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The train depot team—in back, Frank Baldwin (left), Kay Norman, and Tom Romanek; in front, Becky Kemsley (left), Joyce Nelson, and Charlie Vollmar. Photo Doug Kohen

De Laveaga Train Depot Gets a New Old Look

By Andrea A. Firth

Sometimes it takes a village. The members of Orinda's Historic Landmarks Committee (HLC) had been planning a major facelift for the de Laveaga train depot for a couple of years. The depot, located at the corner of Bates Boulevard and Davis Road at the Crossroads, is the only remaining station from the long-defunct, narrow gauge California & Nevada Railroad. Flush on manpower but short on funds, the HLC had not determined how it would pay to fix the depot's

peeling paint and rotting boards and spruce up the landscaping. Then came a fortuitous call from Becky Kemsley, a member of the Orinda Valley Garden Club, to Charlie Vollmar, Vice President of the Orinda Historical Society. Vollmar then circled back to Kay Norman of the HLC, and the project got on track. The Orinda Valley Garden Club was the recipient of an anonymous \$1,000 donation designated for the group to apply, with their able gardening skills, to beautification projects in the

city. (Each of the city's four garden clubs has received the same anonymous contribution for the past three years, and they have worked together on several landscaping projects around Orinda.) "We decided the train depot would be our next project," says Kemsley. The Club has provided the majority of the funding for the repairs and painting and will work on planting the beds around the station in the fall.

... continued on page A8

Quote of the Week:
"I'm in favor of ice cream..."
Read article, *Fentons Quest for Parking Relief*, page A2

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LAMORINDA

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MOFD Board Will Consider Building Purchase Tonight

Other options include renting space from City of Orinda

By Lucy Amaral

Faced with facilities in need of retrofit and having its administrative operations split between two stations, the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors will hold a Special Meeting tonight to discuss the possibility of purchasing a building to be used for MOFD administration. Board representatives were also scheduled to meet in closed session last night with the City of Orinda to discuss the price and terms of a possible lease or other agreement for use of office space in Orinda's City Hall (after press time). The Board held preliminary discussions on this topic at its July 20 meeting.

... continued on page C2



Aerial view www.maps.google.com modified by Andy Scheck

Sports/Schools B1-B3/C7

Miramonte Cycling Competes at Nationals



Submitted by Steven Johnson
The Miramonte Cycling Club traveled to Sun Valley, Idaho, to compete in the US Cycling Mountain Bike Cross Country National Championships July 14-17. Junior Eric Johnson took first place in Category 2, 15-18-year-old racers. ... read on page B3

Life in Lamorinda C1-C9

Repaving Closes Lafayette-Moraga Trail



By Cathy Dausman
Large portions of the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail will close temporarily to bikes and pedestrians and become a heavy equipment construction zone during trail rehabilitation work August 1 through late October this year, but the end result will be ... read on page C1

Our Homes D1-D8

To Bounce or Not to Bounce...



By Cathy Tyson
What's round, black, usually enclosed and full of summer fun? Many families with children who don't want the maintenance of a pool but want their kids to turn away from electronics and get some great exercise opt to install a trampoline in.... read on page D1



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Fentons Quest for Parking Relief

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

Calling it a “fantastic vision” and “great opportunity,” all the members of the City Council were enthusiastic about Fentons

Creamery possibly locating in the historic Park Theater building—but securing the project would require officially changing the

parking standards around the edifice on Golden Gate Way.

“I’m in favor of ice cream,” disclosed Council Member Brandt Andersson at a recent City Council meeting, “I hope we can make this work.”

The Park Theater and nearby Plaza Way property owners want relief to officially lower the strict parking requirements in the area. With only twelve, that’s right – just one dozen parking spaces, The Park Theater building is 54 spaces short of meeting the current city requirement, according to a letter from developer, and one of the owners of the Park Theater, Greg Woehle. He proposed a compromise, “Unless we can come to some kind of common goal – we will never be able to bring in this iconic business.” He’s been diligently negotiating with nearby parking lot owners – the “Absolutely No Theater Parking” lot directly adjacent to the Theater and the First Street Bridge Lot just down Golden Gate Way, along with the 76 Gas Station to chip away at the parking dilemma.

Michael Poy, whose father

opened Squirrels Restaurant back in 1983, is considering making an investment in a remodel of the iconic eatery, but wants to clarify the parking situation first.

The four property owners on Plaza Way signed a letter asking for an official adjustment of the parking requirement – citing the unique significance and character of this block that’s crucial to the image of the city, “but is crippled by strict parking requirements.” The historic area houses the former Pioneer Store and The Wayside Inn which dates back to 1898 when it was a tavern and hotel, according to the Lafayette Historical Society. At that time there wasn’t even a horse parking requirement.

Fenton’s bottom line – either solve the parking issues in a timely manner or they will look elsewhere. They hope to open the new location in the summer of 2012, so time is of the essence getting the recently approved parking subcommittee to come up with new historic district guidelines. Once those are in place, and building permits are approved, a significant remodel can begin.

Planning Commission Denies Permit Application for “Large” Change in Plans

By Cathy Tyson

The Lafayette Planning Commission recently decided that a proposed 10,388 square foot house is really not the same as a 5,900 square foot house even if it’s at the same exact location as the original request – apples and oranges.

Despite convincing arguments from attorney David Bowie representing the land owners, “this is essentially the same project from a massing standpoint that you originally approved,” the Planning Commissioners disagreed and voted unanimously that this version does not conform to the original approval.

Bowie was referring to an approval on March 20, 2008 for a Phase I Hillside Development Permit for a new 5,900 square foot, one and a half story home on a vacant fifteen acre parcel on Monticello Road. In late 2008, the architect for the property owners at that time, Richard Bartlett, submitted a Phase 2 application that covered design and the impacts of the project approved in Phase I, but that time around the project grew to two stories and 7,171 square feet. Turns out, that application was deemed incomplete in December of 2008. Fast forward two years and the land owners,

Steve and Linda Wight, have a new architect, Andre Pierce with Resort Design Architects, who submitted brand new and greatly expanded plans for a lovely but large 10,388 square foot home.

“The issue is off-site visual impact” for the Phase 1 approval, said Bowie, pointing out the proposed project is nestled into the saddle of the expansive property and is virtually concealed from neighbors. While it’s true that in the newest incarnation only a small portion of chimney is visible, less of the home than in the original drawings, the overall mass of the project is significantly

larger.

Many neighbors were concerned about the proposed project. Don Walket said, “Residents feel stunned – this doubles the size of the previous project.” Bill Bucher, President of the Happy Valley Improvement Association, spoke in support of the staff recommendation to go back to Phase 1.

Speaking for his clients the Wight family, Bowie said he is currently “reviewing options” with the City and these matters, “tend to ultimately work out well. I think this house is perfectly sited, very gracious, and it deserves due consideration.”

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Lafayette

Civic News


Public Meetings

City Council
Monday, August 8, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission
Monday, August 15, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review
Monday, August 8, 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

Read my Scrips, 7/18/11 Police received a report that someone was forging stolen prescription pads to illegally obtain narcotic drugs.

Reading, Writing and...? 7/15/11 Vandalism was the lesson of the day, when someone discovered graffiti painted on two walls at Burton Valley Elementary. Three flower pots and two mosaic tiles were also broken. A few days earlier, 7/11/11, someone stole a pedal cart, from a locked enclosure, belonging to a summer camp at Stanley School.

Two-fer, 7/11/11 Two cars parked at Lafayette Safeway sustained minor front end damage in a jump- the-bump hit and run. Thanks to a witness who got the license number, police located the suspect and vehicle. When questioned by police, the driver said he accidentally hit the gas instead of the brake, jumping his car over a concrete barrier and into the aforementioned victim cars. The driver said he knew he hit another car but because he didn’t think he’d done any damage he did not leave contact info.

Just for Kicks, 7/10/11 Someone kicked open a side garage door on Springbrook Road. He/she then stole from the garage and the kitchen, scoring an estimated \$1,000 in goods.

Please submit
Letters and Opinions:
letters@lamorinda-weekly.com



Road Measure Now Up to Voters

By Cathy Tyson

Organizers of the Fix our Roads initiative made their final plea to the City Council in late July to put the measure on the November ballot. "We now have 1518 signatures," explained Guy Atwood, Committee Co-Chair, adding they have a lot of momentum. The signatures gathered at various locations around Lafayette were a way to gauge support for a proposed \$89 flat parcel tax to be used, along with a generous three million dollar contribution from the City's reserves, to repair all the failed roads in Lafayette over the next ten years.

"How confident are you that the measure will pass?" asked Mayor Carl Anduri. Atwood replied that's a

tough question but said the committee was encouraged that there has been no opposition and they've gotten lots of favorable comments. This measure is roughly half of the amount and one third of the time period proposed in a 2007 measure that barely failed—garnering just under 64% approval; 66% is needed to pass this type of measure.

"Please put this on the November ballot," implored George Burt. "We don't want to be Orinda. Help us all do this together." With a unanimous vote by the City Council, the "Fix Our Roads" measure will be included on the November ballot for voters to decide.

Proposed BMX Park Getting Expensive

By Cathy Tyson



LEGEND

- Bike Park (approx 1.8 acres)
- Las Trampas Creek
- Public Parking Lots
- Lafayette-Moraga Trail
- Sidewalk
- Lafayette Community Park Trail

Map courtesy of Jennifer Russell, Director of Parks Trails and Recreation

Blame it on the Red-Legged frog. The proposed bike park at the south end of the Community Park - basically a dirt bike track with jumps surrounded by a chain link fence - has tripled in price since it was recommended in December 2008 by the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission. The proposed 1.8 acre park was originally slated to cost \$105,000, but currently is up to \$322,000 due mostly to extensive environmental studies and special permits because of a report of a Red-Legged Frog sighting in 1994.

As of June 15 2011, the proposed project has cost \$72,226; \$14,180 on design and planning and \$58,046 on environmental studies, permits and project management. Parks Trails and Recreation Director Jennifer Russell calls it, "obviously controversial and complicated."

The intent of the bike park is to provide a place at the south end of the Lafayette Community Park for BMX riders to enjoy their sport and to prevent youths from damaging sensitive Las Trampas Creek habitat where riders were constantly building unauthorized jumps. Russell explained that

the Park Master Plan clearly states that only the south east end of the park can be designated for active uses - the majority of the park will be left in its natural state.

At a recent City Council meeting, after much public input, City Council members voted unanimously to approve \$25,800 for additional environmental study. According to Russell all of the forecast costs, "Can be covered by the Park Facilities Fund in fiscal year 2011-2012." Park Facilities monies can only be spent on parks, with no exceptions for potholes or road repair.

Although this agenda item did not come up until very late at a recent City Council meeting, the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center was filled with both biking enthusiasts and naysayers.

"Frog mitigation factors suggested by the US Fish and Wildlife Department included things that I feel are doable," said Russell. "Even if we don't build the bike park - these are all positive things." The list included education for park users, building a habitat for reptiles and amphibians, and water testing.

More Lafayette Civic News on Page A9

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Moraga

Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, August 24, 7:00 pm
(no meeting on August 10)
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, August 15, 7:30 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, August 8, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Liaison

Friday, August 12, 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

Chevy Tahoe not going to Tahoe, 7/21/11 Actually not going anywhere. A 1999 Chevy Tahoe was stalled on Bollinger Canyon near St. Mary's Road with expired registration tags. Because of the substantial expiration – more than four years – Lamorinda Tow gave the Tahoe a lift. Registered owner happened to be at the scene – cops handed him a letter informing him of the tow – but he probably figured that out already.

D.U.I. 7/21/11 A 19-year-old male was going 65 m.p.h. along Moraga Way at 11:00 one night. Cops were tipped off by his bloodshot, watery eyes, slurred speech and his Eau de Alcohol odor. He was breathalyzed, cited, taken into custody and finally released to a sober family member.

Married couple fighting, 7/22/11 Cops paid a visit to a Moraga couple due to an abandoned 911 call. Turns out they had both been drinking and were involved in a verbal dispute – and thankfully no physical contact was made. Taking the cops up on their suggestion – the male spouse agreed to spend the duration of the evening elsewhere.

Rolling away, 7/23/11 A fellow who had posted an ad for a 2009 road bike on Craigslist agreed to meet a potential buyer at the Chevron station. Of course the potential buyer wanted to take it for a spin. After waiting twenty minutes the seller realized his bike may have been stolen. Although he searched the area, no sign of the bike or erstwhile buyer.

Flames on street, 7/24/11 At midnight, police reported to Ascot Drive on a report of a possible fire in the middle of the road. Cops found a small plant burning – possibly fueled by alcohol. The fire department came and kicked the fire out. There were several empty bottles of alcohol found in the immediate area. Potential suspects had scattered.

Five false alarms, between 7/21 and 7/25, but no actual break-ins during that period. Cops responded to alarms on Sanders Drive, St. Andrews, two at a house on Laird and one at Paseo Grande. In each case, nothing unusual was found. Which begs the question, did the alarms actually work and scare off potential burglars or just malfunctioning? Housesitters accidentally triggered the alarm at the Sanders Drive home. St. Andrews and Laird homes – locked, no signs of attempted entry, and finally the Paseo Grande residence had a small dog inside who may be at fault. No comment from the pooch at this time.

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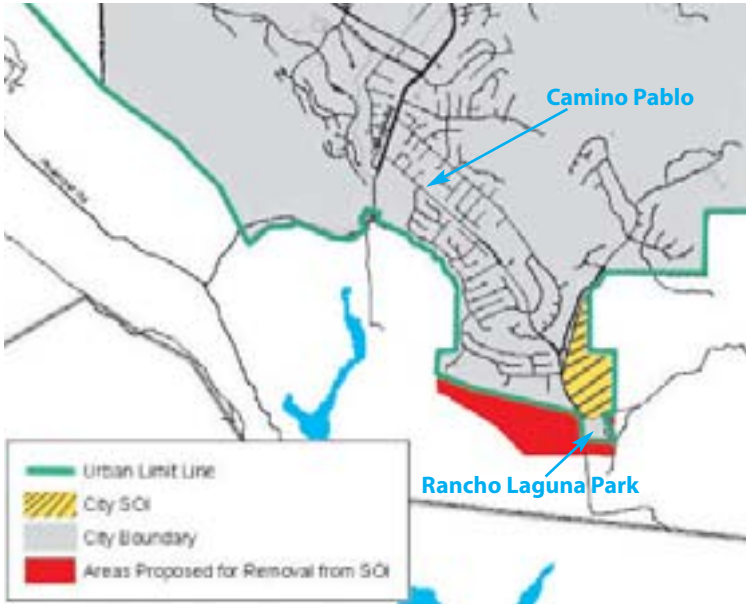
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Moraga's Sphere of Influence

Town has little control over large projects in some nearby unincorporated areas, such as those near Rancho Laguna Park

By Sophie Braccini



Map courtesy Moraga Planning Department

Moraga has precise rules when it comes to building on open space, such as those limiting density and protecting ridgelines. Yet, near Rancho Laguna Park, grand homes stand on ridgelines to the west and stately dwellings exist in a densely-built subdivision—the Skyline development—just north of the park. A bit of Moraga history sheds light on how this came to be, and what the future may hold.

Moraga's Senior Planner, Rich Chamberlain, has a finely-honed understanding of the situation. "One of the key reasons why Moraga residents voted to incorporate the Town in 1974 was to be able to control the development process," he explains. Prior to incorporation, projects were approved by the County Planning Department; and although the Moraga area had an advisory body that made recommendations to the County, these recommendations were at times ignored.

"One of the challenges of incorporation was to design the boundaries of the Town," recalls Chamberlain "It was a balancing act between what the Town wanted to control and the amount of space and roads it would be able to maintain."

The Moraga Parks and Recreation Foundation, which was formed to buy the Hacienda de las Flores property, determined boundaries that included the property which would later become Rancho Laguna Park, but left out the Carr Ranch lands and other open space properties surrounding the park—creating a strange map with a little pocket at its south-east border (see image).

Years later, when a piece of Carr Ranch was sold to developers for the Skyline subdivision, the Town objected to plans for a density of more than two dwellings per acre. "The County Planning Department agreed with the Town," remembers Chamberlain, "but the developer appealed the decision to the County Board of Supervisors, which overruled the decision. When the Town complained, the response was that the area was not within the Town's sphere of influence."

Typically, a sphere of influence is the territory a city or district is expected to annex. The Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) regulates spheres of influence (SOI). According to its mission statement, "LAFCO must adopt a sphere of influence (SOI) for each city and special district...The SOI serves as the ultimate planning boundary for a local agency." LAFCO reviews SOIs at least once every five years.

... continued from page A4

High Density Single-Family Housing Proposed Across From Rheem Center

By Sophie Braccini



Proposal for 21 homes on two acres

Graphic courtesy Town of Moraga

During a study session at a mid-July meeting of the Moraga Planning Commission, Signature Homes presented a plan to build 21 single-family detached homes on a two-acre lot located across from the Rheem Center on Moraga Road that was once the site of a bowling alley.

The land belongs to Mike and Jim Knuppe, who also own the adjoining lot on which sits AAAAA Rent A Space, and who have struggled to find a profitable use for the vacant lot – they previously proposed a condominium project, which the Planning Commission had supported, that was later deemed economically unviable. Commission was favorably inclined toward the new project, considering it compatible with the commercial Rheem Center. Because this was only a study session, should the developer decide to move forward with the plan it would have to go through a full review where issues such as traffic, parking, pedestrian circulation and visual impact in the scenic corridor would be scrutinized.

Signature Homes is a 27-year old Bay Area/Sacramento area developer that builds condos and single family homes, more or less densely clustered together. Its Pleasant Oak project in Roseville is similar to what is proposed in Moraga: two-story homes with an average size of 1900 square

feet on lots of about 2700 square feet. The homes would all have four bedrooms, and 2-car garages and driveways. Patios would form the back yards.

"We choose a Spanish theme to tie in with the existing buildings on this strip," said the developer's representative, "Young families are attracted to this type of home, as well as residents who want to downsize, don't want to have to maintain a yard, but still want to keep the feel of a single detached home."

Some of the residents who came to the meeting said that the project's density was not what the community wanted to see. A resident of the nearby Moraga Place development indicated that he was concerned that this project was out of character with the town. Resident Claire Roth concurred, adding that this project looked like the sort of single-family home subdivision that can be seen outside of urban areas where someone can lean out of his window and shake hands with the person next door. Resident Scott Bowhay commented that he liked the idea of small parcels, but not in a location where traffic is so intense.

Ellen Beans, of the Moraga Citizens' Network, spoke in support of the project, pointing out that smaller, more energy efficient homes are the wave of the future.

The developer indicated that Signature Homes only builds to green building standards and that the average monthly energy bill of the homes would be about \$100, and noted that

this project is quite similar to what is outlined in the Moraga Center Specific Plan, where high density housing adjoins commercial development.

"We were told that high density is vital to thriving commercial use on the other side of town (the Moraga Center area)," said Planning Commissioner Bruce Whitley, "We don't want high density anywhere else in town other than in the commercial centers. If housing is granted here, then it has to be higher density."

Other commissioners agreed that high density in the area was appropriate, but some were a bit uncomfortable with the concept of detached family homes being so close together. "I liked the condominium concept," said Commissioner Stacia Levenfeld, "the concept of smaller homes makes sense, but I am concerned about density." Commissioner Roger Wykle asked the developer if it had thought about the type of neighborhood it wanted to create, "why not put the garage in the back and porches in front to encourage residents to walk outside and develop a community?" he asked.

All of the commissioners expressed concerns about pedestrian traffic. "The Starbucks is just across the street," said chair Russell Driver, "the walk to the next stop sign is down a long and noisy block; some creative solutions will have to be found."

The area is currently zoned Limited Commercial; all uses, other than agriculture, require a conditional use permit.

More Moraga Civic News on Page A10

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Council Clarifies Traffic Calming Policy

By Sophie Braccini

On the heels of a decision granting Campolindo area residents new four-way stop signage at the intersection of Campolindo Drive and Calle la Montana, the Moraga Town Council is spreading the word that it is willing to discuss traffic calming projects that do not necessarily satisfy to the letter all of the strict requirements contained the Traffic and Safety Calming Guide.

The Guide stipulates that a precise percentage of neighbors must be in favor of a specific traffic calming measure, such as a stop sign, in order for the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) to make a positive rec-

ommendation to the Council. "The guide sets guidelines for TSAC to make a recommendation to the Council, but it is the Council that makes the final decision," responded Town Manager Jill Keimach to a question from Mayor Karen Mendonca.

"People need to know that even if they do not get the exact number of signatures, they can appeal to the Council," said Mendonca, "and that needs to be clearly indicated in the Guide."

Due to a lack of responses, the Campolindo petitioners failed to show the 70% of yays that is required by the Guide. However, the Council felt that there was enough evidence that the signs

were a matter of public safety, and there was no clear opposition to them, to allow petitioners to purchase the new signs and pay for their installation.

During the discussion, Council members more than once referred to a previous Larch neighborhood stop sign project; the supporters of four new stop signs dropped the petition after failing to get enough signatures. Keimach noted, "If they want to have the Council review the question they should bring it back to TSAC, which would either make a positive or negative recommendation to the Town Council; the Council would then debate the issue and make the final decision."

Man Hunt Near the Upper San Leandro Reservoir

By Sophie Braccini

At approximately 6:45 p.m. on Monday, July 25, an East Bay Regional Park District patrol officer was attacked in the fields and hills that extend south from Moraga to the Upper San Leandro Reservoir by two assailants carrying what he said sounded like automatic weapons. The officer, who was not hurt, took cover and called for reinforcement. Forces from Moraga, Lafayette, Orinda, Richmond, the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, and the Highway Patrol, including an armored truck and helicopters, came to his rescue.

The search was led by East Bay Park Police Captain Mark Ruppenthal, who is familiar to Moraga residents as their former Chief of Police, and was called off at 10:00 p.m.

due to darkness. Ruppenthal believes that the incident erupted because the gunmen were trying to protect a marijuana growing farm, hidden somewhere in the wilderness. A decision was made on Tuesday morning to wait for reinforcements in order to be able to scour the large expanse of hills in search of pot fields.

"I am very pleased at the response our department made and the assistance we provided," said Moraga's current Chief of Police Bob Priebe, "We were able to provide one sergeant, three patrol officers, and one reserve officer to assist. I am very happy with the positive outcome of getting the involved officer out of the dangerous area safely and with no injuries to anyone."

Priebe explained that the area involved is far outside the Town's borders—the incident and suspected grow area are in Alameda County. "Rancho Laguna Park is still a safe place to enjoy and there should be no concern for safety based on last night's activities," Priebe stated the next day.

Later in the week, Ruppenthal confirmed that the investigation is still open and personnel would be returning to the area soon.

Ruppenthal also discussed hiker safety on the EBMUD trail between Rancho Laguna Park and the San Leandro Reservoir. "It is safe, as is any walking in wilderness; be aware of your surroundings," he said, "these people don't want to be found—hikers must stay on the trail."

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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council
Tuesday, August 16, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Historical Landmarks Committee
Tuesday, August 23 at 3:00 PM
(July 26 had been canceled)
Gallery Room, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission
Tuesday, August 23, at 7:00
(August 9 has been canceled)
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

Orinda's TSAC Re-Examines Congestion on Moraga Way

By Diana LaScala Gruenewald

The heavy traffic on Moraga Way has been a subject of concern in Lamorinda since the 1980s. This major thoroughfare adjoins the highway and is utilized by commuting residents of both Orinda and Moraga. It also borders the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) and the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD). During morning rush hour, bumper to bumper traffic frustrates commuters and students alike.

Despite five studies that have focused on traffic flow in the area, congestion continues to be a problem. On April 26 of this year, Orinda's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) began to readdress the issue during the "Moraga Way Traffic Community

Workshop." During the workshop, community members gathered with representatives from OUSD and AUHSD, TSAC chair Steve Schnier and City Councilmember and TSAC liaison Sue Severson to communicate continued problems and possible solutions associated with the traffic on Moraga Way.

At last week's City Council meeting, Schnier took the microphone to summarize the workshop results. All workshop attendees felt that the congestion on Moraga Way was problematic and hazardous, he said, explaining that traffic often moves well under the speed limit, and residential side streets fill up with rushing commuters and high school students. Orinda has im-

plemented improvements in crosswalks, traffic signals, sidewalks and bicycle lanes to help combat these issues. However, Schnier noted, these advances have not yet succeeded in reducing complaints.

Schnier and Orinda's on-call Traffic Engineer Robert Rees presented several new solutions to the City Council. Most notably, workshop attendees noted a significant decrease in traffic on Wednesday mornings, when Del Rey Elementary School, Orinda Intermediate School and Miramonte High School have staggered school bell schedules. Schnier and Rees therefore proposed that the schools discuss purposely staggering schedules on the other weekdays. Other

ideas included encouraging car-pools, establishing a different drop-off point for Miramonte students, investigating the use of school and County Connection buses and improving sidewalks to promote safe pedestrian travel to and from schools.

Council members responded thoroughly and positively to the ideas presented by Schnier and Rees. The Council then asked TSAC to begin investigating the proposed solutions by contacting community groups including the parents' clubs and principals of Del Rey, Orinda Intermediate, and Miramonte High School. TSAC members will present the Council with the results of their inquiries in three to four month's time.

Chef—Orinda's K-9—is Back

By Diana LaScala-Gruenewald

Almost six years ago, the Orinda City Council established the city's Police K-9 unit using funds that were raised by enthusiastic community members. Since that time, Chef the police dog has become an integral part of Orinda's police force. He is the constant and vigilant companion of Officer Danny Vargas, who was Officer of the Year in 2010. And in Orinda he will stay, at least for one more year.

Chef's position was recently threatened by the prolonged economic downturn. The K-9 program costs Orinda \$22,000 per year to run, and after much discussion, the City Council decided that elimination of the program would help balance the budget. However Chef's pink slip was revoked when Bob and Maryett Thompson offered to cover the cost of Chef's upkeep personally for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. "The dog is a tremendous asset to our city and the surrounding area," says Maryett, "The bad guys are afraid of the dog."

Last week, the Orinda City Council accepted the Thompsons' generous donation. The couple offered \$22,000 to the City, and said that they may also be able to donate in future years. The news was greeted with a joyful bark from Chef


himself; the Orinda Police Department is grateful to have his continued partnership. The Thompsons are working to set up a foundation to cover the ongoing cost of the K-9 program.

Police dogs provide a variety of advantages to the neighborhoods

they protect and the departments they serve. Because of their keen sense of smell, they are uniquely suited to sniffing out drugs and explosives and tracking both suspects and missing persons. Police dogs can also pursue a fleeing suspect with greater speed than their human

partners. Finally, dogs provide protection to the officers with whom they work. For these reasons, Chef has been a valued member of the Orinda Police Department since 2005.

Andrea A. Firth contributed to this article



Police Report

A Close Shave? 7/20/11 During a vehicle stop for expired tags, Orinda Police discovered the driver had a suspended license and was on felony probation. A search of the car and its occupants revealed the two had stashed 27 packages of razor blades in their pants. Not a very sharp move. Surveillance videos showed they had recently nicked the lot from CVS Pharmacy.

Born to be Wild, 7/16/11 Two subjects found running in the street along Moraga Way were yelling wildly and hitting cars. When caught, they were charged with threatening, battery, drug possession, drug transportation and sales; and, no surprise here, drug ingestion. One subject was taken to John Muir Hospital and treated for ingestion; the other was taken to Martinez and booked.

Ride Swap, 7/13/11 Four under-21 occupants of a Ford Mustang were found to be drunk in public. Police found a water bottle being "recycled" as an alcohol container. One occupant, clearly not thinking clearly, gave a false ID to arresting officers. They were carted off to Martinez.

Paper or Plastic? 7/8/11 Two 36-year old suspects were arrested on credit card fraud while shopping Orinda Safeway. One had an outstanding warrant issued in San Francisco (paper), the other was in possession of 17 credit cards (plastic). Their spree ended early when police intervened and booked them into Martinez Detention Facility.

Won't you be my Neighbor? 6/30/11 A residential burglary on Camino del Diablo was interrupted when a neighbor confronted the suspect, who was toting a yellow pry bar and pillow case full of stolen items, including a lap top. The suspect fled, but his license was recorded. \$2500 in goods were recovered. The two leading suspects are also the registered owners of the escape Cadillac.



More Orinda Civic News on Page A10

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Orinda's Everyday Heroes

By Andrea A. Firth



Orinda police officers Kevin Mooney and Ron Westhorpe, Lucas Lambert of the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD), and Orinda residents David and Mary Ann McDonald and Maryett and Bob Thompson were recently honored at the Celebrate Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament sponsored by the Orinda Community Foundation and Orinda Country Club. When

Yvonne McDaniel, who is a close friend of the McDonalds and Thompsons, was a no show at a wedding the group was attending at OCC, the friends contacted the Orinda police. Upon arriving at McDaniel's home, the two officers found that she was inside but unable to move. Officer Westhorpe kicked the door in to gain access and Lambert and his MOFD colleagues quickly transported her to Kaiser Hospital. McDaniel, who had suffered a stroke, credits the quick intervention of her friends, the police, and the paramedic with saving her life. "Although I am still on medications and living a 'healthy' lifestyle, I have had no lingering effects from the stroke," says McDaniel adding, "I know for certain, they saved my quality of life."

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Jamie Roder 925-253-4600

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Elena Hood 925-253-4600

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...from Front Page

De Laveaga Train Depot Gets a New Old Look

... continued from page A1



Interior of the depot showing the curved roof line. Photo Doug Kohen

A three-man team of Vollmar, Frank Baldwin, pastor of the Orinda Community Church, and Orinda resident Tom Romanek, a painter, has managed much of the heavy lifting. Vollmar has his hands in most historic renovations in the city these days. "Living in Orinda I find our history is uniquely celebrated," says Vollmar, "and I like to contribute and be a part

of that." He organized the replacement of the station doors, which are exact replicas of the previous six-panel Victorian-style doors. The new doors were manufactured by Economy Lumber, which is owned by Orinda resident John Bacon, and donated at cost.

Baldwin, a member of the HLC, is a railroad historian who did exten-

sive research on the Orinda leg of the California & Nevada Railroad and the de Laveaga depot to ensure that the refurbishment was as historically accurate as possible.

One new and "old" addition to the depot is the signage on the eastern, exterior wall (see photo page A1). An exact replica, down to the shape of the sign and font and point-size of the text, was recreated from an early photograph (c. 1900) of the depot. The sign includes the mileage from San Francisco to the original de Laveaga stop near Miner Road—28.9 miles. Baldwin thinks the mileage includes the distance on the ferry ride from San Francisco to where the line started in Emeryville.

Romanek donated his labor and skills to the venture, which included certified lead abatement of the building and painting inside and out. The train station paint color was matched to the original 'depot green.' "Thousands of railroad station depots were painted that same green color," says Baldwin.

With oversight and coordination from Norman and the help of many hands, the depot renovations will be completed by mid-September.

"And our next project is restoration of the mural at BART," says Vollmar. The landmarked mural was originally designed by local artist Loni Bee and depicts many of the historic sites throughout Orinda. First dedicated in 1978, the mural was renovated in 1996, but rain and sun have taken a toll on the mural and it's time to give this old painting a fresh coat of paint.



A segment of narrow gauge track displayed outside the depot. Photo A. Firth

A Bit of Local History

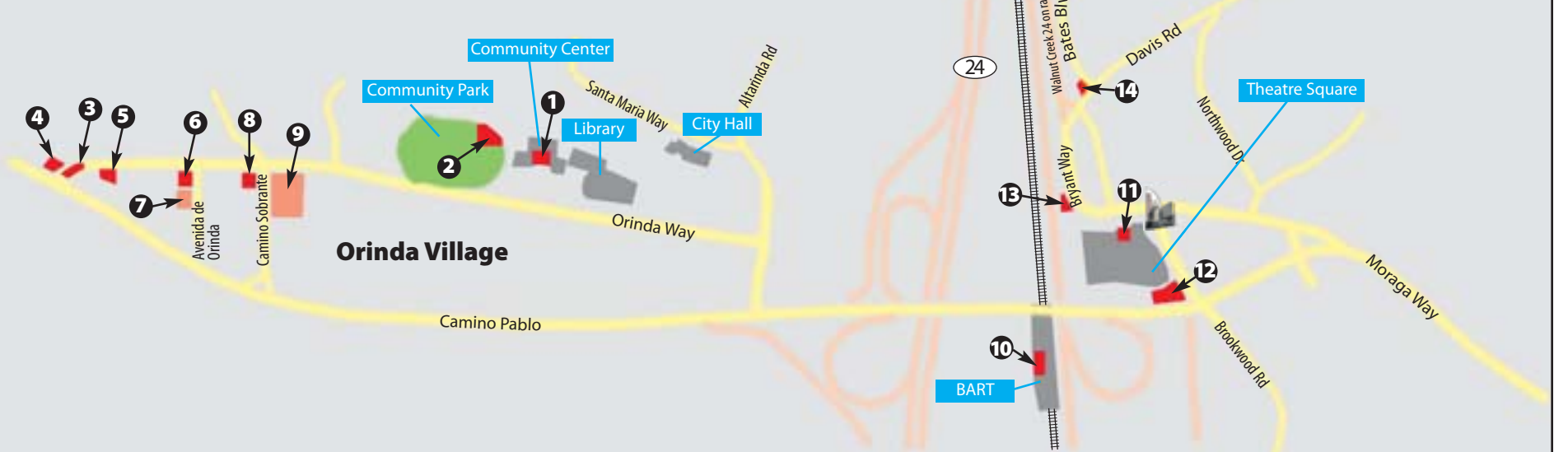
The de Laveaga train station is one of the fourteen historic sites all third grade public school children in Orinda visit during the annual tour conducted by the Orinda Historical Society. The 10' by 16' board and batten building was erected on the de Laveaga property near Miner Road in 1891 when the California & Nevada Railroad, which had been running between Emeryville and San Pablo, was extended to Orinda.

The depot building has a distinctive, sharply curved roof with a shingle covering and copper overlay along the ridge. The pagoda-style roof design is unlike other train stations of the era. "It's possible that the depot was built by Chinese laborers," says Kay Norman, a member of Orinda's Historic Landmarks Committee. "They believed the curve of roof would ward off evil spirits by causing them to slip away. We don't know if it's true, but it could be an explanation."

City dwellers from San Francisco and Oakland would take the narrow gauge rail line to picnic in the Orinda hills. The train reversed direction at the last stop at Bryant Way and made the return trip to Emeryville going backward all the way. Investors in the California & Nevada Railroad had planned to extend the railway through the Sonora Pass to Bodie and down to Colorado to meet up with the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroads. Unfortunately, too few riders and too little cash brought the railway to a close in 1904. The de Laveaga depot was moved to the family's property and used as storage shed for many years, and subsequently donated the city in 2000.

To arrange a tour of Orinda's historical sites for your community group or friends, contact the Historical Society, (925) 254-1353.

Orinda Historical Society Walking Tour



- Orinda Union School**
26 Orinda Way (Community Center)
Built in 1925 and served as a school until 1973 when it became the Community Center.
- California and Nevada RR Trestle Remains**
Orinda Community Park
Behind the older children's playground on the right side of the creek look for a post with aqua-colored paint—the remains of the trestle for the narrow gauge railroad.
- 1920 San Pablo Creek Bridge**
Orinda Way and Camino Pablo
The County built a bridge across San Pablo Creek in 1920.
- Casa Verana**
128 Camino Pablo
Built in 1921, the first commercial structure in Orinda Village, known as the White Swan, had a small store,

- Community Center**
Community Park
- Library**
Santa Maria Way
- City Hall**
Alameda Rd
- First Firehouse**
107 Orinda Way (Orinda Village Antiques)
Built in 1923, it looked like a garage and housed one truck. Served as the firehouse until 1942.
- First Store (Phair's)**
10 Avenida de Orinda
Built in 1924 by E. I. de Laveaga to provide goods and services. Ewart Phair became the owner in 1941 and the building was renamed.
- Second Firehouse**
Behind the Phair's Building
Built in 1942, this firehouse was torn down due to flooding from San Pablo Creek. Look for the remains of the old wooden flagpole.

- Miss Graham's Riding Academy**
63 Orinda Way
The Riding Academy was located next door to Orinda Motors (toward Camino Sobrante where the garage now sits).
- Safeway Parking Lot**
2 Camino Sobrante
During Orinda's early days, the parking lot site was used for rodeos.
- BART History Mural**
Left of the BART entrance on the exterior wall
Created to celebrate the bicentennial, the mural of Orinda's historic sites was designed by local artist Loni Bee.
- Orinda Theater**
2 Theater Square
The Art Deco style theater built in 1941 is the city's most prominent landmark.

- Pony Express Marker**
Minipark, northwest corner of Camino Pablo and Brookwood Road
The Pony Express came through Orinda at least 11 times. Follow the path behind the fountain to find the plaque on a rock.
- Bryant Station Marker**
At the end of Bryant Way next to the freeway
This was the end of the line for the California & Nevada RR, a narrow gauge railway from Emeryville. Look for the big rock across the street from the landscaped circle outside of Theater Square.
- de Laveaga Train Station**
Bates Boulevard and Davis Road
Originally located near Miner Road, the station was one of three stops on the California & Nevada RR in Orinda. The train depot was moved to this location in 2000.

Source: City of Orinda Historic Landmarks Committee

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Civic News Lafayette, Moraga

Save the Dates for Rock the Plaza

By Cathy Tyson



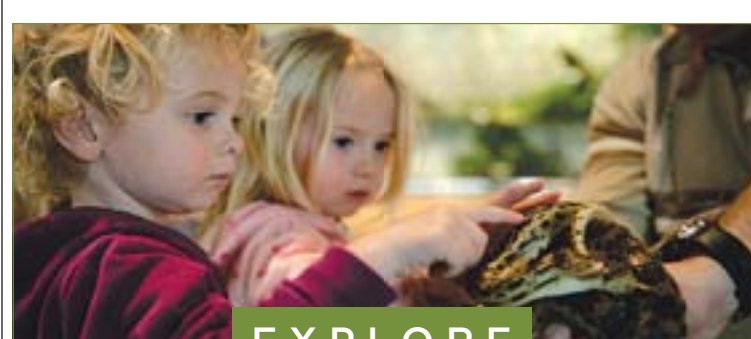
Pacific Coast Band playing at last year's Rock the Plaza

Photo Andy Scheck

Rock the Plaza is back this summer kicking off three weeks of free Friday concerts at Lafayette Plaza with Stagefrite on August 12. For a blast from the recent past, this high energy rock and roll party band plays classics from the eighties and nineties like "Hurts so Good" and

"Runnin' Down a Dream." For Lafayetteans, possibly even Moragans who made it out of town and are in search of a soulful sound, The Floorshakers are playing on August 19, serving up a wide variety of funk, soul and rock and roll cover songs from Aretha Franklin, to the Ohio Players

and Rick James. Wrapping up the series is classic rock band Tall Shadows on August 26; all shows start at 6:00 p.m. For a sneak preview of the bands, check out their websites, www.stagefrite.com, www.thefloorshakers.com and www.tallshadows.net.



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Moraga's Sphere of Influence

... continued from page 4

The Skyline issue prompted Moraga's then Planning Director, Jay Tashiro, to create a SOI for the Town. "We wanted to expand it to include Canyon and the unincorporated Bollinger area, but this was met with vehement opposition from the property owners," says Chamberlain. The SOI was therefore limited to what appears on the map pictured.

moved that area west of Camino Pablo from the Town's SOI because, according to LAFCO's Director Lou-Ann Teixeira, "the area is open space, there is no opportunity for the Town of Moraga to develop the land and extend its services there." Most of the lots that were created have already been built.

Moraga's current SOI includes only the Skyline development and the undeveloped hills that border Camino Pablo to the east between Rancho Laguna Park and Sanders Ranch. "We should not see more development up there," said Chamberlain, referring to the open space located all around Rancho Laguna Park, both within and beyond the Town's SOI, because "the rest of the land is part of EBMUD watershed."

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Civic News Moraga, Orinda

Separating Kids and Dogs at Rancho Laguna Park

By Sophie Braccini

The recent dismantlement of the playgrounds that were located on each side of the large expanse of grass at Rancho Laguna Park has caused a reshuffling of the cards among the different users of the park—and the issue of kids and off-leash dogs has come under discussion once again.

After months of controversy between the Town and Lamorinda Dogs, the organized proponents of having a place where dogs may run off-leash, the parties had agreed to share the lawn, giving each group its own hours to enjoy the grass field.

But when a recent decision was made to replace only one of the existing play structures, a whole new possibility emerged: the chance to create a separate, 24-hour, fenced dog park along one side of the park, leaving the grass area always available to sports groups. The stakeholders are just starting a new round of

discussions with the Parks and Recreation Commission; the Town Council will make the final decision.

Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram wants the Town to have its own sports field. "The Town of Moraga has a responsibility to offer fields for seasonal sports," says Ingram, "There are fields in town that belong to the school district, but none that belong to the Town. Having another sports field also provides alternatives and allows the existing ones to rest and not degrade because of over use."

Rancho Laguna Park is being largely used this summer for sports camps, and will be used again for that purpose in the fall.

"We are in our first year as a new soccer club in the Lamorinda area. We will be using Rancho Laguna Park this September for practices," says East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club Director Shane Carney, "I originally (wanted) to use

the park all fall, but we couldn't work out a schedule where we could practice without dogs being on the field."

Carney, who led the Campolindo boys' soccer team to three titles this season, believes that the field is good for any age group, but he adds that sports users need to make room to accommodate dogs. "I think including a dog park in the plan as well is much more beneficial to the community as a whole," he says.

In addition to how the remodeling of the park will be financed, the size and fencing of the off-leash dog area are also issues that need to be worked through.

"We plan on having a few proposals prepared for discussion at the next Parks and Recreation meeting," said Lamorinda Dogs' Bill Carman. The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 16, 7:00 p.m., at the Hacienda de las Flores.



The Hacienda Foundation's Sharon Metcalf relaxes for a few moments on the new bench in the La Sala building at the Hacienda de las Flores that she upholstered; the bench was built by her husband, Moraga council member Mike Metcalf. Sharon and other Foundation and Kiwanis members recently freshened up the building where many community meetings are held. The Foundation's mission is to maintain and improve the beautiful building. At this time the Foundation is developing a master plan for a nine-acre park and seeking new board members. Residents with interest, expertise or experience in architecture, historical preservation, engineering or contracting are encouraged to join the board. Those who are simply interested in working to improve the Hacienda are most welcome to contact the Foundation as well. For more information visit www.haciendafoundation.org.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Mike Stallings Appointed Interim Parks and Recreation Director

By Diana LaScala Gruenewald



Photo Ohlen Alexander

Orinda's Director of Parks and Recreation, Todd V. Skinner, will retire at the end of this month. Skinner originally worked for Recreation District Six, which covered Orinda before it became a city. Since that time he has served successfully for a full thirty years. After Skinner retires, a new director must be recruited; an interim director will perform Skinner's usual duties during the recruitment and selection process.

The Orinda City Council recently moved to approve the selection of Mike Stallings as interim director. Stallings was one of two candidates referred to the City by the consulting firm Municipal Resource Group (MRG) which specializes in assisting local governments. Stallings is an experienced parks and recreation director who has worked for Daly City, Reedy, Grover Beach and West Covina. He has served as President of the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS), District Director, Treasurer, Founding President and Student Advisor to CPRS.

Stallings will fill the post of Director of Parks and Recreation until he is succeeded by a permanent candidate. He will start on Monday August 1st and his contract will expire on January 31, 2012.

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Vegan Fitness

By Sophie Braccini



Jennifer Faldt prepares a "super drink." Photo Sophie Braccini

Lamorinda certified personal trainer Dan Attanasio chose to become a vegan three years ago to maximize his total body output and he hopes it will increase his life expectancy. While he does not think that it is mandatory to go vegan to be healthy and high performing, he does believe the change in diet was effective. Attanasio is also a performance enhancement specialist.

"A diet that incorporates very few animal products is excellent from a health perspective," said Attanasio, "it reduces inflammation in the joints and the whole body,

helps with heart conditions, obesity and diabetes."

He says that at 40, he feels better than he ever has. Attanasio began the diet as an experiment and has stuck with it, although he does admit to eating a little cheese from time to time.

He eats a lot of vegetables, whole grains and beans, and fruit.

He does not recommend supplements, saying they are not absorbed readily like real food. Instead, he makes his own super-drinks adding five natural foods: spirulina powder, a protein and mineral rich algae; maca root powder and hemp seeds; goji berries and cocoa powder, both powerful antioxidants.

Moraga resident and school teacher Jennifer Faldt trains five to six times a week and went vegan last spring under the guidance of Attanasio. As part of Faldt's conversion, Attanasio recommended she read Dr. Joel Fuhrman's *Eat to Live*.

After the switch, the already-fit mother of two teenagers reported that in addition to developing strength, she lost 20 pounds. The vegan diet allowed her to balance carbs, protein and fats to become leaner and stronger.

Both Attanasio and Faldt are also motivated by the challenge, more than just getting the good looks a fit and lean body provides.

Faldt hopes to one day become fit enough to complete the Barbarian Challenge for Women: 25 dips, 35 push-ups, 15 pull-ups and 2 muscle ups in six minutes.

With this diet and proper training, she thinks she will succeed.

For more information, go to Attanasio's web site at www.thebarunion.com.

Fun at Meadow Mini-Meet

Submitted by Amy Campbell



Photo Doug Kohen

Lamorinda swimmers ages 8-and-under participated in the "Meadow Mini-Meet" held on Sunday, July 17 at Meadow Swim and Tennis Club in Orinda.

In a mix-up of the top three from last year, the Sleepy Hollow Legends took top honors. The hosts, Meadow Swim and Tennis took second, and Orinda Country Club took third.

Last year, Meadow Swim and Tennis Club went home with the first place trophy while Orinda Country Club came in second and Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis came in third.

"The great thing about this particular meet is that every child feels like a winner," said Kellie Williams, co-chair of this year's Mini-Meet. "This meet is designed specifically for the younger swimmers and each child competes against others their same age. The playing field is even for them."

Results:

Place	Team	Points
1	Sleepy Hollow Legends	525
2	Meadow Swim & Tennis Club	474
3	Orinda Country Club	410
4	Moraga Ranch Swim Club	391
5	Moraga Country Club	363
6	Orinda Park Pool Swim Team	304.50
7	Moraga Valley Pool Swim Team	200
8	Campolindo Cabana Club Marlins	97.50
9	Miramonte Swim Club	47

Lamorinda Divers Finish First, Second

Submitted by Steve Sherman



Two local divers from Sherman's Dive School took top honors in the 1-meter and 3-meter springboard in the Junior Olympic level competition at the Capital Invitational on July 16.

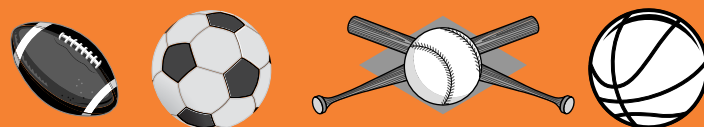
Brenna Cetrone, 11-year-old from Orinda, won silver medals. Morgan Matranga, 14-year-old from Moraga, won golds. Photo provided

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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").

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS



Sleepy Hollow Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Invitational B Meet

Submitted by Ali Minden



B Meet 9-and-up high point winners

Photos provided



B Meet 8-and-up high point winners

On Sunday, July 24, Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club held its 25th annual 'B' Invitational Swim Meet. This meet celebrates the "B" swimmers within the Orinda-Moraga Pool Association. Some 700 swimmers participated.

The 2011 'B' Meet High Point Winners:

Age Group	Swimmer Name	Swim Club
T-6-Under Girls	Zoe Petty	Moraga Valley Pool
T-6-Under Girls	Reagan Kaelle	Orinda Country Club
6-Under Boys	Cal Elizondo	Orinda Park Pool
7-8 Girls	Brooke Westphal	Orinda Country Club
7-8 Boys	Donovan Davidson	Sleepy Hollow
9-10 Girls	Lexi Rowell	Sleepy Hollow
9-10 Boys	Jean-Luc Axelrode	Moraga Ranch
11-12 Girls	Bella Kelly	Sleepy Hollow
11-12 Boys	Peter Klem	Orinda Park Pool
13-14 Girls	Abby Brzezinski	Sleepy Hollow
13-14 Boys	Yurii Hanley	Meadow Swim & Tennis
15-18 Girls	Helena Valvur	Moraga Ranch
15-18 Boys	Matt Solit	Sleepy Hollow

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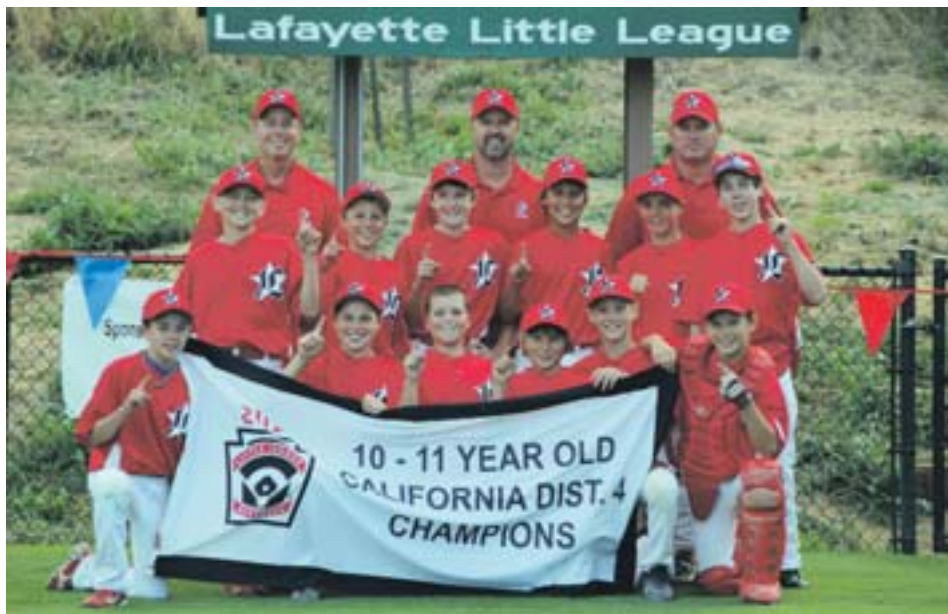
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Go to www.lamorindaweekly.com and click on Sports



Lafayette Elevens Continue Summer to Remember

Submitted by Tod Bequette



From left, front row: Michael Bone, Brian Merken, Ty Whelehan, Dexter Varrelmann, Ryan Regan, John Torchio; middle row: Matty Vicencio, Seppi Ortman, Tyler Schenone, Kyle Mizell, Robby Rowell, Matt Burns; back row: John Whelehan, Mark Vicencio, Buddy Rowell

Lafayette's 11-year-old All-Stars continued the most successful run in league history, advancing to the championship of Sectional play in Woodland. Behind a deep pitching staff, solid defense and torrid hitting, the locals won three games in three days against San Francisco 10-1, Napa 11-5 and Vacaville 12-0. The local stars finally met

their match in the finals, against Petaluma National, losing 11-5. Petaluma got out to a 9-0 lead before Lafayette began to battle back. Matty Vicencio led the way with four innings of solid relief and a towering 3-run homerun. Vicencio later added an RBI single to bring Lafayette within four runs, but it was not enough.

Lafayette Nines Capture Championship

Submitted by Tod Bequette



8-and-under

Photo provided

Lafayette Little League's 9-year-old All-Stars capped their summer with the championship of the San Ramon Tournament. Lafayette defeated Tassajara Valley 12-2 in the championship game behind the dominant pitching of Nick Kresnak, Murphy Baker and Brett Donat. Luke Miles had three hits for the winners, and Nicholas Bamont and Colby Burns chipped in with two hits a piece. The local stars cruised through preliminary round play, notching victories by scores of 13-2, 6-2 and 15-5. The Nines finished their summer with a 13-5 record in tournament play.



SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

Summer Love at Tennis Camp

By Rebecca Eckland



Junior coach Amanda Chan trains youngsters with "Quick Start" foam balls. Photo Scott Borowiak

It's time for summer Love, 15-Love, that is. The Junior Tennis Summer Camp, held at the Moraga Valley Tennis Club, is a "match" for young players looking for fun and to improve their tennis game.

"We mostly have neighborhood kids attend," said camp Director Scott Borowiak.

Campers are as young as 5-years-old, but Borowiak has a few high-school aged attendees as well. Through his instruction, Borowiak hopes to give young players a love of the game and a future as high-school caliber players.

Borowiak's venue allows him to break their day into two sessions to

avoid fatigue and boredom. "What makes our camp unique," Borowiak said, "is its structure. We play tennis for 90 minutes and then the kids get to swim or play ping-pong and then they get another set in the afternoon." This differs from other camps that only allow campers one session of tennis a day.

Borowiak's camp also uses newer training techniques so even young and inexperienced players can have a sense of the game. For instance, he has six different types of tennis balls, "quick start balls" that are different weights and are easier or more difficult to hit. He also uses a new type of foam back board that purposefully slows the game down so even youngsters who have never played before can move through an actual game.

The Summer Valley Junior Tennis Camp runs for nine weeks and usually has 40-45 campers attend each week. For the player who wants to compete, there are weekly matches with other area tennis clubs held every Thursday.

Borowiak's measure of readiness? "I always ask my campers: what can you do if you know how to serve?" The answer: play tennis for the rest of your life.

The camp continues through August 12. For more information contact Scott Borowiak at 376-4190.

Lamorinda United 94 Win Schwan Soccer Cup USA

Submitted by Larry Margerum



Front row, from left: Darian Corey, Ally Turner, Sophie Fuller, Jess Tuan, Sophie Leksan, Val Margerum, Natalia Pedder, Megan Turner, Hillary Buchanan; back row: Rachel Hamilton, Coco Pearce, Sam Zarling, Shannon Stabler, Katie Tao, Jess Jara, Michaela Maes, Becca Bostwick, Kaitlin McGee, Nina Gerson (not pictured: Frances Collins, Claire Winter, Mohamed Mohamed) Photo Larry Margerum

The Lamorinda United 94 girls' team won the U16 vElite Flight Schwan's Soccer Cup on Sunday, July 17th in Minneapolis. The team took on the SoCal Blues in the championship and defeated them 3-2 in overtime. Kaitlin McGee (Acalanes) scored the go-ahead goal on a solo breakaway run just two minutes into the first overtime. United held on despite another spirited comeback by the Blues who had tied the match with seconds to play in regulation after being down 2-0. Goalie Sophia Leksan (Campolindo) was player of the match turning away 15-of-17 shots on goal.

The United girls wore pink jerseys in the championship game in

support of tournament sponsor Puma's Project Pink Day for breast cancer awareness.

In pool play, United finished first by defeating the nationally ranked Blues 1-0 in the first game, followed by wins over teams from Canada, Sweden and Texas, squeezed around a 0-0 draw against a Wisconsin team. The outcome was a team effort as United 94 recorded four shutouts and scored 15 goals by seven different players.

The win gave the girls the opportunity to travel to the Women's Professional Soccer championship game in late August and train with the professionals, including several players from the USA World Cup team.

Miramonte Cycling Competes at Nationals

Submitted by Steven Johnson



Photo provided

The Miramonte Cycling Club traveled to Sun Valley, Idaho, to compete in the US Cycling Mountain Bike Cross Country National Championships July 14-17.

Junior Eric Johnson took first

place in Category 2, 15-18-year-old racers. Johnson outraced 60 other riders on the 10-mile alpine course to earn the Club's first-ever national victory.

Senior Adam Ocamb took 23rd in the Category 1, 17-18-

year-old racers 14-mile course.

Freshman Justin Ocamb finished 14th in the Junior 13-14 age group.

Miramonte Cycling Club will compete in the upcoming NorCal 2012 spring racing season.

Gael headed to Italy



Photo Tod Fierner

Recent Saint Mary's graduate and West Coast Conference Player of the Year Mickey McConnell signed with a professional basketball team in Italy, Lega Due side Filena BPA Jesi.

OIS Student's Modern-Day Duel

Submitted by Kasey Bryne



Bronfman (right) placed ninth in his age-weapon category Photo Kasey Bryne

Gabriel Bronfman, a seventh grader at Orinda Intermediate School, traveled to Reno in early July to compete in the US Fencing Association Summer Nationals/North American Cup. He finished ninth in his age-weapon category, Youth 12 Men's Epee. Bronfman also qualified for and competed in Youth 14 Men's Epee, finishing 71st. He trains at both George Platt's Swordplay in Concord,

and at Golden Gate Fencing in San Francisco; he has been fencing for two years.

Fencers come from all over the US and Canada to compete at Summer Nationals, held once every year in July, qualifying for this event through competition at local fencing tournaments. More than 3500 fencers from 10-year-olds to over 40-year-olds competed in individual and team events.

Lamorinda Water Polo Team Advances to Junior Olympics

Submitted by Lisa Dirito



Top row, from left: Collin Chiapello, Tyler Kirchberg, Jacob Welcomer, Tucker Stone, Jack Fellner, Drew Holland, Jake O'Malley, Vassillis Tzavaras, Nick Solit, Tommy Bush and Charlie Wiser; bottom: Thomas Carroll, JD Ratchford, Conner Reid, and Grant Sivesind Photo Lisa Dirito

Lamorinda 16 boys' water polo placed first at the United States Water Polo Club Championships held locally in Lamorinda on July 15-17.

The team moves on to the Junior Olympics tournament in Orange County July 29-August 2 (after press deadline).

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Life in LAMORINDA

Repaving Closes Lafayette-Moraga Trail

By Cathy Dausman



Photo Cathy Dausman

Large portions of the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail will close temporarily to bikes and pedestrians and become a heavy equipment construction zone during trail rehabilitation work August 1 through late October this year, but the end result will be a smoother, wider, more ADA-compliant pathway.

Trail segments under construction include three sections in Lafayette and almost the entire trail length in Moraga, except for a stretch between Moraga Road and Country Club Drive and a mile-long piece ending at the Valle Vista Trail Staging area. Parking at the St. Mary's Road Trail Staging area will be closed for the duration and the Valle Vista area will be closed as needed for truck turnaround.

"General trail maintenance is ongoing," says Diane Althoff of East Bay Parks, "trail reconstruction is dependent upon funding opportunities." Althoff is Chief of Design and Construction for the project. She says minor pavement

repairs were done in 1995 and a short stretch of soil-damaged trail was reworked in 2006, but this project's goal "is to have a Class I bike trail that meets the park district standard of 10 feet wide." Dan Cuning, East Bay Parks Trails Supervisor, says long-time trails users will recall the seven mile long trail was built over 30 years ago, and is therefore "due for [re]construction."

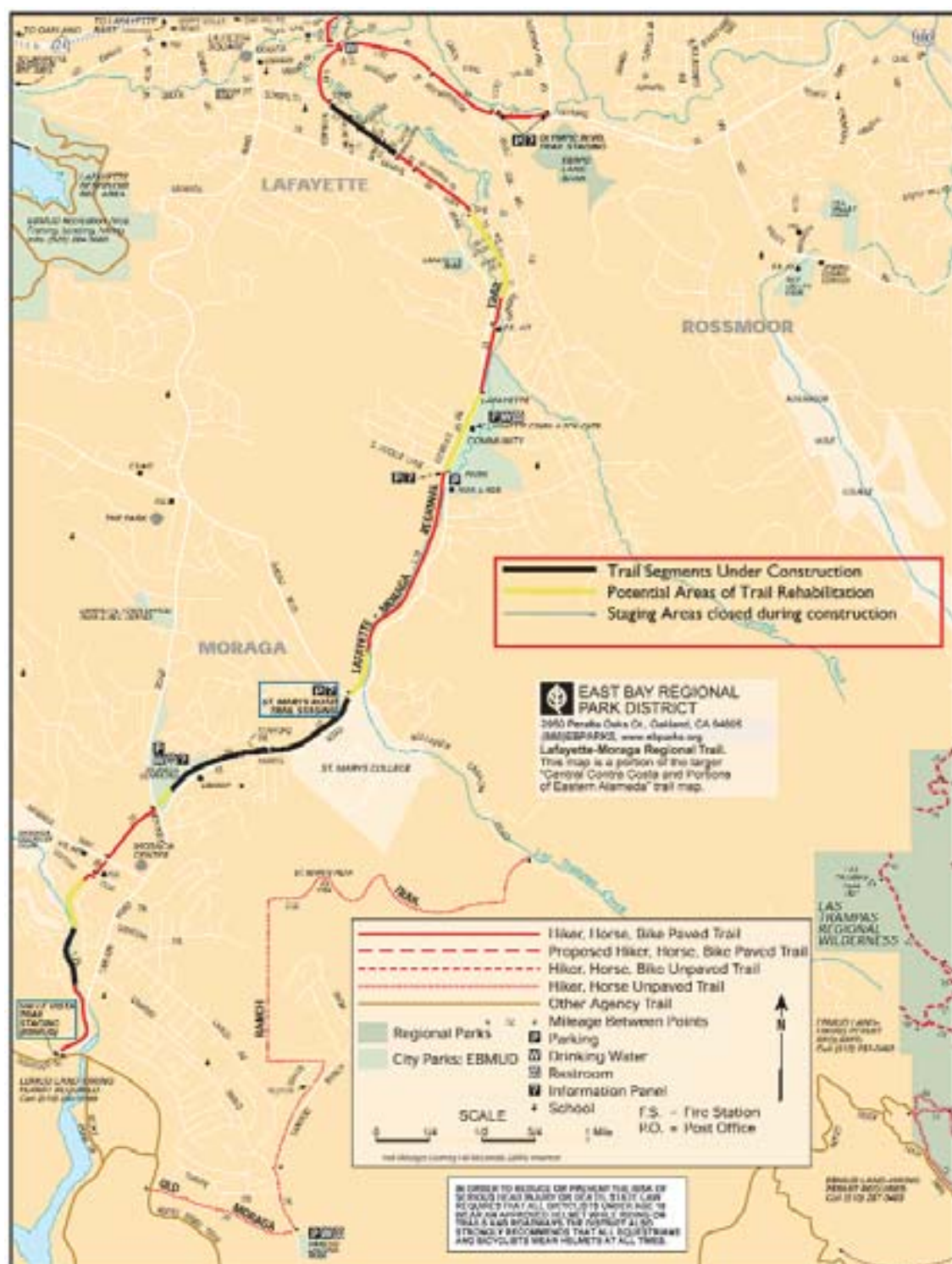
Grade Tech, Inc., of Castro Valley, has been awarded the contract; the cost of the 1.2 million dollar project is covered jointly by funds from the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU) of 2005 and by assessment money from the Alameda and Contra Costa County Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District (Two County LLD).

Preparations were underway last month. Cuning says workers spent most of July pruning vegetation to allow easier access for construction trucks. And there will be trucks – everything from pickups to heavy duty

trucks, motor graders, compactors, skip loaders, back hoes, water trucks, 10-wheel dump trucks and asphalt cold milling machines. This is not a slurry seal project; it is the full removal and reconstruction of major sections of the trail pavement.

Reconstruction of the pathway will start in Lafayette, near Topper Lane, and move toward Moraga. Cuning says the first two sections "are mandated to be finished before school starts," because both Stanley Middle School and Lafayette Elementary are near the affected pathway. "After that," he says, "there is no definite [repair] order." Meanwhile, Cuning encourages trail users to explore other trails, including the 33-mile long Iron Horse Trail, until work on the Lafayette Moraga Trail is complete.

Public notices, including a map of affected areas, are posted along the length of the trail. Users can call 1-888-EBPARKS (1-888-327-2757) with questions, or go online to <http://www.ebparks.org>.



Map courtesy East Bay Regional Park District

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Next meeting:
Special meeting, 08/03/11, 7:00pm, to discuss options for administrative offices

Next regular MOFD Board meeting is August 17th, 7:00pm, Station 41 (1280 Moraga Way, Moraga), (go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

Moraga Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings
Meetings of the MOFD Board of Directors are open to the public and take place on the third Wednesday of each month in the Board Room, Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.



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MOFD Board Will Consider Building Purchase Tonight

Other options include renting space from City of Orinda

... continued from page A1

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According to a recent facilities report, Station 41 on Moraga Road is in need of upgrades with regards to size, seismic and gender issues. Station 41 includes space for some of the district's administrative activities, including the Board Room - Station 45 in Orinda currently houses the MOFD's formal headquarters.

The report contained options for Station 41 that included retrofitting the existing building and expanding the space to accommodate both firefighters and administration, or combining administrative offices in an off-site location by either leasing space or buying property. Cost estimates for the retrofit of Station 41 span a broad range from \$500,000 and up depending on the size and scope of the project.

At the July meeting, Fire Chief Randy Bradley presented his concept for purchasing an existing building at 1150 Moraga Way. Bradley said he saw this as a cost effective option that would have long-term benefits, stating he believed it would serve the District well as an administrative office because of its central location, adaptability to fire services needs, and improved efficiency as duplicative services would no longer be necessary. Bradley estimated the cost of purchasing and renovating the structure to range from \$1.7 million to more than \$2.2 million.

Public comment regarding this issue was mixed. Several members of the audience disagreed with the idea of purchasing a building and suggested those funds could be put toward MOFD's unfunded liability. Those in favor saw it as a sound investment.

The Board was equally divided. Dick Olsen voiced concerns about earthquake safety and possible mold resulting from the water used to extinguish a relatively recent fire. He would also like to have an outside consultant review the purchase documents.

Brook Mancinelli spoke about 'cost creep,' where prices are beginning to move up and how that could change the overall cost. He went on to directly state that he does not support the purchase of the building. The other three Board members, while not as adamant as Mancinelli, agreed that more discussions were necessary.

Tonight's meeting will be held in the MOFD Board Room, 1230 Moraga Way, at 7:00 p.m.

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MOFD Moves Forward with Facilities Upgrade

Receives information about new citizens task force

By Lucy Amaral

A March 16 report from MOFD's ad-hoc facilities committee found the 60-year-old Station 43, on Via Las Cruces, needed seismic upgrades, has an apparatus bay too small for current emergency vehicles, and lacks adequate space for personnel and equipment. The Board opted to replace the station and at its July 20 meeting approved the hiring of Harris & Associates to serve as Project Manager.

In his staff report, MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley said he received nine proposals and interviewed five firms before selecting Harris & Associates. As project manager, Harris & Associate will manage the design and construction of the fire station.

The cost to replace the station is estimated to be \$3 million, with funding coming from the Special Revenue fund, and it is estimated that it will take two years to complete the project.

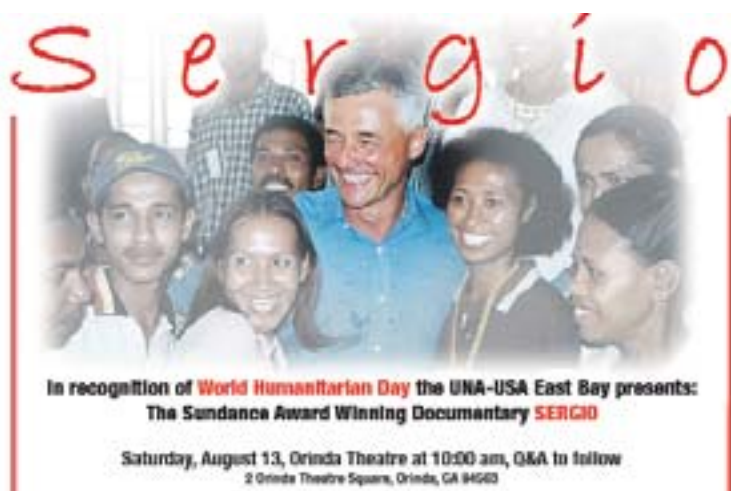
In addition to designing the new station, one of the first orders of business, according to Harris & Associates, will be to set up a temporary station to ensure continuity of service.

During this meeting's public comment session Vince Maiorana, of Orinda, informed the Board that residents have formed an independent task force called Orinda Citizens Emergency Services Task Force. In his statement, Maiorana said that this task force was formed to better understand where they stand with this element of city services. He added that any conclusions obtained from their research that causes a concern regarding the operation of MOFD would be shared with the MOFD Board of Directors.

Please submit Letters and Opinions:
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Theater Foundations Rally to Celebrate World Humanitarian Day

Screening of Sergio at the Orinda Theatre
By Sophie Braccini



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Saturday, August 13, Orinda Theatre at 10:00 am, Q&A to follow
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Image provided

Eight years ago, on the afternoon of August 19, 2003, a suicide bomber parked a truck at the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq—directly below the window of Sergio Vieira de Mello, the United Nations’ High Commissioner for Human Rights who was serving as the Secretary-General’s special envoy to Iraq; over 20 people were killed, including Vieira de Mello. Each year, the United Nations General Assembly commemorates the attack on U.N. headquarters in Iraq by celebrating World Humanitarian Day.

This year, the California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF), Lamorinda Film and Entertainment Foundation, and Orinda Theatre are sponsoring the presentation of the Sundance Award winning documentary Sergio, with the United Nations Association-USA East Bay Chapter. The movie will be screened at the Orinda Theatre on Saturday, August 13, at 10:00 a.m.

“This is a very compelling docu-

mentary, both in the way the movie was done and the message it carries,” says CAIFF’s Beau Behan, the manager of the Orinda and New Rheim theaters. “The heart of our mission at CAIFF is to put out the universal language of cinema for everyone to share. This film does that, and we are very proud to support World Humanitarian Day that way.”

Vieira de Mello had worked for the U.N. for 34 years and was known as the official who could be handed some of the most difficult tasks – Cambodia, East Timor, Sarajevo, Bosnia and many more. Before his death, he was considered a likely candidate for Secretary-General.

Sergio director Greg Barker describes Vieira de Mello as a cross between James Bond and Bobby Kennedy—the only U.N. representative who was able to charm George Bush.

For more information about the movie, go to www.sergiothemovie.com.

THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

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Miramonte senior Douglas McKinley finds WeatherBug to be, “Highly accurate and very convenient for weather updates no matter where you are.”

Eric Pawlakos is a junior at Miramonte High School.

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Running to Help Fight Homelessness

By Cathy Tyson



Kristi Connor

Photo provided

Kristi Connor took her motivation to fight homelessness to the streets, well actually the paved path around the Lafayette Reservoir. She's inspired to do something concrete about the problem after seeing panhandlers in San Francisco, and especially a fellow living under a bridge. At such a tender age, the dichotomy of living in a comfortable home compared with those less fortunate really resonated.

Compassion is worthwhile at any age, but Kristi is only seven and a half years old. Her first fundraising concept was to harvest apples from her pal Ella's backyard and sell them to raise money to donate to a homeless shelter. After making a meager \$12.54 along with a couple of silly bands she took in trade, she and her parents put their heads together to find an alternative.

This poised, very polite soon-to-be second grader at Lafayette Elementary School discussed options with Mom and Dad, also known as Caroline and Kevin Conner, over dinner one night. Because Kristi likes to run, and since the family had contributed to friends participating in runs for AIDS and breast cancer in the past; they thought a fundraising run would be the way to go.

They were familiar with Shelter Inc. - a Contra Costa based non-profit that seeks to prevent and end homelessness by promoting self sufficiency, and with the help of FirstGiving, a secure portal for donors to give online, the "Kristi's Run for Shelter" was born.

"Kristi is a little girl that was born with a big heart," explained Caroline

Conner. "She has always cared deeply about others and wants to make the world a better place. Her dad and I are very proud of Kristi for coming up with the idea of the run to try and help others who are not as fortunate as her."

"Homelessness is important to me because I feel like everyone should have a house," said Kristi. "I have seen a lot of people in San Francisco and other busy cities asking for money and it makes my heart break. One time under the freeway in San Francisco, I saw some things that looked like a homeless person's house and it made me sad to think this person did not have any shelter, clothes, or food."

She and Mom Caroline are training buddies, and had already participated in the Rez Run and the Piedmont's Turkey Trot. The pair enjoyed Kristi's favorite breakfast of pumpnickel bagels from Noah's, with some blueberries on the side, and circled the Reservoir on July 31—completing the three mile run in thirty minutes.

"She was so excited I think her legs went into overdrive," said Caroline Conner, who reports that although Kristi's goal was to raise \$1,000, she reached \$3,000 with the generous support of neighbors, friends and family. Conner added, "We had fun stomping on each quarter mile mark and saying 'there's another \$250 for homeless families.'"

Kristi's already thinking about expanding the run next year. For more information on Kristi's run, go to www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/kristisrunforshelter.

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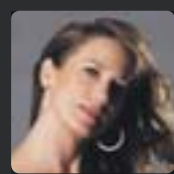
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Dry Launch for Rotary Canoe

By Cathy Dausman



Canoe builders and Rotary members (L-R) Spike Speicher, Michael Edwards, Ron Brown, Charlie Franklin, Mark Larks, Pat Flaharty, and John Fazel gather around the canoe they built as a fundraiser. Project organizer Gary Fulcher is missing from the photo. Not surprisingly, Fulcher was away on a water trip! Photo Cathy Dausman

The Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise canoe has yet to touch water, but it was "launched" for show Friday morning at a regular Rotary meeting. The canoe is being built as a raffle fundraiser (<https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0507/Can-You-Canoe-This-Crew-Can.html>) from which the club hopes to raise between ten and twenty thousand dollars. Its builders say that it will be ready for its water test by next month.

The canoe, more a piece of art than a simple water craft, is built from 200 strips of African Rosewood veneer, with maple for the gunnels and thwarts (rim and side-to-side reinforcements) and two hand-woven cane seats. The wood makes it heavy; it weighs 50 pounds. Epoxy has been carefully applied before and after every layer of sandwiched materials (fiberglass, foam core, fiberglass, Kevlar, fiberglass and wood veneer). A final clear coat

will be professionally applied to insure a smooth-as-glass, bubble-free seal.

The canoe goes on tour in the next few months, making stops at local Rotary clubs, other local venues, and possibly a Rotary district conference in Monterey. It will be a featured centerpiece of the Rotary booth during the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival in September (<http://lafayettechamber.org/events/art-wine-festival/>). Although no date has been set, its water launch will likely be into the Lafayette Reservoir.

Raffle tickets will sell for \$20 apiece or six for \$100; an optional cash prize of \$2,000 is available for those wishing to support Rotary but not acquire the canoe. The winner of the canoe will surely be sitting pretty but must supply his or her own paddles. The drawing takes place at the October 28 meeting of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. Questions can be directed to Rotary member Pat Flaharty at (925) 376-9361.

Community Service

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

Girl Scout Troop 31017 Visits Supervisor Uilkema

Submitted by Carol Yates



Photo courtesy of Carol Yates, Community Liaison person for County Supervisor Gayle Uilkema, District 2

At the invitation of Gayle B. Uilkema, Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, Lafayette Girl Scout Troop 31017 worked toward completing badge requirements by attending a council meeting, interviewing a law enforcement official, and researching careers in law enforcement with the interviews of a judge, undersheriff, and a supervisor.

They had a full morning that began with a visit to the offices of Supervisor Uilkema who spoke with them briefly in her office before ushering them into the Board Chambers to have the experience of sitting up on the dais where the five supervisors would shortly sit.

Then the girls were met by Undersheriff, Mike Casten to discuss topics of their interest such as cyber safety. They also got some career tips from Fire Chief Louder as he was entering the board chamber. As the meeting was opened, the Scouts performed the Flag Ceremony and then observed a portion of the meeting in session.

Next on the program that had been planned by Supervisor Uilkema, was a visit to the nearby courthouse to meet Judge Mary Ann O'Malley. The girls' interest continually increased as they asked more and more questions – we may see future leaders emerge from these experiences and interviews of the day.

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Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 1515 CLAY ST, STE 2208, OAKLAND, CA 94612, (510) 622-4970. NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES Date of Filing Application: 7-5-2011. To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are ZEMRAK/PIRKLE PRODUCTIONS, LLC. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 350 PARK ST, MORAGA, CA 94556-1512. Type of license(s) applied for: 41 - On-Sale Beer And Wine - Eating Place

School is out - yeah!

Have fun, kids! Lamorinda Weekly team

Cougars' Art at the U.S. Capitol

Submitted by Matthew Kravitz



1st Place: "Escape" - Seo Hyung Lee

Two Lamorinda students were recently honored as the winners of the 2011 Congressional Art Competition by Congressman John Garamendi. Of the 22 pieces submitted in various categories including photography, oils, and pencil drawing among others, Campolindo High School students won first and second place.

Seo Hyung Lee of Moraga took top honors for her poster color painting, "Escape." Her piece will hang at the U.S. Capitol for the next year.

Clay Sanders of Moraga took second place for his piece, "The Howler."

The competition was sponsored by the Congressional Institute.



2nd Place: "The Howler" - Clay Sanders

Ask Dr. Harold:

When Scary Things Happen

By Harold Jules Hoyle Ph.D.

Dear Dr. Harold,

A parent wrote me this week asking about the recent shooting in the town of Moraga and the drama it produced in our kids. So here are some thoughts on our kids in a world full of worries and media to hype it up.

My Experience

I was planning on going to Yogurt Shack with my kids and I received a text from a friend telling me there was a shooter on the loose who had shot at a cop. The text also let me know that the parent who sent it was not letting their kid leave the house. Two minutes later we were reading the description of the event on the web and Facebook and Twitter were all a buzz. I heard or read about drug cartels and right wing extremist within minutes of getting my text. Note to self: get to yogurt shop before you read your texts.

So, what are the dynamics going on for a kid in this scenario?

First, there is the developmentally appropriate task of identity development or figuring out who you are. An important tool we use accomplish this task in psychology is called detached intimacy. My generation knew it as late night phone conversations that required a cord long enough to reach one's room. (Yes a phone with cord) Today's version is Facebook and texting. These social devices represent social connection. They are how kids get to know each other and more importantly themselves. These public domains are subject to the same drama and entertainment requirements that plague our news programs. When this behavior is not causing anxiety or negative emotions count it as a normal part of their development.

The second dynamic goes something like this; imagine that I am a kid in Moraga and I have anxiety about something--school, friends,

family or just being a kid. I see a story on the news about a tragedy in what I think is peaceful Norway and a few days later I get Facebooked about a shooter in my area. It becomes much easier for me to focus my actions on this shooter than on my own life. It is a kind of emotional procrastination. So I buy into the hyping of this event and maybe even hype it up a little. This is a natural process as long as the worry doesn't intrude on the functioning of the kid.

So, what can you do?

You have more experience on the planet than your kids do. Use it! Listen to what they have to say and give them the language they need to process what is going on. Problem solve with them. Do not problem solve for them. We are worse than video games if we always run to their side with some lesson and do all of the interpretation for them. Use Socratic questioning. This is a time to separate your being with them from your doing for them. Be with them and listen and guide them with questions. Help them brainstorm the activities that would make them feel safe. Do those activities and then see if it works. Give them honest feedback about how you see them getting worked up by the media and suggest they have choices about getting worked up or not. Model for them how you are working through the possibility of a shooter loose in your city. What are you saying to yourself? This is a great time to get out a map of Moraga or Norway.

I personally argued to go get frozen yogurt and my daughter reminded me how bad I would feel if I got the warning and then got shot. We had a good time making cookies.

www.drharoldhoyle.com
Harold can be contacted by phone or email: 510-219-8660 hjhoyle@mac.com
Harold is licensed clinical psychologist and a lecturer and in the School of Counseling Psychology, Education, and Pastoral Ministries Santa Clara University. With his wife and two children he is a 14 year long resident of the Lamorinda area. He is a sought after speaker in the areas of parenting, education, behavior with adolescents and children. He has a local private practice.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

Acalanes Union
High School District
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
Wednesday, August 17, 7:30pm

Orinda Union School District
OUSD Office
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda
Monday, August 15, 4pm

Submit stories to
schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com

TEEN SCENE

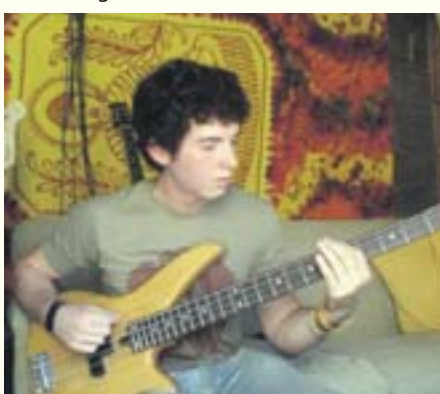
Lamorinda's Youth Bands Play On

By Amy Holm



John Haag on drums from Soulful Curl

Photos provided



Zach McFadden on bass guitar

Throughout Lamorinda, young musicians practice their beat with the goal of MTV stardom. Although complaints from neighbors occur and each town enforces noise ordinance regulations, these young garage bands believe in nurturing mutual respect.

Wesley Guergah, a 19 year-old bass player from *The Soulful Curls*, said, "With the exception of one neighbor, everyone else seems to really enjoy our music."

"We did have a man march into the shack in our backyard where we were practicing and yell at us. We asked if he'd prefer us to play on other days or times, as we want to be neighborly."

The Soulful Curls, so named for the three members' curly hair, was started less than a year ago and has performed in small cafes around Lamorinda. The band members each play multiple instruments, but Guergah felt they make their best music when he plays bass, Michael Lucacher plays drums, and Zach McFadden plays guitar.

"My favorite part is being able to make music that's our own with other people and being able to express ourselves," McFadden said.

The Soulful Curls have their own Face-

book and Myspace pages where they update songs and release performance dates and locations.

John Haag, a 20-year-old Moraga resident, has had several opportunities to get out of his garage and play music with more established groups.

His high school band, *Invection*, played metal music out of his friend's garage, but ended up moving to Soundwave Studios in Oakland because of noise complaints.

"To maintain neighbor relations, we decided we couldn't practice in our garage anymore," Haag said. During rehearsals, he networked with other musicians and met drummers who played for popular Bay Area metal bands such as *Faith No More* and *Machine Head*.

Haag is currently the assistant editor for a metal magazine based in Martinez, Calif. called *Hails and Horns*.

It's not just rock bands that are gathering in garages and looking to step onto the stage. Daniel Kriozere, a senior at Miramonte High School, plays trumpet in the *Altarinda Jazz Combo*, a group of six students who are also in the jazz ensemble at school.

He said that he was encouraged to start a band last summer at a jazz camp in Lafayette which he attended with five friends. They have since performed at the Lafayette Art Gallery as well as for community service projects, parties, and international nights at school.

"I have fun playing music with my friends," Kriozere said. "Being part of a band is a great extracurricular activity."

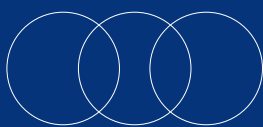
Amy Holm grew up in Moraga and currently is a junior at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington majoring in Journalism and Public Relations. She is home in Lamorinda for the summer.



2007 Campolindo graduate Conrad Bassett-Bouchard (left) won the inaugural Word Cup and \$2,000 at the Word Game Players Organization championships held July 1-6 in Reno.

Bassett-Bouchard finished with a record of 27-8 and beat his opponent 471-324 in the scrabble championships.

Conrad Bassett-Bouchard is on the left with Cheryl DeMers Photo provided



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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.

Seniors \$8. Tickets are available at the Box Office, call (925) 528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org for reservations. Bring a picnic, but dress appropriately/bring blankets. Molière's "The Imaginary Invalid" will open on August 26. See www.orsvp.org for details.

Cal Shakes presents CANDIDA by George Bernard Shaw, directed by Jonathan Moscone, August 10-September 4. For details and to purchase tickets go to www.calshakes.org.

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.

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.

MUSIC

Summer Concert Series every Thursday night at the Moraga Commons Park located at 1799 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. The free concerts are from 6:30-8:30pm. The volunteers of the Moraga Park Foundation will be serving delicious grilled dinners at the concession stand. August 4, BECAUSE, Beatles Tribute Band; Thursday, August 11, HUSEROCKERS; August 18, LITTLEDOG2, rock. For more info see www.moragaparks.org.

The very first Moraga Jazz Festival at the New Rheem Theatre, Sunday, August 7th at 2pm. This is a one-day event, and it will feature some well-acclaimed international, regional, and local musicians and artists. Scheduled to appear are "Maestro Guitarist" Alex De Grassi, jazz legend Roger Glenn, and keyboardist Victoria Theodore; along with other internationally acclaimed artists including flutist Carol Alban, a resident of Moraga. Ticket admissions, which include light refreshments, are \$20 for the general public, and \$15 for students. Tickets are available for purchase at the New Rheem Theatre's Box Office, or at the theatre's website www.TheNewRheemTheatre.com. Questions, please call (925)388-0752.

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: Stagefrite, August 19: The Floorshakers, August 26: Tall Shadows. Bring the family and a picnic supper!

Closing the Orinda Library summer concert series, Yolo Mambo, brings a multicultural flair to the acoustic jazz of Latin America on Wednesday, August 31 at 6:30pm. Vocalist Catherine LeBlanc sings in several languages including Spanish, Portuguese, and French, backed up vocally by the entire quartet: Phil Summers on guitar, Carla Campbell on percussion, and Steve O'Neill on upright bass. 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.cc-club.org or telephone (925)254-2184.

THEATER

The Lerner & Loewe classic, "My Fair Lady"



"Wouldn't it Be Lovely," featuring from left: Chris Dewey, Rod Edora, Susan Himes Powers as Eliza Doolittle, Avi Jacobsen, Sean O'Brien.

will be presented August 5-14 at Woodminster Amphitheater in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park. Based on George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion," "My Fair Lady" tells the story of cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle, who is reintegrated through elocution lessons. Lafayette actors Ginnie Menezes and Chris Dewey are in the ensemble for this show. Tickets are \$26-\$42, with discounts for seniors/childred/groups and are available at (510)531-9597, or www.woodminster.com,

Last weekend for Orinda Starlight Players' "Send Me No Flowers" by Norman Barasch and Carroll Moore, Thursday @ 8 pm, Friday & Saturday @ 8:30pm at the Outdoor Theater in Orinda Community Center Park, 26 Orinda Way. Regular admission: \$16,

bers of the public are invited to sneak a peek behind the normally closed doors of eight architect-designed houses including a mid-century modern in Lafayette and the historic de Lavega estate in Orinda. The architect for each home will be on-site for questions and discussion. This is a self-guided, self-driven tour. Doors will be open from 10:00am to 4:30pm, rain or shine. Tickets are \$40 (\$50 day-of) and may be purchased online at www.aiaeb.org, at the AIA office in downtown Oakland, 1405 Clay Street, after July 24, or at either of the two will-call stations in Berkeley and Orinda on the day of the tour.

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 stmarys-ca.edu/wine.

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.

Join Las Trampas for a fun 1 mile or 5K "Walk n' Roll Event" from 9am-12noon on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail on Saturday September 10. Everyone is welcome! The trail is wheelchair friendly. The walk starts at Las Trampas, 3460 Lana Ln., Lafayette, continues towards Olympic Blvd. and ends at Las Trampas. Registration is \$25 per person and includes: event, T-shirt, gift, refreshments, prizes, music and more! Proceeds support people with developmental disabilities Register online at www.active.com or call (925)284-1462 ext. 239 for a registration form.

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

Campolindo freshman Sam Larson is collecting men's, women's, boys, and girls clothes, shoes, and accessories, sizes infant through adult. The items will be used for a free clothing shop Sam is running with San Pablo Rotary for disadvantaged families in San Pablo on October 8th. Drop off your items at 243 Paseo del Rio, Moraga, or call 284-8142 for pick up. Thank you for your support.

CLUBS

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.

Cal singles is an active social group - most members are over 55. Starting as a Cal Alumni club, we have expanded to include alums from any university. Our activities range from discussion, pot luck dinners, symphony rehearsals to restaurant meals and a monthly book club. Most members live in the east bay. For more information call Bobbie Spike at (510)525-2077.

GARDEN

Contra Costa Rose Society meeting on Monday, August 22 will feature a free presentation "Roses as Potted Plants" by Jolene Adams, Vice President, American Rose Society; public is invited. Please call Cyndi at (925)408-1256 or email her at cjreading50@yahoo.com for information, or visit our website www.ccrose.org. Monthly meetings are usually held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7pm at The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek.

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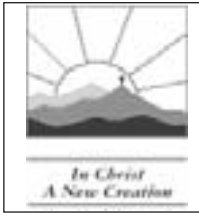
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Veggie Packs for Camping ... Or even on the grill at home

By Susie Iventosch

These veggie-cheese packs might be one way to get the kids to eat their greens, even while enjoying the fun of a camping trip! It is a simple idea of slicing the veggies you like best, seasoning, layering, and sprinkling them with grated cheese over the top. Then wrap them in foil, toss them on the campfire for a few minutes per side, and voila, you have your veggies!

Since all vegetables cook for slightly different times to arrive at the desired doneness, be sure to adjust by cutting the quick-cooking veggies thicker and the slower varieties, such as potatoes, much thinner. I like to cook the potatoes and onions in their own packs, thereby avoiding that little problem.

What makes this dish fun is that everyone can pack their own with the veggies they like best!

Potato Packs



(Serves 4)

INGREDIENTS

- 2 potatoes, with skins on and sliced into 1/8-inch slices (can be any kind you like)
- 1 red onion, sliced into 1/4-inch slices
- 1 poblano chili, sliced into 1/4-inch slices, or rings
- Lawry's or Mrs. Dash Seasoning Salt
- 1/2 cup grated sharp cheddar (or Monterey Jack)

DIRECTIONS

Layer veggies in the center of four 10-inch square pieces of aluminum foil. (If using on the grill at home, I spray foil first with cooking spray, but when camping you might not have this at your fingertips, so just pile veggies straight onto foil.) Sprinkle veggies with seasoning salt and then put grated cheese over all.



Seal foil tightly and place directly on the coals of your campfire, or on the grill on your barbecue. For the campfire, cook for approximately 4-5 minutes per side, and on the barbecue cook approximately 6-8 minutes per side, turning the packets one time during cooking. You can carefully open one packet to check for doneness. Vegetables should be cooked, and easily pierced by a knife, but not mushy, and cheese will be melted and beginning to brown.

To serve, pass around the packs!

Veggie Packs



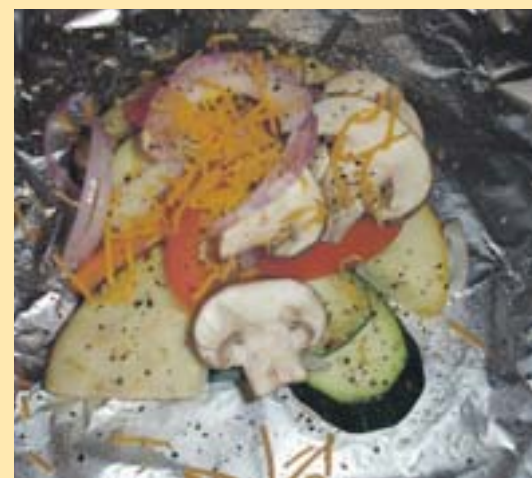
(Serves 4)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large eggplant, sliced into 1/4-inch slices, leave skins on
- 2 medium zucchini, sliced into 1/4-inch slices
- 1 yellow, orange or red bell pepper, sliced into 1/4-inch slices
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1 medium onion, sliced into 1/4-inch slices
- Lawry's or Mrs. Dash seasoning salt
- 1/2 cup grated cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese

DIRECTIONS

Layer veggies in the center of four 10-inch square piece of aluminum foil. (If using on the grill at home, I spray foil first with cooking spray, but when camping you might not have this at your fingertips, so just pile veggies straight onto foil.) Sprinkle veggies with seasoning salt and then put grated cheese over all. Seal foil tightly and place directly on the coals of your campfire, or on the grill on your barbecue. For the campfire, cook for approximately 3-5 minutes per side, (these take a little less time than the Potato Packs), and on the barbecue cook approximately 6-7 minutes per side, turning the packets one time during cooking. You can carefully open one packet to check for doneness. Vegetables should be cooked, and easily pierced by a knife, and cheese will be melted and beginning to brown. To serve, pass around the packs!



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 susiven@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.



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More Food Coming to Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini
Chipotle Mexican Grill

is scheduled to open its next East Bay restaurant at the end of August in Lafayette, according to the management of the Chipotle in Walnut Creek. The popular burrito joint's crew is finishing a remodel of the retail space that once housed NorSki and Sports, not far from the new Whole Foods.

The chain restaurant, which has over 1100 locations, features what anyone would expect from a Mexican

fast food: burritos, tacos, burrito bowls, salads and, of course, chips and guacamole.

The company makes an effort to put on a quality and eco-friendly face. Its web site offers options for all types of diets, from gluten free, allergy-sensitive, or vegans (they warn vegans and vegetarians that their pinto beans are cooked with bacon), and is communicating on their use of organic and local food suppliers. They also claim

that their meat is raised humanly. "Since 2001, we have sourced 100% of our pork from ranchers whose pigs are raised outside or in deeply bedded pens, are never given antibiotics and are fed a vegetarian diet," states their corporate communication material. The company indicates that its goal is to have 100% of the chickens raised without the use of antibiotics, and that currently over 35% of the dairy served comes from pasture-raised cows.

"Our commitment to serving food made with better ingredients from more sustainable sources is one of the key drivers of our business," said Steve Eells, founder, chairman and CO-CEO of Chipotle, "Not only is local produce fresher and better tasting, but it also helps support the environment and regional farming communities around the country."

The company that reported \$571.6 million revenue for the second quarter of 2011 (a revenue increased 22.4% compared to the second quarter of 2010) announced that it expects to use more than 10 million pounds of produce from local farms this year. Its definition of local is produce grown on farms within 350 miles of the restaurant where it will be served.

Fenton's Creamery

Joyful anticipation is tempered by uncertainty as stakeholders race to make possible the arrival of Fentons Creamery, which would like to open a Lafayette location in the historic Park Theater (see article page A2).

We're talking food here as well, but of a different type and from a very different company. Fentons Cream-

ery was founded in Oakland in 1894 by Elbridge Seth (E.S.) Fenton, and was passed down through generations until it was sold to Foremost Dairy in the 60's, then to Scott Whidden in 1987.

"Fentons Creamery is once again a family owned and operated business," said Whidden, "Our family is dedicated to the tradition started by the Fenton family, doing all that we can to make every visit to Fentons an event to be remembered." Fentons is well known for its locally made ice-creams and toppings; it also serves meals.

In May 2007, Fentons opened a second location in Vacaville, at the Nut Tree site. A location that, according to Whidden, represents nostalgic times much like Fentons Creamery does. So it makes sense that for its third location Fentons eyed the Park Theater; the Plaza Park business area brims with nostalgia and historic value.

Fentons' arrival hinges on the newly formed parking commission's recommendation. In the meantime the Lafayette business community supports the idea, "Business brings business," commented Lafayette Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson, referring to the vitality of that specific business stretch. And if there is no parking near by? "Some businesses are worth walking a few blocks for," said Main Street Property Services Craig Semmelmeier.

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

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business briefs

Bye Bye, Big Blue

Dave Simpson's Bookmobile is for sale
It was just over a year ago that Dave Simpson lost his lease in the Clocktower building and transformed his brick-and-mortar Lafayette Bookstore into the creative Bookmobile, the bookstore on wheels that traveled the area stopping at private homes for book-club meetings, at Fastframe on Brown Ave. in Lafayette to take and deliver orders, and at farmers markets, schools, restaurants, etc. In his farewell address on Facebook, Simpson reminisced about his book-selling career. "The irony is not lost on me that I am announcing my departure from the book business on the day that Borders Books is announcing their demise," he wrote, "I started in book-selling over 30 years ago as the night manager of the first Crown Books on the west coast, and over those years there has been monumental change in bookstores and in bookselling. Book sales have become so splintered and fractured and splintered and sliced and diced, I don't see how any unsubsidized brick-and-mortar bookstore could survive." Big Blue, his beautiful bookmobile, is for sale. "Although it is amazing as a mobile bookstore, most of the interest in purchasing it has been from people who want to convert it to living space!" wrote Simpson, who was very active in the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and was the chair of the successful Try Lafayette First campaign.

Lavecchia Calls it a Day

Both Moraga and Orinda residents got to know the charming Italian man who came to Lamorinda as a partner in the restaurant Amoroma in Moraga some eight years ago. A year and a half ago he opened his first solo restaurant, with his wife Mariam, in Orinda- Trattoria Lupetti. When Lavecchia came to the U.S. from Rome, he brought his love for Roman food along with his melodic Italian accent. Lavecchia attributes the failure of Lupetti to a lack of funding and the 11 months it took

him to get the proper license. "We could not have a web site, could not get our name and make the necessary changes to get the business in full gear," said Lavecchia. The restaurant owner served his last dinner on July 30, and though he was sad, he was not bitter. "I want to express my thanks to the Lamorinda community that supported me all these years," he said, "it has been a pleasure to get to know all of you, and we have made a lot of friends here. I hope that other opportunities to work in Lamorinda will present themselves." Mariam Lavecchia has already started a new job with Peet's coffee; Michele Lavecchia is actively looking for a new opportunity.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce Lafayette

- Ribbon Cutting at Collectors Choice Antiques, August 11th, 5:00pm, 3574 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Rock the Plaza concert, August 12, 6-8pm, starring Stagefrite
- Entrepreneur's Club, August 18, 8:30am, Lafayette Chamber Conference Room
- Movie in the Park, August 18, 8-10pm on the Plaza, featuring *Finding Nemo*
- Moraga**
- 1st annual Moraga Jazz Festival, Jazz for Joplin Benefit on Sunday, August 7 2pm at the New Rheem Theatre
- Annual Chamber BBQ, Tuesday, August 30, 6pm at the Moraga Commons Park. Everyone in Moraga is invited to the Annual Moraga Chamber of Commerce BBQ sponsored by Safeway. Kickoff for reinvigorated Shop Moraga First Campaign. R.S.V.P. to kathe@moragachamber.org
- Orinda**
- After Hours Mixer on Thursday, August 18, 5:30-7pm, at Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com

California Law requires that ALL 7th - 12th grade students receive the Whooping Cough (Tdap) vaccination prior to their return to school this year.

Tdap shots (as well as other vaccines) are available at your local CVS/pharmacy. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

* All or a portion may be covered by your insurance plan

- Tdap - \$53.59*
Ages 11 - 64
- Pneumococcal - \$95.99*
Ages 65 and older require 1 lifetime dose
- Flu Shots - Coming Soon
Ages 9 and older

Shots are available at the following Lamorinda CVS Pharmacy Locations

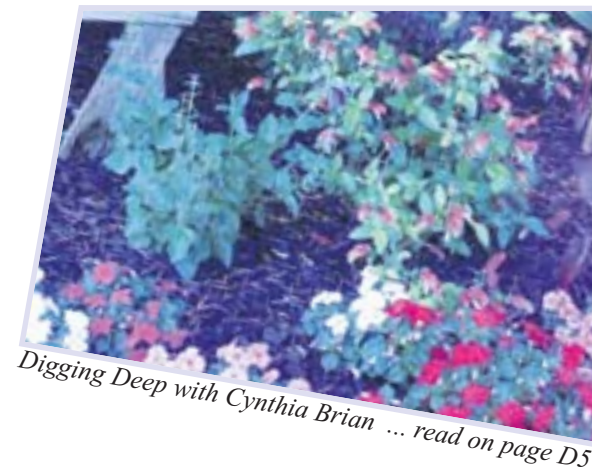
Happy Valley Center * Moraga Center
Orinda Crossroads * Rheem Valley Center



Pharmacy hours: Mon-Fri 9am-9pm, Sat: 9am-6pm, Sun: 10am-6pm
Moraga Center closed on Sunday

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 11 Wednesday, August 3, 2011



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ... read on page D5

To Bounce or Not to Bounce...

By Cathy Tyson

What's round, black, usually enclosed and full of summer fun? Many families with children who don't want the maintenance of a pool but want their kids to turn away from electronics and get some great exercise opt to install a trampoline in their backyard. Little ones up to high school and beyond can jump to their heart's content and get a terrific work out in the process.

"We love our trampoline," said busy Lafayette mom of four kids Madeline Fleischmann, explaining that her children and their neighborhood friends could spend hours on it, but it comes with a huge added bonus – right in their own backyard. She's already booked picking up and dropping off the kids' at lacrosse and swim team practices.

"I try to make it as friendly as possible," Fleischmann said, they have just a few rules they make the kids obey - no shoes and no toys, a parent has to be home and they need to check in before getting started. The family got the trampoline and a play structure five years ago at Christmastime. Since then the trampoline has seen constant use; the play structure – not so much. They eventually ended up getting rid of it.

Kids Fox, age 8, Gary, 9, Justice, 17, and Holly, 14, have had endless hours of fun with games like dodge ball, deadman, kick ball, cat and mouse and

fish out of water. Holly especially likes to have sleep-overs on it. In the winter, the kids wear their furry swim parkas and during the summer, Dad RJ has hooked up "mistlers" that spray a fine mist of water over the tramp – kids can wear their suits and slide on the surface. "It's a 10!" exclaims Fox.

"If you could harness that energy, you could light a small city," said pho-

tographer Doug Kohen last week as he was photographing Fox Fleischmann and his friend, Miles Elze. Both boys are going into third grade at Springhill Elementary.

Concerned about safety, the Fleischmanns purchased a double bounce model that has two layers, kind of a shock absorber designed to reduce the risk of injury, along with an enclosure.

With one minor exception, they've never had an injury in five years of constant use. In fact, all the trampolines researched for this story had enclosures that keep participants on the bouncy surface rather than in the surrounding grass or dirt.

... continued on page D3



Miles Elze, left, and Fox Fleischmann spend some quality time on the Fleischmann's backyard trampoline.

Photo Doug Kohen

Kurt Piper's Lamorinda Listings and Sales

Sold

574 Silverado Drive

Sold

851 Avalon Court

Sold

3242 Glenside Drive

Sold

819 Las Trampas Road

Sold

3152 Plymouth Road

Sold

5 Patricia Road

Sold

142 Cypress Point Way

Sold

1268 Redwood Lane

Sold

15 Sleepy Hollow Lane

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	9	\$480,000	\$2,075,000
MORAGA	13	\$210,000	\$1,725,000
ORINDA	6	\$900,000	\$1,273,500

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

958 Carol Lane, \$572,000, 3 Bdrms, 1294 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 6-28-11

3131 Gloria Terrace, \$1,110,000, 5 Bdrms, 4415 SqFt, 2007 YrBl, 6-28-11; Previous Sale: \$875,000, 06-26-06

1 Middle Road, \$1,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 3725 SqFt, 2002 YrBl, 6-29-11; Previous Sale: \$285,000, 10-13-00

765 Moraga Road, \$575,000, 3 Bdrms, 1875 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 7-7-11

3279 Mt. Diablo Court #4, \$480,000, 2 Bdrms, 1697 SqFt, 1987 YrBl, 6-27-11; Previous Sale: \$495,000, 06-02-04

1262 Redwood Lane, \$2,075,000, 4 Bdrms, 3575 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 6-28-11; Previous Sale: \$727,500, 03-19-99

365 St. Mary'S Road, \$700,000, 4 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 6-29-11

3157 Sun Ridge Court, \$699,000, 3 Bdrms, 1138 SqFt, 1957 YrBl, 7-1-11; Previous Sale: \$630,000, 07-14-03

1039 Via Roble, \$1,955,000, 6 Bdrms, 5541 SqFt, 2007 YrBl, 6-28-11; Previous Sale: \$1,230,000, 04-24-07

MORAGA

232 Calle La Mesa, \$845,000, 4 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 6-30-11; Previous Sale: \$50,500, 09-24-73

1615 Camino Pablo, \$800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2373 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 7-5-11; Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 07-27-05

297 Corliss Drive, \$1,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 3229 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 6-28-11; Previous Sale: \$85,500, 08-25-75

12 Crockett Drive, \$1,190,000, 4 Bdrms, 3012 SqFt, 1987 YrBl, 7-6-11; Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 05-18-04

2 Julianna Court, \$1,725,000, 3 Bdrms, 4324 SqFt, 1988 YrBl, 6-30-11; Previous Sale: \$940,000, 12-23-88

38 Kazar Court, \$759,000, 4 Bdrms, 1958 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 7-6-11

651 Moraga Road #28, \$210,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 6-27-11; Previous Sale: \$300,000, 07-24-03

241 Rheem Boulevard, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1373 SqFt, 1957 YrBl, 7-5-11

1729 Spyglass Lane, \$734,000, 3 Bdrms, 1842 SqFt, 1977 YrBl, 7-1-11; Previous Sale: \$799,000, 04-16-04

1819 St. Andrews Drive, \$755,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1981 YrBl, 7-1-11; Previous Sale: \$515,000, 11-20-97

... continued on page D4

To Bounce or Not to Bounce...

...continued from page D1

However the American Academy of Pediatrics estimates 100,000 people were injured on trampolines in 1999, roughly two-thirds of them were children between six and fourteen. Sprains and fractures resulting from falls on the trampoline mat, falls on the frame or springs and collisions with other jumpers are the most common injuries, according to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Proponents argue that bicycle users have three and a half times as many emergency room visits than trampoline users.

In Moraga, 17-year-old Mina Lucacher is on the verge of growing out of the family's backyard trampoline, but still enjoys it. "At first, I was on it every single day," she said. Now, six years later, she prefers to read on it, because the surface gets warm, and for occasional sleepovers with friends. Her mom, Sophie, explains that the three kids, Mina, Michael and Andrea, begged endlessly for it. Now that they are all teenagers, the bloom is slightly off the rose.

Despite rare but possible injuries, due to their expanding popularity a trampoline park has recently opened in Dublin – Rockin' Jump, a 20,000 square foot building that houses a main trampoline park with a dodgeball zone and basketball area. Not surprisingly a signed waiver is required for every Rockin' Jumper. Closer to home is Sky High Sports in Concord, a warehouse with wall to wall trampolines that also has dodgeball, basketball and a foam pit full of squishy foam cubes to jump into. It's possible these young participants may end up in the brand new Olympic sport, inaugurated in 2008 in Beijing – trampolining.

Here are the steps you can take to help prevent serious trampoline injuries from the Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Allow only one person on the trampoline at a time.
- Do not attempt or allow somersaults because landing on the head or neck can cause paralysis.
- Do not use the trampoline without shock-absorbing pads that completely cover its springs, hooks, and frame.
- Place the trampoline away from structures, trees, and other play areas.
- No child under 6 years of age should use a full-size trampoline. Do not use a ladder with the trampoline because it provides unsupervised access by small children.
- Always supervise children who use a trampoline.
- Trampoline enclosures can help prevent injuries from falls off trampolines.



Madeline Clark, of Moraga, enjoys her trampoline

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Two Wonderful Moraga Homes



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.

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from page D2

MORAGA ... continued

4 Teodora Court, \$1,137,000, 3 Bdrms, 2879 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 6-29-11;

Previous Sale: \$397,000, 09-30-87

481 Tharp Drive, \$1,085,000, 4 Bdrms, 3073 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 7-1-11;

Previous Sale: \$879,500, 04-29-03

3764 Via Granada, \$987,000, 6 Bdrms, 2882 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 6-27-11;

Previous Sale: \$745,000, 05-24-02

ORINDA

341 Camino Sobrante, \$935,000, 2 Bdrms, 1941 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 6-30-11;

Previous Sale: \$825,000, 05-29-02

2 Charles Hill Lane, \$1,273,500, 3 Bdrms, 2848 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 7-7-11;

Previous Sale: \$530,000, 06-23-88

97 Coral Drive, \$900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2405 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 7-6-11;

Previous Sale: \$415,000, 06-04-92

1834 El Nido Road, \$1,238,000, 3 Bdrms, 3241 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 7-7-11

1848 El Nido, \$1,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 2783 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 7-6-11;

Previous Sale: \$229,000, 06-29-79

2 Van Tassel Lane, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2212 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-28-11

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

ORINDA

73 Brookwood Road #52, 94563, Integrity Investment Group, 06-23-11, \$178,412, 673 sf, 1 bd



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

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Shimmer, Shine, Sizzle, and Shoot

By Cynthia Brian

"Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."

James Matthew Barrie, 1860-1937, Author of Peter Pan

Ah, summer at last! Pleasant days sprinkled with orange sunsets, jasmine scented balmy nights, bushels of fresh herbs, vegetables, and fruits, and plentiful wildlife to entertain as well as antagonize friends and family. Living is easier in the sunshine as merri-ment is found outdoors in the fresh air.

August, the warmest month of the year, is abundant with blooms, butterflies, bees, birds, and barbecues. For me, it's always a busy thirty-one days, filled with celebrations, remembrances, photo ops, garden parties, and delightful days digging in the dirt. When it comes to plant specimens, I keep it simple. I like vegetation that is easy to grow. No fuss, no muss, plus color, fragrance, and foliage. If a plant fails, it becomes fertilizer, added to the compost bin, recycled, and re-birthing.

A favorite, simple to cultivate, flower is my heirloom hollyhock. The old-fashioned stock with petals of pink, white, and fuchsia has been in my family for over one hundred years. Honeybees, bumblebees, and butterflies swarm the blooms offering endless viewfinder opportunities. When the flowers are spent, I gather the seed, dry, and scatter in the spring in anticipation of the



A honeybee gathers nectar from Cynthia's heirloom hollyhock.

twelve-foot towers that attract the nurturing insects. At speaking engagements and book signings, I proudly give away sacks of these precious jewels. As a gardener, it is satisfying to share.

The utilitarian nasturtiums are resplendent cascading over planters and potager in hues of scarlet, blood orange, and yellow with lovely aqua leaves. They adorn my salads and float in my lemonade, their peppery personality adding pizzazz and jazz to an ordinary creation. Nasturtiums flower profusely until frost, providing edible art to my alfresco dining table.

Other August standouts in gardens in our area are Star of Bethlehem, hydrangea, zinnias, cannas, begonias, basil, and tomatoes. Ubiquitous impatiens and petunias dress up walkways, beautify beds, and provide a riot of color. Don't discount commoners. Sometimes these are



Fountains, variegated cannas, and hot weather are comfortable companions. Photos Cynthia Brian



The edible nasturtium is a filler, spiller, and thriller.

the hardiest plants for our neighborhoods. My camera has been busy shooting the ordinary pleasures of living in God's country.

The wild kingdom thrives on my property as it does around rural Lamorinda this summer. Driving into my driveway late one night, I was greeted by six bucks, happily nibbling on my deer resistant plantings. (One reader deters deer with plantings of cilantro, although cilantro bolts in heat... like the antlered critters. There is no such thing as "deer proof" except strong high fencing.) These were big boys—two four pointers, two three pointers, and two forked-horn—most likely three generations of males bonding over blooms. I whipped out my camera to snap a photo of my living lawn ornaments as they pranced towards the hills perhaps in route to Santa's play station. I didn't get the photo.

... continued on page D6

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...continued from page D5



A slithering visitor:

Photos Cynthia Brian

The next morning a rafter of turkeys with ten poulters sunbathed on that same grassy knoll. Again, I attempted to photograph the game birds. They sauntered, swayed, and swiftly took flight. My lens captured a moment.

At my front door, a baby snake coiled by my planter. Not one to shriek at serpents, I pointed and clicked. This is the fifth snake sleeping or slithering in my path in the past few days. I appreciate the Gopher, garter, and King snakes. The rattlers rattle me. As a child, I encountered one too many. Snakes are beneficial as they feed on rodents. They will eat gophers, moles, voles, rats, and mice, however, I prefer they not dine on the bunnies and birds.

I love my birds. Birds and gardens just go together. Birds provide movement, song, and color to the garden scene. In return, the garden offers safety, shelter, food, and water.

Three baby robins hatched from a nest built in a wreath on my back door. It was a delight to watch the daily ministrations of the mother as she darted between the babies and the trees, foraging for food. After many photos of the hungry babes with mouths wide open, I became an active participant in the first flying lessons of the youngsters. One day as I checked on their progress they decided to fly the coup and managed to land on my

head. Darn, I missed the shot!

It's finally summer in Lamorinda. Get out your cameras and start shooting. Our gardens shimmer and the animals shine. Smile, have fun, and live on the wild side... it's up to us to sizzle!

Happy Summer!



The towering 12 foot spires of hollyhock climb towards the magnolia



Three hungry baby robins in a nest on a back door wreath.

CYNTHIA BRIAN'S GARDENING GUIDE FOR AUGUST

"I should like to enjoy this summer flower by flower, as if it were to be the last one." Andre Gide

- CHEW fresh celery for whiter teeth. (Hint: the texture of celery has toothbrush qualities)
- ADD pea gravel, decomposed granite or spaced stepping stones planted with the gaps planted in creeping thyme for a permeable path with a Mediterranean look.
- STORE herbs by either drying them by hanging the stems upside down, or chop finely, add to a ice tray and pour a small amount of water over the top. Voila! Instant flavor for your winter soups and stews.
- LIGHTEN containers by putting plastic water bottles or plastic packing pebbles at the bottom before you add the soil.
- DIG out dandelions from your garden and lawn. Add to salads as long as you have not used insecticides or pesticides or feed to the quail. Dandelions are nutritious and a favorite food for the coveys.
- ESTABLISH a wildlife habitat in your yard by providing food, water, shelter, and sustainability for the wandering and flying critters.
- SPICE up your suppertime with floral edibles of nasturtium, calendula, violas, roses, citrus blossoms, dianthus, pansies, chamomile, and blooming herbs. Eat the daisies, but not the tomato, potato, pepper, or eggplant flowers which contain toxins.
- WATER, water, water. August is one of the warmest months and it's necessary to keep an eye on your containers and yard. If you see leaves drooping, it's time to sprinkle.
- PLANT beans, carrots, radishes, and beets for a second crop to harvest in the fall.
- COLLECT the fruit that falls to the ground. Add to your compost bin, or feed the birds, but don't allow it to sit as it will attract fungus and flies.
- DEADHEAD roses, perennials, and straggly annuals to keep the blooms coming.
- FLUSH birdbaths and fountains regularly to maintain fresh drinking water for our feathered friends as well as repel mosquito larvae from hatching.
- PINCH zinnias and chrysanthemums to encourage bushier blooms.
- WASH your car on your lawn. Your car will get clean and your lawn will benefit from the extra soak. Make sure to park your car carefully to not disturb planter beds.
- SEND photos of your garden to me at Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com with a description. You may be published!
- WATCH out for errant sparks from fire pits, barbecues, candles, and tiki torches. It's fire season. Make sure the perimeter of your house is brush and weed free providing a safety zone fire break.
- ASK your children what vegetables from the garden they want to eat as summer snacks, then make sure there are plenty for packing healthy lunches.
- SEND your college kids off to school with a potted plant. It will bring the outdoors in and provide oxygen for their brain, too.
- SHOOT photos of your garden and wildlife. Email your best ones to me and your landscape may be a star in one of my columns. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
- EXPERIMENT by planting seeds such as kale, spinach, broccoli for a fall harvest in containers in a spot with bright light then transfer seedlings to the garden.
- EXPERIENCE a country fair by visiting the fruit, flower, and food pavilions.
- EXPLORE the Summer of Slither at the California Academy of Science in Golden Gate Park this month for their special exhibition of snakes and lizards. To find out how beneficial these reptiles are for your garden. <http://www.calacademy.org/>
- START thinking about your fall bulb purchases. Peruse catalogs for the latest varieties of tulips and daffodils in a rainbow spectrum of choices.
- SAVE seeds from perishing annuals to plant next year. Sunflowers, zinnias, marigolds, hollyhocks, cosmos, Four O'Clocks are excellent traditional choices that thrive in our micro climate.
- ENJOY vine-ripened tomatoes now. Pick tomatoes only when ripe and eat the same day. Do not refrigerate or you will lose taste and vitamins. Nothing says "summer" like fresh picked tomatoes!
- GRAB hats and flats, light the tiki torches, drizzle zucchini, corn, and onions with olive oil to roast on the grill, and invite your friends to an impromptu garden gala. Say cheese!
BE the fun and the sun. Shimmer, shine, sizzle, and shoot.

Happy Gardening to You!

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Cynthia Brian

The Goddess Gardener

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www.GoddessGardener.com

925-377-7827

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



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502 Miner Road

Classic 5 bd/3.5ba 4193 sf Cape Cod style, fully renovated in Orinda Country Club. Quality craftsmanship, exquisite attn to detail. Dlx chef's kitchen, fab mstr suite + formal trad living & dining rms. Views!

Offered at \$2,495,000



MORAGA



272 Tharp Drive

Move right in. Lovely single level 3bd/2ba hm w/great curb appeal. Hdwd flrs, fresh paint, newer appliances. Great location, convenient to schools & Rancho Laguna Park. Beautiful landscaping front and back.

Offered at \$729,000



MORAGA



151 Cypress Point Way

Super sharp very well-maintained 2060 sf 3bd/2.5ba 1-level living detached home in MCC. Exceptional style, numerous enhancements. Easy access outside from all rooms to ideal private yard.

Offered at \$820,000



LAFAYETTE



945 Mt. View Drive

Charm abounds in this 867 sf cutie on .20 ac lvl lot nr all Lafayette Village conveniences (walk to Trader Joe's). 1bd/1ba w/exceptional curb appeal. Attn to detail thruout, Fr drs to gardens & decks. Separate artists studio.

Offered at \$519,000



LAFAYETTE



652 Augustine Lane

Move right in. Lovely single level 3bd/2ba hm w/great curb appeal. Hdwd flrs, fresh paint, newer appliances. Great location, convenient to schools & Rancho Laguna Park. Beautiful landscaping front and back.

Offered at \$925,000



LAFAYETTE



30 Crest Road

Piedmont style elegance combined with modern efficiency. Updated kitchen, hdwd flrs, custom moldings, French doors, brick patio, plenty of storage. Don't miss redwood grove, convenient but private location.

Offered at \$949,000



LAFAYETTE



987 Condit Court

4bd rancher w/huge park-like yard w/pool, patio & x-lg grassy play area. Amazing location - close to town, trails, transp - cute small cul de sac! Great floor plan, remodeled throughout.

Offered at \$995,000



LAFAYETTE



859 Acalanes Road

Exceptional 3bd/3ba home on 3/4 acre of lush landscaping with lawns & views of hills. Totally privat with long drive and iron gate. Remodeled a few years ago, looks like new.

Offered at \$1,125,000



LAFAYETTE



614 Huntleigh Drive

Terrific open floor plan w/remod kitchen w/gorgeous granite counters. Vaulted ceilings, maple hardwood floors, remod baths, new roof, level yard w/terrific views. Very private & quiet.

Offered at \$1,229,000



LAFAYETTE



8 Hawks Hill Court

Absolutely stunning pano views of Mt. Diablo, hills & Carquinez. Custom blt in 2006 w/master suite, LR, DR, FR, kitchen on main lvl, 3 more bdrms & 2nd fam rm downstairs. Many custom features.

Offered at \$1,648,000



WALNUT CREEK



664 Charleston Court

Fabulous 2-story detached home built in '94. Very spacious, light and bright on quiet court. Gorgeous remodeled kitchen, private yard.

Offered at \$519,000



WALNUT CREEK



1296 Rudgear Road

Updated stylish 3bd/2ba ranch style home + separate cabana. Solar powered! Landscaped with California natives on 1/3 acre.

Offered at \$629,000



WALNUT CREEK



393 Monticello Court

Beautifully remodeled 4bd/3ba ranch style home on gorgeous flat lot at end of country lane yet minutes to downtown Walnut Creek. Sought after Tice Valley location.

Offered at \$919,000

THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

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