI, 3 RS, 2 SB; Sam Ouzounian 1-for-3, 1B, 2 RBI, RS, 3 SB; Peter Schmitz 2-for-4, 2-1B, 2 RBI, 2 RS, 2 SB; Luke Campo 3-for-4, 2-1B, 2B, 2 RBI, 2 RS, 4 SB.
May 25, 2011 Mustang Division
Cardinals 8 Yankees 5
Cardinals' Highlights: Matt Schoenberger 2IP, 4K's 0ER 0BB 2H, 2-2, 1RBI, 2RS, 5SB; Ian Concepcion 3-for-3, 2RS, 2SB; Cayden Hein 2-for-3, 2B, 1RBI, 1RS; Justin Feldman 1-1, 1BB, 1RBI, 1RS, 3SB.
Yankees' Highlights: Tommy Raftis 1IP, 1K 0ER 0BB 1H, 3-3, 1RBI, 1RS 5SB; Mark McCurdy 2-for-3, 2RS, 5SB; Braden Maher 1BB, 1RS, 3SB; Grant Johnson 1-for-2, 2B, 1SB.
Angels 11 Cubs 4
Angels' Highlights: Joel Kofman 1-for-2, 1B, BB, SB; Conor O'Brien 1-for-2, 1B, HBP, 2 SB, 2RS, 3IP, 6 SO; Sam Ouzounian 1-for-2, 2B, BB, RS, 2 RBI; Derek Schmitz 2-for-2, two 1B, HBP, RS, 3 SB, 3 RBI
Cubs' Highlights: Ryan Jeter 1-for-3, 1B, SB, 2 IP, 3 SO; Will Bishop 2-for-3, two 2B, RS, SB, RBI; Teddy Buckley 1-for-3, 2B, SB, RS; Michael Evans 2-for-2; two 1B, SB, 1 IP, 3 SO

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Orinda Aquatics Competes in Carson City

Submitted by Julie Carlson



From left: Swimmers Alex Paterno, Michael Wright, Ryan Shaw, Matt Lennon

Swimmers from Orinda Aquatics Junior Group once again participated in the Carson City Intermountain Classic Invitational Swim meet at the Carson City Aquatic Center in Nevada over the Memorial Day weekend. Overall, 27 swimmers from OA, mainly fourth through eighth graders,

competed in the meet.

Swimmers came from as far away as Oregon to participate in one of the first long-course meets of the season. On Friday night, OA swimmers competed in the 400-meter freestyle and the 1500-meter freestyle events. For many swimmers, this was their first meet at a high elevation and in the long-course format.

"We've been coming to this meet for many years, and the kids always enjoy the fun activities here. Not only do they get to swim and really challenge themselves, but they get to have a great time as a group," said Matt Ehrenberger, Junior Group coach.

Despite having one of the smallest teams at the meet, Orinda Aquatics placed second overall, with Alec Baker, age 10, receiving the high-point award for the 9-10 age group.

Miramonte Races at State Meet

Submitted by Alison Zamanian



From left: Jamie Fehrstrom and Ashraf Mathkour

It was a great day for the Miramonte Matador Track team on Friday, May 27th and again on Saturday, May 28th at the NCS Meet of Champions at UC Berkeley as the Mats qualified for the State meet on June 3-4 in two events and broke a school record.

Junior Jamie Fehrstrom competed in the 1600m with a preliminary time of 4:19.55 on Friday, a

qualified for State in the 800m, coming in third in the preliminaries at 1:55.30 and then second in the finals with a 1:54.19.

Mathkour came in 15th at State with a personal best time of 1:53.06.

In the final race of the day on the 27th, the Mats boys 4 x 400 broke a 46 year-old school record of 3:22.60 with a new record of 3:22.57. Nich Bhachu, Kevin Booze, Marshall Duetz and Ashraf Mathkour were happy to finally beat the record after working toward that goal all season.

Just the week before, another Miramonte record was broken at the NCS Tri-Valley meet at Granada High School on May 22nd. The girls 4 x 100 broke the school record in 49.39. The record was 49.50 set in 2005. The relay members for this record-breaking relay were freshman Megan Reid, senior Kirby Schulz, junior Devon McDonald, and sophomore Kera Deakins.

OIS Golf takes Tournament

Submitted by Chris Hoff



From left: Chris Andrada, Arielle Caronna, Robert Young, Austin Fischer, John Stenovec, Claire Dodd, Scott Guidotti

The OIS Bulldogs defeated Stanley Middle School and Seven Hills Middle School to earn the league Championship. The Bulldogs notched 168 to Stanley's 193 and Seven Hills' 200. The Bulldogs capped off an undefeated season with the win and had five of the lowest six scores in the tournament.

Robert Young led all golfers, finishing one

under par 30. Scott Guidotti and John Stenovec finished behind Young, each with 34. Young won the boys' title by four strokes. Guidotti and Steovec tied for second with Eric Hsieh from Martinez and had a sudden death extra hole left in third and Steovec in fourth.

Lafayette Little League Box Scores

Submitted by Todd Bequette

May 29

AAA Division

Redsox 10 Athletics 9

The Redsox pulled an upset in the first round of the playoffs, rallying to defeat the As at Buckeye Field. For the As, Nick Bamont continued his torrid month at the plate, going two-for-two and scoring twice. Chris Rogers and Will Easley pitched well in a losing effort.

Giants 9 Yankees 7

The Giants outlasted the Yankees 9-7 in an epic extra-inning battle at Cheney Field. The brothers Krznaric, Carter and Cooper, turned in outstanding defensive efforts for the orange and black. The Giants offense was led by Jack Muren and Lucas Eppinger who each had three hits, two runs batted in and a run scored. For the Yankees, David Sniderman, Peter Meade, Carter Smith and Jeff Dible each had a pair of hits, and the stellar defense of Will Burleigh and Sniderman kept the game close for the Bombers.

Yankees 13 A's 8

Peter Meade and Enzo Sereno powered the Yankees to a win over the As. For the Athletics, Alex Cortessis banged out two hits and scored two runs and Deven Kadlic was on base three times. In the bottom of the sixth, Chris Rogers walloped a double to right field, but Rory Miller put out the fire for the Yankees, closing the game with a strikeout.

Dodger 6 Cubs 5

The boys in blue nipped the Cubbies in extra innings when Ted Lemond led off the seventh with a double, then raced home with the winning run on Jack Napper's two-bagger. Erik Hays blasted a two-out, two-run double in the fifth for the winners. The late-arriving Napper showed up in time to knock in the game-winner and pitch a scoreless seventh. For the Cubs, Alex Low clubbed a three-run homer in the fourth that cleared the left field fence by 20 feet.

Phillies 12 Cardinals 3

The Phillies, trailing 1-0 after a half-inning, exploded for five runs in the home half of the first and never looked back. Nicholas and Jordan Goodfriend each notched two hits for the winners, while Jack Larsen and Joshua Sanders drove in two runs a piece. Justin Bocks added an RBI double and earned the save with two solid innings on the mound. The Cardinals were led by Daniel Tarkoff, who reached base twice and ripped a triple in the sixth.

Dodgers 6 Mets 1

The Dodgers locked up the number one seed in the playoffs with a tidy victory over the Metropolitan. Erik Hays, went two for two, stole two bases and scored two runs for the winners. Sam Saracevic chipped in with a run scoring single in the second and a spectacular play at first base that saved a run.

AAU Team Finishes Perfect

Submitted by Kevin Porep



From left, top row: Coach Kevin Porep, Julie Anne Martin, Natalie Morlock, Claire Porep, coach John Lyons; bottom row: Bella Denny, Carly Porep, Ali Smith, Julia Lyons, Maddi Ponzio

The Lafayette Fusion completed a perfect 10-0 basketball season with a win in the local MVP Flight league tournament on May 22 with a 32-29 win over the Danville Thunder. The AAU team is comprised of seventh grade girls from Stanley Middle School.

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Photo OHlen Alexander

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Happy Father's Day

Can You Canoe? This Crew Can!

By Cathy Dausman



L-R: Fulcher, Flaharty, Brown and Speicher at the canoe. Note diamond maple wood inlay Photo Cathy Dausman

“Welcome to the best kept secret in Lamorinda,” says Ron Brown, as he opens the door to a wondrous workshop. The 20 by 45 foot bay (to call it a garage is to call the Fourth of July a “modest civic celebration”) seems to hold every hand-held and machine powered woodworking tool known to man, plus enough comfort amenities to make the average realtor drool with envy. More on the surroundings later (see sidebar), because today’s crew, Pat Flaharty, “Spike” Speicher, owner Gary Fulcher and Ron Brown are there to assemble their charity project.

The group, members of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, is hand-building a 15-foot long African Rosewood canoe. A strip of maple wood inlay rings the outside; the inside will feature hand-carved seats of tiger-eye maple with hand-caned seat bottoms. A four-point wooden star decorates the inside bottom. The canoe will be raffled off for charity during the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival in September.

To date, Fulcher has hand-built 10 other canoes, including the slightly shorter, all-wood reinforced “wee lassie” hanging on his shop wall. Since he loves riding white water, his first canoe was a river-worthy “stripper,” built tough enough to withstand class III rapids.

Project work began in February, with Fulcher recruiting a Rotary crew: Paul Bettelheim, John Fazel, Charlie Franklin, Kevin Croak, Mike Edwards, Bob Heinen, Denny Dingman, Frank Beaver, Rick Ashburn, and Ken Thomas, who worked on the project before moving out of state. Two new Rotarians, including a woman, have expressed interest in the work.

Different groups work Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday mornings and Wednesday mornings and

evenings. Fulcher employed the “Tom Sawyer” recruitment method: each volunteer donated \$150 for the privilege of working on the project. Having a group involved means it takes, “ten times longer than building it alone,” but Fulcher seems fine with that.

The canoe was originally hoisted up to the rafters during its early molding process. Now it sits upside down astride two saw-horses. The outer wood layer is only 1/32 inch thick. The canoe skin becomes a smooth-edged puzzle, with its pieces assembled in 4 by 16 inch wooden strips. Each strip takes an hour or more to apply. Workers first trace a pattern onto wax paper following penciled lines drawn along the canoe’s hull. The pattern is traced onto the rosewood veneer. The veneer is cut and dry-fitted into place. Only after the edges are satisfactorily hand-planed or sanded is contact cement applied. Additional wax paper helps insure a smooth final fit, keeping the glue and the wood strip under control.

As of this writing, inside veneer

work is done and the outside veneer work is nearly complete. The surface will then be lightly sanded and cracks filled with a sawdust and epoxy mixture before a final coat of clear fiberglass seals the boat.

Fulcher estimates the canoe’s value to be in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range; individual raffle ticket prices are not yet set. But because the item is a charity fundraiser, the group hopes to earn significantly more.

To Fulcher, Flaharty, Speicher and Brown the canoe is priceless. It’s clear they have much invested emotionally in its construction, and agree it will be hard letting go. They would like nothing better than to retain “visitation rights” to their baby after she launches. Perhaps, they hope, they’ll see her out on the Lafayette Reservoir.

Rotary charitable causes include local literacy, fighting Polio, and home maintenance for the elderly. Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary meets Fridays at 7 a.m. at Lafayette’s Postino Restaurant; details are at <http://www.lamorindasunrise.org/>.



Gluing strips in place

It’s a Man Cave After All

Gary Fulcher has done a dangerous thing. He’s built a Man Cave nice enough to make a woman drool. The 900 square foot “garage,” as it’s known in local ordinance parlance, boasts swing-out solid wood carriage doors of Douglas fir (custom made in Gig Harbor, WA), a two-story interior finished in maple planks, skylights, ceiling fans, a built-in vacuum system, a kitchen (refrigerator, microwave and hot plates), bath, office space, built-in sound system, flat screen TV and sleeping loft. Most starter apartments have less square footage and far fewer amenities.

Fulcher designed the building three years ago to house his wood shop. It’s a nice place to visit, let alone build a canoe. Shelving on one long wall holds soft woods and hard woods, from common inexpensive woods to exotic and expensive woods. Plywood sheets are stored on edge underneath. The gray “tile” raised flooring is actually two foot squares of fiberboard; when a square gets damaged or dirty, it can be popped up and replaced.

A 4 x 8 foot solid maple woodworking bench perforated with peg holes is located underneath the sleeping loft. Small hand tools are arranged on five foot tall slide-out shelving – Fulcher modified the pull-out spice rack idea to suit his needs.

The second floor loft is accessed by an all-wood twist and pull ladder. There is a built-in vacuum system. There’s a jointer and planer, drill press, a band saw, a lathe for turning bowls and a belt edge sander the size of a snow board. A table saw designed to cut 52” wide wood is in place. More power tools rest upside down in their rolling cases, ready to be rotated upward, much like a built-in sewing machine. Wall-mounted and ground-level compressed air is available, and there’s an overhead 1,000 pound capacity electric hoist. A wall-mount fire extinguisher is easily accessible. Lighting rated at 75 foot candles per square foot insures there are no dark corners.

All this panache and the building even manages to be green. Two skylights allow for additional lighting and structural insulated panels (SIP) form the walls. Website research says SIP panel buildings are 66% more energy efficient and over twice as strong as standard frame construction, and quicker to install. Fulcher’s walls went up in just one day. With a workshop this good, when would Fulcher want to go home? And that, he says, eyes twinkling, is the \$64,000 question! C.Dausman



Hand planer on canoe bottom, showing fiberglass layer

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Merriewood Garden Full of Fruitful Lessons

By Cathy Tyson



Garden teacher Gantt Charming at the Merriewood Children's Garden Photo Cathy Tyson

Who knew a piece of land could be so productive in so many ways? On a recent gray morning Merriewood Children's Center Garden Teacher Gantt Charming gave Lafayette Parks Trails and Recreation Commissioners a tour of the one-acre organic garden near Burton Valley Elementary School.

Although it's been a cool and rainy spring, raised beds are ready for corn transplants from the green house and fruit trees display what will be a bounty of apples, vines with definitely un-ripe tiny grapes along with blackberries can be found throughout the learning garden. The City of Lafayette lets the school use the land that would otherwise be the very edge of the Lafayette Community Park.

As the summer heats up, garlic, onions, corn, zucchini and lots of potatoes will grow under the watchful eyes of Charming and a bevy of little assistants from the Merriewood Children's Center. Merriewood offers nursery school for two through five year olds and before and after school

programs for Burton Valley students, along with summer programs.

The kids help with all aspects of the garden from planting to harvesting. Lessons will vary depending on the age of the kids – for preschoolers that could mean finding a flower of every color or collecting things that are rough or smooth – to engage the senses. For bigger children lessons can revolve around composting and recycling, and why the fruit isn't ready to pick quite yet.

"The kids prefer to eat rather than weed," said Charming, even munching on veggies like eggplant or kale. They love the chickens. A favorite request is to check for eggs and make omelets. He explains that because they have been raised by humans, the chickens have "imprinted" on people – so they think they're part of the family, consequently very tolerant.

This year there are more raised beds to combat hungry gophers, with wire mesh buried under the soil. One teepee made with sticks is already partially covered in a grape vine, an-

other with green beans – edible forts. Gantt placed a red flag in the top of one of the teepees, "and all of sudden it's now a castle with dragons."

It's easy to see why Merriewood management wants to encourage Charming to get his teaching certificate. He's currently taking early childhood education classes at DVC. Although he has a non-traditional history, clearly he brings a range of knowledge to the garden. He worked on a farm during the summer while he was at the Evergreen State College, after graduation he was a field biologist doing endangered bird work, then came back to the Bay Area and got a Master of Arts degree in Philosophy from California Institute of Integral Studies.

When he's not busy with the garden – it's only a three-quarter time job, Charming has his own business designing and installing organic, sustainable gardens for homeowners, GaiaCentric Gardens. He calls it "food scaping;" www.gaiacentricgardens.com.

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THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

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The Glympse appears on the computer or the smartphone, giving the exact location from where the Glympse was sent. In fact, a detailed street map is sent that shows precisely where you are at that time. Douglas McKinley, a junior at Miramonte, likes Glympse because, "You don't have to spend time texting or accessing Mapquest. I also like that only those with whom you want

to share your location can see where you are."

Their tagline is "share your where," but there is more to Glympse than just sending your location. For example, if you want someone to be able to follow your route, Glympse can enable tracking of your direction in real time. Jared O'Rourke, a senior at Acalanes, found the app particularly useful as he drove throughout California visiting colleges. "It was a great way of letting my parents know where I was without having to text them or call them."

Glympse indicates not only the route you are taking, but also if you are moving or stopped. You can control the amount of time your movements can be tracked. The app includes a patent-pending GlympseWatch timer that ends the transmission after a designated period of time.

When you want a fast and safe way for others to know and see where you are, Glympse is the perfect traveling companion. *Eric Pawlakos is a junior at Miramonte High School.*

Local Artists Helping Japan

By Andrea A. Firth



(From left) Local artist Makiko Vazifdar, Norm Nicholson, and Kimiko Kogure have organized a silent art auction to help with recovery efforts in Japan. Photo provided

"Knowing how lost the many people of Japan must feel following the disaster, I wanted to help from this side of the ocean," says Orinda resident Komiko Kogure. To achieve her goal, Kogure

participates in a weekly figure drawing class through the Orinda Community Center. Working with the class instructor, Norm Nicholson, and several of the other artists Kogure has organized a silent art auction to raise funds to help with the recovery efforts

in Japan.

Over 100 artworks have been donated to the auction by dozens of Bay Area artists. "We reached out to our friends and the art community to spread the word, and we have had a wonderful response," says Kogure. "It's been a very healing process for me."

For Kogure, who is Japanese, the effects of the tsunami hit close to home. Although she has lived in California for 31 years, she has family and many friends who still reside in Japan. One close friend of Kogure's, who lived very close to the damaged nuclear plant, keeps her posted on the details of what is happening. "They have not moved on to recovery yet. They are still sifting through the debris to see what is left," says Kogure.

The silent auction will be held at the Orinda Community Center on Saturday, June 11th from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., bidding will close at 2:30 p.m. The original art will include paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures, fabric art, jewelry, and ceramics. All of the proceeds will be donated to the Japanese Red Cross.

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THT's Twelfth Night, Just Right

By Andrea A. Firth



Dennis Markham (left) as Duke Orsino and Kate Jopson as Cesario (Viola) in Town Hall Theatre Company's production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. Photo Jay Yamada

Town Hall Theatre's (THT) production of *Twelfth Night* has all the right ingredients: a classic tale, one of Shakespeare's joyous comedies, a cast of high-quality actors, and a liberal dose of playfulness.

As is often the case with Shakespeare, the central theme of *Twelfth Night* is love—obvious but never simple. In brief, Duke Orsino loves Olivia, who in turn loves the male page Cesario, who is actually Viola, a woman, and Viola loves Duke Orsino, who thinks she is the young man Cesario. And to top it off, Viola has a twin brother Sebastian, who bears a remarkable resemblance to her alter ego Cesario, who comes on the scene in the last half of the play. It sounds complicated, but THT's performers adeptly navigate the audience through the play's complicated love triangle (or it may be a quadrangle) which is rife with disguises, mistaken identity, secret messages, and madness.

The audience is kept smugly "in the know" as to who is who and who loves whom and is frequently entertained by the antics of Olivia's plucky and cunning handmaid Maria, her rowdy, drunken uncle Sir Toby, the foolish Sir Andrew, and the dour, self-absorbed Malvolio.

One of the play's highlights is the performance of the sharp-witted clown Feste by THT's Artistic Director Clive Worsley. It's worth going to the play just hear Worsley's beautiful renditions of the story in song as he ably plucks the ukulele. As Worsley has frequently done since he arrived on the scene at THT two and half years ago, he recruited another notable member of the Bay Area theater scene, Soren Oliver, to direct THT's

Twelfth Night. Oliver directed the play *Art* at THT last season and was excited to return to Town Hall to undertake Shakespeare.

The subject of gender—mistaken, bending, and otherwise—is often discussed with *Twelfth Night*, and the play is sometimes referred to as one of Shakespeare's transvestite comedies. But Oliver refuses to go down that path; he does not see the play as a manifesto about gender identity. "This was a commissioned play," explains Oliver. "Shakespeare wrote this play for a bunch of lawyers who were celebrating twelfth night [the Feast of the Epiphany]. It was written for a specific audience."

"What I think this play is about is versions of the truth," says Oliver, noting that the loopholes in the truth are what make the play fun.

Oliver identifies the plays protagonist Viola, played by Kate Jopson, as a young woman seeking independence in a man's world. "Viola has a good reason for choosing to dress as a man. This is a play about bending the truth, not judging a book by its cover," says the director. "But when the actors speak the truth, the play moves forward. There is an epiphany."

Possibly there is a simple lesson in *Twelfth Night* for us all—honesty is the best policy.

Twelfth Night at Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street in Lafayette, runs through June 25th, Thursday-Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. For tickets and information go to www.thtc.org or call (925) 283-1557.



Justin DuPuis as Sir Andrew Aquecheek and Alexandra Creighton as Maria in Town Hall Theatre Company's production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. Photo Jay Yamada

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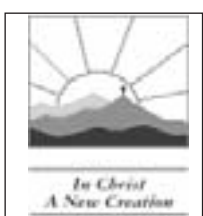
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Put the Lime in the Coconut...

By Susie Iventosch

You put the lime in the coconut and ... eat it all up! This recipe inspired me to go back and find Harry Nilsson's famous song from the 70s and actually read all of the lyrics. I just remembered the main line "you put the lime in the coconut and drink it all up", but could never remember beyond that. As it turns out, the lime in the coconut caused a bit of a belly ache to the kids in the song, but we have tried this recipe a few times now, and no one had to call the doctor!

This cupcake is a great summertime recipe, and works

especially well for July 4th celebrations, since the white cupcake and coconut make a great base for patriotic decorations. As you're preparing your July 4th menu, think about serving these cupcakes adorned with red, white and blue foil picks or American flag picks. You can also make mini cupcakes with this recipe, which will yield close to 3 dozen miniature cupcakes.

For a trip down memory lane visit this link to watch the video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tbgv8PkO9eo>



Coconut cupcakes with lime

Photos Susie Iventosch

Coconut Lime Cupcakes

(Makes 14 regular sized cupcakes)

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons cream of coconut (such as Coco Lopez)
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/3 cup angel flake coconut
- 2 1/4 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons lime juice
- 1 teaspoon grated lime zest (optional)
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 recipe coconut-lime cream cheese frosting (below)
- 2 cups angel flake coconut for topping

DIRECTIONS

In a large bowl, beat butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in cream of coconut and milk. Add eggs, one at a time, and beat well after each. Sift together flour, salt and baking powder and add to butter mixture. Mix well. Stir in coconut and lime juice and zest. Pour into muffin tins lined with foils or papers, and bake at 350° for 18 minutes, or until golden brown and toothpick inserted into centers comes out clean. Cool on rack. When completely cooled, frost and top with shredded coconut. (It's easiest to place the coconut in a bowl, and holding the bottom of the cupcake by the paper or foil cup, gently roll the top of the cupcake in the coconut, being sure to completely cover frosting.)

Coconut-Lime Cream Cheese Frosting

- 1/4 cup butter, softened
 - 4 oz. cream cheese, softened to room temperature
 - 1-2 teaspoons fresh lime juice
 - 3 tablespoons cream of coconut (add a little more if necessary for spreading consistency)
 - 3 cups powdered sugar
- With electric beater, cream together butter and cream cheese. Mix in lime juice and 3 tablespoons of the cream of coconut. Beat well. Slowly add powdered sugar, beating until integrated with each addition. Add extra cream of coconut if needed for spreading consistency.

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.



July 4th cupcakes

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ART



The Lafayette Gallery's newest exhibit, "Sun Kissed," runs from May 24 to July 23. 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 19 and July 16. Free to attend; www.lafayettegallery.net, (925) 284-2788.

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, 11am-4:30pm. Adult admission is \$4, students and Gallery members are free. For more information, call (925) 631-4379. Website: www.hearstartgallery.org.

Moraga Art Gallery Member Donna Arganbright and Guest Artist Sharon Tama will be featured in the 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, 3-5pm. 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 Concert Series every Thursday night at the Moraga Commons Park located at 1799 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. The free concerts are from 6:30 - 8:30pm. The volunteers of the Moraga Park Foundation will be serving delicious grilled dinners at the concession stand. June 16: RUKATAN, Latin & Reggae; June 23: GATOR BEAT, Cajun; June 30: PLADDOGH, Celtic (local). For more info go to www.moragaparks.org.



Come and enjoy this opportunity to hear the Boston based, award winning ATLANTIC BRASS QUINTET as they perform at Saint Mary's College on Saturday, June 18 at 8pm in the College Chapel. This is their West Coast performance on their 25th Anniversary Tour. They will play works of Bach, Ginastera, and brass music from around the world. Suggested donation: \$10 general; \$5 SMC faculty, staff and students and children 16 and under. Tickets can be purchased at the door. For more information call (925) 631-4670.

The Orinda Library summer concert series opens on Wednesday, June 22 at 6:30pm, with Celtic Sands performing music of the Celtic lands. Led by Lara Garner on the Irish harp, the talented musicians will share their masterful interpretation of traditional music and may include stories or a few dance steps in their performance. The Orinda Library is at 26 Orinda Way in Orinda and the Summer Music Series is free and open to all. For more info visit www.ccclib.org or telephone (925) 254-2184.

THEATER

Cal Shakes presents Titus Andronicus by William Shakespeare, directed by Joel Sass, through June 26. Titus is one of Shakespeare's oldest plays, but it is undeniably a play for our time: a sophisticated blend of heart-stopping drama and pitch black humor. For exact dates, times and to purchase tickets go to www.calshakes.org.

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 a nearby restaurant, 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.

Rocky Horror Food Drive for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano at the New Rheem Theatre, June 17th, Friday Night at 10pm. Come in costume and win prizes at the costume contest. Win more prizes after the show during the Rocky Horror Trivia Quiz, hosted by Rheem Queen of Scream, Vanessa. Cost: \$7 and one can of healthy food! (Or 9\$ if you forget to bring food). Rheem Theatre, 350 Park Street, Moraga, (925) 388-0751 or www.TheNewRheemTheatre.com.

First Year Anniversary Celebration of The New Rheem Theatre, Saturday, June 25. There will be a reception at 6pm, followed by the movie "The Majestic." Tickets are \$25 (includes movie and light refreshment). Monies will benefit the upgrade of the theatre's sound system. Info at www.TheNewRheemTheatre.com or (925) 388-0751.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Book Signing: Meet Lilo Heller and Tom Adams on Sunday, June 12, 1-3pm at Oakwood Health Club. Wine and hors d'oeuvres to be served. For more information contact Michael Heller at (925) 998-2150 or mlheller78@hotmail.com.

Lafayette Historical Society's Speaker Series presents "The Caldecott Fourth Bore -Tunneling Through Time" with speakers Ivy Morrison, Caldecott Fourth Bore Information Officer and Jim Allen, Geologist. Tuesday, June 14 at 3pm, Arts and Science Room, Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Donation requested, \$10 for members and \$14 for non-members. Children under 14 free with paying adult.

"A Peaceful Warrior's approach to Living Wisely and Well": Dan Millman will share insights from his just-published book, *The Four Purposes of Life* - the culmination of a life of exploration and adventure. Millman was the first World Men's Trampoline Champion, a Stanford University coach, a martial arts instructor, Oberlin college professor, and world traveler. Wed., June 15, 7-9pm, Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Drive, Lafayette; presented by Diablo IONS Community Group.

UC Berkeley Professor Emeritus Frederic C. Tubach will read from his new book, "German Voices: Memories of Life during Hitler's Third Reich," (University of California Press) at Orinda Books on Thursday, June 16 at pm. Co-author with Auschwitz survivor, Bernat Rosner, of the widely acclaimed double biography, "An Uncommon Friendship: From Opposite Sides of the Holocaust," Tubach examines in his new book the causes for the rapid rise of National Socialism in Germany in the 1930s as well as the lives of individual Germans caught up in the maelstrom of history throughout World War II. For more information contact Orinda Books at (925) 254-7606.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Kids Fishing Clinic and Camp Day for Families on Saturday, June 11, 11am-1pm at the Lafayette Reservoir. Come enjoy fishing, crafts, nature scavenger hunts, games, and camp tours at Roughing It Day Camp. Learn the fundamentals of fishing, how to reel and rig your pole, casting techniques from the Roughing It Waterfront staff. For more information, see roughingit.com/campdayforfamilies.

Lawrence Hall of Science presents Dinosaurs Unearthed, now - January 1, 2012, 10am-5pm daily at Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Drive, Berkeley. Explore the world of dinosaurs as never before with Dinosaurs Unearthed, featuring amazingly real robotic dinosaurs, hands-on dig sites and more! Cost: LHS members, \$4; Non-members \$5 + general admission (\$6-\$12). For more info see http://lawrencehalloff-science.org or call (510) 642-5132 or email lhsweb@berkeley.edu.

OTHER

An introductory talk by Edi Pfeiffer about dietary principles to guide parents during preconception, pregnancy and the childhood years. How the foundational nutritional principles were discovered and the dangers of modern processed foods will be discussed. Homeopathy Every Day Study Group of Walnut Creek Thursday, June 16, from 6-7p.m. 43 Quail Court, Suite 215, Walnut Creek. www.HomeopathyEveryDay.com.

Summer Solstice Labyrinth Walk--Friday June 17. Come-and-go event between 7- 8 pm. 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. All are welcome. Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. (925) 283-8722.

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.

The Second annual "Motorama - World of Wheels" will be held on Father's Day, June 19 in the parking lot shared by Postino restaurant and the Clocktower on Mount Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette. Dads (and everyone else) are invited. Gates to the public open at 9am. Admission is free. Presented by the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club. For additional information visit www.motorama.us.

NAMI Contra Costa is a local affiliate of National Alliance for Mental Illness, which is a grassroots, nonprofit organization, composed of consumers, family members, & supporters. Classes and support groups for both consumers and family members are offered, which include education classes for those with mental illness and their families. Presentations about mental illness by "those who have been there" are offered as outreach. Monthly speaker meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the John Muir Concord campus, include presentations by doctors, researchers, and authors. For a schedule of events go to www.namicontracosta.org.

The Women Helping Women group of the Orinda Community Church is holding a Beaded Jewelry Sale to benefit Ugandan women on Sunday, June 26 from 12-2pm at the Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. For more information please contact Rev. Lee Cruise, office@orindachurch.org., or (925)254 4906.

The Moraga Youth Involvement Committee, a group of middle and high school students dedicated to giving back and serving their community, is hosting a backpack drive for children in grades kindergarten through fourth. New school supplies such as crayons, binders, rulers, and, of course, backpacks, as well as monetary dona-

tions, will be graciously accepted. The filled backpacks will then be distributed through a local program called Shelter, Inc. to impoverished children in Contra Costa County. Donations will be accepted through June 30 at the Recreation Office of the Hacienda de las Flores, at 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga, from 8:30am to 5pm, M-F. For more information, please call Recreation and Facilities Coordinator Kimberly Nelson at (925) 888-7035.

Moraga's First Annual Red, White and Blues Festival, on July 1st from 5-8pm, will feature music, local wines and appetizers. Held at the beautiful Hacienda de las Flores at 2100 Donald Drive in Moraga, the entrance fee in-

cludes a signature wine glass, wine tasting coupons, and description & score cards for tasting at six featured wineries. For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.generationgreen.com. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door. Questions? Contact Lynda Deschambault, (925) 708-9686 or info@generationgreen.com.

Campolindo High School Class of 1971 40th Anniversary Reunion. Saturday, September 17th from 5 - 9 pm at Era Art Bar, 19 Grand Ave. @ Broadway, Oakland, CA www.oaklandera.com. Please RSVP to Ken Churchill at ken@churchillcellars.com or (707) 578-5393.

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Gold and Silver Awards – Orinda Moraga Service Unit

Submitted by Thama Brentano, Service Unit Director

On Sunday, May 22 over 100 people gathered at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Orinda to recognize Silver and Gold Award recipients, as well as graduating Girl Scouts from the Orinda Moraga Service Unit. There were 15 scouts who earned their Silver award, 16 Gold Award recipients, and 30 graduating scouts. Mayor

Victoria Smith of Orinda and Mayor Karen Mendonca of Moraga were assisted by Council members Amy Worth of Orinda and Howard Harpham of Moraga in presenting each Gold Award recipient with either a letter (from the Town of Moraga) recognizing her accomplishments, or a proclamation (from the City of Orinda) listing her

accomplishments and declaring a certain day to be that scout's "day" in the city. All of the graduating scouts were presented with a yellow rose in honor of their years in scouting and best wishes for their future.

Silver Awards:

Troop 30040: Linden Brentano, Elizabeth Chenok, Jane Fessenden, Colleen McCullough, Anya Niedzwiedz, Margot Odell, Emma Patton, Ariel Ramirez, and Tori Wong earned their Silver Award by hosting an elementary to middle school transition summit for all 5th grade girls in Orinda. This event, titled "Teenage Dream," covered the topics of academics, self esteem, peer pressure, growing up, and relationships. Participating in small group discussions, playing games, watching videos, listening to a guest speaker and having a Q & A session helped calm many concerns of the elementary school girls before moving on to middle school next year.

Troop 33859: Anna Finnell, Katherine Friedman, Amrita Newton, Michelle Prezkop, and Julia Young earned their Silver Award by working with St. Anthony's Foundation in San Francisco. After volunteering at the center in San Francisco, they ran a clothing drive and collected 4 car loads of clothing to donate to St. Anthony's. In addition they held a Homelessness and Poverty Seminar for local elementary school children to help them learn more about the issue of homelessness and what they can do to help.

Juliette Scout: Eliane Holmlund organized a quartet to play two concerts in Pacific Grove. They played at Canterbury Woods, an elderly medical hospital and a senior living center where her grandmother, Helen Holmlund formerly of Orinda, now resides. Her goal was to share her passion of music and bring some joy others.

The following 16 scouts earned their Gold Award:

Sonia Abraham has been a member of troop 30316 and Girl Scouts for 12 years and is graduating from Miramonte. She earned the Gold Award with her project called The Wagner Chronicle. Sonia created an after school newspaper class at Wagner Ranch Elementary school last spring. She went in once a week to help kids work on drawings and articles. At the end of each month Sonia collected the kids' different works that were left in a designated box and typed up the writings and scanned the pictures to make a newspaper, which was distributed the following week. Sonia will be attending Sarah Lawrence College.

Margaux Attard is a founding member of Orinda Girl Scout troop 30316 and has been active for 13 years. She is graduating from Miramonte and earned the Gold Award for a joint project with Neris Newton. Margaux managed and co-produced a musical production of Annie Jr. at Longfellow Middle School in Berkeley. She will be attending UC San Diego.

Nina Berger has been a Girl Scout for 12 years, 8 years in troop 30316. She is graduating from Miramonte. Nina earned the Gold Award with a project called Youthful Art: She taught an 8 week art class at Wagner Ranch Elementary School that went over the artistic styles of Impressionism, Fauvism, Cubism, and Dadaism. Then, Nina showcased all of the art projects in the Orinda Children's Library. She is attending Willamette University in the fall.

Gabriela Blum is a junior at Miramonte. She led a cooking and sports summer camp for young children at

Shelter, Inc. in Antioch. She taught them how to cook basic meals and helped them make their own recipe books as well as teach the children the fundamentals of soccer. The children ranged in age from 6 to 10 years old. For many of them, this was the first time they had cooked their own meals or been on a sports team. They also learned how to write in some cases or practice their writing as they wrote out the recipes for the snacks and meals they made at camp.

Katie Evans has been a member of troop 30316 and Girl Scouts for 11 years and is graduating from Miramonte. She earned the Gold Award for a joint project with Alyssa Wendt called St. Stephen's Garden Project. They built two planter boxes and planted an apple tree at St. Stephen's Church and Nursery School. They also worked with the kids in the class room to teach them about garden management, and helped them grow and plant fruits and vegetables. Katie will be attending the University of Vermont in the fall.

Eva Healy is graduating from Campolindo. Her project addressed the issue of homelessness and was designed to allow homeless children, who are often overlooked during this stressful time, the opportunity to be creative. She collected art supplies to donate to local shelters that specialize in art as therapy, wrote and illustrated a children's book, titled Her Quilted World, and visited elementary schools in her community to give presentations to the students about homelessness. Eva will be attending UC Santa Barbara.

Annika Bourcier Holmlund organized the Senegal Summer Reading Camp with assistance from her sister Eliane, a Girl Scout Ambassador. In July 2010 they traveled to a remote Pulaar speaking village in Eastern Senegal. The girls spent 40 hours each teaching literacy skills and reading French with local students, aged 5 to 14. Annika will be attending Middlebury College.

Caety Klingman shot and produced a video in the summer of 2009 at Diablo Day Camp. One cut of the video was designed to recruit adult staff, the other was to recruit not only staff but campers. The DVD was distributed to all of the associations that feed into Diablo Day Camp. Caety has attended DDC since she was 3, first as a tag, then as a camper, and finishes this year as a 5th-year elf. Caety will be attending the University of Chicago.

Neris Newton has been a member of troop 30316 and Girl Scouts for 10 years and is graduating from Miramonte. She earned the Gold Award by working on a joint project with Margaux Attard. Neris directed and co-produced a musical production of Annie Jr. at Longfellow Middle School in Berkeley, where the drama program had been cut. She is attending New York University in London in the fall.

Hannah Reed is a senior at Miramonte and has been in scouting for 12 years. She did a joint project with Jamie Riley, both of Troop 30997. Their project was a Richmond After School Program. They taught academic enrichment classes in art, music, cooking, dance and drama for K to 8th graders at a Richmond school called at St. Cornelius. Hannah will be attending Carlton College.

Jamie Riley is a senior at Miramonte High School and has been in scouting for 12 years. She did a joint project with Hannah Reed, both of Troop 30997. Their project

was a Richmond After School Program. They taught academic enrichment classes in art, music, cooking, dance and drama for K to 8th graders at a Richmond school called at St. Cornelius. Jamie will be attending the University of Puget Sound.

Julie Sanders is a senior at Campolindo. For her project, Books on Tape for Afghanistan, Julie got money donated to purchase new books, tapes, and cassette players. Then volunteers (Lafayette girl scout troops and church groups) and Julie recorded the children's books onto cassette tapes so that the children in Afghanistan could learn English. She worked with an organization called Trust in Education and ended up recording and packaging up the 73 books and recorded tapes and donating an extra \$500 donation from the left over money. Julie will be attending the University of Oregon.

Andrea Say has been a member of troop 30316 and Girl Scouts for 12 years. She is graduating from Miramonte. Andrea earned the Gold Award with her project called Kids Camp which was a one week multiple activities camp for kids ages 3 to 12 at the Shelter Inc. apartment complex in Antioch. She will be attending Boston University in the fall.

Alyssa Wendt has been a member of troop 30316 and Girl Scouts for 12 years and is graduating from Miramonte. She earned the Gold Award for a joint project with Katie Evans. She spent 101 hours building and taking care of a garden at St. Stephen's Nursery School. Alyssa also built four benches out of recycled wood and tree stumps. They took an 11 hour work day and constructed a planter box and helped fix a water fountain along with setting up an irrigation system. Alyssa will be attending the University of Redlands.

Leanne Woehleke is a senior at Campolindo. Her project, "Project Night Night" was her Gold Award theme. Leanne gave more than 50 tote bags filled with comfort items to homeless children at the Bay Area Rescue Mission and the Contra Costa Crisis nursery. She collected gently used or new books and stuffed animals. Girl scout troops and church groups helped her sew fleece blankets from fleece donated or purchased with the funds that she raised from cookie and bake sales. Leanne also taught other girl scout troops to knit and provided hand knit baby blankets in the tote bags. Leanne will be attending Gettysburg College.

Cheyenne Ziermann is a senior at Campolindo. Cheyenne's project involved the Peninsula Humane Society and her love of animals. She collected over 250 used blankets/towels as well as used newspapers and other gifts as dog food/toys/leashes and beds for the animals in the shelter. Cheyenne then prepared a presentation about spaying/neutering and pet care (using display boards), which she took to share with other girl scout troops in Lamorinda. Cheyenne will be attending UC Santa Barbara.

The Orinda Moraga Service Unit also recognized the following girls for their years in scouting as they prepare to graduate from high school:

Danielle Albo, Marina Allen, Evelyn Alper, Cynthia Brzezinski, Taylor Greenthal, Alyssa Johanson, Lindsey Loeper, Emily McPhee, Elyana Schwartz, Annie Singsank, Emma Smith, Devon Van Hoy, and Tessa Whitley.



Troop 33859

Photo provided



Troop 30316, back row: Andrea Say, Margaux Attard and Neris Newton; front row: Sonia Abraham, Katie Evans, Alyssa Wendt and Nina Berger



Annika Holmlund (Gold Award), Jeanine Holmlund (Advisor), Eliane Holmlund (Silver Award)



Troop 30977, from left: Emma Smith, Danie Albo, Jamie Riley, Hannah Reed, Annie Singsank, Katrina Kovalik (not shown: Evelyn Alper, Cynthia Brzezinski)



Troop 31997, from left: Elyana Schwartz, Leanne Woehleke, Eva Healy, Julie Sanders, Tessa Whitley, Cheyenne Ziermann



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Gold Awards – Girl Scout Troop 32153

Submitted by Nancy Crawford

On May 8th, 2011, members of Lafayette Girl Scout Troop 32153 gathered to honor and celebrate six members receiving Girl Scout's highest award, the Gold Award. In addition to 40 hours of career exploration and 30 hours of leadership prerequisites, each scout had to design and lead a significant service project. Nationwide less than 5% of all Girl Scouts reach this level of distinction.

Troop 32153 Scouts receiving Gold Awards:

Hannah Borosky led the ICE community awareness campaign. ICE stands for In Case of Emergency. To improve emergency response,

individuals were taught to add a new cell phone contact titled ICE listing their top emergency contacts. Hannah is a senior at Acalanes High School and plans on attending Santa Clara in the fall.

Chelsea Crawford's project involved a book drive and gift of books and reading for a local elementary school. Chelsea is a senior at Campolindo High School.

Megan Langner's project "Keep the Bees" included community awareness on the environmental benefits of bees and she helped four families set up and maintain hives. Megan is a

senior at Acalanes High and plans on attending UC Davis in the fall.

Alexa Wash created an educational project called Lafayette Creeks – Caring for our Waterways. She taught the importance of waterways and water preservation to Lafayette students. Alexa is a senior at Acalanes High School.

For her project, **Emily St. Pierre** coordinated the 5 day "R,R,R,R You Aware" environmental awareness program at the Lindsey Wildlife Museum focusing on Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot. Emily is a senior at Acalanes High and will attend Puget Sound University.

The troop is proud of its dedication to stay together and committed to Girl Scouts through the years, and of all ten seniors completing their scouting journey and advancing to Adult Scouts. In addition to the six Gold Award scouts, other dedicated members include Acalanes seniors Katie Barton, Maddy Cimino and Gabrielle Zoger, and Campolindo senior Anne Finne. The girls entered scouting in kindergarten at their respective Lafayette Elementary Schools; the various troops merged when they became Cadette Scouts at Stanley Middle School and have stayed together throughout high school.

Gold Awards – Girl Scout Troop 30215

Submitted by Linda Lim



Pictured from left: Alexa Smith, Andie Nishimi, Valerie Su, Kanani Okamitsu, Kate Cooper and Marissa Cunha. Photo provided

Troop leaders Lori Edelstone and Dayle Okamitsu of Girl Scouts Troop 30215 are proud to announce the following Ambassador Girl Scouts have completed the requirements for the Gold Award, the highest award given by the Girl Scouts of America. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, and commitment to excellence as each girl scout develops skills and values to meet present and future challenges. Each of the girl scouts previously achieved the Silver Award, the second

highest Girl Scouts award.

Kate Cooper: To earn her Gold Award, Kate developed a project to assist families at the Monument Crisis Center in Concord. She also contributed to the Blue Star Mom's Operation Pillowcase which sends patriotic pillowcases, cards of appreciation, and other items to U.S. troops overseas in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations. Kate also received the U. S. Presidential Award for Volunteerism during her junior year and the U. S. Congressional Award for

Community Service and Personal Growth in her senior year.

Marissa Cunha: Marissa's Gold Award was for making "Buddies" for children undergoing surgery. She organized a group of people to sew 100 dolls for a local hospital. The dolls had embroidered faces and yarn for hair. The project goal was to make children happy when going through very difficult times. A child getting surgery is often in pain and emotionally hurting. The doll can make the child feel like they have a friend alongside them and help them feel more comfortable and secure when facing their tough situation.

Andie Nishimi: Andie earned her Gold Award by leading a collection drive of toys that were donated to Oakland Children's Hospital. She drew her inspiration for "Project Emily" from a five-year-old girl diagnosed with Beckwith-Weidemann Syndrome who undergoes periodic diagnostic tests at the hospital's radiology department to scan for potential diseases. With strong support from Brownie and Junior Girl Scout troop members from Moraga, and local students, Andie collected a large number of toys that were organized into gift bags for the hospital's young patients.

Kanani Okamitsu: During the summer of 2010, Kanani and friend Valerie Su completed a project called Einsteince Camp. They went to Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH)—a housing complex for families who would be homeless if

this place did not exist—for a week to teach the children living there science through experiments. Each day they provided 3 simple, exciting experiments on a different science subject.

Alexa Smith: Alexa completed her Gold Award project for the Contra Costa Interfaith Housing Apartments in Concord. She ran a weeklong dance class for the children living in the apartment complex. She taught them a dance routine and other fun dance activities over the course of the week. At the end of the week, the children performed their routine for their parents in costumes that Alexa collected from her dance studio, California Academy of Performing Arts, and donated to the children. Alexa also left the Apartment Complex recreation room with two boxes of dance costumes and every child took home a CD of dance music as well as a costume.

Valerie Su: Valerie worked with girl scout friend Kanani Okamitsu on their Gold Award project, a science camp for disadvantaged children. The camp, dubbed "Einsteince Camp", took place at the Contra Costa Interfaith Housing Development in Concord for a week. Nearly everyday over the summer, the girls met to plan the camp, deciding that each day would have a certain theme: Physics, Chemistry, Weather, Environment, and Food. They determined that the goal would be not only to educate the kids, but also to show them that learning can be fun and rewarding. They planned hands-on projects, ranging from making straw towers to making ice cream.

Eagle Scouts – Troop 303

Submitted by Kim Wolfe



Austin Wolfe (left) and Chris Perry Photo John Wolfe


Boy Scouts of America Troop 303 in Orinda is proud to induct two new Eagle Scouts. Chris Perry, a Miramonte senior, and Austin Wolfe, a Miramonte freshman, earned the highest advancement rank in Scouting by fulfilling requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills. In addition an Eagle Scout must have completed at least 21 merit badges and organized and led a service project benefiting his community. Chris and Austin each led a project benefiting the elementary school where he began scouting as a Tiger Cub.

Chris's Eagle Scout Project provided Del Rey Elementary School with a reconstructed and safer sandbox in the main playground area. Chris tore down the existing splintered wood structure and replaced it with a cement structure that included a water drainage system. He then added synthetic wood panels on top of the walls for a comfortable and aesthetic place to sit, and new sand. New sand was poured into the sandbox, replacing the rock and dirt originally found.

Austin designed and led members of Troop 303 in the construction of an attraction for the Sleepy Hollow Elementary School Pumpkin Patch Carnival. The attraction, a twenty-one foot race track and fleet of sixteen Halloween-themed race cars, was designed to provide the youngest members of the school community an opportunity to be successful in an exciting non-skill based competition against older students. Austin donated the race game to the Sleepy Hollow Parents' Club for many years of enjoyment.

For over 45 years, Orinda Boy Scout Troop 303, chartered by the Rotary Club of Orinda, has been providing boys with a variety of hiking, camping, community service and leadership opportunities.

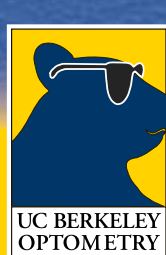
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Lamorinda Schools

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Acalanes Union
High School District
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
Wednesday, June 22, 7:30pm

Orinda Union School District
OUSD Office
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda
Monday, June 20, 4pm

Lafayette School District
LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
Wednesday, June 22, 7pm

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

Findlay Named AUHSD Educator of the Year



AUHSD Superintendent John Nickerson gives the 2011 Educator of the Year award to Acalanes Librarian Karen Findlay. Photo C. Tyson

On June 1, Karen Findlay was recognized as Educator of the Year for the Acalanes Union High School District. In the past this award has been given to teachers, but as Superintendent Nickerson explained this year it was expanded to include educators from counselors to the librarians and beyond. "I'm very surprised – it's an amazing place to work, and I'm so happy to be here," said Findlay. She's been involved in a variety of things on campus, serving on the Technology Committee and the Academic Honesty committee, and as a co-coach for the Academic Decathlon team.

JM 6th Graders Win at NorCal Chess Championship

Submitted by Zhan Li



From left: A Bay Area Chess organizer, Jake Oxendine, and Austen Li
Photo provided

The team of Austen Li and Jake Oxendine, 6th graders at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, won first place in the 6th grade team competition at the NorCal Chess Championship on May 30, 2011 in Fremont. More than a hundred players from all over the Bay Area competed in four games of chess over six hours of play. Li and Oxendine have been playing chess for many years and frequently compete at the Friday Chess Tournament in Walnut Creek organized by the Berkeley Chess School. "Jake and I did really well as a team. We are very happy about winning the first place prize for our school," said Li, who also won second place in the individual category.

St. Perpetua Puts on a Show and Graduates Class of 2011

Submitted by Monica Chappell



Twenty-four 8th grade students graduated on Saturday, June 4th from St. Perpetua School's K-8 program after celebrating one last Mass together; many of the students having been classmates since kindergarten. Prior to graduation, the eighth grade students shared an off campus retreat and memories night. The celebration was extra special for the Hogan family – Sean Hogan and his son Daniel are now both graduates of St. Perpetua School. Graduates will go on to attend top-notch area high schools; Acalanes, Bentley, Campolindo, Carondelet, De La Salle and Miramonte. Photo Karen Goodshaw

Letters of Recommendation: Asking in the Right Way, at the Right Time

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

As a college advisor I hold two sessions with each of my 11th grade clients to review 12 goals that should be accomplished no later than the fall of the senior year. One of the goals is to identify two teachers from the junior year to ask for letters of recommendation. In years past I suggested that students consider asking teachers before the end of the junior year to find out their willingness to perform this task. More recently my suggestion has turned into a strong recommendation, especially if that is current practice at the student's high school.

Here are my general guidelines for obtaining teacher recommendations:

- First, be aware that public school teachers are not paid to write letters of recommendation for students. To my knowledge no public school teacher's job description includes a requirement to produce letters for college-bound students. Teachers perform this service in their desire to help students along the path to college.

- Next, always be polite when you request a recommendation and be ready to supply whatever teachers need to complete your recommendations on time. It is your job to take care of logistics. For example, you should give your teachers pre-addressed, stamped envelopes if the recommendations are to be sent by regular mail. On the other hand, many colleges use the Common Application and many forms, including teacher and counselor letters of recommendation can be completed and sent on-line.

- Remember that a teacher who knows you in the classroom may not know much about your extracurricular activities. Do you write for the student newspaper? Do you play an active role in a school club? Perhaps you have taken piano lessons for many years and have earned a certificate of merit that documents your accomplishments. If you want the teacher to know these things about you, you must tell them. Some schools provide

a form at the counseling office that you can fill out and give to your teacher. At other high schools you may provide this information on Naviance (your school counseling office will tell you if they use this program). I suggest that you create and maintain a student profile/resume which details important academic and extracurricular achievements including employment, volunteerism, honors and awards and so on. This profile can be used in many important ways throughout the college admissions process (to have ready at a college interview, for example).

- Generally, the student should ask at least two teachers. Occasionally, a student may wish to ask three teachers, especially if they know a recommendation from a particular teacher is most appropriate for a particular institution (e.g. an AP math instructor for a technical institute like MIT or Cal-Tech). But usually it is sufficient to secure two definite commitments from teachers who teach academic, college-preparatory subjects such as English, foreign language, math, science, or the social sciences like history or economics.

Although there is new pressure to move even more swiftly along the path to completing college applications, be prepared if a teacher thinks it is too early to ask, and tells you to ask next fall. Thank her or him politely and do not press the issue. Also, be ready if teachers ask what school(s) you are applying to. If you know the names of some private colleges to which you are planning to send applications, certainly let them know. Many private colleges and some out of state public universities require letters. However, remember that the California public system does not take letters of recommendation. So if you ask for a recommendation when only applying to the University of California or California State Universities you will look as though you have not done your homework—definitely NOT a good idea when you are asking

a teacher for a recommendation!

A related issue involves early admission programs. Unless a student has thoroughly researched colleges and prepared a final list, he or she probably does not know which colleges are good candidates for early admission applications. Also, most students will want to know their junior year standardized test scores, AP exam results and final spring semester grades before making decisions about early applications. Still, students who believe they will apply to one or more schools early could benefit from letting their teachers know about their intention. This is particularly true for students with special talents like athletes and performing artists.

Although these are my general guidelines I feel compelled to add that I believe this trend puts teachers, students and parents under even more pressure about college admissions. This is most unfortunate. There are many students who will wait until the fall of their senior year to ask for recommendations, and I hope and believe these students will still find teachers who will write their letters.



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

New Mural at JM

Submitted by Moose Wesler



Photo provided

6th graders at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School created the artwork for this charming mural that was recently completed by their teachers, Kristin Anderson, Robin Anderson, Elaine Guttman, and Dawn Lezak along with art teacher Moose Wesler. The mural was funded by the PTA.



Lights, camera, action! With 50 1st through 7th grade students serving as cast and crew, St. Perpetua School proudly presented their

spring musical, Alice in BEATLES-Land. This original production was written and directed by Barrett Lindsay-Steiner, an accomplished

actor, writer and director. Barrett's staff included Sarah Sumner and Claire Laurence, local high school students, plus a St. Perpetua School Alumna, Katie Steele. The musical was a contemporary re-telling of the classic Alice in Wonderland but with a twist. When the Beatles follow the Rabbit into Wonderland, everything is "BEATLEfied." Alice goes on a quest to find the four missing BEATLES and to return Wonderland to its natural state. Barrett transformed this classic into a smart comedy, full of bright, original, and fun musical theater. With its wonderful humor and darling costumes, this small-scale production was performed to a full house and concluded with a standing ovation from the audience!

Photo provided

Acalanes Senior Driven to Empower Women

By Lucy Amaral



Acalanes senior Jordan Myers, and author and child advocate Gina Otto.

Photo L. Amaral

With the goal of encouraging women to let go of preconceived identities and negative self-image, Acalanes High School senior Jordan Myers created "Unfinished Business: Empowering Women and Girls," a seminar and workshop held May 24 at the Veterans Memorial Building in Lafayette.

"Everywhere females look, they are told they are 'too this' or 'too that' or 'not enough,'" said Myers. "I created this event in the hopes that they could drop those stories and become who they truly were meant to be."

Myers said she titled the event "Unfinished Business," based on a quote from U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, in which Clinton says that 'the rights of women and girls is

the unfinished business of the 21st century.' "This struck something inside of me," Myers said. "Women suffer on a daily basis from various things, and I believe when one woman is empowered, she can then go and empower ten more."

More than 100 people attended Myers' event, which was developed through her English 4 -WISE class. The WISE program (Wise Individualized Senior Experience) at Acalanes serves as an alternative to the traditional English 4 or AP English 4. It gives students the opportunity to explore areas of interest through independent projects or internships and emphasizes real world, outside-the-classroom experience. Myers worked for more than four months coordinating this event, guided by an in-school mentor, as well as with her mother, an event planner. It was through her mother that Myers met the event's keynote speaker, Gina Otto.

A best-selling author, producer and

children's advocate, Otto read her book, *Cassandra's Angel*, a modern-day fairy tale about labels girls are given and take on as their identity, and the power of dropping those labels. Using the book as a backdrop, Otto illustrated the importance of empowering women and girls, the process of mentorship, and the need for self-expression, personal growth and self-esteem.

Otto focused on the labels that can be placed upon young girls, calling them "Stories" and how young women's insecurities can be based on these stories. She said the overriding reaction that comes after the meetings from women she speaks with is that they didn't even know they had a choice to drop the stories. "They say 'This is how we live, this is how we've been taught,'" said Otto. "(After the seminars) They will say: 'I didn't even know I had a choice to take back my own thoughts, own my own voice, shine my own light.'"

Otto recently launched the Cas-

sandra's Angel Initiative to engage, educate and empower American girls, who in turn, will empower others.

"The message is either you are the story or you are the light. And every moment we get to choose: are we the story or are we the light?" said Otto. "And when we find that light, we light up the whole world."

Myers said she didn't know what result to expect from the event. "I thought maybe a few girls would be impacted," she said. "But the reality was that every woman and girl in the room was impacted. I could not have asked for better results."

Myers will attend UC Berkeley next year and plans to major in Media Studies. She hopes to continue her efforts to empower women through her studies and her major. "I find the media fascinating as it is a huge part of everyone's lives," she said. "Unfortunately, the media doesn't always have the most positive impact on girls so I hope with my work I can change that."

2011 Miramonte High School Community Service Award Ceremony

Submitted by Eloise Schneider



Photo provided

On Thursday, May 26, Miramonte High School recognized 86 students from all grade levels who went above and beyond to serve their community in many different ways. Each year the number of students who are active in community service grows. This was a record-breaking year with 20+ students more than last year receiving awards. Students were presented the President's Volunteer Service Award for volunteering 100+ hours in a 12 month period. Students under the age of 15 received the award

for volunteering 50+ hours. The Miramonte High School Volunteer Service Award was presented to students who qualified for the Governor & First Lady's Award (that program was recently canceled by our Governor.) The Community Service Award Program is coordinated by Eloise Schneider, College & Career Advisor. Principal Adam Clark assisted with the presentation of awards. The Miramonte Parents Club provided refreshments.

TEEN SCENE

Teens Give Thumbs Up for Rheem Dances

By Arianna Tong



DJ's Voni and Crank on the billboard

Photo courtesy Julian Edwards

Every month hundreds of teens gather at Moraga's New Rheem Theater to attend the recently established Rheem Dances. The celebrity DJ's who conceived of and produce these events are Voni and Crank who have a dedicated following in the San Francisco Bay Area. "We traveled to Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Monica, and Hollywood, but no matter where we went, this area is our favorite," Crank explains.

Although the dances attract teens from all over the bay area, the majority of the attendees are from Lamorinda. Orinda's Ryan Childers loves the Rheem Dances: "These dances are the best thing that happened to Lamorinda. I like how the DJ's pump energy into the crowd and bring the party to life." Aaron Sisneros agrees, "The dances are awesome. 'Freak Show' was a lot of fun. I like to dance."

Rumors have circulated about drug and alcohol usage at these popular venues, but the DJ's firmly state their zero tolerance policy; security is tight. "Instead of kids going out to an unsafe party with tons of drugs and alcohol, we want to provide a safe environment where kids are monitored by professional adult security for their personal safety. They can have fun dancing and socializing. It'd be easy for us to offer eighteen and older events only, but we want to give back to the community by providing these dances for the teens," Crank says proudly.

From the teen perspective, these dances are an excellent way to spend a Friday or Saturday night getting together, meeting new people, and

of course, dancing. "I think the dances are a lot of fun. The music is great," comments high school student Jazmine Derouen.

The Rheem Dances are theme-based with subjects like Jungle Fever, Blast from the Past and Cinco de Mayo, giving teenagers an oppor-



A young crowd gathers for a dance

Photo courtesy Julian Edwards

tunity to dress up and express their creativity.

The next dance party Voni and Crank have scheduled is called Summer Bash 2011, which will be held on Saturday, June 18th. Mark your calendars, tell your friends, and grab your dancing shoes, as this will be a party you won't want to miss!

Arianna Tong is a freshman at Miramonte High School. She likes to swim, play water polo and dance.



Arianna Tong Photo provided

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Rhea Abahazy Photo provided

When two strangers move together, there is a lot of thinking and organizing that needs to take place to harmonize two previously different ways of life. As a newlywed, Rhea Abahazy has

hands-on experience with this transition.

Abahazy also has a knack for organizing, along with training as an interior designer and an entrepreneurial drive. When she moved to Lafayette a year ago with her new husband, she decided to launch her own business, Chaos Tamer, a service that provides professional organization and interior design for home and offices.

"I have always been organized, but it is something that can also be learned," says Abahazy, "It is part of the profession: adapt organization principles to each person, and decide, with them, what items really enhance their lives and which ones are holding them back and need to be let go."

Abahazy studied interior design at the Art Institute in San Francisco. She worked as an interior designer for an architectural firm in Oakland for many years before deciding to combine that experience with her natural talent for planning and organizing. "I have an inherent interest in how people dwell in the spaces they inhabit," she says.

Abahazy does not work with real hoarders who, she believes, need special attention. Her clients are normal people caught in the spiral of busy lives, who are sometimes dealing with emotional attachments to things when they downsize or become empty-nesters. "The amount of time (it takes to get organized) will depend on how decisive people are when it comes to parting from things," she says.

Roos Pal Brings Her Indian Cooking to Farmers' Market

The Owner of Terzetto Cuisine in Moraga is embarking in a new culinary adventure. Every Sunday morning she can be found at the Moraga farmers' market selling the Indian recipes she prepared the night before. Pal offers authentic chicken or vegetable entrees, to be taken home for a real Indian dinner, or warm samosas to be eaten on the spot.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

5 Moraga Way, Orinda (925) 253-4600

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage announced that John Caronna has joined the company as a sales associate in its Orinda office. Prior to joining Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Caronna worked for the past 12 years as a real estate investor specializing in small to mid-size apartment buildings in addition to owning and managing investment properties locally. Caronna has been on the board of the Educational Foundation of Orinda for the past eight years. He may be reached directly at (925) 253-4648 or by e-mail to John.Caronna@camoves.com.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

- Monthly Mixer, June 8, 5:30-7 pm at The Stratford at Countrywood, 1545 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.
- Ribbon Cutting at East West Kung Fu, June 9, 5-6 pm at 3684 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

- Shop Lafayette Committee Meeting, June 14, noon-1 pm in the Lafayette Chamber Conference Room.

- Free workshop entitled, "Why Blog — and How to Leverage Social Media to Find More Readers," June 15, 8-9:30 am in the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Sitting is limited — reserve your seat at workshops@lafayettechamber.org.

- Entrepreneur's Club, June 16, 8:30-9:30 am in the Lafayette Chamber Conference Room.

- Movies in the Park sponsored by the City of Lafayette & the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce: June 16th, How to Train Your Dragon (rated PG), Plaza Park, 8 pm.

Moraga

Chamber Mixer, Tuesday, June 28, 6-8 pm, 455 Moraga Road Ste. F, Moraga. Sponsored by 5A Rent A Space and Neighborhood Computers.

Orinda

Business Neighborhood Watch (see sidebar page A6): Tuesday, June 28, 8:00 am at Table 24 Restaurant, 2 Theatre Square #153, Orinda. This meeting will continue discussion about the creation of a business neighborhood watch program. The Orinda Police Department will work collaboratively with the business community to create a downtown program to promote awareness and discourage crime targeted at Orinda businesses. All are invited to attend and provide input as we build a program designed to effectively mitigate crime in our downtown.

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Cardboard, Boxes, packages	Magazines	Buckets without handles	Envelopes (plastic windows OK)	Bottles	Tub containers (yogurt, cottage cheese, margarine, #1-#7)
Carbonless paper	Manila folders	Gift wrap (non-metallic)	Shredded paper (in a paper bag)	Water jugs	Plastic (Containers only; empty; rinsed; with chasing arrows #1-5 & 7; lids, caps OK)
Paper towel & toilet paper	Tubes	Telephone books	Household cleaning containers (empty)	Metal	...
Newspapers and inserts	Jars	Detergent bottles	Shampoo & conditioner bottles	Cookie sheets	...
Salad dressing bottles (rinsed)	Post-its	Baby wipe containers	Glass (Rinsed; all colors; lids, caps OK)	Pet food bags	...
Aluminum foil (clean)	Office paper	Envelopes with metal clasps	Food cans (clean)	Bleach bottles	...
Aluminum pie plates	Paper bags	CRV beverage containers	Detergent boxes	Aluminum cans	...
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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 7 Wednesday, June 8, 2011



The Cutting Edge of Water Use and Reuse

One Lafayette homeowner is a leader in Contra Costa County

By Sophie Braccini



Gwenn Lennox shows the entrance to the gray-water collection tank.

Photo Sophie Braccini

When John and Gwenn Lennox decided to rebuild their home in Lafayette, they knew they wanted it

to be energy efficient, to incorporate sustainable materials and have a drought resistant landscape—but they

never imagined they would end up with home in which they used rain water to wash the laundry and gray-

water to keep their lawn green.

Architect Greg Faulkner came up with the idea; contractor Tom Alderson contacted Brent Bucknum, owner of Hyphae Design Laboratory, who conceived a \$30,000 self-sustaining system that's one of a kind in Contra Costa County.

"The system we set in place is two-fold," explains Gwenn Lennox, sipping tea at her matte red granite counter. "Downspouts collect rain water that drips along the butterfly shaped roof; that water falls in sand boxes that filter it and prevent leaves and other debris from getting into the storage. The rainwater is stored in two 1,700 gallons containers that have been buried under the patio. A pump sends the water back into the house to be used for the laundry, for sinks in the garage and the laundry room, and for our water fountain. The second part is the gray-water recycling."

Gray-water recycling is the more unusual component of a household system. Use of gray-water has become very common in dry states, especially for golf courses and large expanses of landscape. The same principles are applied here, but on a much smaller scale.

... continued on page D4

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	10	\$687,000	\$1,600,000
MORAGA	16	\$97,500	\$1,410,000
ORINDA	15	\$675,000	\$1,745,000

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

3308 Berta Lane, \$975,000, 4 Bdrms, 2090 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-13-11; Previous Sale: \$946,000, 04-20-10
 3454 Black Hawk Road, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1924 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 5-3-11
 3684 Happy Valley Road, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 3289 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-17-11
 3330 Helen Lane, \$735,000, 4 Bdrms, 2226 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 5-5-11; Previous Sale: \$300,000, 11-21-96
 1038 Lindsey Court, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2469 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 5-3-11
 3450 Little Lane, \$1,182,000, 3 Bdrms, 2861 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 5-3-11; Previous Sale: \$1,215,000, 12-19-06
 3591 Powell Drive, \$1,470,000, 4 Bdrms, 2384 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 5-5-11
 3958 Rancho Road, \$1,286,500, 4 Bdrms, 3051 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 5-10-11; Previous Sale: \$630,000, 02-09-93
 968 Stow Lane, \$920,000, 4 Bdrms, 3843 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 5-17-11
 3354 Sweet Drive, \$687,000, 3 Bdrms, 1535 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 5-11-11

MORAGA

2129 Ascot Drive #19, \$97,500, 1 Bdrms, 432 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 5-5-11; Previous Sale: \$239,000, 05-18-05
 70 Ashbrook Place, \$720,000, 4 Bdrms, 2030 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 5-17-11; Previous Sale: \$225,000, 01-04-00
 565 Augusta Drive, \$790,000, 4 Bdrms, 2945 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 5-13-11
 609 Augusta Drive, \$738,000, 2 Bdrms, 1810 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 5-13-11
 166 Cypress Point Way, \$615,000, 2 Bdrms, 1444 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-17-11
 100 Devin Drive, \$1,410,000, 4 Bdrms, 4273 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 5-13-11; Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 10-16-02
 475 Kingsford Drive, \$880,000, 3 Bdrms, 2240 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 5-13-11; Previous Sale: \$1,120,000, 11-14-06
 188 Miramonte Drive, \$415,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 5-10-11
 120 Miramonte Drive, \$472,000, 2 Bdrms, 1772 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 5-6-11; Previous Sale: \$235,000, 03-31-98
 151 Natalie Drive, \$810,000, 4 Bdrms, 1976 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 5-12-11; Previous Sale: \$127,000, 12-20-77
 228 Rheem Boulevard, \$550,000, 3 Bdrms, 1517 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-6-11
 61 Sanders Ranch Rd., \$1,335,000, 4 Bdrms, 3522 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 5-13-11; Previous Sale: \$790,000, 05-02-95
 1866 School Street, \$795,000, 4 Bdrms, 2055 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 5-5-11
 4 Sparrow Court, \$768,500, 4 Bdrms, 1776 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 5-10-11; Previous Sale: \$562,000, 08-22-00
 1707 St. Andrews Drive, \$640,000, 2 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-13-11; Previous Sale: \$534,000, 07-03-02
 2 Wingfoot Street, \$961,000, 3 Bdrms, 2957 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 5-3-11; Previous Sale: \$630,000, 10-02-92

ORINDA

106 Coral Drive, \$675,000, 3 Bdrms, 1512 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 5-4-11; Previous Sale: \$46,500, 06-22-73
 19 Donald Drive, \$1,335,000, 3 Bdrms, 3294 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 5-16-11; Previous Sale: \$425,000, 06-28-85
 108 La Espiral, \$975,000, 3 Bdrms, 3135 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 5-5-11; Previous Sale: \$863,000, 08-02-02
 19 Hilldale Court, \$1,745,000, 5 Bdrms, 3552 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 5-11-11; Previous Sale: \$2,100,000, 09-06-06
 5 Kenmore Court, \$940,000, 4 Bdrms, 2499 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-12-11; Previous Sale: \$641,000, 11-19-99
 18 Lavenida Drive, \$726,000, 4 Bdrms, 1754 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 5-11-11; Previous Sale: \$36,000, 08-07-70
 26 Longridge Road, \$715,000, 6 Bdrms, 1416 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-17-11; Previous Sale: \$810,000, 10-20-08
 121 Lombardy Lane, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2880 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-5-11; Previous Sale: \$534,000, 12-31-97
 649 Miner Road, \$820,000, 4 Bdrms, 3114 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 5-6-11; Previous Sale: \$525,000, 08-08-97
 37 Oak Road, \$1,447,500, 5 Bdrms, 4672 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 5-3-11; Previous Sale: \$770,000, 01-22-97
 164 Ravenhill Road, \$972,500, 3 Bdrms, 2150 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 5-11-11; Previous Sale: \$992,000, 02-28-06
 48 Rheem Boulevard, \$950,000, 4 Bdrms, 2668 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 5-17-11
 515 Tahos Road, \$1,211,500, 5 Bdrms, 4120 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 5-2-11; Previous Sale: \$886,500, 05-24-95
 15 Van Ripper Lane, \$995,000, 8 Bdrms, 2328 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-9-11
 41 Vista Del Mar, \$1,065,000, 5 Bdrms, 3245 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-4-11

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

MORAGA

2133 Donald Drive #9, 94556, ING Bank, 04-26-11, \$223,906, 1224 sf, 2 bd



15 Candlelight Lane Lafayette

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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.

The numbers published in our last issue, 5-25-11 were incorrect. Please see revised numbers below.

March 2011	Tons Recycled	% change	Tons Landfill	% change	% Recycled
Lafayette	691	+16	455	+12	60
Moraga	428	+16	295	+25	59
Orinda	579	+16	369	+15	61

April 2011	Tons Recycled	% change	Tons Landfill	% change	% Recycled
Lafayette	785	+13	456	+/-	63
Moraga	486	+13	245	-17	66
Orinda	658	+13	333	-10	66

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6 La Quinta, Moraga CC

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The Cutting Edge of Water Use and Reuse

... continued from page D1



Downspouts direct water to sand basin

The operating mode mimics natural wetlands that purify water by acting like a sponge, and extracting contaminants and nutrients through their extensive root mass. "The system is designed to divert, filter, store and dis-

perse the household gray-water to the drip irrigation system," explains Bucknum, "the Lennox' can divert the gray-water to sewer (when they use harsh chemicals for cleaning), or to the in-house treatment system."

Photos Sophie Braccini

Bucknum created a mini wetland expanse on the side of the house that looks like a pretty, ornamental garden. Gray-water that's water collected from the bathroom showers and sinks, as well as from the laundry room, is reused to water the lawn and many plants (but not the vegetable garden). Designing such a system required building a double plumbing system to separate the collection of recycled and non-recycled waters.

Although the process is well known internationally and has been in use all over the world, it was a first for the Lafayette Planning Department and Contra Costa Building Inspectors. "The City of Lafayette really helped us in the process," said Lennox, "they were willing to listen and facilitate."

"Water is a resource that we need to conserve and we loved the concept," said Lafayette City Planner Greg Wolf, "the Contra Costa Building Department looked at the intent of the rules and kept the big picture in mind. It was a learning process for us all." The planner hopes to see more of such systems in the future coming for approval in Lafayette, "These are becoming more common practices," said Wolf, "they just are not main-stream, yet."



Purple drip lines containing gray-water irrigate the lawn.



Access to the rainwater containers under the patio



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4 Dolores Court
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Absolutely stunning pano views of Mt. Diablo, hills & Carquinez straits. Custom bilt by owner in 2006 w/mstr suite, LR, DR, FR, kit on main lvl, 3 bds & 2nd fam rm on lower lvl. Many custom features.
Offered at \$1,798,000



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



3030 Walnut Blvd.
Walnut Heights 3bd/2ba mid-century rancher on .40 acre lot w/pool! Needs updating & work but good potential w/room to add on. Hardwood floors in most rooms.
Offered at \$569,000

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