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Young Soldier Welcomed Home from Afghanistan

By Cathy Tyson Photo Doug Kohen



With over twenty flag-festooned motorcycles driven by Warriors' Watch Riders honking horns, dolled up cars and trucks, and a very shiny tricked-out blue corvette carrying the guest of honor – it was hard to miss the Welcome Home

Celebration for HM3 Corpsman David Polse on a recent Friday evening. Patrons at Chow restaurant were as surprised as Polse when this colorful parade came to escort him to the surprise gala at his home.

Master of Ceremonies and Diablo Valley Flag Brigade Co-Founder Bryan Welden greeted everyone, "They make sacrifices so we can enjoy a free America. We're here to honor our military upon their return." ... continued on page A8

Quote of the Week:
 "June 28, it was raining in the master bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, dining room and family room."
Read Letters to the Editor, page A10

Advertising

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Valerie Durantini

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Town News	A2 - A9
Letters to the Editor	A10
Sports	B1-B4
Schools	B5
Shop Orinda	B6
Life in Lamorinda	C1-C10
HOW TO CONTACT US	C2
Service Directory	C4
Not to be Missed	C8
Food	C9
Classified	C9
Our Homes	D1-D12
This Week Read About:	
Fix Our Roads	A2
Historical Hacienda Photos	A5
Revised Senior Housing Plan	A6
Bottoms Up!	B4
The Verona Project	C1
Jazz for Joplin	C2
Police Cadet Program	C3
Parents, Teens, and Alcohol	C5
Summer Food Fun	C9



Photo Doug Kohen

The Spirit of Competition Alive at 45th Annual Lafayette City Meet ...read on page B1

Orinda Property Tax Revenues Down 3%

By Andrea A. Firth
 After wrestling to balance the City's budget in June, the Orinda City Council will have to find \$94,000 to close a newly discovered revenue shortfall due to a less than optimistic property tax report from the County Assessor's office. Current property tax revenues, which are based on taxes collected in the 2010 calendar year (reported property tax runs about 18 months in arrears), are down 3% as compared to 2009. ... continued on page A6

Sports/Schools B1-B6

Value by Design: Understanding the Artistic Student



By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD
 What educational direction to take is ultimately a personal decision based on an individual's interests, strengths and needs. A Bachelor in Fine Arts (BFA) may be well worth the time and investment if it adds a firm foundation of skills to talent you already possess and... read on page B5

Life in Lamorinda C1-C10

Local Authors Fill Shelves at Orinda Books



Lamorinda is home to a wide variety of talented authors. Whether you're shopping for a children's book, or in the mood for an entertaining summer romance or something to enlighten and educate, there is probably a tome penned by a local author that's just what you're looking for. ... read on page C1

Our Homes D1-D12

Gathering 'Round the Railroad



By Diana LaScala-Gruenewald
 Under a flowering and tree lined hummock, a lumberjack loads up the bed of his truck. A moose, stock still near a curtain of waterfall, regards a downstream fisherman whose knees are deep in a glassy pool. read on page D1



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Lafayette

Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, July 25, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Monday, August 1, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, July 25, 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

Whooooo...are you? 07/02/11
A guy walks into a bank...and ends up walking into Lafayette P.D. When he tried to open his first account at Bank of America, an employee told him that an account already existed under his social security number. Uh oh... That wasn't his doing. He also learned of an overdrawn Wells Fargo account using the very same social security number.

Busted at the Bus Stop, 07/01/11
A female suspect, blonde hair and blue eyes, was arrested for being drunk in public. Make that blonde hair and bloodshot eyes. She had, among other things, slurred speech and watery eyes. A background check showed the suspect was on court probation with a "consume no alcohol" clause. The police officer, not playing Santa to her clause, reined her in and jailed her.

No Grass Grows under this Good Samaritan's Feet, 06/30/11
A gardening truck was involved in a hit and run on Sweet Drive. A witness dug up the truck's license, and the driver and suspect vehicle were later weeded out. He was cited and released on misdemeanor hit and run.

The Pocket and the Book, 06/27/11
Maybe he just forgot his reusable grocery bags, but a 36 year old male was caught putting store items into his jacket pockets at the Lafayette Safeway. He admitted he had no way to pay, so police arrested him and booked him into Martinez Detention Facility.

You Auto Know Better, 06/27/11
Someone shattered the front window on a vehicle parked in a Mt. Diablo Blvd. parking lot, causing \$300 damage and stealing a black backpack. The backpack was later returned to the victim, contents intact. Unfortunately, that still leaves the broken window expenses. No eye witnesses, but there were security cameras.

Bid Problems for Streetscape Project

By Cathy Tyson

Although bids for a project that would upgrade sidewalks opened on June 22 – the project has been bumped back to the fall after staff analyzed bid proposals. Engineering Services Manager Tony Coe recommended to the City Council to reject all of the bids received thus far and to start the process all over again in the fall anticipating lower job costs and finding a contractor that meets federal minority- owned business participation goals.

Originally \$350,000 was earmarked from the Downtown Streetlight Replacement Reserve to fix up the south side of Mt. Diablo Boulevard from the Round-Up Saloon to Bank of the West. City staff applied

for and received a federal grant under the Transportation for Livable Community (TLC) Program for \$1,290,000, enabling a substantial expansion of the project.

This allows dollars from city coffers to be leveraged, making the project significantly more affordable. While garnering federal funds definitely helps the bottom line, there are a number of very specific strings attached.

At issue are complicated requirements calling for participation of "underutilized disadvantaged business enterprises" (UDBEs). Caltrans dictates that bids must meet UDBE goals or "include evidence that a good faith effort has been made to meet such goals," according to a re-

cent staff report.

Unfortunately the lowest submitted bid, by Elite Landscaping, didn't meet the UDBE goal. The good news is that waiting to bid the job won't jeopardize federal funds – if a winning bid for the construction project is finalized by November.

"It's an awkward system – CalTrans and the Federal government are trying to make it fair," said Associate Engineer Matt Luttrupp. He added, "What would you do for a million dollars?" He explained that while it's possible that a general contractor is minority-owned, what usually happens is some of the subcontracting work is allocated to UDBE businesses – anything from trucking to

material suppliers.

According to the California Office of Business and Economic Opportunity, the UDBE program provides a vehicle for increasing the participation of disadvantaged businesses. The program seeks to ensure that small UDBE firms can compete fairly for federally funded transportation-related projects – essentially leveling the playing field. The disadvantaged enterprise must be a for-profit small business that is at least fifty-one percent owned by one or more individuals who are both socially and economically disadvantaged – those groups include women, African Americans, Native Americans, and Asian Pacific Americans.

"Fix Our Roads" One Step Closer

By Cathy Tyson

At just four hundred signatures short, with two weeks until the deadline, it looks a proposed \$89 flat tax may make it onto the November ballot. City Council members at the July 11 meeting were pleased that despite some unusual weather, campaign volunteers who had gone door to door and spent time in front of Diablo Foods were able to collect 1,200 signatures in support of this road repair tax.

The matter will be heard again at the July 25 City Council meeting where organizers hope to present 1,600 valid signatures to place a measure initiated entirely by citizens on the ballot. In addition to the \$89 per year for a period of ten years, the City Council intends to contribute \$3 million dollars of reserve funds toward the project.

"Although there has been very lit-

tle negative response it's difficult to find people who want to walk through their neighborhoods and collect signatures," said Guy Atwood, Co-Chair of the Fix Our Roads Campaign.

"I've watched the streets of Lafayette deteriorate since 1966," said Anthony Unger, who lives in the Burton Valley neighborhood. He collected thirty signatures and reports that only one person said no.

Look for a City Council vote to place the measure on the ballot at their July 25 meeting at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. With no organized opposition to date and endorsements from the Lafayette Taxpayers Association, the Lafayette Homeowners Council, Chamber of Commerce and the Acalanes Valley Homeowners Association – the future looks encouraging – at least so far.

As Seen in Lafayette...



Family paddle boat fun at the Lafayette Reservoir on a sunny Sunday. Mark Manuel, along with kids Christopher and Tess and Mark's mom, Jerilyn Tolentino, circled the whole reservoir in their trusty water chariot. "It's a great workout," said Mark. Little Christopher was happy to chime in that he liked the boat. They came from Pittsburgh for a family get together.
C. Tyson

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New Children's Librarian at Lafayette Library and Learning Center

By Cathy Tyson



Jenna Skinner and her special friend Buck Buck in the Children's section of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Photo Cathy Tyson

“Being a children's librarian is the best job in the world, and I want them (young patrons) to know how much I love being here!” said new Youth Services Librarian Jenna Skinner. Before moving on to details of her new job, I have to meet Buck Buck, “she’s my ambassador,” the well behaved and non-threatening chicken helps little ones feel more comfortable during story time.

With a gentle manner, resemblance to Snow White, and a pitch perfect “inside” voice Skinner is the newest addition to the Lafayette Library and Learning Center staff. She replaces popular kids’ librarian Miss Donna who retired after sixteen years with the County Library system.

“We feel so fortunate to have Jenna join our library team, especially on the heels of the fabulous Miss Donna,” said Susan Weaver, Senior Community Library Manager. “Jenna is so creative, knowledgeable and passionate about reading and children, that even in the short time she’s been with us, she’s brought so much to our story times and programs.”

Skinner is impressed with the enthusiasm of kids for their summer reading program, “They come and report their progress to us, and tell us that they’ve set additional goals for themselves such as finishing early or reading beyond the requirements. Things like that make my day. Our readers have a lot to be proud of!”

Another big part of the job is story time, “My favorite time of the day, I try to make it age appropriate and have a theme – recently it was three different books about animals.”

Back to back story times, on Mondays and Thursdays, accommodate an ever growing group of participants, keeping her plenty busy. In

addition to stories read aloud, there are songs and fingerplays. Mother Goose story time is geared toward kids up to three years old, sessions are held at 10:15 and 10:55. Preschool story time follows Mother Goose at 11:30. For this group, “Miss Jenna” focuses on kindergarten readiness – things like raising your hand and counting.

From her early childhood days in southern California, Skinner has always been a big fan of the library, “My parents are huge readers.” Both of them are teachers – her father is a college professor and her mother teaches middle school.

For the past dozen years she’s lived in northern California, getting her Bachelor’s degree from San Francisco State and a Master’s in Library Science from San Jose State University. The specialized SJSU program focuses on developing early literacy skills like narration, vocabulary and sound recognition; “It’s all about preparing the kids to read,” said Skinner.

Although she just started at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center in mid-June, she’s already getting to know quite a few of the regular pint-sized patrons. Prior to this position, she was the Youth Services Librarian in Oakley.

A new book club for tweens – fourth through sixth graders – is on the drawing board, and Skinner is hoping to expand story times to include family members. The Lafayette Library and Learning Center has so much to offer toddlers to grown-ups, starting with air conditioning and a food-friendly policy (check out the convenient Book Mark Café next door), even an adult summer reading program with prizes, what’s not to like?

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Moraga

Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, August 24, 7:00 pm
(no meeting on July 27 and August 10)

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, July 18, 7:30 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, July 11, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Liaison

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

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Police Report

Police Report will be back next time



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Produce Produced

New retailer coming to Rheem Center

By Sophie Braccini



Dave Schnayer at the storefront of what will become a produce market

Photo Sophie Braccini

Now you see it, now you don't—a proposed new produce market in Moraga's Rheem Center has been an on-again, off-again saga but the deal is now done; the Martinez Family Produce Market has a lease agreement with property owner Kimco Realty, and is targeted to open at the end of the year after some re-

modeling work and the receipt of county permits.

"Kimco was very supportive and gave (the Martinez family) very good conditions," said com-

mercial real estate broker Dave Schnayer, "they see this store as a right type of use and complementary to what exists already in the Center." The store will occupy about 5000 square feet of retail space between the Moraga Art Gallery and Pho Little Hearty Noodle. This store will be the 4th produce market owned by the Martinez family; their stores also sell bread, dairy products, and bulk grains.

The Martinez's Walnut Creek store does not sell organic produce. The owners could not be reached for an interview, but Schnayer indicated that because they are a family-owned company they will work to meet the needs of the community.

The good news for the Rheem Center does not stop there. The Town approved an application for a new Indian restaurant that will be located next to TJ Maxx; negotiations are still underway with Kimco. A frozen yoghurt shop has also been proposed.

Town Muffles the Sound of Music

By Sophie Braccini

A recent court decision served to inform the Town of Moraga that it could not exempt itself from its own sound ordinance. Town Manager Jill Keimach indicated that the exemption was being rescinded from the ordinance, "The Town is subject to the same regulation as everyone else," she said, "we are testing the noise at every concert, mitigating the impacts of the sound, and will make sure that the concerts stay in the park, while its neighbors are satisfied."

Lew Edwards has spoken at different public meetings to complain about the noise made by the concert. "I live less than 1000 feet away from the Commons Park where the concerts are held every Thursday night in summer," says the outspoken gentleman, "I remember two years ago when the concerts played at night, it was so loud that I couldn't play my own music. When it started, it could literally blow me out of my chair. This year, during the Fourth of July

evening concert, my wife asked me 'aren't they going to have music this year?'" So the couple came down to the park to hear the music and see the fireworks.

"We have worked with a sound specialist to make sure that the music can be heard loud and clear in the park, but stays there," says Jay Ingram, Parks and Recreation Director. Five sound absorbing, 7x4 foot panels have been fixed to the ceiling over the musicians; a heavy curtain now hangs

behind the performers; speakers are set no more than 105 inches from the ground and are angled so the sound goes toward the hill, not the sky; one of the two subwoofers (the loudspeaker that produces very low bass frequencies, the 'thump-thump' deep vibration) was removed and the other one is set in front of the stage, on the grass. Ingram adds that a sound technician is hired to monitor the sound throughout the summer. "We can still hear when the concerts are playing,"

says Edwards, "but it is not a problem anymore."

The Moraga resident is still concerned about private parties, but the Town seems determined to be perceived as a good neighbor. "We can rent the park once a month for private celebrations," responds Ingram, "but the organizers have to abide by the same sound standard we do, and we need a document submitted by their sound professional in order to approve the rental."

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Historical Society Tells Hacienda's Story with Pictures

By Sophie Braccini



Parks and Recreation staff Kimberley Nelson and Jay Ingram with antique pictures of the Hacienda

Photo Sophie Braccini

Even in a town as young as Moraga, there are historical stories to be told. The Hacienda de las Flores is one of the places where history meets romance and the past can come to life.

The Hacienda was built in 1929 by Donald Rheem, son of the president of Standard Oil Company of California. When the Town purchased the Hacienda in 1973, for \$343,750, it came with archives – including a pictorial history of the land and the building going back to 1857, when Jesse Hall William bought the 160-acre lot from Jose de Jesus Mor-

aga. “The pictures were hanging in the hall of the Hacienda, but they were not framed properly and there was no explanation (of what the pictures depicted),” says Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram, who turned to the Moraga Historical Society for help.

“We decided to frame the pictures and do the research for the plaques that explain the history of the property,” says Historical Society Recording Secretary Susan Sperry, “Historical Society co-archivist Margaret DePriester had records from when the Town bought the Hacienda,

and she had written a history of the property at the time.”

The pictures are mounted in six groups of a few pictures each and the plaques below tell the story. They are hung on a wall in the main corridor of the Hacienda de las Flores, which is located at 2100 Donald Drive in Moraga. The images tell of hard working pioneers as well as elegant parties in the mansion of an oil magnate. The display is open to the public.

For information about the Moraga Historical Society go to: <http://www.moragahistory.org/>.

Balancing Act for a Chamber

By Sophie Braccini

It can be tricky to occupy the hot seat of local government—needing to make sound financial decisions yet ensure that the electorate understands the motivation and consistency behind each vote. At its last meeting, the Moraga Town Council wrestled with that problem as it decided in a 4 to 1 vote to pursue the study, and later construction, of a 105-seat meeting room in the Town’s office building at 329 Rheem Boulevard. The Council wondered if the added expense would be understood by voters who will soon be asked to contribute more

money to road and drain maintenance. “It’s about perception,” said Council Member Dave Trotter, the dissenting vote.

Council Member Ken Chew, in a discussion about municipal finance mechanisms, noted, “That money could not be used for roads anyway.”

“What happens is that when developers pay a town fee per housing unit built, a portion of that money has to be used for Town capital improvement,” explained Vice Mayor Mike Metcalf after the meeting, “it cannot be used for roads or drains. Conse-

quently, if the money is not spent for that type of use, it is lost.”

The project is considered cost-effective at this time, since remodeling and retrofit activities are getting underway at the building; the addition of the large room, which could function as a Council Chamber and site for other community meetings, would add about \$200,000 to the overall cost that is estimated at roughly \$1.5 million.

The Town currently rents meeting space for the Council at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School.



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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, August 2, 7:00 pm Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Historical Landmarks Committee

Tuesday, July 26 at 3:00 PM Gallery Room, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, July 26, at 7:00 p.m. Orinda Library, Garden Room 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



Police Report

Police Report will be back next time

Orinda Property Tax Revenues Down 3%

... continued from page A1

This equates to about \$150,000 in lost revenue to the City.

The City's current budget was based on a projection of flat property tax growth, says City Manger Janet Keeter. "Based on earlier communications with the Assessor's office and tracking trends, we felt that we were being conservative." At this point she does not have a complete explanation for why Orinda's property tax

revenue is down more than neighboring Lafayette, which is down .7%, and Moraga, which is up .5%

"The negative 3% is not totally indicative of what is going on with real estate in Orinda," says County Assessor Gus Kramer. The drop reflects the change in assessed value in new construction, with change of ownership, or temporary reduc-

tions, he explains. "I believe Orinda's real estate market is healthy, probably one of the healthiest in the county," Kramer adds.

Asked about property values going forward, Kramer says assessed values may go down "a little bit more within one or two years" based on the market's history of a double dip at the bottom and a double bump at the top. He

feels that a subsequent decline could fall in the range of 1% to 2%.

On a positive budget note, the City will re-acquire a \$100,000 police services grant, says Keeter. She acknowledges this is offset, in part, by a \$45,000 hit on the reimbursement of vehicle license fees due to changes coming from the State. The net-net is \$94,000 hole in the City budget.

As Seen in Orinda...



A magician works her magic in Theater Square just outside the Republic of Cake last week. ROC is hosting a fun activity for kids and parents every Wednesday at 3 p.m. throughout the summer months. Photo A. Scheck

Eden Presents Revised Senior Housing Plans to Orinda Community

By Diana LaScala-Gruenewald

Last week, Eden Housing Project Developer Woody Karp and two architects met with the Orinda community to present revised drawings for the affordable senior housing

development to be built at 2 Irwin Way. The plans to provide affordable housing in Orinda to low-income seniors have been in motion fifteen years; Eden Housing was hired in 2008 to

create conceptual drawings of the project. Eden's original drawings met with criticism last summer when story poles were erected at the site. Orinda residents felt that the projected height

of the new building would dominate the Orinda Community Church and other local landmarks. Since that time Eden has revisited the drawing boards and returned with revised plans. New story poles are already in place.

What's New?

According to Karp, the redesign did not substantially alter the substance of the original plans. Instead, it "dramatically changed the look and the feel of the building as you can see it from Orinda Way, from Irwin Way and from the Community Park." The original design included seventy-one, one-bedroom units for seniors as well as a community room, a library, an exercise room and laundry rooms. Renderings of the building revealed that the three stories would tower over other local buildings, reaching a maximum height of fifty feet. Additionally, many Orinda residents agreed that the proposed slanted rooftops were overly flamboyant compared to most of the city's architecture.

The primary goal of the redesign was to reduce the overwhelming visual dominance of the proposed senior housing facility. To accomplish this, lead architect John Thatch and his colleague Sean Reynolds decided to push the building forty feet back from the curb. In addition, they were able to decrease the height of the building to about forty feet (the projected maximum height is forty-one feet) by including a roof that steps up as it gets farther from the curb. The building now incorporates only sixty-six living units, but blends unobtrusively with the tree line from all angles. Finally, the slanted rooftops were redesigned to be more subtle.

The plans still include construction of a parking lot for the living center, a new sidewalk on Irwin way and handicap-accessible pathways from the new housing development to Orinda Way and the community park.

... continued on page A9

Advertising

Ask Jeff

STAYING AHEAD OF TROUBLE



Jeff Joyce

With these tough economic times, motorists are choosing to postpone services that need done on their vehicles. Although cars of today offer longer service intervals already, pushing the limits beyond what is recommended may actually prove to be more costly. Be sure to follow manufacture's service intervals, check fluids regularly and remember to check your tire pressures monthly; at the first sign of trouble, contact your trusted local service facility before the concern becomes a serious breakdown.

Dear Jeff: My car has a timing belt that has never been changed. My car is still running fine and has 80,000 miles, but I'm not sure if my car really needs a new timing belt or not. I just don't want to spend the money if I don't have to. What's your advice? Signed, Mary from Orinda

Dear Mary,

First, your car may not be ready for the timing belt service yet. Many autos are scheduled for over 100,000 mile timing belt replacement intervals. However, timing belts are not something you want to gamble with. They are a vital component to your engines survival. If the timing belt were to fail, many cars will require a much more significant repair if/when valve train damage occurs. Always follow the manufacture's recommendations regarding timing belt service and if you're not sure, contact a trustworthy service provider for proper advice. Then you'll be able to make a sound decision and to continue driving without any uncertainty.

Dear Jeff: My mechanic tells me I need new shocks and struts for my car, but how

will I really know when they're due? My car is only 5 years old, has only 72,000 miles and still runs fine. Signed, Steve from Moraga

Dear Steve:

Nobody likes to spend money if they don't have to these days, but your mechanic is giving you some sound advice. The industry experts recommend shock and strut replacement at 50,000 miles. Poor shock/strut performance can reduce braking ability as much as 23%. Handling and ride quality also can deteriorate which can lead to unsafe handling characteristics. By replacing worn shocks or struts, you'll find your vehicle will drive like it was when new.

Vehicles are built today better than ever and are capable of lasting for a quarter of a million miles. But like a human body, we must take care of it, not take advantage of it or it may let you down. If you have any questions or worries, don't hesitate to call or email me. I'm here to help.

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Rash of Burglaries in Orinda

By Lou Fancher

A rash of home burglaries in Orinda has Police Chief Jeffrey Jennings and his department asking the community to stay on the alert.

"This is a safe community but crimes of opportunity are just that. I believe in information sharing: an aware community is a safe community and with that in mind, we have tried to get the citizens of Orinda on the same page as the police department," Chief Jennings wrote in an email.

In a previous message from Detective Sergeant Neal Rafanan, sent to local agencies and the media on July 11th, residents were advised to report suspicious people and vehicles by calling the Sheriff's dispatch.

The unusually high number of daytime break-ins—44 between January and July 11th—have occurred between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Frequently, the burglars have selected unoccupied homes in more remote locations where the front doors are not visible from the street. The criminals watch residents leave their homes, or simply knock on the door of a targeted residence. If someone answers, the burglars pretend to be delivering a package to a neighbor or feign a false call for a utility inspection.

"They prefer homes without burglary systems, but are attracted to

homes with hidden driveways and big picture windows with the curtains open or blinds up so they can see in. Audible alarms will scare them off quicker than a silent alarm," the Chief reported.

Portable items are the favored items, including electronics, jewelry and coins. Although firearms are not involved, Jennings warned that these are dangerous felons and residents should not pursue them.

"A citizen followed a suspicious vehicle to the Caldecott Tunnel and did not call the police department until it was too late for us to talk to the occupants," Jennings said. "We did get some valuable information but it would have been nice to have a conversation and identify these people."

The Orinda police department requested additional officers at no additional cost based on their contract with the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff. They also altered the deployment of personnel to place more officers in the neighborhoods.

Although the crisis is not over, by working cooperatively with other local jurisdictions, the police have several leads and have submitted five sets of burglars consisting of 21 people for prosecution.

Jennings advised residents to have the police department conduct a

Burglary Prevention Audit to learn how to make their homes less attractive to thieves.

In addition to an audit, there are several immediate steps residents can take to secure their homes:

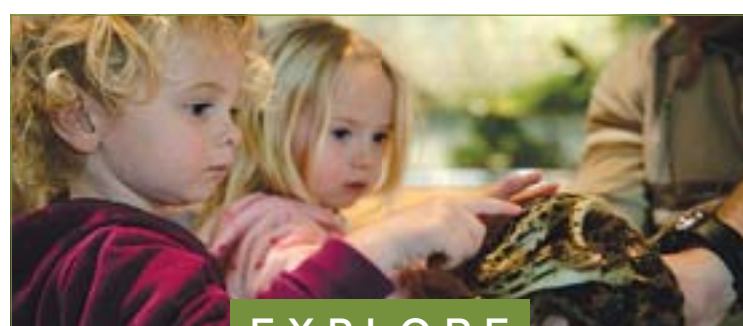
- Install deep dead bolt locks on all exterior doors
- Make sure the street address is visible from the street
- Remove shrubbery from the front of the home
- Insure that everyone with access to your home knows how to operate the alarm system properly. (There were 177 false alarms in the month of June.)

Ultimately, the greatest security may arise from knowing your neighbors. Exchange phone numbers, organize a block-watch team, consider arranging for a house-sitter during longer absences, and use caution when encountering a stranger at your door.

"With these types of crimes of opportunities we need everyone to remain vigilant and call, if something doesn't look or feel right," Jennings concluded.

Call the 24 hour dispatch at 925-284-5010 or 925-646-2441. Also, program either one of these numbers into your cell phone and use 911 on your landline.

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...from Front Page

Young Soldier Welcomed Home from Afghanistan

... continued from page A1



Friends, neighbors and family gather on Serrano Court to welcome HM3 David Polse home.

Photos Doug Kohen



David Polse being escorted home



Gathering on the driveway of the family home.



One of the many Warriors Watch Riders who came to show his support.

Patriotism was in the air as one of the many Blue Star Moms in attendance sang the Star Spangled Banner to get the party started.

Polse, a graduate of Acalanes High School, was humbled and overwhelmed. He joined the Navy after graduating from Columbia Commu-

nity College in Sonoma with a certificate in Fire Sciences. After stints at Camp Pendleton for corpsman training, and the China Lake Weapons Center, he was able to attach to the Marines Third Division in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Deployed in November 2010 to Kandahar Province in Afghanistan, his unit was assigned embedded troop training at a forward operating base with eight Marines and 30 Afghan Nationals. Rendering emergency medical treatment in a combat zone and training the Afgha-

nis with the help of an interpreter is not easy. Lafayette's mayor was out of town, but former mayor and current city council member Brandt Anderson had a special proclamation for Polse from the City honoring his service. He described Polse as modest, compassionate, accomplished and brave. Polse was recognized and thanked by a representative from the County Board of Supervisors; even BART Board Member Gail Murray's office had an envelope full of complimentary BART tickets to use while he's home. The presenter joked that, "If he can handle Afghanistan, surely he can handle local mass transit."

have their backs here at home," did double duty - meeting Polse and driving him home from the airport about a week before the surprise event. All told it was an amazing outpouring of love, support and sincere thanks from a host of groups, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Combat Veterans, American Legion and the Blue Star Moms. All had a gift as a token of their appreciation, symbolic coins and a flag from the Blue Star Moms.

In a poignant moment, a gentleman from the Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley said, "We wanted to make sure that you get the welcome home that we never did." The leather clad Warriors' Watch Riders, whose motto is "They have our backs over there, we

"Thanks you for coming out. I really appreciate it," said Polse, "It's just really good to be home." Parents Frannie and Maury Polse certainly shared that sentiment, adding that they "are so proud of him, and so happy he's home." They, along with David's grandmothers, brothers Jake and Aaron, neighbors, high school pals and a contingent of veterans filled the street and front yard to celebrate his return, safe and sound.

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Civic News Orinda

Eden Presents Revised Senior Housing Plans to Orinda Community

... continued from page A6

Lingering Concerns

While the majority of Orinda residents were pleased with the redesigned plans, some raised new concerns and ideas for improvement – one resident suggested a stop sign be installed at the intersection between Orinda Way and Irwin Way, and others were concerned about noise from community events such as summer concerts in the park. These issues may be addressed at the upcoming Planning Commission meeting.

The Eden Housing representatives also clarified several issues raised by Orinda residents. While there will be handicap-access from the new parking lot to the senior housing development, Orinda Way and Community Park, there will not be a route between Orinda Senior Village and

the new housing development. Additionally, people from Orinda will not be preferentially chosen to receive rooms in the new development; all residents must meet income requirements.

Finally, several community members expressed concern regarding Eden Housing's financial stability. Both Karp and Thatch expressed confidence in the company's stability. "[Eden Housing is] one of the strongest non-profits in the state," Karp stated. "It consistently secures the necessary funding for its projects."

Looking Forward

Eden Housing has addressed the concerns relating to the appearance of the proposed housing development at 2 Irwin Way. "They have listened from last time," said Steve Anderson, a five-year Orinda resident. "They

have responded, and I'm very pleased to see the response. I can actually support this project now."

Eden Housing will present the redesign to the Planning Commission on July 26th at 7:00 p.m.

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Letters to the Editor

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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:

June 28, it was raining in the master bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, dining room and family room. Yes, inside the house. Having removed the shake roof on the back side of the house, we thought we had adequately tarped for the forecasted rain. Amid frantic runs for more tarps, juggling of buckets and moping with towels, we called the Moraga Fire Department, specifically Station 42 on Moraga Road. We were a sopping, bedraggled lot as three uniformed knights arrived to our rescue. After repositioning tarps on the roof they helped spread tarps inside the house to prevent further damage to floors and furniture. It is easy to take our town employees for granted, grumbling about how much they cost. In time of need the Moraga Fire Department was efficiently helpful and this is our public thanks for a job well done to Captain Dick, Engineer Campisi and Firefighter Gehling.

Steve and Joanne Hansen
Moraga

Editor:

What do these Lafayette streets have in common? Shangri La Road, Silver Springs Road, Sky Hy Circle, Quail Run, Corte Rinaldo,

Tilden Lane and Mountain View Lane? They are some of Lafayette's 283 private or partially private streets. These private streets are special, members of Lafayette's committee to raise taxes live on them. This committee wants to raise every ones taxes to repave short dead end public streets. At least that's their excuse for wanting to gouge their neighbors. Short dead end streets have higher property values than comparable homes on major streets. So it's tax everyone, to make the rich richer. The tax proponents will call any tax opponent greedy. They always do.

Private streets are all over Lafayette. Down-town or out of town. Long or short. Narrow or wide. With or without signs designating that they are private. Most apartment complexes are on private streets. Most streets made after 1968 are private. You can order the list of private streets from City Hall, on line or for 40 cents.

No matter how much road tax is raised, no matter how bad their condition is, private streets can not be repaired with public money. Not even the potholes in front of the Lafayette post office.

Bruce R. Peterson
Lafayette

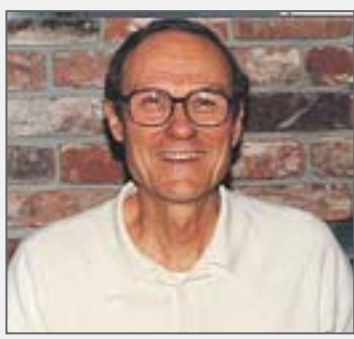
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If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda, or one of its communities, that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section.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



In Memory

Cal Dausman



Arthur Calvin "Cal" Dausman, a longtime resident of Orinda's Sleepy Hollow neighborhood, died June 18 at a Montclair, CA hospital. He was 87. Born April 29, 1924 in Ontario, CA. to Elsa (Hausmann) and Arthur Dausman, Cal graduated from Chaffey High (1942), and Pomona College (1948). He was a WW II Naval aviator. He married Paula Walters in 1949; they had a daughter and son. Cal was an investment counselor for Crocker and Wells Fargo banks.

The family moved to Orinda from Whittier in 1965, and built in Sleepy Hollow. It was their family home for over 40 years. Cal was widowed in 1994. In 1997 he married Sarah Hulse. They traveled extensively before moving to southern California in 2008. Cal dearly loved his family and friends. He also loved cats, dogs, cars, planes, and wine. Cal was preceded in death by his parents, wife Paula and daughter Christine. His wife Sarah, son and daughter-in-law Eric and Cathy, grandsons Andrew and Gregory, a great grand daughter and step-daughter Janet Luke survive him.

Services are August 6 at 2 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda. Donations in Cal's memory may be made to St. Stephen's Church or to Pomona College, Dausman scholarship fund.

please...



...thanks

The Spirit of Competition Alive at 45th Annual Lafayette City Meet

By Marissa Harnett

Photo Doug Kohen



For the last forty-five years, six teams--Springbrook, LMYA, Sun Valley, Rancho Colorados, Las Trampas, and Oakwood take to Acalanes' Heaston Aquatic Center in mid July for heated competition.

The Lafayette City Meet, a two day event, marks the mid-point of the season.

At the end of the first day--Springbrook had the lead, followed by LMYA, Rancho, Sun Valley, Las Trampas, and Oakwood.

There were many sensational swims by Saturday's participants. The 50 yard freestyle delivered feverish races with razor thin margins. In the girls' 9-10 age group LMYA's Sophia Cavalli touched first posting a winning time of 30.2.

Jewel Roemer of Sun Valley was just .22 behind her with Jackie Geannacopulos (LMYA) just another .17 back for third place.

An even tighter 50 free competition was waged in the 11-12 boys age group. Brad Robinson (Rancho) emerged victorious with a time of 27.03, but right on his heels was Nate Welcomer (Springbrook) coming in just .04 seconds behind. Only .03 seconds separated Sean McKenna (Sun Valley) and Matt Vollman (LMYA), finishing third and fourth place respectively. With a fifth place time of 27.73, just .4 seconds behind the winner was Casey Conrad (LMYA).

Four new records were also set. All of the broken records came in the

Relay categories, always the exciting finish to each day. No race was more dramatic than in the girls' 7-8 age group where Sun Valley's strong foursome of 8-year-olds -- Jessica Davis (backstroke), Sophie Lurie (breaststroke), Anika Thompson (butterfly), and Chloe Goddard (freestyle) -- raced their hearts out knowing that the 26-year old record was within their reach. They posted a winning time of 1:12.68 and realized that, by a mere .01 of a second, the record was now in their possession.

"Before we thought we weren't going to make it" said Thompson, through a huge smile.

Head coach Warren Wallace said of the girls, "They knew if they worked hard they could do it." And

work hard they did, spending lesson time working on starts and turns which can make or break a successful relay record quest. (see sidebar for other records broken)

The Lafayette City Meet often has a predictable winner in Springbrook Swim Team (winner of the past two years), but it is also a time for all Lafayette swimmers to show-

case what they've been working so hard on this summer.

Springbrook head coach Joe Natina said, "This meet is a great mid-season meet for the kids to let loose, get excited, and swim fast... we are not feeling the pressure (to win). Just having fun, swimming fast, and looking forward to more."

... continued on page B4

A Heartwarming Moment at City Meet



Jennifer Lurie dropped us a note after the City Meet to share a special anecdote: "The girls 15/18 relay team from Springbrook were awarded the outstanding girls relay award for beating the record they set last year by a whopping 4-5 seconds. When they came to accept the award the relay team took the microphone and essentially said, 'We think it is so much more amazing that the girls 7/8 relay team broke a 27-year old record, than us just breaking our own record from last year, that we want to give the girls 7/8 medley relay team our awards,' and they called up the 7/8 girls and handed over their plaques to the younger girls. It was an amazing act of sportsmanship and many present were moved to tears. It left a huge impression on everyone."

Photo Kelly Wood



Photos Doug Kohen

Calling All Ants Grasshoppers Need Not Reply

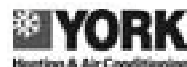


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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS



Orinda Bandits Win 680 Pony Tournament

Submitted by Mike Hardwick



Back row, from left: Coach Robert "Flip" Filipas, Chris Greenfield, Nick Valcke, Jack Kovalik, Holt Goodwin, Connor Jackson, Spencer Hardwick, Tommy Larsen, Coach Rob Ellis; front row: Eric Nyman, Will McConnell, Clayton Stehr, Ryan Anderson, Jarrett Perches, Josh Lee (not pictured) Photo provided

The Orinda Bandits took the season-ending 680 Pony Playoff Tournament in Twin Creeks with a 16-8 championship victory over the Pleasant Hill Hawks.

The Bandits beat the Danville Rawlings 8-1 in the semi-finals to take on the Pleasant Hill Hawks.

Both teams scored three runs in the first inning. In the second inning, Josh Lee suffered

an injury to the kidney and was taken to the emergency room. Distracted by their teammate's injury, the Bandits gave up three more runs in the third inning. However, Orinda re-focused to score 11 runs in the next two innings to take a commanding lead and eventually the game.

The Bandits finished their season with a 24-6 record.

Moraga 11U All-Stars

Submitted by Ron Kroichick



Front row, from left: Jacob Pappa, Travis Hartman, Trevin Kroichick, Jake Walgenbach, Jay Thomas, Carter Whiting, Shun Ishida; middle row: Park Windatt, Connor Peterson, Harry Curtiss, Jason West, Vince Mossotti; back row: asst. coach Ron Kroichick, asst. coach Brian Walgenbach, head coach Christ Whiting Photo Taizo Ishida

Moraga's 11U Bronco League All-Star team staged a spirited comeback on its way to finishing fourth in the Pony-sanctioned tournament July 5-10 at Wagner Ranch in Orinda.

The Stars opened the tournament with a 5-2 loss to Bel Passi, the tourney's eventual runner-up. Moraga seized a 2-0 lead in the first inning. Vince Mossotti pitched four-plus strong innings and left with the game tied 2-2 - but Bel Passi scored once in the fifth and twice in the sixth to win.

The Stars trailed 6-1 in their next game, against Ceres. Moraga then sprung to life in the bottom of the fifth, scoring three runs to slice the deficit to 6-4. The Stars eventually scored four times, capped by Harry Curtiss' RBI single and Parker Windatt's sacrifice fly, to take an 8-6 lead.

Carter Whiting pitched the final inning to preserve Moraga's thrilling 8-7 victory. The win sent the Stars into another elimination game, which they dropped to Bel Passi.

Orinda "Beast" Reaches Regional Tournament

Submitted by Dennis Wong



Top row, from left: Brad Catron, Dennis Wong, John Dean; middle row: Matt Meredith, Declan McManus, Zachary Donner, AJ Fraser, Stevie Wilder, Declan Curran; Bottom row: Kyle Jasper, Charlie Mollahan, Campbell Hoskins, Bennett Millham, Nicholas Wong, Nicholas Bohm, Hayden Catron. (not pictured, Tanner Zwhalen) Photo Cathy Bohm

The Orinda nine-and-under all-stars, "the Beast," played in three summer tournaments finishing first or second in all three to earn a berth to the Pony Regional tournament on July 13 in Brentwood.

The team reached the semi-finals of the Pony Regional by beating Blossom Valley and Brentwood to reach the semi-finals, but lost to Morgan Hill and Paso Robles to finish in third place and end their summer season.

The team had to learn to play with

"leads" and "pick-offs" in tournament play because the OBA does not allow it in their regular season.

The team won the Moraga Madness tournament June 18-19 and then placed second in the United States Specialty Sports Association tournament in Turlock June 25-26. The team placed second behind Bel Passi in the Pony Sectionals June 29-July 3. Despite the loss, the second place finish was enough to qualify for the Pony Regional tournament.

Orinda Aquatics "Character First" Camp

Submitted by Julie Carlson



Photo Don Heidary

Orinda Aquatics' motto is "Character First" and for the first time, coaches Don and Ron Heidary emphasized this to their student athletes at Character Camp.

Swimmers age 10-and-older spent two hours a day practicing but also working on more

than just stroke development and technique; the coaches spent time discussing character, leadership, personal responsibility and perseverance.

The proceeds of the camp are being donated to OA's Swaziland, Africa Swimming Program.

Softball Takes Second at State

Submitted by Alan Goepe



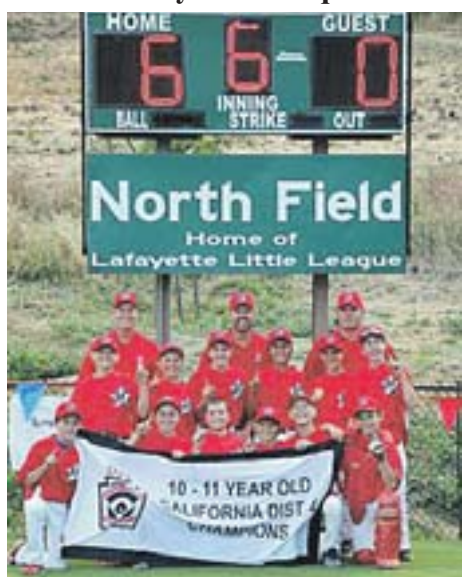
Back row, from left: Katie Chase (San Ramon Valley), Courtney Strand (Monte Vista), Cori Griffin (San Ramon Valley), Sarah Reynolds (Campolindo), Brenna Williams (Campolindo), Olivia Haney (Carondelet), Shelley Suhling (Campolindo), Natalie Goepel (Acalanes); Front row: Katie Palma (Acalanes), Becca Crisp (Campolindo) Photo provided

The Lafayette Lightning 16U club softball team took second place at the United States Specialty Sports Association State Championships in Hayward over the Fourth of July weekend. The

girls played eight games in three days to make it to the finals. They lost to the San Jose Aces. Katie Chase and Olivia Haney earned All-Tournament MVP honors in the losing effort.

Lafayette Little League All-Stars Shine

Submitted by Todd Bequette



District 4 Champion 11-year Old All-Stars Photo provided

Lafayette Little Leaguers are in the midst of one of the most successful postseasons in league history.

The 11-year olds All-Stars captured the league's second ever District 4 title, playing errorless ball in its four tournament games and outscoring opponents 28-3. In the title game, played at Lafayette's Buckeye Field, the local stars shutout Antioch, 6-0.

Ty Whelehan pitched three complete games in the tournament, including two shutouts. Matty Vicencio and Kyle Mizell combined to take down the defending champion, Continental of Concord, by allowing just one hit and one run in an 11-1 quarter-final win.

Matt Burns and Robby Rowell led

Lafayette's potent offense by accounting for 13 of the team's 23 runs batted in. Burns smashed two home runs while Rowell and Kyle Mizell each hit one of their own. Burns delivered the decisive blow in the title game, connecting on a towering three-run bomb.

The 11-year olds advance to Woodland this week in pursuit of Lafayette's first sectional championship.

The Lafayette 12-year olds All-Stars had one of the best showings in recent years, placing fourth in the 13-team District 4 Tournament. The locals got off to a fast start, thumping Concord American League, 10-0, on the strength of Devan Regan's shutout pitching and a home run by Ryan Levy. Levy pitched the stars to their next win against Continental (Walnut Creek).

After two tough losses, the squad rebounded with another blowout victory over Concord American. Levy pitch five shutout innings and Paul Griessal ripped a bases-clearing triple.

The Lafayette 9-year olds All Stars won nine-of-11 on its way to competing for championships in two tournaments. At the Tassajara Valley Tournament in Danville, the Lafayette boys rattled off three straight victories before falling in the semi-finals, 4-3 to Foothill Pleasanton. In the Granada Tournament in Livermore, the all-stars again raced to the championship game, only to come up one run short against Canyon Creek, who rallied with four runs in their final at bat.

The nine-year old were led by flame throwers Nick Kresnak, Vince Bianchina, Ryan Reilly and Murphy Baker. In the Tassajara tournament, Kresnak muscled up for grand slams in one game.

Are you civic minded?

Lamorinda Weekly is looking for a Moraga or Orinda Town/City Reporter

Description: Attend approximately 3-4 city meetings per month in the town assigned. Build relationships with city officials and community leaders. Write a minimum of 2 articles per week covering subjects such as decisions made at City Council meetings or Planning Commission meetings, community events, citizen profiles, police activities, or other interesting news items.

Email questions or your resume to wendy@lamorindaweekly.com



SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

Campolindo Sports Earn Top Honors

By Caitlin Graveson

ESPN Rise named Campolindo the California Division III School of the Year for its athletic accomplishments this year. This is Campolindo's second year taking top honors, the first coming for the 2004-2005 season.

Campolindo won numerous NCS titles, qualified for the post-season in almost every sport and earned two state titles in 2010-2011. With returning players, the Cougars look to be just as dominant in the coming season.

The Cougars boast two state

championship teams in girls' cross country and girls' volleyball, making Campolindo the only school to capture two girls' state titles.

Junior Carrie Verdon, and her 21-second victory, helped the Cougars take the title by almost two-minutes. Verdon then moved on to the Nationals where she finished 19th overall. Verdon returns for her senior year with the goal of breaking into the top ten at Nationals and leading her team to yet another state championship.

Boys' cross country finished second in the NCS finals and fourth in

the state championships. Led by junior Thomas Joyce, the top finisher for Campo, the Cougars should be ready for the 2011 season.

The girls' volleyball team upset Cathedral Catholic (San Diego) to capture the state championship three games to two. Cathedral had three consecutive years experience in the state championships, but Campolindo remained unfazed. Senior hitter Mary Vaccaro was named the Finals MVP. With half the team graduating, the Cougars will be balanced with fresh faces and experienced players when

the season starts this fall.

The baseball team also garnered top honors for the Cougars. Campolindo recorded its second straight CIF North Coast Section championship. With big plays from sophomore Brett Stephens and junior pitcher James Marvel, the Cougars should be ready to fight for a third straight final come spring.

Girls' basketball earned a 25-win season and reached the Northern Regional D III semi-finals before losing to Sacramento by four points, 58-54. Juniors Annalise Ito and Mallory

Brown along with sophomore Lauren Hickey will return to lead the Cougars' run.

Boys' soccer secured a NCS Division II championship with a win over rival Acalanes, finishing with a 20-1-6 record.

Campolindo boys' volleyball also took the NCS Division II championship, finishing with a 32-6 record.

Girls' water polo earned the Division II NCS championship with a victory over rival Acalanes to finish with an 18-9 record.

Boys' Volleyball Team Ranked Third in Nation

Submitted by Rich Jones



Back row, from left: Christine Worsley (Team Rep.), Mitchell Brooks, Sean Vaisima, Roger Worsley (Head Coach), Jordan Ewert, Michael Standing, Aida Lodge (Chaperone); Front row: Jonathan Santos, Julian Egoian, Blake Killingsworth, Gage Worsley, Joe Worsley, Pete Jones, Derek Lodge

Photo provided

Pacific Rim Volleyball Academy Boys' 14s earned the bronze medal as the third place team at the 2011 USA Volleyball Junior National Championships held in Minneapolis the first week of July. Pac Rim ended their run at Nationals with a record of 10-1 against the top 32

teams in the US and Puerto Rico by beating West Allis Lightning (Milwaukee) in three games to secure the bronze trophy. They entered the tournament as the #5 ranked team in the US and the top ranked Boys' 14s team in Northern California.

Lamorinda United U13 Takes First

Submitted by Chris Easter



Top row, from left: Coach Tony Neto, Lauren McCormack, Tova Ricardo, Lindsay Easter, Lisa Bramley, Hannah Fishlow, Olivia Fishlow, Morgan Rogers, Maggie McGuire, Jaded Sadoff; bottom row: Briana Donat, Katharine Larson, Caroline Clark, Jessica Carlin, Kiki Immel, Rosalie Cruz, Mia Lineweaver, Emma Nushi, Cecilia Gee

Photo provided

The Lamorinda United U13 soccer club took first place in the NorCal Premier Spring Soccer League. They finished with a 6-1-2 record to take a one point advantage over the Pleasanton Rage. The team's success

came from their strong defense, midfield ball control and balanced scoring attack. The team hopes to ride their first place streak to summer tournaments in Pleasanton and San Luis Obispo.

Healthy Holiday Fun in Moraga

Results submitted by Mark Orders



Mary Orders, women's two mile winner, celebrates with Bradley Miller, men's two mile winner and three-time defending champion.

Photo Mark Orders

On the Fourth of July, athletes from around the area celebrated the holiday with a run at the Moraga Fourth of July Fun Run. Almost 300 participants took on the two mile challenge and nearly 150 athletes ran in the five mile race. The kiddie run had about 40 runners.

Five Mile Run Results:

Women—

1. Carrie Verdon, Moraga, 32:17.97
2. Alison Zamanian, Orinda, 32:20.24
3. Priscilla Bayley, Lafayette, 34:37.79

Men—

1. Harlan Lopez, Walnut Creek, 27:11.66
2. Torrey Olson, Moraga, 27:20.08
3. Tyler Hanson, Orinda, 28:32.29

Two Mile Run Results:

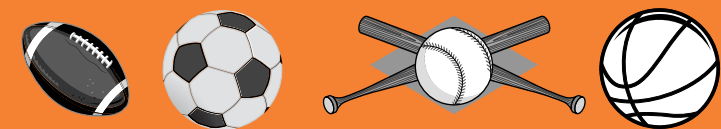
Women—

1. Mary Orders, Moraga, 13:14.40
2. Haley Shipway, Lafayette 14:18.14
3. Bz Churchman, Oakland, 14:28.74

Men—

1. Bradley Miller, Moraga, 11:33.22
2. Jackson Phelps, 11:56.57
3. Andy Van Heuit, Moraga, 11:59.02

Youth Sports Registration



Lamorinda Basketball Academy (LBA)

Fundamentals of basketball Girls Grades 3-8

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Sign up now: Contact us at LBA@LBAhoops.com or 925-681-8400.

Check out our website at www.LBAhoops.com

Summer Soccer Camp for Boys and Girls

The Martinez Pleasant Hill Futbol Club will be hosting two sessions of summer soccer camp for boys and girls ages 8-13 years old. Session one is July 25-28, 2011 and session two is August 8-12, 2011.

Sessions run from 9am-3pm at the

Adventist Academy, 796 Grayson Rd, Pleasant Hill.

Players of all experience levels are encouraged to sign up. The camp features buddy requests, a free camp t-shirt, training by college-level soccer players, fun games and prizes and more!

Cost is \$165 per session and pre-registration is required by July 15th. To register, visit www.mphfc.com.

If you would like to list the registration information for a youth sports club please email wendy@lamorindaweekly.com or call (925) 377-0977.

B&W listing will cost \$24 (3.75"x1").



Submit Sports Stories to sportsdesk @ lamorindaweekly.com

SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS



Records Broken at Bottoms Up

Submitted by Linda Sosa



2011 swimmers ready to race @ Bottoms Up

Photos Les Hata



2011 Bottoms Up high point winners

The 36th Annual Bottoms Up swim meet, hosted by Moraga Valley Pool, featured tight races, photo finishes, and a lot of smiles. This event was held Sunday, July 10 at the Soda Center at Campolindo High School, and featured all the teams in the Orinda/Moraga Pool Association (OMPA).

Unlike all swim meets where age group swimmers are placed together every other year, Bottoms Up features only the bottom of each age group swimming against the same.

There were more than 750 swimmers participating this year.

Only 100 points separated first to third place this year. Sleepy Hollow Swim Team came in first with a total of 731 team

points, followed by Orinda Country Club, and third place went to Moraga Ranch Swim Team.

Several records were broken and numerous coaches and swimmers exalted as they checked the scoreboard to discover they qualified for the year end County Championships in August.

"The ties for high point winners and the records that were broken made the meet very intense," said MVP Co-Head Coach Trevor Rose. "This just illustrates the competitive level of our league, even though this meet was exclusive to the bottom of each age group."

Lamorinda swimmers competed for top individual honors and their efforts earned them high point winners:

- 5 year old girls-Maren McDonald (Sleepy Hollow)
- 5 year old boys-William Vranesh (Moraga Ranch)
- 7 year old girls-Abbie Lee (Campo Cabana Club)
- 7 year old boys-Will McGaughey (Moraga Ranch)
- 9 year old girls-Nina Munson (Sleepy Hollow) & Lauren McAninch (Orinda Country Club)
- 9 year old boys-Mark McCurdy (Campo Cabana Club)
- 11 year old girls-Nicole LaCour (Meadow) & Katherine Cane (Meadow)
- 11 year old boys-Michael Dakis (Orinda Country Club)
- 13 year old girls-Madison Tagg (Orinda Park Pool)
- 13 year old boys-Nicky Erickson (Moraga Ranch)
- 15 year old girls-Allison Stevens (Moraga Country Club)
- 15 year old boys- Andrew Furtado (Orinda Park Pool)

Team events featured age group mixed medley relays; age group mixed freestyle relays, as well as coaches and parents relays.

"The parents relay is always a blast," said Moraga Valley Pool parent Jay Rossiter. "Considering we just sit on the sidelines and watch our kids do it all year long."

The competition was fierce, and every team will do battle again, at the same location, at the OMPA Championships on August 5-7.

Submit Sports Stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

The Spirit of Competition Alive at 45th Annual Lafayette City Meet

... continued from page B1

Combined Team Scores

1. Springbrook Swim Team 1204
2. Lafayette Moraga Youth Assoc. 985
3. Rancho Colorados Swim Team 831
4. Sun Valley Rays Swim Team 667
5. Las Trampas 485
6. Oakwood Athletic Club 44

Record Breakers

Sun Valley Rays Swim Team - 'A'

#27 Girls 7-8 100 Medley Relay

LCM Record: 1:12.68Y

Jessica Davis 8, Sophie Lurie 8, Anika Thompson 8, Chloe Goddard 8

Lafayette Moraga Youth Assoc. - 'A'

#30 Boys 9-10 200 Medley Relay

LCM Record: 2:19.67Y

Jack Larsen 9, Reider Martinsen 10, Beck Jurasius 10, Christopher Rogers 10

Springbrook Swim Team - 'A'

#35 Girls 15-18 200 Medley Relay

LCM Record: 1:51.92Y

Nora Vance 16, Barbara Lanier 17, Kathryn Hill 16, MollyE Quinn 16

Lafayette Moraga Youth Assoc. - 'A'

#76 Boys 9-10 200 Freestyle Relay

LCM Record: 2:01.44Y

Christopher Rogers 10, Reider Martinsen 10, Jack Larsen 9, Beck Jurasius 10

Individual High point winners

6 & U girls	Allie Lurie	Sun Valley Rays Swim Team	30
6 & U boys	Evan Wells	Springbrook Swim Team	33
7-8 girls	Caitlin Smith	LMYA	27
7-8 boys	Jack Wood	Springbrook Swim Team	29
9-10 girls	Jackie Geannacopulos	LMYA	30
9-10 boys	Beck Jurasius	LMYA	33
11-12 girls	Madison Stewart	Springbrook Swim Team	31
11-12 boys	Brad Robison	RC	31
13-14 girls	Helene Hollidge	LMYA	33
13-14 boys	Brady Aiello	Springbrook Swim Team	31
	Brendan Supple	RC	31
15-18 girls	Nora Vance	Springbrook Swim Team	31
	Megan Schussman	LMYA	31
15-18 boys	Ryan Connolly	Springbrook Swim Team	33



Allie Lurie, 6 & under Girls, Sun Valley



Evan Wells, 6 & under boys, Springbrook



Caitlin Smith, 7/8 girls, LMYA



Jack Wood, 7/8 boys, Springbrook



Jack Geannacopulos, 9/10 girls, LMYA



Beck Jurasius, 9/10 boys, LMYA



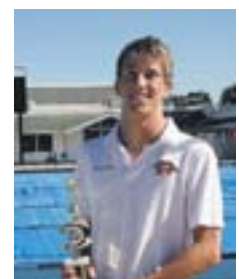
Madison Stewart, 11/12 girls, Springbrook



Brad Robinson, 11/12 boys, Rancho Colorados



Helene Hollidge, 13/14 girls, LMYA



Ryan Connolly, Springbrook, 15-18 boys



Brady Aiello (Springbrook) & Brendan Supple (Rancho Colorados), 13/14 boys



Nora Vance (Springbrook) & Megan Schussman (LMYA), 15-18 girls

Photos Kelly Wood



Outstanding Boys Relay (Dual Record Breakers), LMYA 9/10 Boys, Christopher Rogers, Beck Jurasius, Reider Martinsen & Jack Larsen



1st Place Team Overall Springbrook

School is out - yeah!

Have fun, kids! Lamorinda Weekly team

Value by Design: Understanding the Artistic Student

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

What educational direction to take is ultimately a personal decision based on an individual's interests, strengths and needs. A Bachelor in Fine Arts (BFA) may be well worth the time and investment if it adds a firm foundation of skills to talent you already possess and have the motivation and determination to demonstrate. Your knock-out portfolio combined with a degree from a good university is probably the best insurance for landing a job in the marketplace.

A big obstacle for a student who wishes to study the arts is the widely held belief that a degree in the visual and performing arts (VPA) is not helpful in terms of 'real' employment. In fact, just the opposite is true. One need only witness the emergence of the iPod, "green" fashion, sustainability design, iPhones, and Wii Systems to see that proponents of the "Creative Economy" have made some accurate predictions over the past decade. The look and feel of a product is often as important to consumers as what it does; also critical is the product's social and cultural adaptability. Teamwork in the workplace between individuals with different backgrounds, such as engineering and graphics design, is what makes an arts-based degree marketable.

Artistic-minded students and their families should be aware of several powerful, prevalent myths:

1. Students must be polished artists to major in VPA: In fact most admissions committees gauge an applicant's potential for success; their focus is on identifying students who are creative, willing to work hard, and show the potential to become excellent.

2. A student who pursues a VPA major will starve: What is true is that you must develop a personal creative vision that will sustain you in your professional life and be motivated to earn an income.

3. The VPA major is easy: The VPA degree path involves a rigorous and time-intensive program of study. Students take foundation coursework in English, math and sciences to complete degree requirements. Some of the many majors available include architectural, landscape and interior design, communication arts (advertising design, graphic design, illustration) digital media, fashion design, fine arts (painting, photography, sculpture), product design and toy design.

4. Art schools are all trade and technical schools: While some art schools are trade and technical schools, most are liberal arts and science colleges.

There are several different types of colleges to research in order to find the right fit.

I. Four Year Colleges and Universities: A good fit for the student who plans to earn an arts-based degree, while preserving the opportunity to enjoy a full college experience. The student engages in a broad-based liberal arts curriculum and has the opportunity to double major, choose a minor in a different discipline or even switch majors.

II. Performing and Visual Arts Schools: Freestanding, usually small PVA schools and all degree majors are in the arts.

III. Conservatories: Suitable for students who wish to develop their performance, conducting, or composition to a professional standard.

IV. Vocational/Technical Schools: Many of these schools are private for-profit institutions and offer training to obtain employment. Research should include job placement data, lists of companies that employ their graduates and recent graduates.

V. Community Colleges: The transfer path from a community college to any of the above alternatives is a viable one. This is most successful when the student identifies the school(s) she plans to transfer into and requirements for admission.

Other Important Factors to Consider

- Location (opportunities to perform or exhibit your work as well as view others doing the same)
- Availability of internships (to practice art, build a network, create a portfolio, perform)
- Access to professional venues (museums, galleries, theatres, concerts)
- Program's reach (Does the program attract regional, national and international talent?)
- Student to teacher ratio
- Facilities (Is there adequate studio space?)
- Program reputation (Are instructors known in their field? Is school respected in industry? What programs do music and arts scholarship and competition winners attend?)
- Admission criteria—how much value is placed on your GPA and test scores versus the importance of your portfolio or audition? How does the program view your creative potential in relationship to your academic achievements?

Extracurricular Activities Are Vital

The student heading toward a VPA degree must pay great attention to extracurricular activities. Music and arts programs abound and there are opportunities to fit nearly everyone's budget. By the end of sophomore year, a student should be involved in institutes, weekend classes, on-line courses, camps, workshops, performances and festivals, internships and part-time jobs. These experiences reveal possible career paths and play an essential role in portfolio preparation or audition.

The visual and performing arts niche in college admissions is an area that few students, parents and high school counselors know how to navigate. Artistic-minded students and their families must learn how to research and select the right fit type of college as well as prepare for the rigors of completing an arts-based college application. Two excellent guides include: Peterson's Guide to the VPA and A Guide to College Choices for the PVA coauthored by Kavin Buck and Ed Schoenberg. National Association of College Admission Counselors sponsors a VPA college fair each year in October (visit www.nacac-net.org).



Elizabeth LaScala Ph.D. guides college, transfer and graduate school applicants through the complex world of admissions. She develops best match college lists, offers personalized interview and 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 visual and performing arts students and athletes, to maximize financial aid awards. Contact her @ (925) 891-4491 or elizabeth@doingcollege.com.

Students Earn Honors in Eco-Art Competition

Submitted by Sheilah Fish



Flower of the Earth
By Lauren Kozicki, Grade 6, Joaquin Moraga, Moraga, reusing can create something beautiful, making the world a better place is just a couple steps away, we can use magazines, newspapers, cans, and bottles to make new creations everyday.

Local students took top honors in the Annual Visuals and Voices Eco-art, Writings, Photos and Poetry contest sponsored by the EarthTeam Network for Teachers and Teens, an Alameda and Contra Costa County program that supports eco-friendly projects. There were 310 submissions.

Winners:

- Lauren Kozicki, Joaquin Moraga**
First Place "Flower of the Earth"
- Marla Wong, Joaquin Moraga**
Honorable Mention "Flower"
- Adam O'Camb, Miramonte High**
Second Place "Fox at Rocky Mt. National Park"
- Alex Duryea, Campolindo High**
Honorable Mention "Dragonfly"
- Rebecca Vaughan, Joaquin Moraga**
First Place "King of Frogs"
- Riley Felt, Joaquin Moraga**
Grand Prize "What is Our Future?"
- Lilly Quintlaw, Campolindo High**
Second Place "This Place"
- Tommy Yee, Joaquin Moraga**
Second Place "Second Place"

Troop 246 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Annette Knox



From left: Ryan Baldwin, Christopher Peterson, Charlie Chen, Anthony Knox, Garrett James Sanderson
Photo provided

On May 29, five members of Boy Scout Troop 246 in Moraga, California were honored at a special Court of Honor for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Each of these young men

passed his Board of Review on March 29, 2011. Ryan Baldwin, Charlie Chen, Anthony Knox and Garrett James Sanderson will be seniors at Campolindo High School. Christopher Peterson will

be a junior. Each scout earned a minimum of 21 merit badges and completed a major community service project: Baldwin built six wooden portable benches for the garden area of the Rheem Elementary; Peterson built and installed two eighteen foot benches for the fire pit area for Rancho Laguna Park; Chen built two ultimate raised garden beds and renovated the four existing raised garden beds in the garden area of Joaquin Moraga; Knox created a Veteran's Memorial for the Town of Moraga; Sanderson painted the walls and installed bookshelves in the main classroom at the Mission Learning Center in San Francisco.

Senior Spends Summer under the Hood

Submitted by Jonathan Lance



Nick Holbrook
Photo Andy Schreck

Nick Holbrook, soon-to-be senior at Campolindo, has spent his summer working as an intern at Nick's Mercedes Service repair shop in Lafayette. Having gained experience in his ROP Advanced Automotive Technology course at Campolindo, Holbrook was able to secure the ROP internship.

Holbrook worked to assist technicians with transmission flushes, ignition tune-ups among other things. He repaired Mercedes models from as old as 1980 and as recent as 2007.

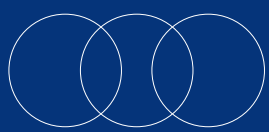
Holbrook is having a great time. "I have been learning so much this summer."

His automotive teacher at Campolindo, Steve Boone, was instrumental in helping him land the internship. Boone called Nick's Mercedes on Holbrook's behalf and explained that ROP will pay for work-site insurance coverage.

Boone said Holbrook is a strong student. "He is eager to learn and always willing to give a hand to anyone working on a car."

Nick Wilhelm, proprietor of Nick's Mercedes, was interested and has been happy with his intern. "He is a quick learner, and he's getting a lot of hands-on experience."

Holbrook said his interest in cars stemmed from his interest in mechanics and tinkering. Holbrook hopes to attend automotive technology school after graduation to further pursue his interest.



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Summer Music Series at Orinda Theatre Square
From left: Bob Athayde, Kyle Athayde, Tom Elliot and Ron Marabuto

Photo Ohlen Alexander

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Life in LAMORINDA

Cal Shakes Brings Grungy Flair to *The Verona Project*

By Lou Fancher



The cast of Cal Shakes' world-premiere production of *The Verona Project*

Photo Kevin Berne

Writer/Director Amanda Dehnert gets many things right in *The Verona Project*, Cal Shake's hybrid rock concert/play, especially the tone of first love.

Inspired by William Shakespeare's *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Dehnert's comedic romance tells the tale of two childhood friends and the self-love, other-love, and can't-live-with-or-without-it-love that tests their friendship.

Bounding onto the bandshell-covered stage, eight actor-musicians swing immediately into song with all the grungy flair of a hard-core indie band.

Under the turquoise-tinged canopy, the characters narrate, rapidly propelling the plot; often describing their own thoughts and actions in an effective, third-person voice. There's an urgency to the delivery, the message, and the music, that makes the story fly like a runaway train.

Dan Clegg (*Proteus*) is provocative, easily portraying the teenager in early scenes. He's even more convincing as the self-centric man who, if he were to gaze in a mirror, regards the world and all of humanity as simply a part of his own reflection.

Arwen Anderson (*Julia*) and Nate Trinrud (*Valentine*), who form the initial trifecta of friends, display impressive musical chops. Anderson, who temporarily becomes "Sebastian," a mis-identified bodyguard, has a flair for comedy, displaying deft timing and tonal command in both roles. Trinrud is the perfect straight man (although his character is gay) to balance the extreme behavior of other characters.

A review that doesn't mention the

outstanding cast would miss the chance to describe Harold Pierce's wound-up wizardry as *Speed*, Marisa Duchowny's impressive range in multiple roles and on more than one instrument, Adam Yazbeck's smoldering touch on the accordion and royalty as *The Duke*, Philip Mills' rock solid *Sylvio*, which added depth without calling attention to itself, and Elena Wright's exuberant, twisted romp amidst the show's drums and drama.

The first half of the play, packed with music hinting at rock, folk, country, and Klezmer influences, coupled moments of tender resonance with childlike fun.

Three muses—Duchowny in cream, Wright in a mangled, rainbow-colored tutu, and Anderson in baby doll dress and boots—sang a quiet ballad before a graveyard scene. In another scene, a simple paper bird, operated by an organ-grinder mechanism reminiscent of a Buster Keaton prop, "flew"...until it was grabbed and torn to shreds. Throughout the play, peach and Penzoil cans connected by mismatched ropes conveyed the most intimate conversations characters had ever shared.

The juxtapositions were elegant, subtle, and fun.

Time and instinct, two recurring themes used to humorous effect, hit a minor stall after the intermission. Perhaps it was the shift to longer dialogues and monologues, with less music, that allowed the storytelling to meander.

Still, Dehnert's masterful segues from Shakespearean language to

modern day slang—likely the first time "douche bag" entered the lexicon of the Bard—and the sensitive, sophisticated characterizations of the cast, kept the production from dissolving into a trite tale of love and loss.



Dan Clegg as Proteus and Arwen Anderson as Julia in Cal Shakes' world-premiere production of *The Verona Project*

Photo Kevin Berne

The Verona Project runs to July 31 at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way (formerly 100 Gateway Blvd.), Orinda. Single tickets range from \$35 to \$66, with discounts available for seniors, students, persons age 30 and under, and groups. All tickets are available through the California Shakespeare Theater Box Office, 701 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley; (510) 548-9666, or online at www.calshakes.org.

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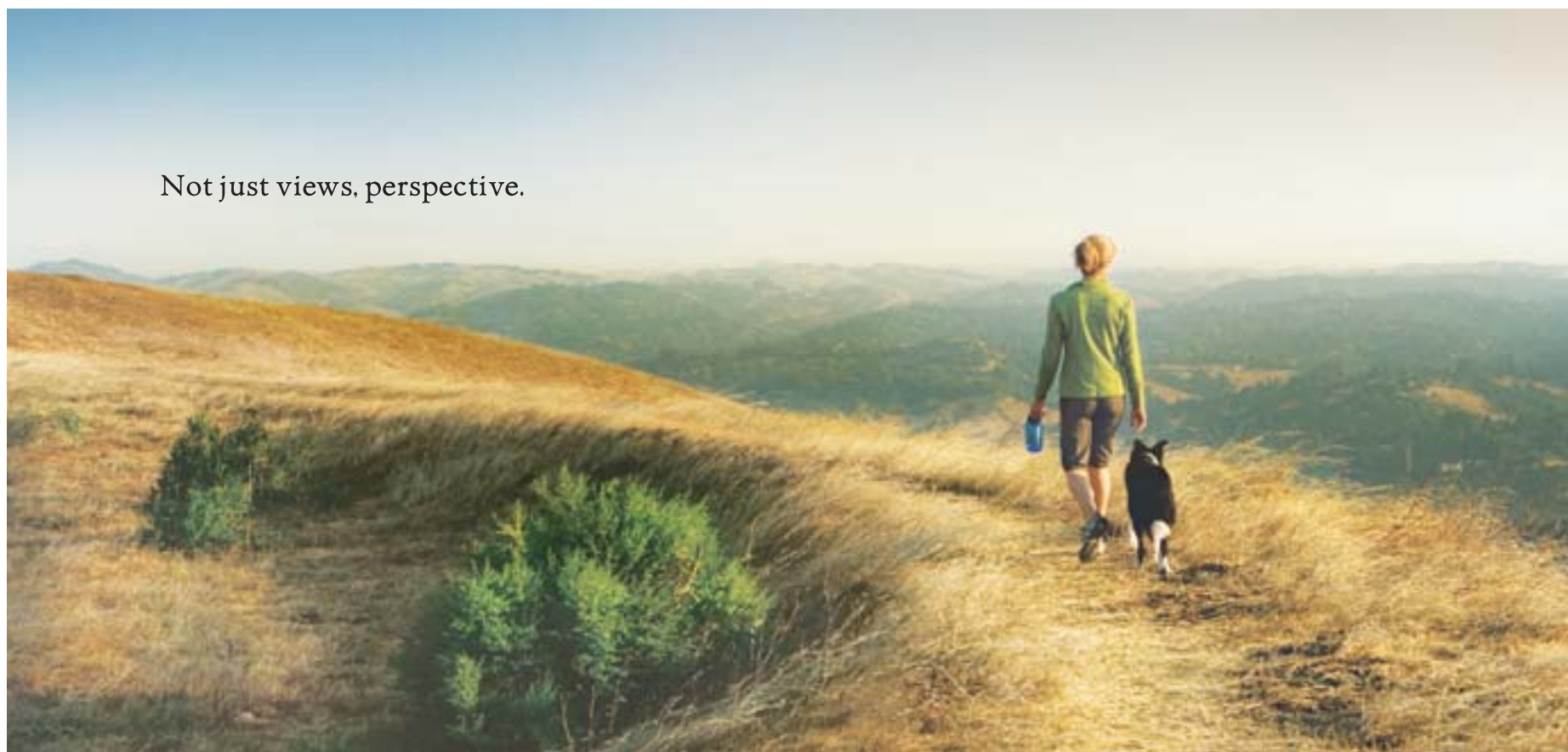
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Home Alone – When You go on Vacation

By Mona Miller, DVM



ication, as well as food, cat litter, hamster shavings, etc. to cover the time you'll be gone. You might want to show your pet-sitter specifically how to administer the medication if she/he is not familiar with this.

An older pet might require more care. For instance, if you have a senior large breed dog and your pet-sitter is not staying overnight, she/he might need to check on your dog three or four times during the day, to make sure that the dog has opportunity to go outside, to move around a bit and to make sure all food has been consumed.

It is a good idea to make provisions with your pet caretaker for emergency or urgent veterinary care. In a signed letter left with your pet-sitter, you should provide information such as your travel dates, your contact information, when contact may or may not be possible, your regular veterinary hospital phone number/address, and the location/phone number of the nearest veterinary emergency hospital. If you want someone other than your pet-sitter to authorize medical treatment, leave that individual's contact information as well. It is important to also include a brief statement regarding how you would like your pet-sitter to proceed with authorizing veterinary care and handling finances if you're not immediately reachable. Example statements might read: "I authorize emergency vet-

erinary care up to \$500" or "I authorize all life-saving measures to be taken, no matter the cost, in the event of emergency." Think of this a bit like an Advance Health Care Directive, in the sense that you have provided some guidelines for your pet-sitter and veterinarian to follow. A conversation with your veterinarian prior to your departure may help you clarify such statements, as well as alert your veterinarian as to your desires. I recommend leaving a copy of this Authorization to Treat letter with your veterinarian.

In emergencies, most veterinarians will provide life-saving measures without specific authorization from the owner. However, it is helpful to your pet and your pet-sitter to have outlined some guidelines in advance.



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

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Summer can be a busy time of year, as are winter holidays, during which a lot of us go away for vacation. I thought I might provide some tips on how to manage your furry, feathered or scaled friend's care while you are away.

Who should take care of your pet while you're gone? There are several options including a boarding kennel, ask a family or friend to take your pet into their home or

hire a pet-sitter to come to your house. Your veterinarian will be able to provide a list of boarding facilities – some take dogs and cats, some take cats only, some cater to birds.

If your pet receives medication or requires special care, leave specific and detailed instructions regarding type of medication, dose and frequency. Make sure that you have plenty of the med-

Jazz for Joplin World-class lineup for Moraga Jazz Festival

By Sophie Braccini

The first annual Moraga Jazz Festival will resound within the walls of The New Rheem Theatre next month, featuring some 18 Grammy-nominated jazz professionals performing in support of tornado victims in Joplin, Missouri. The festival was conceived by local flutist Carol Alban, who brought it to fruition with support from the California Independent Film Festival Association (CAIFFA), which manages the New Rheem and Orinda theaters.

"We have a very famous guitarist, Alex De Grassi, who is considered by many to be among the most virtuosic living guitarists; jazz legend Roger Glenn who played with Dizzy Gillespie; Mark Levine on bass; keyboardist Victoria Theodore who tours the planet with Stevie Wonder; Frank Martin who performed with artists as different as Al Jarreau and Andrea Bocelli, and many other wonderful musicians," says Alban, "I'm so happy they all agreed to come to Moraga."

The idea formed as Alban, a Moraga resident, was at the New Rheem Theatre watching a movie and noticed what a nice stage the big theater has. "I've done a lot of concerts in support of disaster victims," says Alban, "I ran the idea by the mayor and she said 'let's find Beau (Behan) and ask him.'" Behan, the manager of the New Rheem Theatre, was game and Alban started working on her lineup. "I think that this Festival will foster a lot of interest in the local performing art community and among Lamorinda youth who are interested in music," says Behan, "some of the musicians are internationally

acclaimed; it's great mix. We're impressed with what Carol (Alban) has done and we're happy to be contributing to it."

"My life would be very different without music," says Moraga mayor Karen Mendonca, who added that the presence of entertainment and cultural events in Lamorinda is something she wholeheartedly supports. "There is something fun about the idea of a Jazz Festival," says Alban, "we will add dancers, wine and food at the end, and a discussion with the musicians. People will have a wonderful time, for a great cause, and we've kept it affordable." The majority of the proceeds will go to support tornado victims in Joplin; small portions will be directed toward renovation of the theater's sound system and local emergency preparedness.

Moraga Jazz Festival
Sunday, August 7, 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Tickets are \$20 general and \$15 for students
Box office: (925) 388-0751

Scheduled to perform:
Bammy winner Barbara Higbie
Sax: Roger Glenn, George Brooks
Vocals: Mary Jenson, Alvenson Moore
Keyboard: Victoria Theodore, Frank Martin
Bass: Kai Eckhardt (elec.), Marc Levine (upr.)
Flute (and vocals): Carol Alban, Viviana Guzman
Guitar: Alex Degrassi, Rafael Manriquez, Steve Sage
Drum/Tabla: Napoleon Revels-Bey, Aushim Chaudhuri
Piano: David Thomas Roberts
Drummer: Bob Scott, who is originally from Joplin, Missouri

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Relay For Life in Lamorinda

By Sophie Braccini



Tracee Eberhart and Ashley Miller in Moraga, introducing Relay For Life
Photo Sophie Braccini

Ashley Miller began a recent presentation by asking who in attendance had been impacted by cancer, or had supported someone who had; almost everyone raised their hands. The young American Cancer Society (ACS) Relay Manager came to Moraga to spread the news that ACS' signature fundraising event, "Relay For Life," is coming to Lamorinda. The first relay race/walk is set for August 6-7 in Lafayette at Springhill Elementary School, the second on August 27-28 in Orinda at Pine Grove Field, and the third is a Saint Mary's College Relay to be held on the campus October 7-8.

Relay For Life events have been held in the East Bay for years. The idea is to create teams of 10-15 people who camp out at a park that has a walking path, with the goal of keeping at least one team member on the path at all time throughout the 24-hour event. "A lot of teams bring a pop-up or tent, tables and chairs where they have informational material on a subject they choose," explains Eberhart, who has been a relay participant herself in support of both her parents, "often teams raise money prior to the event, but others choose to do it on site."

Teams are asked to research a

specific cancer and come to the Relay with a related fight-back message. Different activities are held during the events, such as an in-memoriam luminary, a Survivor lap, and other games held to promote fun and connectedness. "It is big campout with lots of energy, emotion, fun and music," said Dawn Ramsay, who is a lead volunteer and team captain in Vacaville where the Relay has been going for 13 years.

In the mid-1980s Dr. Gordy Klatt, a Tacoma colorectal surgeon, decided to personally raise money for the fight against cancer by doing something he enjoyed—running marathons. In May 1985, Klatt spent 24 hours circling the track at Baker Stadium at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, covering more than 83 miles. Throughout the night, friends paid \$25 to run or walk 30 minutes with him. He raised \$27,000 to fight cancer, which he donated to ACS. While he circled the track, he thought about how others could take part. He envisioned a 24-hour team relay event that could raise more money to fight cancer. Months later he pulled together a small committee to plan the first team relay event. In 1986, 19 teams took part in the first team relay event and raised \$33,000. In 2010,

more than 5,100 communities nationwide held their own relay (each of the events are run by local volunteers), raising more than \$388 million.

Kelli Nahas, the event manager of the Lafayette Relay, is looking for volunteers and teams. Her event had a set back due to the original team moving to a different relay, but Nahas is trying to pull the event together and encourages Lafayette residents to contact her if they want to fund raise for ACS.

Eberhart also needs to find committee members in Lamorinda to support the Orinda event. "We expect about 10 teams, or 100 people, to attend," she says, "we will have speakers, local musicians and we'd love to get in touch with others who would like to support the event."

The Saint Mary's College Relay in October is opened to anyone with a campus affiliation. Moraga and Lafayette residents who are not students, parents, alumni, teachers, or staff of the university are encouraged to assemble a team for one of the other local events.

All the money raised goes to ACS. The non-profit was founded in 1913 by 15 doctors and business leaders in New York City. It is a nationwide, community-based voluntary health organization, which, according to its mission statement, is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing it, saving lives, and diminishing suffering, through research, education, advocacy, and service. ACS is rated by the Charity Navigator as a 3 out of 4 stars non-profit. 75% of its over \$1 billion revenue goes to programs directly related to its mission, such as funding for research, education, or free patient services.

To be a volunteer or team captain at one of the local relays contact:

Lafayette
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Orinda
Tracee Eberhart, (707) 483-2665, Tracee.Eberhart@cancer.org
Saint Mary's College
Ashley Miller, (925) 586-2657, Ashley.Miller@cancer.org.
For more information about the American Cancer Society, go to www.cancer.org.

Moraga's Police Cadet Program a Win-Win Deal

By Cathy Dausman



Moraga Police Cadet Max Juster

Photo C. Dausman

Max Juster found meaningful work as a public servant before he finished high school. Juster, a 2011 Campolindo High School graduate, is a cadet in the Moraga Police Department, and his training may give him a leg up on the law enforcement career he hopes to pursue after college.

Juster would like to attend a state Police Academy in a few years, and become a policeman like his father. Until then, he says he'll do whatever the department asks him to do, whether that is answering phones, learning radio codes, interacting with the public or riding alongside a regular officer.

Moraga is "big into volunteers," says the Moraga Police Department's Sergeant Brian South, and volunteers like Juster help the town. South should know—he is also a Cam-

polindo graduate who spent a year as a police cadet, a year as a reserve officer and has nine years as a sworn officer. South has managed the Moraga Police cadet and reserve programs for the last five years.

Moraga Police Cadet training is a flexible, three-tier program, says South. New cadets start in the office, where they learn the everyday workings of the department. They progress to driving evidence to a lab, the district attorney or the courthouse. The third step involves law enforcement duties like assisting with traffic control, tagging abandoned cars, running vacation house checks or assisting at the firing range. The department provides their uniforms, but Moraga Police Cadets are neither sworn nor armed. Cadets were formerly affiliated with a Boy Scout Explorer Post, but they have since

developed their own independent program.

Moraga's cadet program has been a real success, says Chief Robert Priebe: "It's a win-win situation, good for the town, and good for the program." Priebe says the program began in the early 1980's and is a public service opportunity for juniors and seniors in high school and those in college, as well as a natural conduit for a career in law enforcement.

One recent cadet, Scott Inouye, now works for the U.C. Davis Police Department. Claire Damon earned school credit while working as a cadet; Damon recently graduated from St. Mary's College, and has returned to her home state.

Juster volunteers eight hours a week and plans to attend U.C. Merced this fall. He was issued a radio and was busy learning police codes the day he was interviewed. He says his most memorable event as a cadet has been attending an all-day EVOG driving course taught by the Alameda County Sheriff's Department.

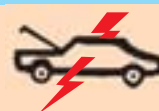
Lafayette and Orinda police departments also offer police cadet programs. The Lafayette program is set up as a Boy Scout Explorer Post and administered by Sgt. Joshua Patzer. Officer Kevin Mooney heads Orinda's program.

South says Moraga needs more young men and women for their cadet program. Those interested should contact him by phone at 888-7052 or e-mail south@moraga.ca.us. As South's boss, Chief Priebe says succinctly, "After Max is gone, we're down to zero."

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Town Hall Theatre Gets Leaner to Preserve its Heritage

By Sophie Braccini



Betsy Streeter and Clive Worsley at Town Hall Theatre
Photo Sophie Braccini

Betsy Streeter is adamant that non-profits need to reduce overhead so most of their funding goes to their mission, not to administrative costs. As the President of the Board of Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette, she is very outspoken about budget stringency. Artistic Director Clive Worsley has his eye on the money as well; and as Lamorinda's unique cultural treasure gets ready to launch its next theatrical season, administrative staff is being reduced and more community members will be asked to pitch in to preserve the legacy of the theater, whether it be volunteering at the bar or donating lumber. "We need to do this right now if we want the Theater to continue for the generations to come," says Streeter.

Since Worsley came on board three years ago, Town Hall's recognition in the Bay Area has grown consistently. "We now get more widespread press coverage before the opening of our shows because we have produced quality shows time and again over the past years," says the Artistic Director, "but that is not enough to guarantee the financial future of the theater."

Cuts had to be made in the administrative and management staff, but that was not easy. "We've had to let go people who had been with us for a long time," says Streeter. And now those tasks have to be taken over by the artistic

staff. "Now I also analyze balance sheets and operating budgets," says Worsley, who is not the only one who took extra responsibility on a voluntary basis.

Board vice-president Tom Stack produces music events at the theatre and has been instrumental in restructuring the theatre's expenses; treasurer Denise Altaffer wrestles with spreadsheets and acts as liaison to the accountant, while simultaneously serving as costumer; board member Kristen Correll is pursuing sponsorships and business partnerships in the community and writing the fundraising plan.

Being accountable to donors is a priority to Streeter and Worsley. "One-third of our budget comes from donations," says Worsley, "with tickets and classes bringing in the rest." According to the Streeter and Worsley, accounting responsibility is the only way to run a non-profit. "Patrons and donors expect most of the money to go toward specific programs and performances," says Streeter, "we've cut about \$100,000 of yearly expense and that's what successful non-profits do - they keep the overhead very low."

Meanwhile, the theater will continue to raise funds; the next fundraising event will be at 8:00 p.m. on August 6 as part of the Town Hall Comedy Series. "The sketch and improv comedy

troop Crisis Hopkins will host a very special evening with some of the greatest talent of Town Hall Kids," says Dennis Markam, lead actor and the theater's public relations manager. "Kids will feature some of the greatest moments from *The Wizard of Oz*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Our Town*, *Disney's 101 Dalmatians*, and more. All proceeds will benefit Town Hall Theatre and Town Hall Kids." (For ticket information go to www.TownHallTheatre.com.)

While expenses are being reduced and fundraising events are organized, the Board is also asking the community to support their theater in a different way. "We will need volunteers to tend the bar at performances," she said, "and we will also publish a list of needed items that people may be able to donate." Her list includes things such as lumber to construct scenery, art and class material for the kids' class or wine for the bar. The list and calendar for volunteering will soon be online.

"What we are doing today is preserving the heritage for the next generation," says Worsley, "this place is unique; it sustains the spiritual health of the Lamorinda community. As art classes are cut everywhere, it is important that we safeguard the soul of the community."

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

business briefs

First Brunch and Antiques and Lafayette Collectors Choice Antiques

3574 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette



There is something new on the boulevard. Carl and Kathy Himmelman, the owners of Collectors Choice Antiques, have taken over the space formerly occupied by Zeeba to expand their business. They are also creating synergies to develop a special "village street mall" atmosphere with their neighbors, Roy's Garlic Garden

and Zahra Boutique Salon. The first event to celebrate this partnership was on Sunday July 17 with a 'Brunch and Antiques' event. "It was the first time that Roy's was open for brunch," said Carl Himmelman, "we displayed some of our most fun 50's antiques and collectibles, such as antique bicycles and our old gas pump, and we had a lot of fun." Himmelman has been a collector for many years in parallel to his profession as a film producer. His wife Kathy combines her own passion for antiques with a legal job in the city. They owned an antique business in Alameda that grew too big for the space and looked for a new place closer to their home in Walnut Creek.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce Lafayette

- Business Issues Meeting, Friday, July 22, 8am in the Chamber Conference Room
- Green Committee Open Meeting, Tuesday, July 26, at noon in the Chamber Conference Room

Moraga

- Hands on Social Marketing and Web Presence Workshop, Wednesday, July 27 6- 9pm at the Saint Mary's computer lab, Garaventa Hall, Rm. 205. Free, for Chamber members only. Space is limited, please, no walk-ins. RSVP by July 20th to kathenelson@gmail.com.

Orinda

- Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament, Monday, July 25, 10:30am-5:30pm at the Orinda Country Club. The Celebrate Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament is hosted by the Orinda Community Foundation. Sign up at www.everydayheroes.golfreg.com.
- Mark your calendars for 'Orinda Longest Weekend,' starting with Dancing with the Cars" on September 23rd, the Orinda Classic Car Show on September 24th and the 4th annual Orinda Restaurant Tour on September 27th to support Orinda public schools.

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

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Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition Survey Results

By Sophie Braccini

The Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition recently released the results of a survey that was sent to parents of students in Lamorinda's public middle and high schools in Lafayette/Moraga/Orinda, via the schools' information distribution networks. In a nut shell, although a vast majority of participating parents indicated they themselves refuse to serve alcohol to minors, a significant portion of them know, or suspect, that others do.

Almost half of these interested parents are not sure about the legal consequences of providing, or allowing minors to consume, alcoholic beverages in their homes while they are present. "What this means to me is that the Coalition needs to continue its awareness campaign in Lamorinda," said Coalition Coordinator Jamie Rich.

The first question on the survey asked if parents could provide alcohol to their teen's friends in their home. About 95% of the 484 parents responded 'no' to that question, with only four saying yes and 16 stating that they were not sure. However, 67 said that they were sure that some parents host parties where alcohol is available to teens, and 78 said that this was probably the case — so roughly one-third of parents be-

lieve that other parents are hosting teen parties where alcohol is available. An additional 18% of parents said they were unsure of what is going on in the community.

"I can't say that the results were surprising, I was hoping that most people knew that it is wrong to serve alcohol to minors," said Rich. Asked about the discrepancy between an overwhelming majority of people that refuse to serve alcohol, but more than half of the same people saying that it might be happening, Rich replied, "People who serve alcohol (to minors) probably didn't want to answer the survey," she said, "they would rather not confront the fact that they are doing something that's against the law."

Rich was surprised that most parents have a very limited knowledge of the law, as indicated by responses to a precise question regarding social hosting ordinances. "The Coalition needs to promote the content of the law in Lamorinda," said Rich. "The more visible it is, the more parents are likely to talk to each other about the whole issue. A lot of what I do is promoting discussion among generations and among parents."

Moraga's police chief, Robert Priebe, explains the legal scene.

"The California Penal Code (section 272) characterizes this crime (contributing to the delinquency of a minor) as a misdemeanor with a fine not to exceed \$2,500, or by imprisonment in county jail for not more than 1 year, or by both fine and imprisonment, or by probation not to exceed 5 years," says the Chief, adding that both Moraga and Orinda have enacted Social Hosting Ordinances. "Our local ordinance, passed in 2001, is an infraction with penalties (base fines) of up to \$100 for conviction of first offense, \$200 the second, and \$300 for the third and subsequent convictions. However, the base fines are increased dramatically by state penalties and assessments."

Rich will continue the campaign this summer and fall. The Coalition, which is funded by Contra Costa County Health Services, will be at local events such as Lafayette's Art and Wine Festival. All members of the community are invited to attend the Coalition's meetings that are held monthly from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in the Orinda City Hall Community Room, 22 Orinda Way. The next meetings will be on July 20, August 17 and September 21. Jaime Rich can be contacted at Jaime@chd-prevention.org

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Local Authors Fill Shelves at Orinda Books

(List compiled by Cathy Tyson, with thanks to Marian Nielsen of Orinda Books for her assistance)

Lamorinda is home to a wide variety of talented authors. Whether you're shopping for a children's book, or in the mood for an entertaining summer romance or something to enlighten and educate, there is probably a tome penned by a local author that's just what you're looking for.

On a recent visit to Orinda Books, the shelves were graced by the following books authored by residents of Lamorinda:

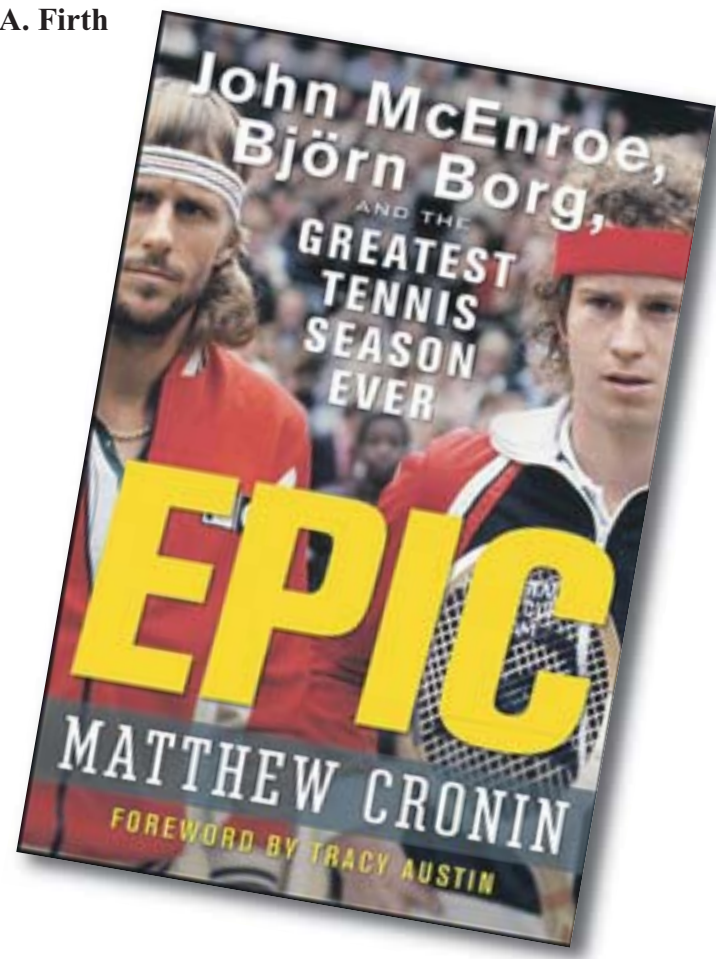
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- There's an Opossum in My Backyard – by Gary Bogue
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- The Viagra Diaries – Barbara Rose Brooker
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- This is, was or will be – Dorothy Cutright Davis
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EPIC

John McEnroe, Bjorn Borg and the Greatest Tennis Season Ever

Author: Matthew Cronin

By Andrea A. Firth



Moraga resident Matt Cronin did the initial research for his first book over 30 years ago. He had played in the last match of his own successful high school tennis career and was enjoying some down time before moving on to college. Like tennis fans around the world, Cronin spent part of the summer glued to the television watching one of the greatest men's tennis rivalries in the history of the game—Borg versus McEnroe.

"It is one of the greatest contrasts in the character and styles of two players at the very top of the game," says Cronin, a veteran tennis writer and radio and television analyst. Cronin's recently released book, *EPIC - John McEnroe, Bjorn Borg and the Greatest Tennis Season Ever*, takes readers back to 1980 and puts them in the stands to witness, almost point by point, Borg's defeat of McEnroe in a marathon match on Wimbledon's grass courts and the young, brash American's subsequent triumph over the stolid Swede two months later at the U.S. Open.

"McEnroe was this over-the-top, emotional, wild-eyed New Yorker playing Borg, the calm, reclusive Swede who had

been dominating the game," says Cronin setting the scene for his story of a tennis match up that stunned the world and attracted many new fans to the game. "McEnroe was immature at first; then he discovers a physical and emotional reserve and takes over the game."

To write the book, in addition to re-watching the matches for hours, Cronin did countless interviews with other players, coaches, friends, family and both Borg and McEnroe. He also researched the era and deftly interweaves the events in tennis with the social and political environment of the time. "The richest material comes from people talking about them," says the author. The book is infused with personal anecdotes that provide an interesting insight to the two tennis greats, both on and off the court, and reveals that the seemingly polar-opposite players shared both a passion for tennis and a friendship.

Cronin recently returned from Wimbledon, the 54th grand slam he has covered, and will head off to Arthur Ashe Stadium in the borough of Queens in New York City at the end of August to cover the 44th U.S. Open.



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The Back Story on *The Miracle Chase*

Authors: Joan Luise Hill, Katie Mahon, and Mary Beth Phillips

By Cathy Tyson

It all started with a friendly get together at Terzetto for three Moraga friends, Joan Luise Hill, Katie Mahon and Mary Beth “Meb” Phillips. At their second random coffee date the conversation turned toward extraordinary events in each of their lives. Meb’s daughter Liz was shaken by a neighbor’s nanny when she was only six months old and blinded. Katie had a strange encounter - thankfully cut short - in San Francisco with serial killer Ted Bundy, and Joan’s son had a very rare cardiac abnormality that required risky surgery.

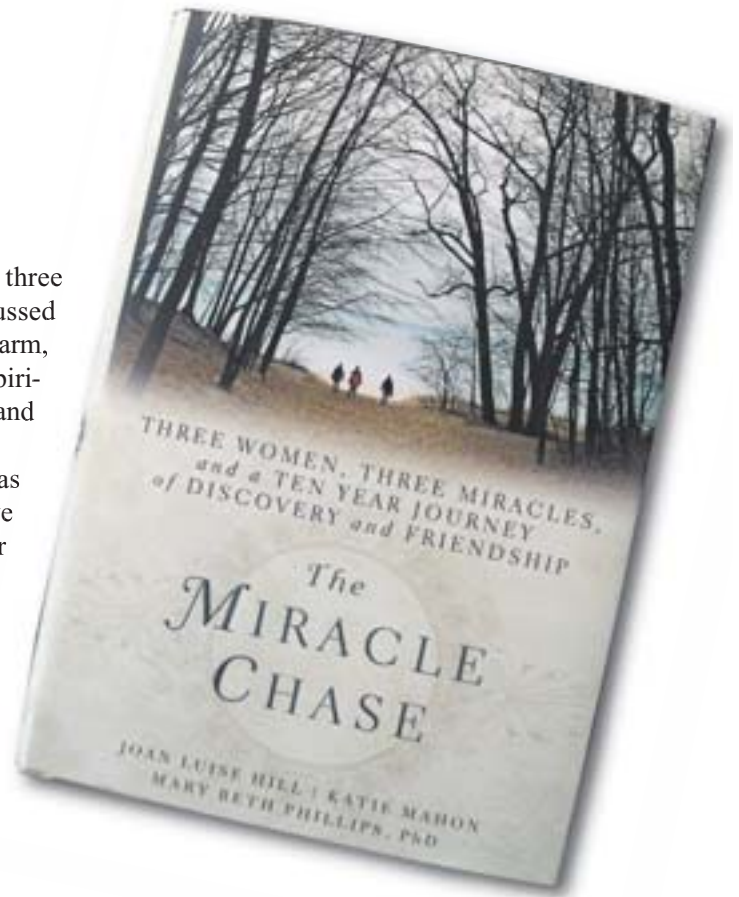
“Initially, we thought it would take six months – but it took ten years,” said Phillips, “the journey itself became important.” The trio was curious and determined to research miracles and in the process deepened their friendship – sharing insights and feelings along the way. All agreed from the get-go that they weren’t experts, but were serious about the project. They met weekly at Hill’s house, “Miracle Central,” and created a business plan, wrote a mission statement and divided up investigation tasks. Thus began a collaborative effort that produced, “The Miracle Chase.”

Early on, Hill somehow arranged to “borrow” a meeting

room at the Orinda Country Club so the three could have their own retreat as they discussed their vision for a book. The end result is a warm, engaging, easy to read chronicle of their spiritual quest across history, different cultures and wonderful coincidences in their lives.

Phillips jokes that the real miracle was that they found a publisher. They didn’t have an agent, instead reading “Publishing for Dummies” and following the instructions. After sending query letters to thirty publishers, they heard back from Sterling Ethos, an imprint of Sterling Publishing – a subsidiary of Barnes and Noble, just three weeks later that their manuscript was selected to be published. Now in its second printing, “The Miracle Chase” has sold approximately 10,000 copies.

For more information and pictures, visit www.themiraclechase.com.



Children’s Book Author Ginger Wadsworth

By Cathy Dausman

When the dog days of summer nip at our heels, there’s nothing quite like finding a shady spot and reading. And the chance to engage a young friend in the colorful world of books is even better than stretching out by yourself. Ginger

Wadsworth is a children’s book author with over 30 year’s experience. The Orinda resident writes for children, but not down to their level, and the subject matter and colorful illustrations can easily engage the child in each of us. “I guess I’ve never

grown up,” she says, explaining her focus on children’s books. But Wadsworth comes from a family of authors including her father (who also wrote for children) a grandfather, two brothers and a sister-in-law. Her work portfolio includes young reader biographies of Annie Oakley, Cesar Chavez, John Muir, and Julia Morgan. Her general non-fiction selections include the new *Camping with the President*, which has President Teddy Roosevelt teaming up with naturalist John Muir for a trip to Yosemite. The book is a great summer read, says Wadsworth, who just returned from Yosemite herself. She was delighted to find the park “overflowing with water and families.”

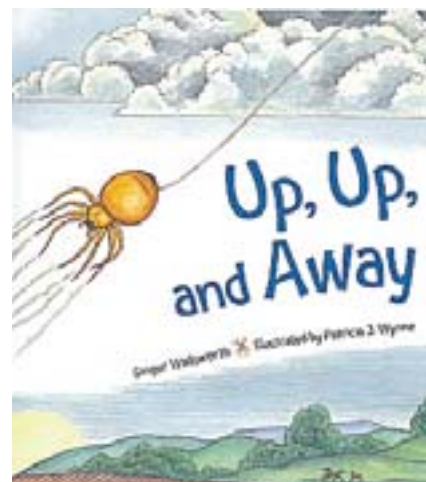
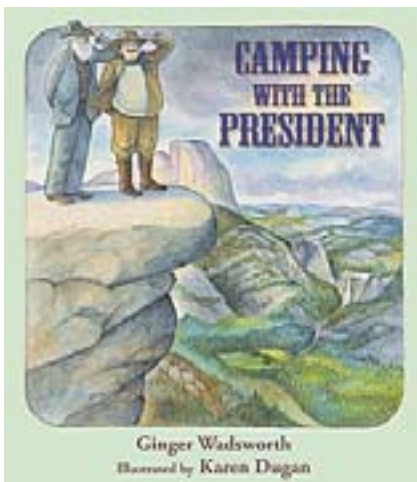
Wadsworth’s newest science and natural history selection is the Charlotte’s Web-themed *Up, Up and Away*. The illustrations are awesome --- colorful, intricate, and just right in their complexity. While

her narration may be simple, the author strives for accuracy even in the illustrations. You won’t find an east coast jay bird in a California setting if she can help it.

Wadsworth’s website is aimed at her young audience as well. The U-tube book trailers are voiced by young readers and look like a mini-movie. Wadsworth says her books reflect her own interest in the natural world: “As a California native, I often write about my state and western American history.” When Wadsworth takes to the hills to explore, she often brings along her doggy “writing buddies,” Willa and Scout.

A good book to read and a four-legged friend. Summer days don’t get much better than that.

Learn more about the author and her upcoming projects by visiting her website: www.gingerwadsworth.com.



Lilo Speaks: A Memoir, with Tom Adams

By Sophie Braccini

Lafayette resident Mike Heller called our attention to this book – it started us thinking about the importance of capturing oral histories before the stories are gone forever. *Lilo Speaks: A Memoir, with Tom Adams* is his mother’s story; one she was reluctant to tell until recently.

Once you open this short, 70-page book, you won’t be able to shut it. It’s not the style, which is simple and reads like the spoken word, it is the life and turmoil detailed in every paragraph that grabs the reader and makes one continue to turn the pages until the end. *Lilo Speaks: A Memoir* tells of the first 25 years in the life of Liselotte Basch, a Jewish girl born in Germany in 1921, who was thrown into the turmoil of the

Nazi regime, escaped to Indonesia only to be held by the Japanese in a series of World War II prison camps, and finally reached San Francisco in July of 1946.

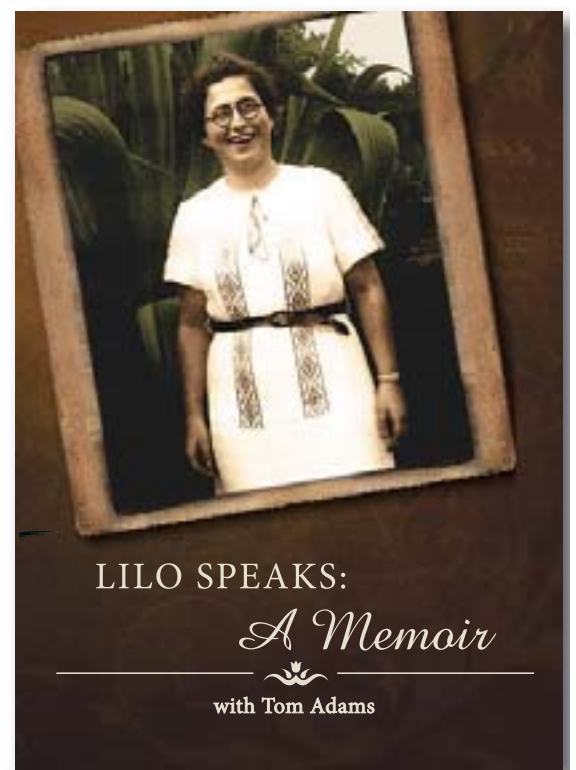
For years Lilo (Basch) Heller could not talk about her early life with her American family, “It’s too painful and no one cares anymore. Why dredge up the past? No!” she said. But she is the only survivor of her German family. The cousins who didn’t want to leave Germany or Holland were swept away by the Nazi extermination machine; her parents, who fled to Ecuador, died a long time ago— she had to tell the story of the Basch family and of lives lost.

Lilo Heller continues to fight for peace and social justice from her Mill

Valley home. The biographic that she recorded were transcribed by Lafayette author Tom Adams and published by Big Hat Press (also in Lafayette). It is available at local bookstores and online.



Tom Adams



Surprise! I’m Still Here! (Living with Incurable Cancer)

Author: Jane Rubey

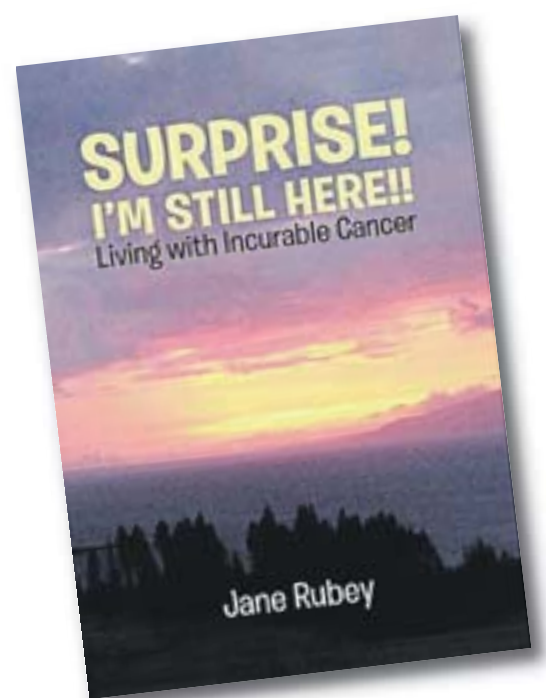
By Cathy Dausman

Jane Rubey is not a pessimist, although some might say she has reason to be one. She’s more of a realist, but she’s written what she calls her “missal of hope,” and a “legacy for her grandchildren.” Rubey was diagnosed in 2003 with incurable cancer (myeloma) and has endured “horrific treatments,” but is slowly returning to what she calls her “new normal.” In the process she wrote the book she wishes someone had given to her.

Rubey, who just returned from a two-week trip along Europe’s Rhine and Mosel Rivers, says you don’t have to be sick to read her short (75 pages), upbeat book. “Cheer up,” advises the author. “Do the right thing:” sort photos, focus on favorite and special things and “clear out your closets.” Her advice, even by phone, skips from the sublime to the ridiculous. She talks about taking her own advice, including enjoying fresh air and meeting her goal of celebrating life. Still, Rubey insists, “I didn’t write this.” A friend, she says, made her publish her journaling. “A lot of people [who get a life-threatening diagnosis] give up,” says Rubey. The book’s message is you don’t have to.

Rubey is “scurrying” to take her 12 year old grandchild on a trip, a rite of passage she has also shared with her 17 and 15 year old grandchildren. She and the 12 year old will visit Mt. Rushmore in two weeks for what she says will be a “nice bonding experience.” Two more grandchildren, ages 3 and 5, live out of state, and for a moment Rubey turns pensive: “It is sad to me that my [younger] grandchildren never knew me as not sick.” But it’s clear she is taking her own advice, and in the process, letting those who suffer know they’re not alone. When a patient can only rest during [cancer] treatment, then “reading is a big thing.” And *SURPRISE!* is a little book that makes everyone appreciate hope and encouragement in their own life.

Rubey kept a website when she worked as a nutrition professional; however she has since dropped the site, explaining it now requires far too much effort. Her book is available at local stores, and online at Amazon; profits go to myeloma research.



◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

The Hearst Art Gallery at Saint Mary's College presents Pam Glover: *A Life in Art* through September 11. The retrospective exhibition showcases the remarkable life and work of Pam Glover, influential *en plein air* landscape artist and teacher. More than 60 colorful California landscape paintings are on view, including scenes of the North and Central Coast, San Francisco Bay area, Monterey and the wine country, plus rarely seen student work from China and Australia, 1950s fashion illustrations, bold mixed-media abstractions and European landscape

paintings. The Hearst Art Gallery is open from Wednesdays through Sundays, 11am-4:30pm. Admission is \$4 for adults; free for groups, K-12th graders, Friends of the Hearst Art Gallery members and all military personnel and their families this summer. For more information, please call (925) 631-4379.

The Epperson Gallery will be hosting the mixed medium Plein Air Paint Out held in the Valona District in Crockett. The Valona District covers a wide range of options from open space, to river views, bridges, C&H Sugar factory, rustic marina, hillside vistas

and quaint neighborhoods. It is a great place to paint and a fun event. This is a juried and judged exhibition and competition. To be selected into the competition artists will submit three digital images for review by the Jurors. 30 artists will be chosen to participate in the paint out. To enter go to www.onlinejuriedshows.com.

Moraga Art Gallery Member Donna Arganbright and Guest Artist Sharon Tama will be featured through August 13. The public is invited to view Arganbright's original stoneware and Tama's acrylic paintings along with gallery members' work. The Moraga Art Gallery is located at 570 Center St. in Moraga. For more information, go to www.moragaartgallery.com or (925)376-5407.

A themed exhibition by the members of the Contra Costa Camera Club (CCCC) is currently on display in the Doug Adams Gallery at the Orinda Community Church with a total of 34 photographs depicting a cross-section of American landscapes, peoples and imagery. The exhibit is open for public viewing every Sunday until August 21st after church, 11am - 12pm. See www.contracostacameraclub.org for more information.

MUSIC

Summer Music Series: Thursday August 4th 5:30-8:30pm Bob Athayde and Friends' Quartet; and Thursday Sept. 1st: 747 Express featuring Ed McClary & Michael Hatfield. Free, see details at: www.orindatheatresquare.com/events/summer-music-series.

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. Thursday, July 21: MOONALICE, Early SF Rock; Thursday, July 28: MIXED NUTS, Standards & Covers. For info see www.moragaparks.org.

The Orinda Library summer concert presents Al'Azifoon, Eastern Strings on Wednesday, July 27 at 6:45pm playing music of the Arab world. 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.cclib.org or telephone (925) 254-2184.

The third annual free opera concert in the park will be held at 4pm on Sunday, July 31 in the Orinda Community Park. Free parking. Children welcome. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Orinda. Food, wine, beer and sodas will be available.

The First Annual Moraga Jazz Festival, Sunday, August 7th, 2- 5pm at The New Rheem Theatre. Tickets: \$20 for General Admission, \$15 for Students available for purchase at The New Rheem Theatre's Box Office, at www.TheNewRheemTheatre.com or call (925) 388- 0752 for information. See article page C2.

Celebrate the lazy days of summer with music, family and fun! Rock the Plaza, August 12, 19 & 26, 6pm Plaza Park in Lafayette. August 12: Stage-frite, August 19: The Floorshakers, August 26: Tall Shadows. Bring the family and a picnic supper!

THEATER

Outdoor Move Night in the Plaza, Thursday, July 21, 8pm, "Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark". Invite your friends, family, and neighbors, bring a blanket or two, shop at the farmers market for a fresh and delicious picnic or pick-up a meal to go at the nearby restaurants, and stake out your spot on the Lafayette Plaza greens for the free family entertainment. The free movie will follow the farmer's market at sundown. Sweets and drinks will be available for purchase.

Cal Shakes presents the world premiere of "The Verona Project," written and directed by Amanda Dehnert, July 6-31. The Verona Project tells the story of two boyhood best friends coming of age; the boy and the girl who come between them; and their journey toward figuring out who they all want to love, who they are, and who they want to become. For details and to purchase tickets go to www.calshakes.org. See article page C1.

Orinda Starlight Players present "Send Me No Flowers" by Norman Barasch and Carroll Moore thru August 6th: Fridays, 8:30pm and Saturdays, 8:30pm.

Note: Change in date for matinee- Sunday July 24th, 4pm & Thursday Aug. 4th, 8 pm. Held at the Outdoor Theater in Orinda Community Center Park, 26 Orinda Way. Regular admission: \$16, Seniors \$8. Tickets are available at the Box Office, call (925) 528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org for reservations. Bring a picnic, warm clothes and enjoy the show! See www.orsvp.org for more information and to check future show dates.

Families, young and old, are invited to a fabulous movie night under the stars in Lafayette screening, "How to Train Your Dragon" on August 13 at 7pm. The film will play on a big screen and guests are encouraged to bring blankets for the lawn and to enjoy themed activities before the movie starts. Concessions include BBQ drumsticks, crudité, cupcakes, beer, wine and more. This is a special family night to benefit the Diabetic Youth Foundation. Visit www.dyf.org for more information.

\$10/person. To purchase tickets, contact Krystle Samai at (925) 680-4994 or email her at samai@dyf.org

Berkeley Playhouse presents Berkeley Playhouse Presents Seussical, the Musical! through August 14. Weds-Sat 7pm; Matinees: Sat 2pm, Sun 12pm and 5pm, at Berkeley Playhouse at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Avenue, Berkeley. The Cat in the Hat comes back hip as ever juggling beloved tales and characters into one fantastical, musical journey. Cost: \$33 Adult / \$30 Senior / \$22 Youth / \$15 Tot (5 and under). Pay-What-You-Can-Nights: 7/14, 7/27 & 8/4, 8/11. For more info see <http://www.berkeleyplayhouse.org> or call (510) 845-8542 or email boxoffice@berkeleyplayhouse.org.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Commonwealth Club to host speaker Ellen Tauscher on Thursday, July 28, 6:30 - 7:30pm at the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. The former U.S. congressional representative and current senior adviser to the president will discuss the prospects for U.S. and international security in the midst of continued global unrest. 6pm Check in, 6:30pm Program; \$12 members, \$22 standard, \$7 students. For tickets visit commonwealthclub.org or call (415) 597-6705.

KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents Jane Fonda: Prime Time: Making the Most of Your Life on Wednesday, Aug 17, 7:30-9:30pm, at First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. Jane Fonda will discuss her new book, Prime Time: Making the Most of Your Life, answer questions, and sign books. Hosted by Chris Welch. Cost: \$15 advance, \$18 door. For more info see <http://www.kpfa.org/events> or call (510) 967-4495.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Lawrence Hall of Science presents Dinosaurs Unearthed on 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://lawrencehallofscience.org> or call (510) 642-5132 or email lhsweb@berkeley.edu.

Join the Kids' Club in Theatre Square, every Wednesday afternoon from 2-3pm for free entertainment throughout the summer (ages 2-8 yrs).

Free Contract Bridge Lessons for students between the ages of 10 & 18. Diablo Valley Bridge Center welcomes students beginning Aug. 2nd, 6:15 to 8:15 PM, 2920 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek for bridge lessons plus snacks. Call (925) 820-7203 or email bridgeliason@gmail.com to be among the first 16 to register.

Norcal Kids Triathlon will take place on Saturday, August 27, from 9 am-1pm at Miramonte Highschool, 750 Moraga Way, Orinda. The competition will be divided by age divisions: 6 & under, 7-8,9-10, 11-12, 13-14, and 15+

in HS; as well as into girls and boys categories. Each participant swims, bikes and runs the triathlon course and courses are adjusted for age appropriateness. Register at NorCalKidsTri.org but sign up early, as there is a max of 500 participants.

Because it's never too early to learn about carbon monoxide safety, the California Safe Homes Coalition (which includes the California State Firefighters' Association, Safe Kids California and Kidde as well as many other organizations) is sponsoring a summer-long poster contest for children ages 6-12. Children can learn about the odorless, colorless gas and then create and submit original artwork that helps teach others about both carbon monoxide and the state's new CO alarm law. Entries will be accepted until September 2, 2011, and the official rules and submission details can be found at www.casafehomes.org.

OTHER

Peter deVries will speak on Systemic Constellation Therapy and how it can help us support the challenges we encounter in family, relationships, health and business. Homeopathy Every Day Study Group, Thursday July 23, 6-7pm, 43 Quail Court Office Park, Rm. 215, Walnut Creek. \$9. Contact Myra Nissen, CCH, RSHom(NA), (928) 826-3858. HomeopathyEveryDay.com.

There will be an informational meeting for those interested in helping develop a Lafayette cooperative community garden and educational site near the Lafayette Reservoir, on Saturday, July 23rd, from 10 - 12, at the Lafayette Reservoir near the tot playground. If you have questions, you can email them to janet@sustainable-lafayette.org.

The American Red Cross Northern California will hold a blood drive on Thursday, July 28, noon-6pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 3776 Via Granada, Moraga. Individuals who are at least 17 years old (16 with parental permission) and in good health may be eligible to donate blood. To schedule an appointment, call 800-733-2767 or visit redcross-blood.org (sponsor code: Interfaith-Community).

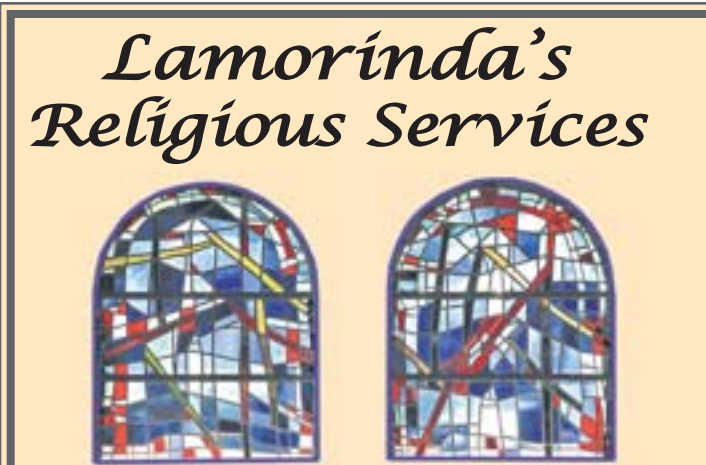
The fast growing Moraga Movers, dedicated to providing "Activities for Adults 55 Plus" invites all those interested in learning more about our organization to join us for a fabulous barbecue on the St. Mary's College campus on Monday, August 8 at 5pm. For complete information please visit our website at www.moragamovers.org and access our August bulletin or call (925) 376-6622. Reservations must be made no later than midnight on Wednesday, August 3.

7th Annual Summer Wine Festival on Sunday, August 14, 2 - 5 pm in the Soda Center at Saint Mary's College in Moraga. \$35 per person until August 7 (\$45 thereafter) Ticket price includes SMC logo wine glass, appetizers and wine tastings. Proceeds to benefit student scholarships. For tickets and information, call (925) 631-4200 or visit stmays-ca.edu/wine.

Sign up now for the new Lamorinda and Friends Senior Bowling League. The 2011 season begins on Tuesday September 13th at 1pm at Diablo Lanes in Concord, 1500 Monument Blvd. The cost per week is \$11. Individuals are welcome or join as a team with a couple of friends. The league is for bowlers 55 and older. No average score or bowling experience is needed. It is designed to be low key yet fun for individuals and friends who enjoy a weekly activity, a little socializing and want some exercise. To sign up call Eric Hatrup at (925) 671-0913 or email erich@diablolanes.com.

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

Please submit: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com



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Splashing Around in the Kitchen ... Summer Food Fun!

By Susie Iventosch



Chow Bella Kids -Team Green's Caprese on a Stick

Photo Susie Iventosch

When I went to summer camp as a kid, the food was edible ... but barely! These days, kids have a multitude of options for summertime activities and one of those is "cooking camp", where you can bet your sweet cupcake, the meals are going to be tasty!

Chow Bella Kids is offering an interesting menu of summer cooking camps this year from "Farm to Table" and the "All American Bake Shop" to "At Nonni's Table" and "Around the World", featuring international cuisine. The camps are designed for "growing gourmets" seven years and older.

Each session is comprised of five afternoons of cooking. During the first four days, kids learn to make an entire meal each day, including salad and dessert. Then on Friday they divide into two teams to compete with their new-found culinary skills in the "Kids' Iron Chef" or "Cupcake Wars" competitions. As class concludes on Thursday, the group is divided into two teams, and they are given a secret ingredient that must be used in the dish they prepare for competition. The week I visited, cheese was the secret ingredient.

"On Thursday, the teams decide among themselves what they want to make, so we can have all ingredients ready for them on Friday," said Elaine Smit, owner of Chow Bella. "We bring in outside judges—parents, grandparents, siblings and babysitters—so staff can be on hand to assist the kids as needed. All cooking must be completed in two hours, so it is also a race against the clock."

Each judge is asked to score the dishes based upon presentation, taste and how creatively the secret ingredient was used, to determine which team will "Reign Supreme."

The week I was invited to judge the competition, it was very exciting. Young chefs adorned in white aprons were furiously working to complete the final touches to their dishes.

Team Red made Beef and Turkey Lasagna (a recipe from Sarah Armstrong's dad) and Red Velvet Cupcakes with cream cheese frosting. Team Green presented Chicken Parmesan with their own addition of Alfredo Sauce, Tiramisu and Caprese Kebobs—marinated mozzarella balls, grape tomatoes and basil all perched on a skewer. I loved these and will definitely be using this dish for my next party!

"We chose to make the Chicken Parmesan, because it was delicious when we made it earlier in the week," said Sydney Smith, 11, who loved everything about the class, especially learning about new tools and cooking techniques. "And we thought we could make it pretty easily for the competition. We added the Alfredo Sauce so we could use more of this week's secret ingredient in the recipe."

While Team Green won the overall competition with their delicious Chicken Parmesan and

Tiramisu, Team Red's Red Velvet Cupcake tree was nicely presented and tasty, too.

"We wanted to be creative," said Dahlia Theriault, who at the age of 12 already knows she would like to own a cupcake bakery someday. "I have an iPhone app for allrecipes.com, where I found recipes for both the cupcakes and the frosting."

Brandon Chu, 8, said he really liked learning how to cook new things.

"Before, I could only cook scrambled eggs and bacon," he pointed out. "But, now, I will try to make spaghetti at home!"

The next summer session, "Around the World", is July 25-29. The cuisine will run the gamut from Chinese and Mexican, to regular old American. There's still a little room at the table, but you'd better hurry!

Chow Bella Kids
For all of the recipes and more information on kids' summer cooking camps, please visit: www.chowbellakids.com
Email: info@chowbella.net, or call (925) 878-9932
Camp Location: Founders Grove
584 Glenside Drive
Lafayette, CA 94549
Conveniently located behind Lafayette Christian Church and across from Las Trampas pool.



Chow Bella Kids Iron Chef Contest Team Red

Photo Susie Iventosch

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

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.



Chow Bella Kids Chicken Parmesan



Chow Bella Kids Iron Chef Contest Team Green

Photo Susie Iventosch

This is an easy recipe for a parent and child to prepare together. Kids love pounding the chicken with a meat mallet. To shorten the cooking time, use a prepared marinara sauce.

INGREDIENTS

- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1 cup bread crumbs seasoned
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 cup marinara sauce
- 1/4 cup fresh mozzarella
- 1 batch Marinara Sauce (recipe below)
- Optional: serve over linguine

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Pound the chicken breasts until they are 1/4 inch thick. A meat mallet works best for this. Using three shallow dishes, combine flour and salt in one shallow dish. Place beaten eggs into another shallow dish. In the third dish, mix together the grated parmesan cheese and bread crumbs. Dip chicken breasts into the flour mixture, then into beaten egg, and finally into bread crumb mixture to coat. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add coated chicken and sauté for about 3 or 4 minutes each side, or until chicken is cooked through and juices run clear. Pour marinara sauce into a lightly greased 9x13 inch baking dish. Add chicken, then place a slice of mozzarella cheese over a breast, and bake in the preheated oven for 20 minutes or until cheese is completely melted.

Marinara Sauce

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 small onions, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2 stalks celery, finely chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled and finely chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 2 (32-ounce) cans crushed tomatoes
- 2 dried bay leaves

DIRECTIONS

In a large casserole pot, heat the oil over a medium high flame. Add the onions and garlic, and sauté until the onions are translucent, about 10 minutes. Add the celery, carrots, and 1/2 teaspoon of each salt and pepper. Sauté until all the vegetables are soft, about 10 minutes. Add the tomatoes and bay leaves, and simmer uncovered over low heat until the sauce thickens, about 1 hour. Remove and discard the bay leaf. Season the sauce with more salt and pepper, to taste.

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	Millie's Kitchen, 1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Lafayette	283-2397	Coffee Shop	Millie's Kitchen, 1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Lafayette	283-2397
	Shelby's, 2 Theatre Sq, Orinda	254-9687	Comfort Food	Table 24, Theatre Sq, Orinda	254-0124
	Table 24, Theatre Sq, Orinda	254-0124	Italian	Giardino, 3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette	283-3869
	Terzetto Cuisine, 1419 Moraga Way, Moraga	376-3832	Mediterranean	Shish Kabab Show, 376 Park Street, Moraga	388-0351
Café	Geppetto's of Orinda, 87 Orinda Way, Orinda	253-9894	Mexican	El Charro Mexican Dining, 3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette	283-2345
California Cuisine	Shelby's, 2 Theatre Sq, Orinda	254-9687	Persian	Roya's Garlic Garden, 3576 Mt Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-3007
	Vino Restaurant, 3531 Plaza Way, Lafayette	284-1330			

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Katie Malone at 925-310-4439

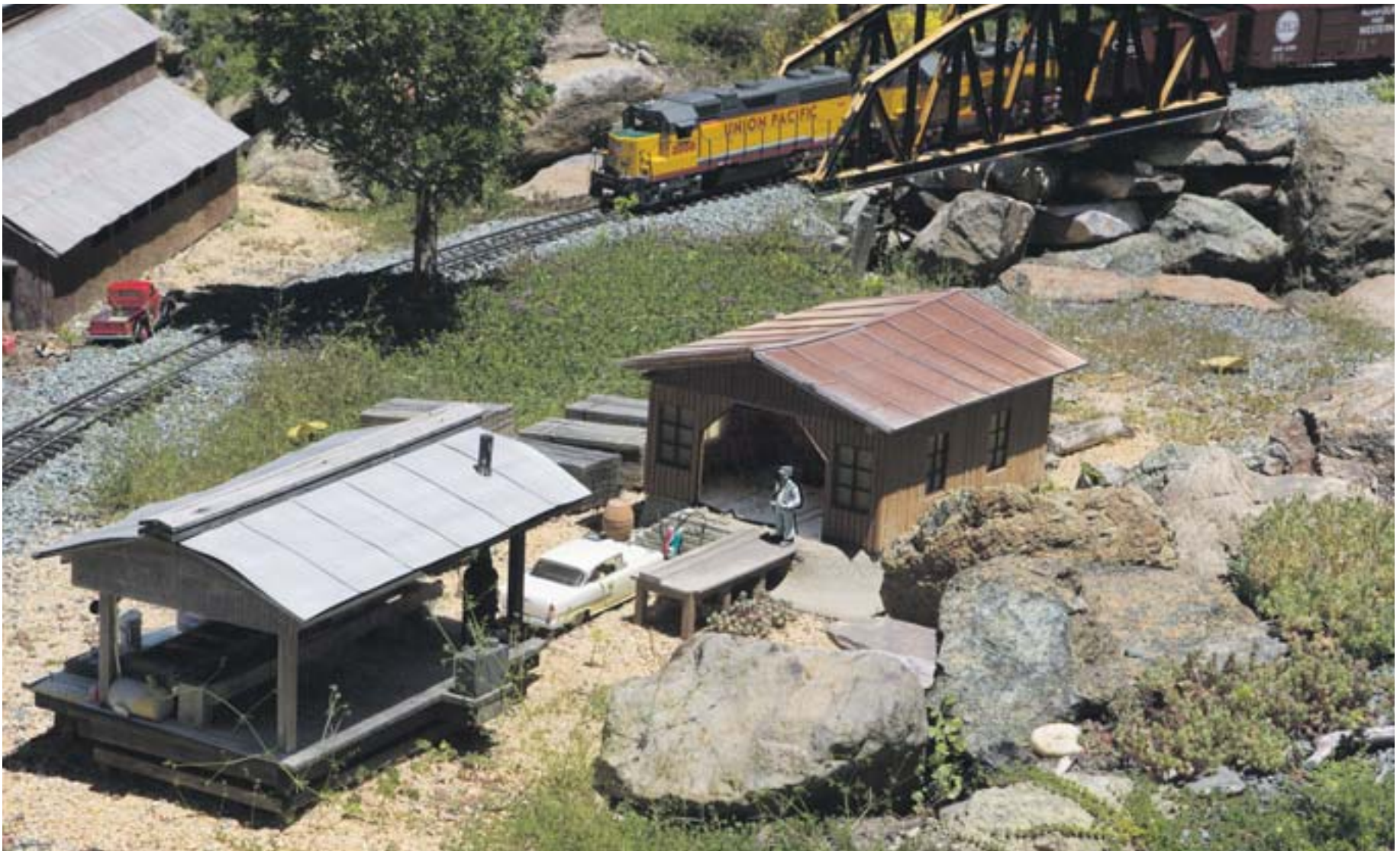
Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 10 Wednesday, July 20, 2011



Gathering 'Round the Railroad

By Diana LaScala-Gruenewald Photos Doug Kohen



An intricately detailed model railroad brings friends, neighbors and train enthusiasts together in Bob and Norma Evans' back yard.

Photos Doug Kohen

Under a flowering and tree lined hummock, a lumberjack loads up the bed of his truck. A moose, stock still near a curtain of waterfall, regards a downstream fisherman whose knees are deep in a glassy pool. In the nearby town, a man reclines. He reads a paper and has his shoes shined as he waits for a ruby train. Only a passing

butterfly, apparently the size of a glider, belies the reality of the model railway.

Bob Evans, a long time Lafayette resident, and his wife Norma are the proud owners of this model railway. The model landscapes perhaps a third of the Evans' yard, and includes four trains which run on one thousand feet of track. ... continued on page D11

THE BEAUBELLE GROUP

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This single level, 5 bdrm, 3 bath home sprawls over a third of an acre. One will enjoy new paint, landscape, refinished hardwood floors, plantation shutters, coffered ceilings, skylights, crown molding and over 2800 sf of living space.

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Orinda

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	20	\$355,000	\$1,750,000
MORAGA	6	\$505,000	\$1,430,000
ORINDA	6	\$425,000	\$1,595,000

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

- 856 Acalanes Road, \$797,000, 4 Bdrms, 1972 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-24-11;
Previous Sale: \$730,000, 08-11-10
- 851 Avalon Court, \$815,000, 3 Bdrms, 1602 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 6-16-11;
Previous Sale: \$365,000, 07-29-97
- 890 Birdhaven Court, \$1,464,000, 4 Bdrms, 2574 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 6-17-11;
Previous Sale: \$1,780,000, 08-31-07
- 3164 Cordova Way, \$699,000, 3 Bdrms, 1840 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 6-24-11
- 60 Knox Drive, \$915,000, 4 Bdrms, 2378 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 6-17-11;
Previous Sale: \$240,000, 07-31-86
- 3100 La Playa Court, \$740,000, 4 Bdrms, 2178 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-14-11;
Previous Sale: \$760,000, 04-22-04
- 3328 Las Huertas Road, \$1,505,000, 4 Bdrms, 2307 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-24-11
- 3177 Lucas Drive, \$670,000, 3 Bdrms, 1574 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 6-14-11
- 14 Moss Lane, \$500,000, 2 Bdrms, 1442 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 6-15-11
- 3279 Mt. Diablo Court #7, \$355,000, 2 Bdrms, 1697 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 6-14-11;
Previous Sale: \$355,000, 06-08-11
- 2 Olde Creek Place, \$750,000, 4 Bdrms, 1842 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 6-16-11;
Previous Sale: \$475,000, 05-14-99
- 3802 Quail Ridge Road, \$936,000, 4 Bdrms, 2363 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 6-24-11;
Previous Sale: \$357,500, 12-09-92
- 1268 Redwood Lane, \$1,120,000, 3 Bdrms, 2047 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 6-15-11
- 1619 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,149,000, 5 Bdrms, 3017 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-14-11
- 21 Samantha Drive, \$1,750,000, 5 Bdrms, 4619 SqFt, 2005 YrBlt, 6-21-11;
Previous Sale: \$2,650,000, 07-14-06
- 3268 South Lucille Lane, \$745,000, 3 Bdrms, 2146 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-17-11;
Previous Sale: \$157,000, 03-14-86
- 1689 Springbrook Road, \$651,000, 3 Bdrms, 1124 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 6-24-11;
Previous Sale: \$450,000, 12-20-10
- 3724 St. Francis Drive, \$1,433,000, 5 Bdrms, 3356 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-16-11
- 1515 Sunset Loop, \$720,000, 4 Bdrms, 2008 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-21-11;
Previous Sale: \$153,000, 01-17-86
- 308 Willoughby Court, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2394 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 6-17-11

MORAGA

- 244 Corliss Drive, \$995,000, 4 Bdrms, 2294 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-24-11;
Previous Sale: \$910,000, 11-30-09
- 795 Crossbrook Drive, \$1,020,000, 4 Bdrms, 2276 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-14-11;
Previous Sale: \$560,000, 01-19-00
- 834 Crossbrook Court, \$1,430,000, 4 Bdrms, 3316 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 6-20-11;
Previous Sale: \$535,000, 03-16-99
- 12 Josefa Place, \$505,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 6-17-11;
Previous Sale: \$695,000, 05-25-07
- 61 San Pablo Court, \$1,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 2792 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-14-11;
Previous Sale: \$527,000, 05-23-97
- 14 Thune Avenue, \$660,000, 3 Bdrms, 1570 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 6-21-11

... continued on page D4

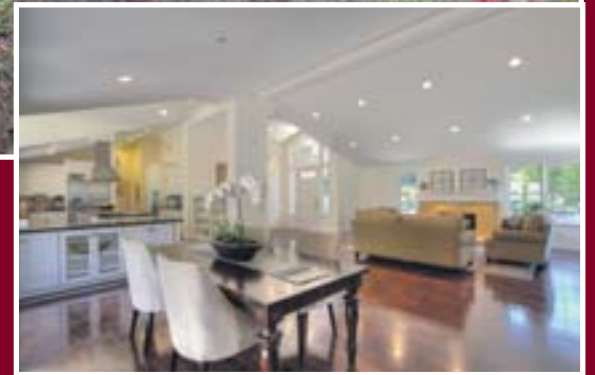
SUE LAYNG PROUDLY PRESENTS...
STUNNING REMODEL IN HAPPY VALLEY ...



3936 South Peardale Drive, Lafayette

Situated in one of Lafayette's most sought-after neighborhoods, this fabulous single story custom home is filled with natural light. The traditional floor plan offers four bedrooms, four baths, separate family room, inviting living room and spacious formal dining area. The state of the art kitchen features a Viking range, all stain less steel professional appliances and charming over sized banquette for informal meals. Vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, and French doors, level yard and seamless indoor/outdoor living are just a few amenities. This very special home is a must see.

Offered at \$1,650,000



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4 bedroom/ 3 bath Burton Valley charmer terrific open floor plan with remodeled kitchen w/gorgeous granite counters, vaulted ceilings, maple hardwood flrs, remodeled baths, new roof, level yard with terrific views. Very private & quiet.

COMING SOON!

3 bd/2 ba ranch home! Walk to Burton Valley School. Located on a quiet street, views of the hills, level yard area, gorgeous hardwood flrs, updated master and guest bath, spacious family room, eat in kitchen with formal dining room.



PRICE REDUCED!

11 BUCKINGHAM DRIVE MORAGA

You'll be immediately comfortable in this charming traditional 3 bedroom and 2 bath ranch home with spacious yard with new paver patio and level lawn. Terrific open floor plan with remodeled living, dining and kitchen. All of this just minutes to convenient shopping, top-rated Moraga schools and Moraga Commons Park.



OFFERED at \$759,000

PRICE REDUCED!

20 MONTICELLO COURT LAFAYETTE

Tucked away in one of nature's most serene and naturally beautiful settings, this Happy Valley Glen property offers one of the most special residential retreats. Privacy and quiet with a secluded setting as it backs to Briones Regional Park, this 1.60 acre Mediterranean style estate property built in 1999 is the perfect venue for informal gatherings and grand-scale entertaining.



OFFERED at \$2,799,000

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from page D2

ORINDA

2 Carmen Court, \$425,000, 2 Bdrms, 1320 SqFt, 1970 YrBl, 6-21-11; Previous Sale: \$10,500, 10-16-70
484 Dalewood Drive, \$1,595,000, 5 Bdrms, 4124 SqFt, 1972 YrBl, 6-16-11; Previous Sale: \$16,500, 04-27-71
644 Ironbark Circle, \$1,285,000, 5 Bdrms, 2944 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 6-16-11; Previous Sale: \$366,000, 07-01-83
99 La Cuesta Road, \$1,169,000, 4 Bdrms, 2720 SqFt, 1979 YrBl, 6-16-11; Previous Sale: \$360,000, 07-26-88
177 Moraga Way, \$837,000, 3 Bdrms, 2514 SqFt, 1940 YrBl, 6-23-11; Previous Sale: \$680,000, 08-01-00
2 Rustic Way, \$875,500, 3 Bdrms, 2623 SqFt, 1946 YrBl, 6-23-11; Previous Sale: \$64,000, 09-01-72

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

LAFAYETTE

927 Reliez Station Road, 94549, Aurora Loan Services, 06-20-11, \$896,940, 1437 sf, 2 bd

MORAGA

1986 Ascot Drive #B, 94556, Integrity Investment Group, 06-14-11, \$230,000, 1472 sf, 3 bd

Lamorinda Realtor Meeting Schedule

TUESDAY, JULY 26 ~ 8:30AM - 9:30AM

FEATURING

Paul Wildrick, Certified Business Coach:
"5 Ways to Grow Your Business"

Free to attend, for full meeting details see LamorindaREGroup.com.

Location: Lafayette Lower Library,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette

Light continental breakfast provided

Lamorinda Weekly

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3767 Via Granada, Moraga

Updated Campolindo Two-Story with Large, Level Yard

This traditional home with a charming covered porch in front features 5 bedrooms (with a possibility for 6), 3 baths, plus an office, and a large, level yard with lawn, patio and play area. It has been updated with attention to detail throughout and custom touches abound. The kitchen features stainless, high-end appliances, and views of the yard. The bathrooms have been remodeled with granite and marble. There is an oversized master bedroom that could be divided into two rooms if desired. The house has hardwood floors, dual-paned windows, and two-zone air conditioning. It's close to top-rated Campolindo High School, the Campolindo Cabana Club, and has an excellent commute location.

Offered at \$1,079,000



18 Wandel Drive, Moraga

Cute-as-a-Button Single Story on Corner Lot

This absolutely charming 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath single-story home on a level lot is ready for you to move in and enjoy. It's been updated with dual-paned windows, granite kitchen countertops, and a newly remodeled master bath. Situated on a corner lot, there is a large, flat front yard, and level backyard with patio, lawn and play structure. The home features two wood-burning brick fireplaces, hardwood flooring, and exposed wood-beamed ceiling in one of the bedrooms. In addition, there is an office/bonus room with half bath attached. Close to top-rated schools and shopping.

Offered at \$689,000



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SOLD

50 York Place, Moraga



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900 Camino Del Rio, Lafayette

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272 Tharp Drive, Moraga

3 BR, 2 BA, 1580 sq. ft. \$759,000

Beautifully landscaped single level home is move in ready! Spacious formal living room, sunny formal dining room, great patio for entertaining. Tucked away in a quiet neighborhood close to Rancho Laguna Park, and Camino Pablo Elementary.

The Olse

Lamorinda Spec



80 Lynwood Place, Moraga-

Incredible private gated estate in close-in Moraga with gorgeous views and abundant wildlife. 5 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths, Large chef's kitchen with butler's pantry. Double living quarters, 3-Car Garage, wine cellar, amazing landscaping.

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1042 Sunnybrook Lane, Lafayette

3 BR, 2 BA, 1305 sq. ft. \$589,000

Sweet as can be! Near freeway and town but tucked away on a creek-side lot and quiet street. Beautiful living room with beamed ceiling, fireplace & hardwood.



652 Augustine Lane, Lafayette

3 BR, 2 BA, 1989 sq. ft. \$925,000

Built in 1937, this home has been updated throughout while still retaining its original charm. Chef's kitchen, French doors, hardwood floors, beautiful patio, gardens, pool and more in Burton Valley area.

Recent Praise for The Olsen Team

The Olsen Team sells houses, but we know that this is a people business. We have a long standing tradition of treating people with empathy, respect and good humor. Here is what some of our recent clients are saying:

The Olsen Team is the most knowledgeable, hard working, competent real estate team in the Lamorinda area, or for that matter - anywhere. We cannot begin to adequately express our deep appreciation.....
— **Don and Dotty Miller**

We have bought and sold 7 homes over the past two decades and believe The Olsen Team are the most professional and productive realtors we have ever worked with. They had a comprehensive strategic plan and executed it flawlessly in a very difficult market.
— **Del and Janice Kolbe**

In all respects, the Olsen Team has exceeded our expectations. They are delightful to work with, and they have been consistently responsive, knowledgeable, professional, and helpful. We have worked with other realtors, but we never expected the incredible level of service we received from the Olsen Team.
- **The Erickson-King Family**

The Olsen Team was easy to work with and their local expertise led to the successful sale of our family home. As an out of town seller, Sue and Ben were able to handle nearly everything for us. The inspections, updates, cleaning and staging of the home were seamless, and all were handled by professional resources that met our high standards.
- **Sellers at 50 York Place**

Without all your hard work, coordination of all the various contractor jobs and inspections, we never would be where we are. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate all that you did for us. I am well aware of how much work you put into getting the condo sold.you were always calm and patient with me and the rest of my crew.
- **Trustee of an Orinda Estate**

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- 1) Buy foreclosures in select neighborhoods and cities in Contra Costa County, for strong rental income returns, with future appreciation.
- 2) Buy a home in Lafayette, Moraga, or Orinda, in a rare buyer's market.
- 3) Sell in the under \$1,000,000 range in Lamorinda, where sales are now improving, and move up to your dream house in a higher price range where the best negotiating opportunities exist.
- 4) Downsize, and sell in Lamorinda, where the market has not dropped as much, then buy a great one-story home at a bargain price in a nice neighborhood where homes have dropped more. Keep a low property tax by transferring it to the new house within Contra Costa County.

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The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS

The second quarter of 2011 showed consistent activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate. The biggest change came in the sales price per square foot where the averages dropped in each community versus the year ago period.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from April 1 through June 30, 2011, 89 single-family homes closed in Lafayette which was far above the 36 that closed in the first quarter of the year and about the same as the 85 in the same quarter of 2010. Sales prices ranged from \$400,000 to \$2,575,000. There was one home that closed where the sales price was not reported to the MLS. The average number of days on market was 44 days versus 37 in the same period for 2010. The average sales price was \$1,073,771 which was close to the \$1,125,428 for the same 90-day period a year ago.

In Moraga, the number of single-family closings was 40 which was up from 34 in the second quarter of 2010 and 17 in the second quarter of 2009. Prices ranged from \$550,000 to \$1,725,000. The average sale price was \$930,642 up significantly from \$911,544 a year ago. The average marketing time was similar at 27 days on market where a year ago it was 28 days.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was up to 44 from 43 in 2010. Sales prices ranged from \$425,000 to \$2,700,000 with an average price of \$1,073,694. In the same period of 2010 the average was \$1,140,414. It took an average of 38 days to expose a home to the market; it was 65 days a year ago and 45 days on the market for the same time frame in 2009.

In the second quarter of this year, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$418 per square foot a decrease of \$42 per square foot since last spring. Moraga homes sold for

\$385 per square foot, down \$11/foot versus a year ago and Orinda was at \$400, dropping from \$421 in 2Q 2010.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had two closings at \$364,250 and \$480,000; Moraga had 20 ranging from \$97,200 to \$738,000 and Orinda had three—a low of \$220,000 and a high of \$972,500. Two were condos on Brookwood and the third in Orinda Woods.

As of July 13, 2011, there were 97 homes under contract per the MLS in the three communities combined with asking prices of \$199,900 to \$3,450,000. It should be pointed out that there are 15 "Potential Short Sales" that are currently pending and were subject to lender approval. Twelve of the pending sales are REOs (bank owned properties.) The number of REOs in Lamorinda has increased significantly but is still very low on a percentage and actual basis when compared to other communities.

The seasonal nature of the market is also evident as, of the 97 pending sales in the area, 56 have received acceptable offers since June 15. That is an average of about two per day.

Inventory has fallen off a lot when looking at the available homes a year ago. In Lafayette there are 102 on the market while at this similar point in 2010 there were 123. In Moraga buyers have their choice of 54 homes or condominiums down from 64 in 2010 and Orinda inventory has fallen from 98 available properties in 2010 to a current supply of 61 homes.

In total, as of July 13, 2011, there were 219 residences available in the three communities including one in Canyon. Asking prices range from \$159,000 for a short sale condominium in Moraga to \$10,750,000 for a Lafayette property.

... continued on next page

As is the case nearly every quarter, the most active price range is the more “affordable” price range. At the high end, six homes sold above \$2,000,000 in the three communities combined. Five were in Lafayette and one in Orinda. In the same period in 2010, eight homes closed above \$2,000,000 in Lamorinda and in 2009 the number was only two. There are 20 currently available above this amount—ten in Lafayette, nine in Orinda, and one in Moraga.

Interest rates continue to be attractive and many corporations continue to relocate families both in to and out of the area. We still often see families heading from other local areas for the climate and the schools and as gas prices stay high, many come for the proximity to BART and employment centers in Oakland and San Francisco. However, another piece of the real estate market—the corporate owned property segment—is appearing less often.

Corporations used to buy homes from their transferring employees if the employee could not sell the home prior to a corporate “buy out.” Now, buyouts are becoming less commonplace as the costs to make up losses and the carrying costs have hit their corporate bottom lines and many companies have trimmed back their relocation benefits.

California wisdom

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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.

May 2011	Tons Recycled	% change	Tons Landfill	% change	% Recycled
Lafayette	762	-3	449	-2	63
Moraga	472	-3	249	+1	65
Orinda	638	-3	412	+24	60

To register with Recycle Bank:

If you've lost the letter that contained your PIN number, no problem – Go online to recyclebank.com and click on 'register.'
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Who doesn't hear the words "summer" and "bugs" and think of a neat line of ants getting ready to trespass on plaid blanket supporting a picnic basket full of delicacies. But pests can be a serious summer problem, and can threaten more than your turkey sandwich and potato salad. Left unchecked, these summer invaders can quickly turn your tree and landscape assets into liabilities. That's why insect and disease management is such an important part of summer tree care. A keen eye is essential, and proactive monitoring goes a long way towards early detection.

So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping.

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Gathering 'Round the Railroad

... continued from page D1



Bob Evans in his backyard

Photos Doug Kohen



Each train stands about six inches high, and winds over bridges, through tunnels and around elaborate scenery. Evans' model includes 110 live trees, one hundred buildings, about fifty cars, over two hundred people and dozens of other carefully placed props. The scenes surrounding the train tracks "are things that I just imagine," he says. "For example, there are kids playing in the sand lot, [and] there's a couple gardening. We have a policeman eating a doughnut over there, and we have a funeral scene, with the grieving widow clutching her head and crying as her husband is lowered into his grave."

Evans, like many, nurtured a love for trains in his childhood. "I always used to have model trains when I

was younger," he says. "When my son got to be five or six, I used it as an excuse to go out and buy some for him. They became mine." The railway that currently inhabits the Evans' backyard has been evolving since 1994. When asked about the parts of railroading that he enjoys most, Evans says: "I like recreating reality on a miniature scale." The gardening, construction and fresh air are also pleasant.


Evans belongs to the Bay Area Garden Railway Society, whose members periodically hold open houses to view each other's railroads. About five years ago, after their son left for college, Norma Evans suggested that the couple do the same for their friends and neighbors.

Now the Evans family holds an annual open house to display their railway and make lasting connections within their community. While the attendees are mostly neighbors and work associates, any train enthusiast is welcome to come, share lemonade and cookies, socialize and even participate in a scavenger hunt that highlights the detail that Evans has incorporated into his model. Kids are welcome too; in fact, they seem to be the most delighted guests as they run back and forth and shriek with each passing train.

"Kids are intrigued [by the trains]," says Evans. "Sometimes they just get locked in, and sit and stare for hours."

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11 Cortes Court
 Fully remodeled 4bd/3ba cul-de-sac gem w/open feel, gourmet kitchen/fam rm combo w/gas frplc insert & flexible floor plan. Nice stone, granite finish work, hdwd flrs, pool, decks. Pvt backyard.
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3363 St. Mary's Road
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LAFAYETTE 
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LAFAYETTE 
3936 So. Peardale
 Fab complete remodel, vaulted ceilings, hdwd flrs, "Cooks" kitchen, tons of natural light. Custom built-ins. Great indoor/outdoor living. Inviting patio, lvl lawn, garden area.
Offered at \$1,650,000



ROSSMOOR 
2600 Tice Creek #2
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