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Barbara Lanier of Springbrook swims the 15-18 100-yard breaststroke.

Photo Doug Kohen

# SWIM FAST!

Car windows proudly bearing the names of young swimmers and the encouragement to “Swim Fast!” filled the streets of Lamorinda the first half of August – and swim fast they did, as records fell at both the Orinda Moraga Pool Association Championship and the subsequent Contra Costa

County Championship swim meets.

At the Orinda Moraga Pool Association (OMPA) Championship, held August 5-7, 12 new records were set. The intense but friendly local rivalry was warmed by the festive atmosphere.

Competition at the County Meet on August 13-14 proved fierce, but local swimmers came through and several Lamorinda teams finished in the top 10. All in all, 20 new fastest times were recorded that weekend.

Read about both events on pages B1-B2.

### Quote of the Week:

“I’ll be there when they open...this is Orinda’s new recreation frontier.”

Read the article: *Recreation Time for Todd Skinner, on page A6*

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## LAMORINDA

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## Moragans Called Upon to Create a Vision for Rheem Center

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga’s Rheem Center is a place to shop, go to the movies or have dinner, but it’s not necessarily a place Moragans dream about. However, the Town committee that’s tasked with reviving that area is challenging residents to do just that: imagine what Rheem Center could be, giving the committee some informal guidelines that it can use to amend the Municipal Code and manifest the Rheem dream.

Residents can choose between two scheduled sessions, the first on Saturday, August 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and another on Monday, August 29, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – both sessions will be held at the New Rheem Theatre. Sign up online now at [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us) or by calling (925) 888-7038. ... continued on page A4



### Sports/Schools B1-B3/C5-C6

#### High School Football Season Preview



By Caitlin Graveson

Summer ends mid-August for fall athletes with the start of practice and football players know this better than anyone. Working two-a-days beginning on August 15, the Lamorinda football programs are gearing up for the season beginning on September 30. Miramonte ... read on page B3

### Life in Lamorinda C1-C6

#### Cal Shakes Talks Candida



By Lou Fancher

Even before opening night, Cal Shake’s third production, Candida, was stirring up a hornet’s nest of reaction. Despite running out of cups, coffee, ice cream, but not energy, Artistic Director John Moscone and his cohorts drew a packed house of theater ... read on page C1

### Our Homes D1-D8

#### Mid-Century Remodel Handled With Care



By Cathy Tyson

With only one prior owner leaving the property mostly untouched, the stars aligned for a group of three architects to collaborate on an artistic remodel of a Lafayette home that respects its original character. Eliza Hart, Stewart Wright and Alex Bergtraum ... read on page D1



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# Lafayette

## Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Monday, September 12, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

#### Planning Commission

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

#### Design Review

Monday, August 22, 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](http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us)

#### Chamber of Commerce:

[www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org)



## Police Report

**Recipe for Trouble, 7/27/11** Take two teens; add an innocently parked truck; glaze/vandalize with flour and yogurt; interrupt when a good citizen confronts the vandals. Both teens take off on foot. One vandal was positively identified; his goose should be cooked; the other one will be in hot water soon enough.

**Adult Behaving Badly, 7/28/11** One dissatisfied customer was a bit heavy-handed at a local store. A Lafayette police report says he threw his fist on the counter and subsequently broke the business' ATM machine. They're calling it a "civil" matter; nothing "civil" about it, as the business suffered the loss of a \$600 machine.

**Leaf-less in Lafayette, 7/28/11** Someone called police to say his tree was cut down without permission. To add insult to injury, a retaining wall and sprinkler on the property were also damaged.

**Recently Burgled, 7/25-7/29/11** Missing: \$200, \$875 and \$1800; plus a wallet (contents valued at \$700) stolen from a parked car in a smash-and-grab, a '96 Nissan stolen outright and \$11.34 worth of batteries lifted from a store. It was a busy week for those with light fingers.

**An International Incident, 8/4/11** Lafayette Police say two flags, one American and one British, were broken off a flagpole. Really? Got nothing better to do? Flag values were listed at \$24.

**A Little Alchemy, 8/4/11** Atomic number 29\* (\*copper) was taken by two males. Its value was \$350, but it never went on sale. When Lafayette Police step in of course they'll save the day. And they'll clap those thieves in Fe cuffs and take the pair away.

**A Two-Town Bender, 8/6/11** A Walnut Creek resident was inebriated enough to make it all the way to Lafayette where he busied himself yelling at people. He was intercepted in Lafayette, where "due to his level of intoxication" he was unable to care for himself and placed in the pokey.

**Pearls for the Swine, 8/5/11** A car's passenger side window was smashed and the thief/thieves snatched a jewelry box with \$10,000 worth of jewelry inside. Now, what does one wear to an arraignment?

## City Council Now Wrestling with Cell Tower Issue

By Cathy Tyson



View of the St. Anselm's bell tower from Michael Lane in Burton Valley  
Photo Cathy Tyson

**H**oping to get their appeal upheld, a roomful of concerned neighbors stayed at a recent City Council meeting until almost midnight for a final decision on locating a T-Mobile antenna in the St. Anselm's bell tower and an associated change in design and height. Noting that, "there are a lot of moving parts to this," Mayor Carl Anduri and the rest of the City Council agreed that more information is necessary before making a decision.

The matter was continued until September 26 so that the fire department can review the proposal from a fire safety angle and additional information from T-Mobile on their coverage gap can be documented.

How did a seemingly simple matter get so complicated and contentious? This is not an entirely new concept to Burton Valley - there's already a Verizon antenna within the existing bell tower structure at St. Anselm's.

Back in March, the Planning Commission had a public hearing about using the bell tower to house a T-Mobile antenna for cell phone service. Although the commissioners generally supported the idea there were concerns about the design, so they referred the matter to the Design Review Commission (DRC) to address aesthetic concerns. The DRC made specific recommendations that included painting the whole thing a dark color to match the church, and eliminating the horizontal trim and louvers.

In June of this year the Planning Commission agreed with DRC's recommendations and approved the application - subject to certain conditions. On July 1, Don Whiteside filed an appeal on behalf of a group of neighbors who are concerned that the Planning Commission decision was based on incomplete information and that more homes should have been notified. Lafayette's policy is to mail property owners within 300 feet of the subject property a notice of the public hearing along with an outdoor posting ten days prior in the immediate area.

"We have to stop this harmful project," said Whiteside at the City Council meeting, describing the damage via visual blight, possible lowering of neighborhood real estate values and questioning T-Mobile's claims of gaps in service.

"Does the existing tower diminish property values?" asked Council Member Mike Anderson. Whiteside replied he wasn't sure.

Opponents packed the Community Hall hoping to put a kibosh on the proposed cell tower due to overall negative impacts and the proposed bigger, bulkier bell tower. If approved, the structure portion of the existing bell tower would increase in height from 48 feet 3 inches to 56 feet.

One woman recommended "an emergency moratorium on cell towers right now." Ellen Marks, a real estate agent, reported that a World Health Organization report called cell towers "possibly carcinogenic." She feels the burden of proof is on the applicant to prove there is a significant gap in coverage.

Applicant Ann Welsh explained that T-Mobile anticipates a 700% jump in wireless data transmission by

2015 and that this technology has been in use for 160 years and can be found in baby monitors, radios, TVs and microwaves. They have produced six versions of the tower design to address aesthetic concerns and measured energy in the area from the existing tower. A licensed electrical engineer found that the current level of radio frequency energy is .023% - or 400 times below the FCC limit. He estimates that with the proposed T-Mobile antennas operating there would be 2.2% of the FCC limit - 45 times below the safety threshold.

She also explained that T-Mobile analyzed four alternative sites that didn't work for a number of reasons - lack of support by the Planning Commission, interference from trees, and more.

It will be a difficult decision one way or the other. Residents can find out for whom the bell tolls at the September 26 City Council meeting.



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# Sleepover Party at the Library

By Cathy Tyson



Buck Buck (the chicken reading the book) is the Librarian's assistant and side kick. Photos provided

While most of the furry guests stayed up all night, Snoopy and Silvery Kitty were tucked out – so they decided to get some shut eye. A total of fifteen special stuffed animal guests, including a whale, tiger and unicorn came for the first ever Stuffed Animal Sleepover at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

Youth Services Librarian and party hostess Jenna Skinner reports that the guests "behaved pretty well, for the most part;" they had storytime, did some coloring, read books and ate

brownies. No evidence of pillow fights or toe-nail painting so far, and even if they trashed the place – they did a thorough job cleaning up the mess. Perhaps the guests all agreed that what happens in the library – stays in the library.

The stuffed animal owners, pint size library patrons, were each given a photo of their critter to take home when they picked up their respective animals the following day. Skinner said it was great fun and she'll definitely host a sleepover again.



Snoopy and friend sleeping in a cowboy hat

# Bike Pathway Plans Keep Rolling Along

By Cathy Tyson

After a number of meetings and site visits, and input from cyclists, business owners, and residents, a draft of the Options Study of the Multi-purpose Pathway is available online and a public presentation is scheduled for August 22 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Community Hall at the Library. Concerned residents can learn about all of the facets of the proposed downtown pathway: what it is, why it's important, where it's located and how much it's expected to cost. Check out the draft study at [www.lafayettepathway.com](http://www.lafayettepathway.com).

"Over the years, there's been a lot of interest in what could and couldn't be done along this segment of the EBMUD Aqueduct ROW (right of way)," explains Lafayette Transportation Planner Leah Greenblat. "This study is in-

tended to provide the answers. If the City wants to pursue a pathway, the study serves as a long-range planning document so the City can appropriately plan for the pathway as nearby properties are developed or redeveloped. This will help the City make the most of any opportunities that may come along."

What about a general time-frame, especially in these tough economic times? "We don't anticipate that the whole pathway would be constructed in the very near-term, but when the economy turns around, the City will be in a good place to consider its options," Greenblat said. "Today we are asking, in the long-range vision of the City – is an off-street pathway through the downtown something the City should pursue?"

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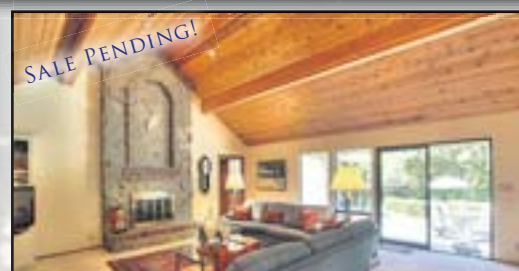
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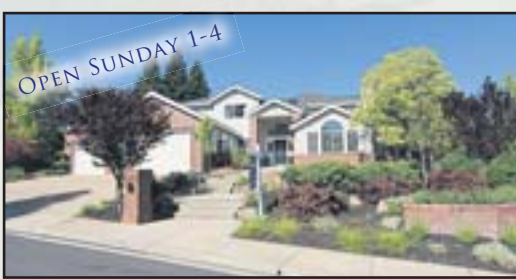
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# Moraga

## Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, August 24, 7:00 pm  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, September 6, 7:30 pm  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

#### Design Review

Monday, August 22, 7:00 pm  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

#### Liaison

Friday, September 9, 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

**Semi-invisible party, 8/10/11** Police responded to an alleged loud party on Hardie Drive around 9:00 p.m. Officers checked the interior and exterior with permission and surprisingly all the partygoers had fled. Oddly enough, alcoholic beverages were found, and what appeared to be the remains of a planned fiesta – the homeowners were out of town at the time. A source reported that the family's daughter was safe and back with a responsible adult. Booze was poured out and a relative ended up staying at the house that night.

**Sarah Lane Over-trim, 8/09/11** One neighbor gave permission to another to trim pine trees, but not oak trees. The clip-per neighbor entered the rear yard of the clip-ee and cut the tops off several trees inside the yard. Cops tried to smooth things over with both parties.

**Drunk at Safeway, 8/08/11** Grocery store staff assisted a customer who appeared intoxicated at 8:30 in the morning. Officers arrived and felt the person was unable to care for him or herself – the police report for this incident is genderless. Subject was arrested and taken to the Martinez Detention facility, to sober up and think about shopping when not under the influence.

**Bike Accident, 8/08/11** A bicycle rider was unable to negotiate a driveway on School Street and injured his head and hand. MOFD was already on the scene treating the gentleman when police arrived. He was taken to Kaiser for further evaluation.

**Mystery car in driveway, 8/06/11** At 11:00pm cops went to a Corte Yolanda home on a report of a red Mercury Sable parked in the driveway. The homeowner had no idea who owned the car, hadn't seen it before and wondered why it was in his driveway. A computer check revealed that the car's registered owner lives in Walnut Creek. The homeowner asked that it be towed away. His wish was granted.

**Gas leak, 8/05/11** Moraga police joined the Moraga Orinda Fire Department to help PG&E with a gas leak on Paseo Del Rio. The homeowner was digging a post hole when he broke the gas pipe buried in his side yard. PG&E fixed the leak and the erstwhile digger was allowed back into his home.

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## Moragans Called Upon to Create a Vision for Rheem Center

... continued from page A1



Renée Zeimer will ask people to list, on this board, what they love about the Town of Moraga  
Photo Sophie Braccini

"We want people to dream but not to fantasize," says Renée Zeimer of the Economic Development Action Committee, who has been working on the method and setting of the workshops, "First we'll ask residents to focus on what can be done on the short term – the low hanging fruit; then to expand their vision to the long term of the Rheem area."

Zeimer, who is one of the three volunteers who were recruited by the

Town to share the role of Economic Development Director (with Mary Coe and Rich Larsen), would like to put Moraga on the map and she sees the Rheem Center as a vital piece to create a sense of place in Moraga. The old shopping center does not have much to show for itself in terms of charm and appeal, but the plan is to focus on its existing positive traits and build from what works. This brainstorming method is called Ap-

preciative Inquiry (AI).

Zeimer used to work for the city of Walnut Creek as a Program Analyst for the City Manager. She participated in AI sessions there and experienced how they created a positive involvement of residents in the management of the city's affairs. "It resulted in very practical things that residents devised to address the issues at hand," remembers Zeimer, "it helped avoiding polarization and made working with city's government more effective."

Moraga Mayor Karen Mendonca has also worked with similar methods. "I'm familiar with this communication technique that helps all ideas come the forefront," says Mendonca, "it's a way to get out many ideas without negative comments, and it can prove very productive." The Mayor plans to participate in both sessions.

In their book, *The Power of Appreciative Inquiry*, authors Diana Whitney and Amanda Trosten-Bloom describe the different steps of the method that was created by

David Cooperrider and Suresh Srivastava at Case Western Reserve University in 1987 as a tool for organizational change. The first step consists in exploring the best of what life gives to a given system—the appreciation part— then imagining what opportunities the future can bring—the inquiry. The process continues until it produces the design of an ideal organization, and defines the steps to delivering the vision. "Appreciation and inquiry combine to produce a vital, powerful and catalytic effect on leadership and organization," wrote Whitney.

"This is our town, and it is our job to make it whatever the people want," says Zeimer. "We already have a lot of material, we need to start to try things to attract businesses to visit Moraga so they can see that there is a potential for profit here."

Residents of all ages are encouraged to come and participate in the process. "People have the power to change things," says Zeimer, "they just have to come (to a meeting) and make it happen."

## Moraga Art Gallery Loses its Space

By Sophie Braccini

The cooperative Moraga Art Gallery will lose its home in the Rheem Shopping Center at the end of October. The space has been sublet to the organization at no cost by the primary occupant, Comcast, for ten years. Comcast is now asking the Gallery to either pay a \$2,000 monthly rent or go. In the back of the building, the communication giant operates technical equipment and has crews coming around from time to time. Now that the agreement has been rescinded the artists are looking for a new place to display and sell

their creations.

The Gallery's Nancy Slack says that her organization is appealing to Comcast to change its mind. "They need to access the building frequently, I do not see how they would be able to rent such a space anyway," says Slack.

Andrew Johnson, Regional VP of Communications for Comcast, explains that the driving force behind the new demand is the substantial increase in its own rent that occurred when Comcast negotiated a new lease with the property owner, Kimco Re-

alty, earlier this year. "We supported the Gallery for 10 years with an in-kind donation and are now asking them to pay for a small portion of the rent," says Johnson, "we hope that they can find the funds to continue to be our tenant." He notes that Comcast operates telecommunication equipment for the Lamorinda area in this location and that it does not have any other plan for the long term use of the space at this time.

In the meantime, Moraga Art Gallery volunteers are meeting with everyone in town who might have an idea of where they could operate their store. "This is very unfortunate," says Slack, "we had just finalized discussions with the Campolindo High School A.P. Art teacher and were planning on displaying the advanced students' work in the gallery. We also were planning to start our new

monthly art and music nights."

The Gallery is an all-volunteer organization run by the artists themselves. Their funding comes from the 10% that artists give back to the organization when they sell a piece. According to Slack, the rent asked by Comcast is beyond their means.

"We are gathering information about art-loving corporate sponsors and lower lease options and hope to have something settled by our deadline," adds Slack.

The Gallery opened its new show, "Navigating with Color," on August 16. Gallery Member Nancy Robinson and Guest Artist Ellen Heathcote will be featured until October 29. The public is invited to view their art, along with the work of other gallery members, at the show's opening reception on Saturday, August 20, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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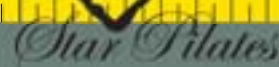
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## Moraga Roads at Risk

By Sophie Braccini



This June, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) released *The Pot Hole Report: Can the Bay Area Have Better Roads?* And the results for Moraga concur with what Moraga's Public Works Director, Jill Mercurio, and RECON (Revenue Enhancement Community Outreach to Neighborhoods) have been saying for a long time: Moraga needs to act now to protect its road system. If nothing is done in the next ten years, Moraga roads will down-

grade from a worrisome 'at risk' today to a very costly 'poor' in the not so distant future.

"MTC uses the average Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of each Bay Area city to classify them," explains Mercurio, "Moraga falls in the before last category, 'at risk' (PCI 50-59) along with Martinez, Oakland and East Palo Alto, and just before the 'poor' category (PCI 25-49), where only five Bay Area communities fall into, including our neighbor, Orinda." For the Director the real danger is in delayed maintenance and the exponential cost of road repair.

"We use a computer model that takes into account the state of the roads and evaluates how they will perform in the coming years, depending on the type of maintenance measure we are able to apply," says Mercurio. With the budget she has now, the Public Works Director and her team patch the pot holes and seal the superficial layer

of the road, but there is nothing they can do for the structure itself.

"We think of roads as the coating that protects the dirt, when in fact what makes it is the sub-base," explains Mercurio, who is also the Town Engineer.

There are geological phenomena in Moraga that directly impact the base of the roads. When a road is located on a hill, water can run underneath the asphalt that serves as a dam. If there is no sub-drainage system in place, the base underneath the road can subside and a sink hole is formed.

Additionally, as time passes, sun rays evaporate some of the oil that makes the coating of the road and it becomes brittle. When roads start cracking, rain gets into the cracks, which can degrade the base.

Mercurio acknowledges that residents notice the condition of large roads, such as Moraga Way and Moraga Road, which are categorized as ar-

terials and can receive State or Federal funding for repair. She calls attention to the neighborhood roads that do not qualify for these programs. "As everybody else, we have delayed maintenance," she notes, "we are now at a point where we can save it (Moraga's roads network); in 10 years we won't be able to." Today only 6% of the neighborhood roads are in 'poor' condition right now but if nothing is done, according to Mercurio's road maintenance program, after 10 years that figure will rise to 72%.

In Orinda, the Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission indicated in its annual report at the beginning of the year that "...the future burden of deferred maintenance will grow while our roads continue to deteriorate..." The recent report, by Harris and Associates, projects that under currently budgeted levels of spending, the dollar value of deferred maintenance will increase from \$28 million in 2010 to \$43 million in 2014."

Mercurio expresses hope that the cost of fixing her backlog never reaches this height.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission's report is available online at [http://www.mtc.ca.gov/library/pothole\\_report/Pothole\\_Report\\_2011.pdf](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/library/pothole_report/Pothole_Report_2011.pdf).

The roads in Moraga that are in need of serious repair:  
Bollinger Canyon between St. Mary's Road and Joseph - PCI of 16  
Via Granada between Moraga Road and Calle la Mesa - PCI of 16 (before the road developed a sinkhole and the Town repaired a large portion)  
Larch between Lynch Court and Dickenson - PCI of 12  
Larch between Lynch Court and Windeler Court - PCI of 22  
Calle la Mesa between Campolindo Drive and Corte Yolanda - PCI of 25

## Planning Director Lori Salamack Leaves Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Lori Salamack on her last day of work as Moraga's Planning Director, August 5  
Photo Sophie Braccini

Lori Salamack, Moraga's Planning Director for the last ten years, is leaving California and moving east for family reasons; with her goes a wealth

of knowledge and experience. She met with us to share thoughts about a town that she found overall to be very responsive, educated and capable of doing great things.

Salamack identified one weakness - the high rate of turnover among the Town's department heads that has slowed things down as new managers need time acclimate and interim managers tend to only manage current affairs. Her departure will not improve that situation.

"Here is a note I wrote to Karen Stein (then Town Manager) in 2003," says Salamack, "the subject reads 'Changes in the Municipal Code to streamline the business approval process.'

... continued on page A9



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**\$3,450,000** Alan Marks



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[www.3204Glenside.com](http://www.3204Glenside.com)  
**\$1,049,000** Rochelle Williams & Erin McCoin



### 7 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga

Spanish style with pastoral and Country Club views. Newer home with beautiful upgrades to the 2930+/-sf, 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. Hardwood flooring, arched doorways and a beautiful master suite. Matsutani landscaped yard with patio and play area. Partially finished basement perfect for home workshop, wine storage or workout room.  
**\$1,299,000** Joanna Truelson

Square footage, acreage, and other information herein, has been received from one or more of a variety of different sources. Such information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors. If important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation.

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**Orinda Civic News**


**Public Meetings**

**City Council**  
Tuesday, September 6, 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



**Police Report**

**Put the Lime in the Coconut and Tequila in Your Pants...**  
7/27/11 An Orinda Safeway "customer" walked out of the store with a bottle of tequila in his waistband. A sharp-eyed clerk followed him out and confronted him. The "customer" said he was with the store's loss prevention team. Yeah, right. The clerk placed him under citizen's arrest until the police arrived. Turns out he has prior petty theft convictions, and was booked into Martinez Detention Facility.

**Blades Away, 8/4/11** Someone smashed a car's window and took a computer notebook, a hatchet and...wait for it...a Samurai sword. Unusual stolen items valued over \$2500, and the broken window will set the owner back another \$300.

**Not so Neighborly, 7/25/11** Two neighbors in a long-standing property dispute reportedly had words. The report is that the man confronted the woman along a shared driveway, called her a not-so-nice word and followed her into the garage. When she locked herself into her own car for protection, he followed her in and slammed his fist on the car, causing \$7,000 worth of damage. Next day the man called police and denied the garage incident.

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



# Recreation Time for Todd Skinner

By Cathy Dausman



Todd Skinner today, a retired and content Orindan Photo Cathy Dausman

Todd Skinner says he's gained a new perspective. The newly retired Director of Parks and Recreation for Orinda sits under umbrella shade near the library and contemplates the outside of the old Orinda Elementary School, his work home for 31 years. That building, which used to be painted bright blue, is the city's Community Center. The Center, he says "brings people together here even more than what they're doing." Yet Skinner never walked inside until starting what he calls his "rewarding and fulfilling career."

Skinner admits he was surprised "that Orinda got a Community Center," and surprised "that there was a career here for me." Before the

1970's Orinda had no park or community center and the Lamorinda native thought he'd have to look elsewhere for work in his field.

Skinner's first post-college job earned him \$6 an hour in Berkeley as assistant camps director. He stayed three and a half years. Then his wife noticed an ad for a recreation director in Orinda. Skinner took the job in 1980 and the next three decades are his history.

Skinner arrived at the "tail end of old Orinda," before the city had incorporated, when it was a county designated service area known as R-6. It was the first of three distinct eras of his tenure. Recreation classes then were mostly cooking classes geared to stay-at-home moms. "We sometimes ran ten classes," Skinner recalls, "but they were always filled."

Back then it wasn't unusual for the city to have 80 parks and recreation volunteers. "We were the thing that was happening," he says. Orinda was "rallying around the community center, and rallying around the park." The Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation with its annual Black Tie party spearheaded the funding and drove the work along.

City incorporation in 1985 was the second phase of Skinner's employment. The once stand-alone recreation department became one of Orinda's "three P's: Police, Planning and Parks [departments]." The recreation department developed an

array of child-friendly afternoon classes to assist families where both parents worked full time.

One secret to the Orinda Community Center's success, and thus the Parks and Rec Department programs, says Skinner, is that its centralized location attracts participants from outside Orinda. He says nearly 35% of class attendees come from places like Berkeley, El Sobrante and the Upper Happy Valley area of Lafayette. "The [recreation] center works and always will work," he emphasizes.

Today's Parks & Rec clients are both children and adults; with special interest evening classes for adults. The Ballet Academy and theater program are up and running and the city hired a Camps Director for K-8 students. With all the changes throughout the years, Orinda city population (17,648 as of the 2010 US census) hasn't budged much since the start of Skinner's career.

Skinner calls his final era the building boom. The Community Center was remodeled and the Wagner Ranch Gym built in 1997, the new library in 2001, and a new City Hall opened in 2007. Orinda developed a "more aggressive park dedication ordinance," under former City Manager Bill Lindsay, and sought out more park space. Orinda Oaks Park, originally planned as 11 acres, ultimately grew to the 110 acre Orinda Oaks Open Space Preserve.

Skinner has seen some exciting changes in his department since 1980, including the Wilder Development. When Wilder is complete, the city's recreational acreage will more than double. The first two, of five, planned playing fields (lighted and designed with artificial turf for year-round use) are scheduled to open in November. "I'll be there when they open," he says, because "this is Orinda's new recreation frontier." Skinner plans to hike the entire length of Wilder trails, from Orinda south to San Leandro someday.

Art in Public Places was the last project with which Skinner was involved, and he shares credit with Ted Urban. Works from dozens of regional artists have been loaned to Orinda and exhibited for a year throughout the library and plaza, the Community Center, and City Hall. When the city saved to purchase two of the more popular pieces, three other artists stepped up with permanent donations.

Recently returned from an Echo Lake vacation, Skinner seems relaxed but involved as he helps his wife complete a home kitchen remodel and contemplates his future. By way of goodbye, he says simply, "Something new is good for the city." It seems that is true for buildings, careers and people.

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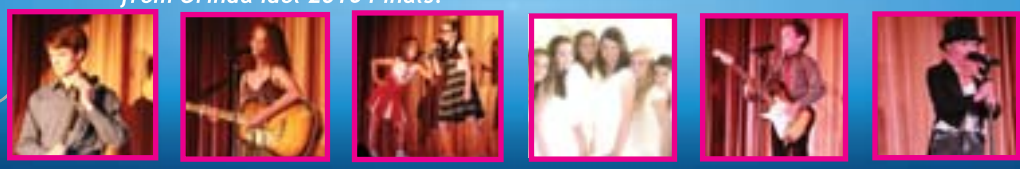
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**Schedule By Category:**

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- 1:00 pm Groups K-5 and 6-12
- 3:15 pm Middle School
- 5:00 pm High School
- 7:00 pm Announcement of Winners

For a list of finalists visit [www.OrindaArtsCouncil.org](http://www.OrindaArtsCouncil.org)  
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## Eden Housing Receives Enthusiastic Reception from Planning Commission

By Diana LaScala-Gruenewald

Eden Housing returned to the Planning Commission in late July to pitch a revised design for the planned affordable senior housing facility on Irwin Way—the new plans were approved by the Commission in a four-to-one vote.

The more reserved conceptualization features a facility that will be set further back from Orinda Way, will blend in with the surrounding buildings and trees, and will house sixty-seven independent seniors.

Project Director Woody Karp, with architects Sean Reynolds and John Thatch, represented Eden Housing at the meeting. They presented the design modifications, and addressed several written communications that they had received from community members.

Karp also requested that they be granted three to five years of approval by the Commission

rather than just one; the additional time will aid Eden in securing funding for the project.

Some residents expressed lingering concerns. Notable topics included the installation of a handrail on the proposed Irwin Way sidewalk and the necessity of maintaining reasonable noise levels in the new living units during events in Orinda Community Park.

The majority of commissioners were favorably impressed. “The applicant has been truly engaged in listening to our concerns about this project,” said Commission chair Louise Adamson. “The design isn’t perfect, but it’s really close.”

All four approving members did note, however, that the housing project was a very important one, and would require continued discussion and collaboration moving forward. (Commissioners Steve Dathe and Bob Jungbluth were not

in attendance.)

Commissioner Nick Kosla, the lone dissenter, continued to be concerned about the size of the project. He feels that the tree cover from all directions is insufficient for such a large building, and worries that the community park will lose its much cherished “woody” feel, especially in winter.

The terms of the Commission’s approval require Eden to install a handrail on Irwin Way, investigate the issue of noise inside the new living units, and reconsider the landscaping near the park and in front of the proposed parking lot on Orinda Way. It also granted Eden’s request for a three-year approval, with the condition that the project leaders report to the Commission each year.

Eden Housing will now begin to search for funding for the project. Construction will begin when complete funding is secured.

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Watercolor by Jean Warren

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## Support Your City: Buy Your Gas Locally

By Sophie Braccini

When Sue Breedlove's gas tank is nearing empty, she usually goes to a service station in the town where she works. Breedlove, the President of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, is not the only one. Jay Lifson, Executive Director of the Lafayette Chamber, does the same and so does Edy Schwartz, President of the Moraga Chamber.

For them it is second nature; they just shop local. "I'm trying to practice what we preach," says Breedlove. Looking at the numbers, it seems that only half of the population does the same. Bringing the gasoline business back home would add significant sales tax revenue for each local government.

Let's look at the numbers. In Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, about 1/2 of the population get their gas outside of their city. (Source: Muni Services report - Lafayette 48%, Moraga 49% and Orinda 52%). Municipalities get back only a fraction of the sales tax that is paid on gas within their boundaries, but at the end of the year, it adds up: between \$130,000 and \$210,000 depending on the city. This amount could be added to a city's General Fund if everyone committed to buying their gas where they live. "I would love that," commented Orinda Finance Director Emily Hobdy.

"I buy my gas at Costco, it is cheaper there," said a Lamorinda res-

ident who didn't want to be identified. What makes the price of gas? According to Moe Mojaddidi, who runs the Chevron station at the corner of Moraga Way and Moraga Road, it is the brand owner that sets the price. "They charge each station a different price, depending on the rent they pay to the property owner and the distance between the station and the refinery," he says. Stations that don't sell brand name gas can shop around for the lowest price. Mojaddidi believes that the additives in brand name gas equate to better engine performance and are worth paying a bit more for.

"Buying local is what we are about," concludes Orinda Chamber Executive Director Candy Katten-

burg, "and I am looking forward to stopping at the new Flying A gas station that Orinda Motors is opening where the Valero station was."

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

### Gas Stations Come and Go:

In Moraga, the Shell station that was located at 1405 Moraga Way lost its lease and moved out its equipment, including the only car wash in town. Over by Rheem, the gas station located at 425 Moraga Road (northeast corner at the intersection of Moraga Rd and Rheem Boulevard), that was entangled in a complex financial situation, is now under contract by a new owner, William Nasser of Walnut Creek, who received approval from the Town of Moraga to modify the convenience store and add a car wash. According to real estate broker Dave Schnayer, the transaction could be complete within 45-60 days. The station will re-open while the improvements are in progress.

In Orinda, Allen Pennebaker, the owner of Orinda Motors, is getting ready to open a new Flying A gas station on September, near the Theater Square onramp to Highway 24. "This is full circle for Orinda Motors, which had a gas pump in the '70s," says Pennebaker, "with the addition of this new station we will be offering a complete range of services— everything that involves cars," including detailing service. According to Pennebaker, Flying A, based in Santa Rosa, is making a comeback in the Bay Area.

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## business briefs

### Lafayette Makes National News

On August 11 CNN aired a news video comparing the city of Lafayette and its low 4.0% unemployment rate with the city of Delano and its 37% unemployment rate. It can be viewed online at: www.trylafayettefirst.org/cnn\_lafayette/.

In the news clip Lafayette Council Member Don Tatzin and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson share their ideas about what makes Lafayette such a heaven for employment. "Education is the greatest discriminating factor," believes Lifson, who also adds that the large number of entrepreneurs in the city makes a big difference. According to monthly labor force data released in California for Contra Costa in June of 2011, Lafayette has one of the lowest rates (along with Kensington), followed by Alamo at 4.1%, Orinda at 4.2%, San Ramon at 4.6%, Danville at 5.9% and Moraga at 6.6%. The City of Clayton's unemployment rate is 2.7%.

working for one of the finest Clubs in the country," said Davis, "this club was developed in the golden age of golf clubs, there is a legacy aspect to this organization. This is a very special place to work." Davis graduated from the University of Oregon in Finance, while competing in the international amateur golf circuit. He was the General Manager at North Ranch for 7 years before he applied for the Orinda position. "My focus in Orinda is to assist the Board of this member-owned club to make sure this place continues to be one of the best in the country," says Davis. His task is to manage the day to day operation and assist the Board in making strategic planning for the long term. "We try to create a really fun recreational experience for the members as well as providing them with interesting social activities," says the new manager, "there are a lot of little things that go into that mix, and I pay attention to all of them." Davis and his wife Trish are in the process of selling their southern California home and plan to be able to settle in the Orinda area soon.

### Familiar Lamorinda Personality Keith Miller Starts His Own Brokerage Company

216-8046, www.EBResidential.com



Keith Miller Photo provided

After years of management in the real estate industry, Keith Miller decided to get back to what made his career in the first place, buying and selling homes. "I'm going back to the essence of business," says the Lafayette resident and Orinda Chamber of Commerce Board member. "I'm going under my own license and creating my own Lamorinda-based brokerage firm, East Bay Residential Realty." Miller declares that his wealth of both sales and management experience will permit him to offer a more personalized real estate experience. "My clients will receive the highest level of professionalism in term of market exposure, skilled buyer and seller representation, and they will benefit from my experience and knowledge of the residential real estate industry from the top down."

### Orinda Country Club (OCC) has a new General Manager

Greg Davis arrived in Orinda a month ago from the North Ranch Country Club in Southern California to manage OCC. "This is a privilege to be

### Israeli Celebration At Shish Kabab Show

376 Park Street, Moraga  
388-0538  
Shish Kabab show, a middle eastern restaurant in Moraga, will celebrate its roots with music and dancing on Sunday, August 21, starting at 7pm and going well into the night. The Israeli music band More and Yniv will get everyone dancing and surprise belly-dancing performances should delight customers. Call for reservations.

### News from the three Chambers of Commerce

- Lafayette**
- Entrepreneur's Club, August 18th, 8:30-9:30 am in the Lafayette Chamber Conference Room
  - Movies in the Park, Finding Nemo, August 18th, 8-10 pm
  - Rock the Plaza, The Floorshakers, August 19th, 6 pm; Tall Shadows, August 26, 6 pm

**Moraga**  
Annual Chamber BBQ, Tuesday, August 30, 6-8 pm at the Moraga Commons Park. Everyone in Moraga is invited to the Annual Moraga Chamber of Commerce BBQ sponsored by Safeway. Celebrating and re-launching the Shop Moraga First Campaign. RSVP to Kathe Nelson by August 22, kathenelson@gmail.com

**Orinda**  
After Hours Mixer on Thursday, August 18, 5:30-7 pm at Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way, Orinda

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Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only).

Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis.

email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

As an avid reader and loyal Lamorinda Weekly fan, I was thrilled to see your article saluting local authors (July 20 Local Authors Fill Shelves at Orinda Books.) The more I read the more surprised I was to not see the name of Cynthia Brian. Her column Digging Deep Gardening by Cynthia Brian is one of the reasons I buy your excellent weekly!

Her recently published book "Be the Star You Are" is well

written and heart warming with tales of family solidarity, honesty and yes, tears. I would have that book as a reading book in schools. I work in Lamorinda and live on the other side of the tunnel and really appreciate the quality of your weekly.

Thank you for publishing such a friendly read and look forward to more news from your local treasure, Cynthia Brian.

Yours sincerely,  
Jillian Morrissey

## Public Forum

JOIN IT

### The Grim Picture

Orinda, known for its beautiful scenic hills, its excellent schools, its small town semi-rural feel, and its great weather is increasingly known for terrible roads. The 2011 Metropolitan Transportation Commission Pothole report listed Orinda's roads among the worst in the entire Bay Area. The estimated total cost to bring the roads up to an optimal paving condition index is over \$50 Million! Unfortunately, just maintaining the current dilapidated state and preventing further deterioration of the roads will still cost at least \$2.1 Million per year. For a city with a total budget of about \$10 million per year and almost completely dependent on property tax dollars, how does the City tackle the cost of fixing the roads?

The roads issue in Orinda has been an ongoing battle since the City incorporated in 1985. At that time the 92 miles of roads the City inherited were already deteriorating in part due to our hilly terrain and clay-like soil. Under the rating system (Pavement Condition Index, PCI) used in the Bay Area our systemwide PCI is 49 (100 max) which puts the overall system in the poor category.

Each year the City sets aside all its gas tax, county transportation return to source funds and garbage franchise fees, about 25% of its discretionary budget, to roads and seeks thousands in grant funding; unfortunately this is never enough and each year the City falls short of finding the money to address this problem.

In light of its ongoing budget constraints the City adopted the Pavement Management Plan Program that includes established criteria for selecting streets for repairs that is open and transparent and includes review and recommendations by the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission. In 2011 this program spent \$1.1 Million on various roads throughout the City. The 2011 list included portions of Lombardy Lane, E. Altarinda Drive at St. Stephens road to Orindawoods Dive, a small segment of Camino Sobrante, Tara Road at Southwood Drive to Nonie Road, Valley View Drive at Moraga Way to Crestview Drive and Coral Drive at Ivy Drive to Eastwood.

Chairing the Commission that oversees road repair funding decisions for Orinda is one of the worst volunteer jobs you could ever imagine as I regularly get to tell my fellow Orinda citizens that as bad as their road is there's probably one worse and that under our current funding we will most likely never fix their residential roads. It's not what I want to be known for and it's not what a city like ours should accept, but it's the reality under current funding. In the meantime, I'm looking for a four wheel drive convertible so that I can enjoy our great weather but still get home!

Alex Evans  
Orinda  
(Alex Evans is a member of the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission)

### Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com) and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

## Planning Director Lori Salamack...

... continued from page A5  
Eight years and four Town Managers later, we are still working on it."

But Salamack is quick to point to all of the large and small projects that were approved during her tenure, from Palos Colorados to the Moraga Center Specific Plan. She also takes pride in the fact that Moraga was first in the area to gain approval of its Housing Element, complying with State regulations. "One of the greatest challenges of the job is to understand the fine points of the Town's regulations, and interpret the rules in a manner that's consistent over a range of similar projects," says Salamack. One of Moraga's main issues is development in Open Space and near ridgelines. "The definition of ridge lines and the rules that apply to them are contained in the General Plan," she says, "but the General Plan defines the rules only for MOSO (Moraga Open Space Ordinance) land and areas immediately adjacent to MOSO. It indicates that ridge lines have to be protected, which leaves room for interpretation."

Salamack adds that reasonable people can differ in their interpretation of the rules and that it is the role of the Town Council to interpret the law. Some projects are in process in Moraga that will involve deciding what kind development can occur in open space—for example, the Hetfield project and the Town-owned property along the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail.

Salamack's knowledge of the Town's Municipal Code, all 356 pages, is widely recognized and praised. Town Council Member Mike Metcalf started working with Salamack eight years ago when he was chair of the Planning Commission. "Lori is a very perceptive person and she has a remarkable analytical mind,"

said Metcalf, "she always produced very clear and understandable staff reports and she's been uncompromising in her commitment to the Town's law," which, according to Metcalf, was not always what people wanted to hear.

This held true for Moraga resident Hollie Lucas-Alcalay, who was unhappy a few months back after talking with Salamack about the pending arrival of the Dollar Tree store, and who would have preferred a more sustainable approach to planning. "We saw things differently but she really knew her stuff," said Lucas-Alcalay, "Moraga is not an easy town and it is not easy to please everybody."

Planning Commissioner Bruce Whitley, who worked with Salamack for many years, recalls, "Seven years ago, when I was a new, green, Planning Commission member, Lori took the time and effort to teach me how to best contribute as a member of the Commission. For that, I am personally in her debt," he says, adding that he believes Salamack was invaluable in enhancing the Town's commercial community while preserving its semi-rural character. "For her efforts, the Town of Moraga is in Lori's debt," he said.

On August 5, her last day on the job, Salamack was finishing her review of the Environmental Impact Report for a 126-home development proposed by the Bruzzone family for its 180-acre property located in Bollinger Canyon, listed as a 'study area' in the General Plan.

With other proposed developments across from the Rheem Shopping Center and the Moraga Center Specific Plan area, this big file now sits squarely on the lap of the new Planning Director, Shawna Brekke Read, who started work on August 11.



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	Millie's Kitchen, 1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Lafayette	283-2397
	Shelby's, 2 Theatre Sq, Orinda	254-9687
	Table 24, Theatre Sq, Orinda	254-0124
	Terzetto Cuisine, 1419 Moraga Way, Moraga	376-3832
<b>Café</b>	Geppetto's of Orinda, 87 Orinda Way, Orinda	253-9894
<b>California Cuisine</b>	Shelby's, 2 Theatre Sq, Orinda	254-9687
	Vino Restaurant, 3531 Plaza Way, Lafayette	284-1330
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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## 55th Annual OMPA Championship Swim Meet Rocks Campo's Soda Center

By Marissa Harnett

Lamorindans don't need a calendar this time of year. One look around town at the decorated SUVs complete with painted windows and rooftop paraphernalia indicates that it must be OMPA Championship weekend. The first weekend in August

marks this three-day event at Campolindo's Soda Center where the nine teams that makeup the Orinda and Moraga Pool Association swim in one of the largest recreational meets in the country. This year celebrates 55 years of competition.



Sophia Kosturos(OCC) at start for Girls 9-10, 50 yard freestyle

Photos Andy Scheck

The face-offs began Friday night with just one event – the Individual Medley. It was an exciting beginning to the weekend as three records were brought down. In the girls' 9-10 category, not just one, but two girls broke the previous record that had been set in 1982. Both Sophia Kosturos of Orinda Country Club and Megan Colpo of Moraga Valley Pool managed to beat this nearly 30 year old time. Colpo will hold onto to the record because she touched first with a time of 1:08.55.

Saturday's action brought many hours of preliminaries and then final freestyle and breaststroke events with the medley relay capping off the day. Although six new records were crushed, a non-record setting swim by the 6-and-under girls in the 25 free final could not have been more dramatic. The first four finishers - Lindsey Lucas of Sleepy Hollow, Mia Colombini of Moraga Ranch, Kali Sharma of Sleepy Hollow, and Meghan McAninch of Orinda Country Club - touched just .3 seconds apart. Lucas posted the winning time of 18.23. More excitement followed when the next three finishers, all from Meadow Swim and Tennis - Lauren LaCour, Dania Innis, and Grace Clark – all touched with the exact same time of 19.94. Just .01 seconds behind them came Ellie Buckley of Moraga Country Club to create a virtual four way tie for that fifth place spot.

Sunday rounded out the weekend showcasing the backstroke, butterfly, and free relay events. Again, records went down, but an unbelievable finish to the day came at the last moment. In the boys' 15-18 200 free relay, the very last swim of the day, the OCC and Meadow foursomes vied for the top spot. Amidst the deafening roar of the crowd, the two teams furiously swam an intense neck-and-neck race. Everyone watching jockeyed for better positions to glimpse the photo finish. In the end, the first place honors went to BOTH teams as they touched simultaneously posting identical tying times of 1:27.70.

By the end of the weekend, a staggering 12 records were etched into history. OMPA embodies a community with unbounded spirit and love of competition. As Moraga Ranch parent Shauna Silva put it, "It's an exciting, crazy, adrenaline rush... the kids love it."



Megan Colpo (MVP) was 9-10 high point winner

### Total Team scores

1	Orinda Country Club	3,774.50
2	Meadow Swim & Tennis Club	3,589.50
3	Sleepy Hollow Legends	3,280.50
4	Moraga Country Club	2,179
5	Moraga Ranch	2,018.50
6	Moraga Valley Pool Swim Team	1,952.50
7	Orinda Park Pool Swim Team	1,798
8	Campolindo Cabana Club	1,764
9	Miramonte Swim Club	1,465.50

### High Point winners

6 & under	Lindsey Lucas	Sleepy Hollow	48
	Jordan Kumar	Sleepy Hollow	45
7-8	Maya Supran	OPP	69
	Brody Crouch	Moraga Ranch	64
9-10	Megan Colpo	MVP	72
	Garrett Dunn	OCC	69
11-12	Analisa Pines	Meadow	66
	Scott Wu	Meadow	72
13-14	Emily Byrne	Meadow	68
	Tyler Bartis	CCC	72
15-18	Sierra Robbins	Meadow	69
	Charlie Wiser	OCC	72

### Most Improved Team with Relays Doc Webster Memorial Plaque

Team Name	2011 Points	2010 Points	Improvement
MVP	1952.5	1759.5	193

### Most Improved Team without Relays Ellwood Douglas Memorial Plaque

Team Name	2011 Points	2010 Points	Improvement
CCC	996	817.5	178.5

### Team Sportsmanship Heidary Sportsmanship Trophy

Team Name
CCC

### 2011 Meet Records

New Record					Old Record			
Swimmer Name	Team	Event	Prelim Time	Finals Time	Swimmer Name	Team	Year	Time
Megan Colpo	MVP	9-10 Girls IM		1:08.55	Elaine Weigand	MEAD	1982	1:09.72
Megan Colpo	MVP	9-10 Girls Back		0:31.39	Maddie Murphy	OCC	2008	0:31.82
Brooke Woodward	OCC	15-18 Girls IM		0:59.61	Sierra Robbins	MEAD	2010	
1:01.50Charlie Wiser	OCC	15-18 Boys IM		0:51.61	Nicholas Deaver	MEAD	2009	0:52.99
Charlie Wiser	OCC	15-18 100 Free		0:46.09	Kyle Peterson	MVP	2005	0:47.05
Charlie Wiser	OCC	15-18 Boys Breast	0:26.62	0:25.83	Michael Gotelli	MEAD	1992	0:27.04
Dana Holt	MCC	15-18 100 Free	0:52.73	0:52.24	Merideth White	SH	2009	0:52.87
Sophia Kosturos	OCC	9-10 50 Free	0:27.45	0:27.14	Elaine Weigand	MEAD	1982	0:27.71
<b>Relay Names</b>								
Ryan Hagglund	OCC	9-10 Girls 200		2:13.39		SH	1998	2:15.74
Lauren McAninch		Medley Relay						
Sophia Kosturos								
Eloise Engs								
Steven Wescott	CCC	13-14 Boys 200		1:47.98		MEAD	1986	1:48.27
Tyler Bartis		Medley Relay						
Scott Zurnacian								
Martin Cunnane								
Ryan Hagglund	OCC	9-10 200 Girls		1:59.47		SH	1994	1:59.59
Eloise Engs		Free Relay						
Sophie Cortese								
Sophia Kosturos								
Tommy Bush	OCC	13-14 Boys 200		1:35.07		MVP	1980	1:35.67
Tommy Baier		Free Relay						
Tommy Larsen								
Henry Baer								

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# Contra Costa County Championship Swim Meet

Submitted by Kristi Buck

This weekend at the newly remodeled Heaston Aquatic Center at Acalanes High School, 1573 swimmers from 55 teams throughout Contra Costa County participated in the 51st Annual Contra Costa County Championship Swim Meet hosted by the LMYA Dolphins. Teams were di-

vided into three divisions based on the number of entries per team. Competition was fierce and the times were fast; 11 individual records and nine relay records were broken. USA Olympian and founder of Q Swimwear, Roque Santos, was on hand to present the Team and High Point Awards.



### HIGH POINT WINNERS:

- 6 & Under Women - Natalie Peete, San Ramon Aquacats
- 6 & Under Men - AJ Fong, Forest Park Flyers
- 7-8 Women - Sophie Lurie, Sun Valley; Caitlin Smith, LMYA
- 7-8 Men - Mark Laurlund, Crow Canyon County Club; Evan O'Connell, Crow Canyon County Club
- 9-10 Women - Kendall Shields, Diablo County Club; Megan Colpo, Moraga Valley Pool
- 9-10 Men - Ryan Iannaccone, Dana Hills Swim Team
- 11-12 Women - Isabella Barattolo, Crow Canyon County Club
- 11-12 Men - Erick Iannaccone, Dana Hills Swim Team
- 13-14 Women - Justine Trimble, Dana Hills Swim Team; Brittany Heng, Dewing Park Swim Team
- 13-14 Men - Nicholas Inserra, Springbrook Swim Team; Sean Bloore, Livorna Dolphins
- 15-18 Women - Bekah Padilla, Forest Park Flyers; Allison Stevens, Moraga Country Club
- 15-18 Men - Riley Hagan, Blackhawk Swim Team; Derek Anderson, Dana Hills Swim Team

### Combined Team Results: Division 1

1	Crow Canyon Country Club	1,730
2	Dana Hills Swim Team	1,136
3	Round Hill Country Club	886
4	Blackhawk Swim Team	757
5	Springbrook Swim Team	730
6	Orinda County Club	708
7	Sleepy Hollow Legends	670.50
8	Lafayette Moraga Youth Association (LMYA)	664
9	Sycamore Stingrays	651
10	Diablo Country Club Swim Team	619
11	Meadow Swim & Tennis Club	410.50
12	Woodlands	280

### Combined Team Results: Division 2

1	Del Amigo Dolphins	498
2	Scottsdale	436
3	Moraga Country Club	377
4	Pleasant Hill Dolphins	330
5	Sun Valley Rays Swim Team	285
6	Valley Vista	276
7	Forest Park Flyers	253
8	Moraga Ranch	245.50

### Combined Team Results: Division 3

1	Dewing Park Swim Team	111.50
2	Walnut Heights Otters	84
3	Aquaknights	63
4	Hercules Piranhas Swim Team	61
5	Miramonte Swim Club	60
6	Rudgear Estates Swim Team	46
7	Danville Sea Devils	44
8	Bishop Estates Swim Team	38

### OUTSTANDING GIRLS RELAY

- Crow Canyon 11/12 Girls Medley Relay
- Crow Canyon 7/8 Boys Medley Relay

## Water Polo Club Continues to Win

Submitted by Maria Solit



From Left: Drew Holland, Connor Reid, Tommy Bush, Thomas Carroll, Jack Fellner, Nick Solit, Jacob Welcomer, JD Ratchford, Colin Chiapello, Grant Sivesind, Tyler Kirchberg, Spencer Creed, assistant coach Trent Calder, Charlie Wiser, and head coach Clarke Tamariki.

Photo provided

The Lamorinda 16's boys' water polo club won the 2011 Junior Olympic Championship in Irvine July 29-August 2. The team battled back from a first half deficit to win the title 12-10 against LA Water Polo. The Lamorinda boys finished an undefeated season including big wins in the Cal State Cup and the United States Cup Championships earlier this summer.

## Lamorinda Soccer Clubs Finish in First, Second Place

Submitted by Benson Chan



Annie Loose (Lamorinda United '95) setting up a cross-shot against the South Valley Strikers G95.

Photo Jim Lindenaauer

The Lamorinda Soccer Club came ready to play at the 2011 Pleasanton Rage Showcase tournament. The U17, U16 and U14 teams took two tournament championships and a second place finish in July.

Top teams from the western United States and Hawaii travel to compete in the prestigious tournament.

Competing in the Showcase Juniors on July 30-31, the Lamorinda United '97 U14 girls won two-of-three matches, scoring eight goals, to advance to the U14 Gold Championship game. The LMSC took second place, losing 0-1 to Crescenta Valley SC 97.

In the College Showcase, on July 22-24, the Lamorinda United '94 U17 and the United '95 U16 won their tournaments, going undefeated in four-game brackets.

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**SPORTS** LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

**Football Season Preview**

By Caitlin Graveson



Acalanes returns Spencer Henderson a Defense Second Team All-DFAL selection. Photos Benjamin Williams



Ross Anderson is predicted to be one of top quarterbacks in the DFAL this season.

Summer ends mid-August for fall athletes with the start of practice and football players know this better than anyone. Working two-a-days beginning on August 15, the Lamorinda football programs are gearing up for the season beginning on September 30. Miramonte looks to be Lamorinda's top contender, while Campolindo faces a rebuilding year and Acalanes hopes to take advantage of returning players.

Miramonte finished atop the DFAL standings last year, going 5-1 in league play, their only loss to second place Las Lomas. The Matadors finished 11-2 overall, recording their second loss of the season from the eventual NCS winner, Cardinal Newman of Santa Rosa, in the semi-finals of the NCS tournament.

The Matadors experienced a coaching change in the offseason. Head coach John Wade left the program and was replaced by longtime assistant coach Jack Schram. Before coming to Miramonte in 2006, Schram was the head coach at Encinal in Alameda from 1990-2005.

"I am looking forward to it," Schram says of his first season as Miramonte head coach. "We want to win every game."

The Matadors may have a chance to do that with quarterback Ross Anderson at the helm. Returning for his senior season, Anderson was named First Team All-DFAL last year. He led the Mats in their playoff run as a junior, notching 152 yards on 22 carries in the opening round against Analy of Sebastopol.

"I expect him to continue to improve every game this year and be that much better," Schram says. "He is one of the top quarterbacks in the nation."

Miramonte also returns top players for their senior season in wide receiver Jack Pietrykowski, Second Team All-DFAL player last season, Luke Carrillo on defense, Second Team All-DFAL, and Miles Honen, and Kevin Booze, Honorable Mentions

The Matadors lose eight all-league players to graduation.

"It's tough, we lost a lot of linemen, but we have really skilled athletes coming back," notes Schram.

Miramonte travels to Analy for their opening game on September 2. Tough preseason match-ups come in Kennedy High School of Richmond and Fremont High School of Oakland on September 9 and 16, respectively.

"We hope to stay healthy and play well every game to defend our title," Schram states.

In Moraga, Campolindo faces a rebuilding year. Plagued by injuries last season, Campolindo still managed to sneak into the playoffs, but lost in the opening round to eventual

winner Cardinal Newman.

"We had so many injuries in a year we could have done something," head coach Kevin Macy says of the 2010 season. "We are a small school and are sort of hopeful one year and then rebuilding the next."

Campolindo finished 5-6 overall last year but only took one game in league play against Dublin, finishing 1-5.

This year playoffs seem to be a long shot. "This year, it's a much bigger goal," Macy admits.

"We have no returning players with any line experience," he adds, "They are brand new to the varsity experience."

The Cougars return an experienced quarterback in junior Bret Stephens. Stephens, a Second Team All-DFAL selection last year, will return for his junior season.

"We have a strong quarterback," Macy says, "All of our success will have to run through him."

Although regretful about putting that much pressure on Stephens, Macy believes he can handle it. "It's tough to put pressure on him like that, but he is not going to freeze up in that situation."

"They are all ready to go in that family," Macy says, referring to Stephens's family football legacy.

Campolindo also returns wide receiver Karl Thorton, a Second Team All-DFAL selection, for his senior season and Jaime Vega and Dan Fadelli, both Second Team All-DFAL defense selections.

Campolindo opens its season with a home game against Moreau Catholic on September 2. Other match-ups include games against El Cerrito and St. Patrick/St. Vincent on September 16 and 23, respectively.

"We are a small school but there is a risk that teams might lose. We will play anybody we can get," Macy says.

Acalanes also qualified for the playoffs and lost in the first round last season. The Dons finished 5-6 overall and 2-4 in league play, taking games from Dublin and Campolindo.

The Dons expect to be better this season, returning over half of their starters from last year.

"We will be competitive but to what degree, we will have to wait until we play some games to find out," says head coach Mike Ivankovich of the 2011 Acalanes team.

Acalanes returns Second Team All-DFAL selections in running back Aaron Edwards and defensively Michael Brady and Spencer Henderson.

"We have a lot of senior returning starters," says Ivankovich, "that's what you want."

"We don't want to be rebuilding

forever, our goal is to win a league championship," Ivankovich explains.

The Dons lose top players to graduation most notably, Trent Baker, a First Team All-DFAL selection for offense and defense.

Offensively, the Dons will mix things up this year, Ivankovich says. "We are adjusting a little bit this year to be more productive in the passing game and less predictable offensively."

Acalanes is also strong at the running back position, with four players vying for the starting position. "It will come down to who's productive," states Ivankovich.

Preseason begins for the Dons with a road game at Ygnacio Valley on September 3. The Dons will also face playoff teams from last season, San Marin and Healdsburg High School on September 17 and 23, respectively.

**Ask Jeff**

**Who Can You Trust??**

In today's tough economic times, consumers are often asking themselves the question-"Is it really worth it?" My advice is to consider the value behind the work you're getting and the people you're dealing with. Are they certified? Are they using approved oils and filters? Are they trained on your type of vehicle? Find a capable shop that meets your criteria and stick with them. Build a relationship. You'll be happy you did and so will your vehicle.

*Dear Jeff:*  
I own a 2010 Toyota Prius and I pulled into a quick lube center for a \$29.95 oil change but when I picked up my car they wanted to charge me \$80.00. What happened to my "cheapy lube"?

*Signed:*  
Jerry in Moraga

*Dear Jerry:*  
Be thankful you didn't pay \$29.95 because your Prius is the latest generation and it features numerous changes that unfortunately raise the costs of routine maintenance. New Hybrid vehicles call for a 0W-20 graded oil and many require a cartridge style oil filter. These items carry a higher cost for parts and labor procedures and hopefully you got

the right parts installed. By the way, did you get your tires rotated? Most vehicle manufacturers recommend tire rotations at every oil change interval.

*Dear Jeff:*  
My owners' manual calls for oil changes every 10000 miles. Is that possible or am I reading the manual wrong?

*Signed:*  
Owen from Orinda

*Dear Owen:*  
Due to the oil formulations required for newer vehicles, it is possible to drive a full 10000 miles without service. But you don't forget to have fluid level check-ups and tire pressure checks. Establish a relationship with a competent facility and I'm sure they will be happy to check your fluids and tire pressures between services to keep your vehicle safe and sound.

*Dear Jeff:*  
I drive an older car with over 100,000 miles and the guy at my oil change shop suggested a high mileage formula oil for my engine. Is that just a gimmick to charge more, or is there a real benefit?

*Signed:*  
Larry from Lafayette



Jeff Joyce

*Dear Larry:*  
Recently oil companies introduced a new formula of engine oil specially designed for vehicles with over 75000 miles. The oil has extra detergent additives and seal conditioners to reduce oil consumption, more cleaning to reduce oil deposits and slow external oil leakage. It is a synthetic blend formulation, which is a higher grade, and despite the added cost, it will make your older engine feel and perform like it did years ago.

Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions as I'm here to help.

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# Life in LAMORINDA

## Cal Shakes Talks *Candida*

By Lou Fancher



Cal Shakes Resident Dramaturg Philippa Kelly and Associate Artist Julie Eccles at Cal Shakes Inside Scoop about the upcoming production of *Candida*  
Photo Jay Yamada

Even before opening night, Cal Shake's third production, *Candida*, was stirring up a hornet's nest of reaction. Despite running out of cups, coffee, ice cream, but not energy, Artistic Director John Moscone and his cohorts drew a packed house of theater lovers to the Orinda Library Auditorium for their August 1st Inside Scoop.

The ensuing conversation, spiced with debate over George Bernard Shaw's prop list (the title character's contemplation of a fireplace poker was a focal point,) extended the free community event beyond its traditional one-hour length.

*Candida*, written during Shaw's early, idealizing phase, according to resident dramaturg Philippa Kelly, is a comedy about a morally pompous clergyman, his shady Madonna-like spouse, and Marchbanks, the poetic young man who comes between them.

"Every time I hear Shaw, I just can't stop listening to it. There's nothing more thrilling, energizing, provocative—still. It's so juicy for an actor," Moscone said.

His 18 readings of the play, completed in preparation for directing the production, left him awed by the complexity of the work.

"There's so much that's been written about this woman [*Candida*] and it just kills it," he began. "It's about marriage, and I'm not married, so we figure it out together."

Relying on actor Julie Eccles, who takes on the title role, for in-

sights into married life, has been essential for unraveling the physical and emotional connections within Shaw's play, Moscone admitted.

"*Candida*'s husband is a religious superstar who preaches Christianity and Socialism. There are all the things she thinks she's done to keep him happy and all the things he thinks he has done—and neither of them are happy," he said.

Entering the marital mix is Marchbanks, who speaks words like daggers and brings *Candida* to a decision: choose the constricted husband, or the shrewd messed-up kid?

Nick Gabriel, cast as Marchbanks, told the Inside Scoop audience he was "desperate" to be in the production and certain of his interest in the role. Even so, his first reading of the play was inaccurate.

"There was something that hadn't really dropped in when I read the page. I thought it was domestic and quaint. When I got into rehearsal it did surprise me how much was in there to be mined," Gabriel said.

Alexandra Henrikson, who provides comic agitation as a secretary-in-love character, agreed that rehearsals are intense.

"At the end of a rehearsal day, I feel like my mind is going to explode," she exclaimed. "But it's a joyful cotton candy kind of explosion. It feels like you've been to the gym. A gym of the heart."

To understand her character, Henrikson wore a bright pink corset in rehearsals.

"I wanted to feel the world

was a couple of inches away from me," she said, adding that the restrictive garment kept her from being "too 2011."

Eccles avoided the corset until dress rehearsals, allowing herself to pursue a lounging, loose physicality.

"It's taken a while to find that path," she said, but speaking her lines without restraint has left the actor free to explore her character's mental state.

"What can you afford in your life? Can you afford your morals? Is morality different when you are unencumbered? Can [Marchbanks] be idealistic because he is rich and unattached?" Eccles asked.

Shaw's three act play runs one hour and 45 minutes. An audience member asked if Moscone was planning to "embellish" the play or change any of the words.

"No, the language is fierce," Moscone answered. "It's a tight little three-acter and a different experience to grab things in 30 minute bites."

Kelly mentioned the massive stage directions Shaw included in the play.

"Eventually, we started crossing them out," Eccles confessed. "Because it can lead you to follow something that doesn't mean anything, just because it was written in the script."

Instead, the cast worked to reinvest the classic work with meaning.

"You definitely are hearing with an interpretive ear," Moscone said, about directing a play written in the late 1800's. "But if you interpret counter to the text, the text is going to smack you. You can feel the two rubbing against each other and one of them has to give way."

The set, designed by Annie Smart and filled with furniture, is the touché on Moscone's parry with *Candida*.

"The ideas are just pushing through these walls," he said, holding up a model of the set. "It thrills me to have that tension on-stage. The trick in outdoor theater is creating this house and then getting it to sing out into nature." Cal Shakes' *Candida* runs August 10 - September 4 at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda. For more information go to www.calshakes.org.



(L to R) Jarion Monroe (Mr. Burgess) and Anthony Fusco (Reverend James Morell)  
Photo Kevin Berne



California Shakespeare Theater's production of *Candida*  
Photo Kevin Berne

[1924-2010]

## Pam Glover Paintings (45)



"The Slough, Marin" by Pam Glover



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### 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.

#### Next meeting:

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

## Tonight: MOFD Board Meets Again To Consider Building Purchase and Orinda City Hall Lease Options

By Lucy Amaral

The Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors will meet tonight in the Orinda Community Center's Founders Auditorium to discuss whether to combine administrative offices in a leased space, purchased space or leave the offices split between Orinda and Moraga. As reported in MOFD's facilities report, Station 41 on Moraga Road is in need of space, gender and seismic upgrades. Station 41 also houses part of MOFD's administrative staff, with the other portion of administrative offices housed in MOFD's station 45 in Orinda. One option offered by the facilities report was to combine administrative offices in an off-site location, then repurpose the existing administrative space in Station 41. MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley has been researching options, which include leasing space from the City of Orinda and purchasing an existing building at 1150 Moraga Way.

The Board has been discussing the options for several months, and had previously spoken with representatives of Orinda regarding leasing space but did not come to an agreement.

Bradley presented a purchase offer for the building in Moraga to the Board on July 20, citing his preference to this option because of its central location, adaptability, and improved efficiency. At that time, cost and retrofitting concerns from the Board and from the audience in attendance, combined with a new leasing offer from the City of Orinda, led the Board to request that Bradley

return to the bargaining table.

The Orinda City Council met on August 5 to finalize a counter offer for MOFD to lease office space in the city's current Administrative and Finance wing on the upper floor of Orinda's City Hall, which according to the offer would create a "Public Safety Function Floor" and be directly across from the Emergency Operations Center.

In its offer Orinda stated that, for a base rent of \$62,000 per year for ten years, MOFD would lease the office space, as well as have access to the Library Auditorium for MOFD Board meetings, be assigned designated parking spaces, and receive shared use of the Sarge Littlehale Community Room. Extra fees, such as utilities, use of the community center, and any CPI increases, were also noted in the offer.

The MOFD Board met in a special meeting on August 9 to discuss the offer. Board President John Wyro said that while the Board took no action during closed session, the agenda for tonight calls for discussion during open session regarding the administrative alternatives, including Orinda's City Hall and the building on Moraga Way. According to tonight's agenda, one possibility is for staff to continue to re-evaluate its options and come back to the board with recommendations at its September 21 Board meeting.

If the Board makes a decision tonight, we'll let you know - check [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com).



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## The 1st Annual Lafayette Community Music Festival

By Sophie Braccini

Tom Stack, Town Hall Theater (THT) Board Vice-President, has spent 20 years in the rock and roll merchandise industry. He is married to singer Kiki Stack, and when the two of them brainstorm what they call "fun(d) raising" ideas for THT, they revolve around music. "The first Lafayette Community Music Festival is Kiki's idea," says Stack, "the East Bay is the most under-appreciated area for musicians. We have plenty of talent and not enough venues to make good music. We had to do something."

On August 27, starting at 8:00 p.m., THT will hold a benefit event featuring Mark Stanley, Drew Harrison, Paul Cotruvo & Toni Bryant, Jack King & Kiki Stack, Katie & Dell Eenor, and special guests. Stack promises a long night of fun and great music.

"Many of these musicians are larger than life figures and they have no place to play after 9:00 p.m. on our side of the tunnel," says Stack.

Mark Stanley is a beloved local musician and teacher who just needs a place to play; Drew Harrison, who does vocals, guitar and percussion with the Sun Kings, will present his new solo album, "Go It Alone."

"Each musician will play for about 20 minutes—we will have plenty of surprises and a splashing ending," promises Stack. "This place is not a dance hall, just a really great space for coming to relax and enjoy music with friends."

The funds raised will be donated entirely to the theater. "This place is a wonderful historic venue and it is perfect for music," says Stack. "The acoustic is excellent and the downstairs lobby and bar are friendly and welcoming." A silent auction of rare music memorabilia will be run in the lobby prior to the show, starting when doors open at 7:00 p.m.

"Our motto is 'no bridge, no tunnel, no freeway'," says Stack. For tickets and more information go to [www.thtc.org](http://www.thtc.org).



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# Making Papale

By Cathy Dausman



Michael Edwards works on a Lauhala hat Photo Cathy Dausman

Michael Edwards may live in Lamorinda, but his heart and his hands are in Hawaii. Edwards makes Lauhala hats, woven from the dried leaves of the Lauhala trees. It's a skill he learned four years ago on the islands from "Auntie" Gladys Grace, a 90-year old Hawaiian honored in 2010 with an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. "I am connected with Hawaii when I'm doing this," he says.

Edwards claims he has only been taught the basics, but it's apparent he's a quick study. He even makes his own weaving tools. Hat weaving begins when a student cleans and trims a tree of detritus. He then waits up to two months before harvesting leaves. "You must malana the trees," Edwards explains, as islanders first ask permission of the living tree before harvesting its leaves.

Other South Pacific Island weaving uses green leaves, but Hawaiian style hat-making requires dried leaves picked brown from the tree. That can be dirty work, as Lauhala trees are home to centipedes and cockroaches. Edwards has learned to wear long sleeves and to keep his mouth closed when picking. Leaves need to be at least three feet in length, and may need to be stripped of any kuku (thorns) before being rolled and packed tightly, stem to tip, in a kuka'a (wheel of leaves). The leaves, which are several inches across, are sliced into strands about 1/4 inch. Kumus (teachers) then show students how to turn rectangular leaf blades into a circular hat.

The start of a Lauhala hat is the piko, or crown. Piko is Hawaiian for origin; sometimes beginners weave

piko mats for practice before making hats. Looking at the start of a piko for a Hawaiian papale (hat) is a bit like seeing a hula skirt in a strong wind—loose ends fly everywhere. The leaf "fabric" has both a warp and weft side—known as the ku and moe. The stem side of the leaf always faces center, and the more sun-resistant side of the leaf faces out.

The pa, or top, comes next. As the woven piece expands, fill strands are used. The piko and pa are tied onto an ipu (hat block made of wood or plastic) and the body and brim can be woven together. Sounds simple, doesn't it? But be careful not to pull the pukas, or you'll have a hat full of haku haku (holes).

Edwards works mostly during extended trips to Hawaii, where the humidity keeps the leaves supple and supplies are readily available. His hats (fedora, flat top, or round top) contain 84 to 220 leaf strands and take weeks to complete. As a finishing touch, each is wrapped with a feather or seed lei. Edward's collection of intricate feather leis was made on Oahu by Bert Nakamura.

The market value of a Lauhala hat is around \$300, but Edwards is not selling. "I cannot sell my hats," he says simply, although he has given some as gifts. In four years, Edwards has made only eight hats—he still has his first hat and can point out its shortcomings. He takes to heart the Auntie Gladys admonition: "Only weave when you feel good."

See Auntie Gladys teach Lauhala hat making online at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0riMgjT-qiE>



## Gael Rail Shuttle Rt.250 Late Night Service Runs Thursday - Sunday

The Gael Rail Shuttle is made possible by Saint Mary's College to serve students and the entire community. This flexible service is provided with a 15-Passenger LINK van, and is scheduled to run hourly until the last BART train from San Francisco arrives at the Lafayette BART station.

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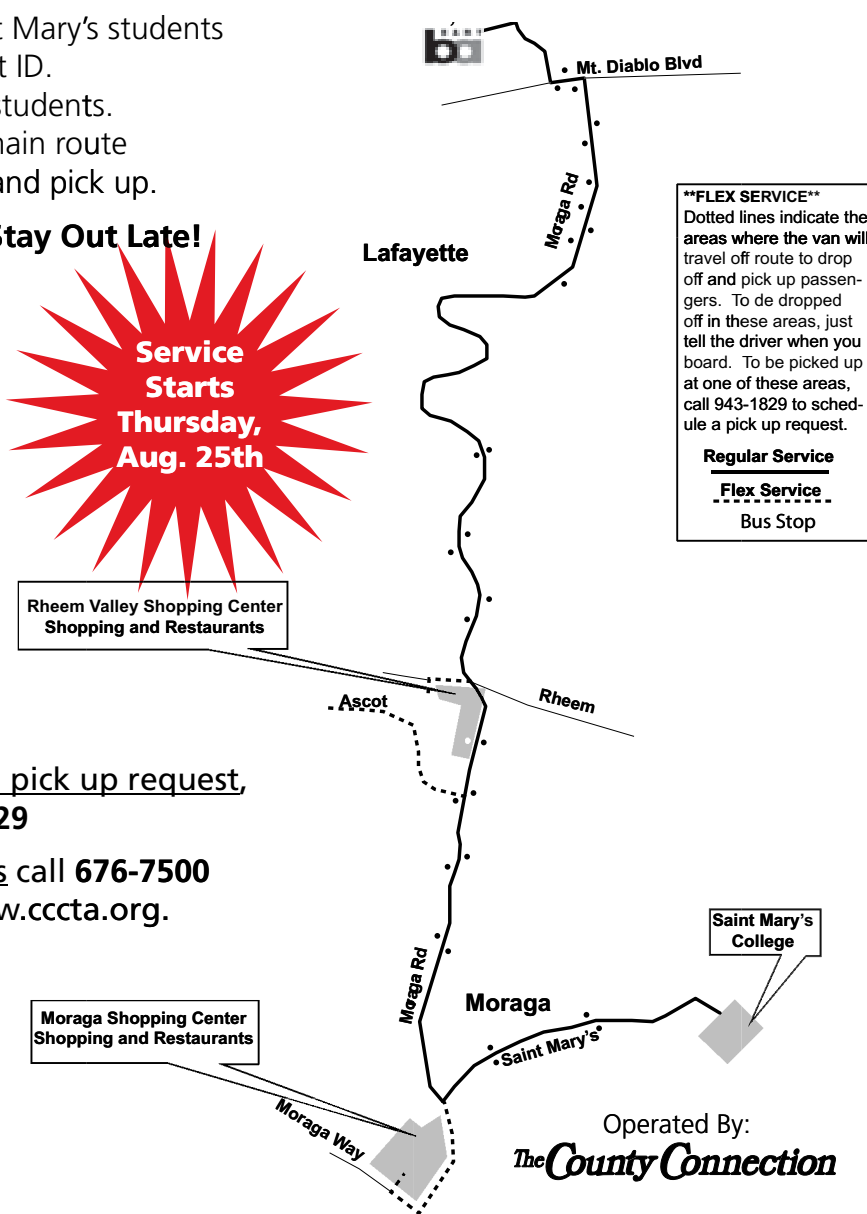


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# Four-legged Fun



It was a good day for a hike with four legged friends. Participants met at the Bear Creek staging area at Briones Regional Park with leashes, water and most critical – dog treats for a vigorous three mile walk up the Crescent Ridge Trail and beyond hosted by Dog Dynamics founder Bonnie

Brown Cali. First timer Kali, Hudson, Hershey, EZ, Oscar, Tank, Ella, Quill, Jet, and Bear, who would not stop whimpering prior to the hike, enjoyed the relatively cool semi-overcast day. Prior to setting out Bear's owner commented that she has four kids who never whined this much.

"It was an amazing mix of dog breeds: Australian shepherds, a Rhodesian ridgeback, Weimaraner, several Labradors, an American Stratford Terrier, and a couple of Labradoodles," said Brown Cali. "All of the dogs got along well, and it was a good workout and a great social event for everyone." She plans to it again on the first Saturday in September; new participants are always welcome, go to [www.dogdynamics.org](http://www.dogdynamics.org) for more information.

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## Lynn's Top Five Avoiding a Personal Debt Ceiling Crisis

By Lynn Ballou, Certified Financial Planner™

**D**id you know that our Federal Government has operated without a budget for over 800 days? Did you know that at 14.3 trillion dollars the aggregate amount owed by U.S. consumers to their creditors is approximately the same as the U.S. Government's debt? If ever there was a wake-up call, not just for our elected officials in Washington D.C., but for us as responsible citizens, it's now. What can we do now? Tend to our own debt management, improve our skills, and by doing so send a message to our elected officials that they need to get their acts together, too!

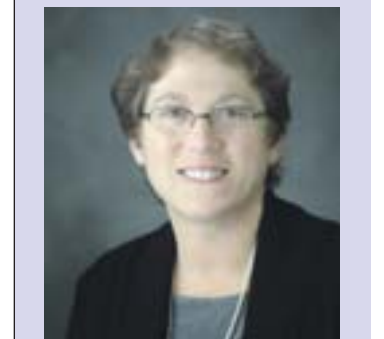
Here are five actionable items you can use now:

- 1) Make a list of all your debt.** Get busy paying off the highest balances first. If you can, consolidate responsibly into the lowest costing debt you can obtain, staying disciplined, and tackling your debt pay down with the focus of a laser beam!
- 2) Get real about what you make and learn to live within that.** You say you make \$50K per year? Nope. You take home much less --- maybe \$35K. THAT'S what you need to learn to live on. Going forward, only charge what you can afford to pay off in full every month. Don't be like Congress --- make a budget and use it! If you go over your spending goals one month, you'll need to CUT BACK spending in future months to get back in balance. Do it! It might be a bit painful in the short run, but so much better in the long view.

- 3) Separate responsible debt from irresponsible debt.** An appropriate home loan that you can afford that allows you to build equity over the years and avoid rent, an affordable car purchased on a reasonable payment plan so you can get to work and take care of your family -- these are examples of responsible debt. Here's what's irresponsible: Borrowing money to buy an overly expensive car you can't afford, or charging a "hot" but unnecessary addition to your wardrobe that's outside your budget using an 18% credit card whose bill you can't pay in full when it comes. Walk away from these temptations! You will live without them --- I promise!
- 4) A big asset: your credit worthiness!** Protect that asset with sensible financial behavior. Without good credit it's not only difficult to qualify for credit when you do need it for appropriate purchases, but it can even affect your ability to get a job. Right now our country is frittering away one of its most important assets: our good credit name. Don't emulate that behavior! Spend a message to D.C. that trustworthiness matters!
- 5) Make a plan --- take care of your plan.** Can you imagine running your home or business without a budget? It's a recipe for disaster. It's akin to getting on a plane and just hoping you'll end up somewhere you might want to be and with enough fuel for the trip. Budgeting creates a blueprint for your life. Like a garden, it needs tending and nur-

turing, weeding and trimming. Take care of it, and you'll be in good shape to handle life's many complications.

And, if I could add a 6th: Plan to save! Make the development and maintenance of your cash reserves a big part of your budget planning. We all run into unplanned and uninvited misadventures. Strong cash reserves and savings will allow you to weather them without crisis control. Another great message to send Washington, right? Maybe they'll be listening this time!



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# Orinda Cyclist goes Cross Country

By Cathy Dausman

(Our readers first met Greg Thomas in our March 16 issue; if you missed it, you can read the article in our archives, [www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0501/Pedaling-for-a-Greener-Tomorrow.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0501/Pedaling-for-a-Greener-Tomorrow.html))



Greg Thomas and counterparts on the way to Lolo Pass (northern Rocky Mountains) Photos provided

Greg Thomas is taking a cross country trip this summer, but he isn't flying and he isn't driving. Thomas is biking across the U.S. with a group of international Velomobile cyclists on a trip called Roll Over America (ROAM).

The adventure began in Portland, Oregon on July 28 and riders expect to reach Washington, D.C. on August 24. In between, a group of 22 Europeans and 25 North Americans will cover nearly three thousand miles (5,000 kilometers). Tour Captain Josef Janning describes the Velomobile group as, "Passionate bikers [and] bike commuters, [who] have experienced the many benefits of cycling for health, the environment and the family budget."

Thomas' counterparts live in Ohio, Southern California, Texas, Florida, Michigan, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Connecticut and Kentucky and Canada. The overseas contingent is from Germany, The Netherlands, Austria, the U.K. and Denmark. They must be a just little bit tired by now, as they reach the midway point. They expect to be in Chicago about the time you receive this issue.

When we asked Thomas if he'd blog about this trip his initial response was, "I will probably be

so tired at the end of each day that I will barely be able to eat and find my bed!" But on August 2 he responded: "We are having a fantastic time and are getting really good coverage from the local media. The local bike clubs are also giving us welcome parties. The mayor of Portland [Oregon] proclaimed July 28, 2011 'Velomobile Day!'"

We heard from Thomas again on August 11, after the group reached Minnesota – passing the 1500-mile halfway point. He admitted, "It was a little hard to get out of bed this morning after riding 570 miles in four days. A year ago I had never ridden more than 30 miles in a day so I have made some progress. My body and equipment seem to be holding out

well so far."

How does he fuel up? "When you ride so many hours a day it is amazing how much you need to eat," Thomas continued, "The other day I had a bowl of cereal for breakfast with raisins, banana and blueberries and a cup of coffee. While riding I ate two bananas, a peach, a plum, two Clif bars, two Fig Newton bars and an energy gel. At the coffee break I had a hamburger and coffee. Then a Subway sandwich for lunch and soup and sandwich for dinner. All this food is washed down with three to five liters of water, soda, beer, V-8 and juice! And I am still losing weight."

Talk about dropping a few pounds the hard way.



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## Lamorinda Weekly

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General interest stories: [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

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**Circulation:** 25,200 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

**Layout/Graphics:** Andy Scheck, Jonas Scheck, Amanda Griggs. Printed in CA.

**Lamorinda Weekly,**  
P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133

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## Community Service

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

### Moraga Charity and Teens Plant Hope in Tornado Torn Joplin

Submitted by Kyla Christie



Teens Gaby Gryko, Vivien Lee, Steven Zhou sort, log, and pack books

When recent tornadoes destroyed 262 classrooms and 16 schools leaving 13,000 students without supplies or books in Joplin, Missouri, Be the Star You Are!® charity spearheaded Operation Disaster Relief. Teen volunteers Courtney Cheng and Katherine Kim identified the sources that needed resources. Founder/Executive Director of the literacy charity, Cynthia Brian, who is producer and host of the radio show, Starstyle®-Be the Star You Are!® invited guest authors to participate.

"I let authors who've interviewed know they could make a difference for the kids in Joplin by donating through our Be the Star You Are!® Operation Disaster Relief. My goal was to get books to the district before school starts in September," Brian remarked. Brooks Olbrys, author of *Blue Ocean Bob*, and Diana Zimmerman, author of *Kandide* were first to donate.

Teen volunteers Steven Zhou, Gaby Gryko, and Vivien Lee sorted,

mented an ecstatic Kristen Dudolski of the Joplin School District.

When the Joplin Access Family Clinic asked for books for their patients, Be the Star You Are!® acted. Cases of new books from the BTSYA library were shipped including books written by Brian, *Be the Star You Are!® 99 Gifts* and *Be the Star You Are!® for TEENS*.

"Your gifts are greatly appreciated. We are now just learning how widespread the devastating effects of the tornado reached. At our community health center, we are presenting each child with a book as they enter the exam room, putting them at ease," wrote Dr. Debra Davidson, Chief Operations Officer for Access Family Care in Joplin.

Authors John Woods, Maggie Mei Lewis, Jeff Bennett, Allen Klein contributed. Friends of the Lafayette Library donated seven boxes of children's books and a local philanthropist paid the postage.

Over \$45,000 of books, cards, and games shipped. "Thank you so much to Be the Star You Are and the authors. You have been amazing!" responded Joplin recipients.

"A book is like a garden in your pocket. We are planting the seeds of hope and growing joy," Brian exclaimed.

For more information, go to [www.bethestaryouare.org](http://www.bethestaryouare.org) or [www.btsya.com](http://www.btsya.com).



Moraga Country Club Station Postman Mark Fahmy stamps cases of books for Joplin from Be the Star You Are!® volunteers Gaby Gryko and Cynthia Brian  
Photo provided

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

### Moraga School District Reinstates Positions

At a special meeting on Monday, August 11, the Moraga School District governing board unanimously voted to accept donations from the Moraga Education Foundation and the Parent-Teacher Association to reinstate programs that were to be discontinued due to the budget shortfall.

Specifically, two Physical Education positions and the Reading Tutor program have been restored to

the three elementary schools; a student support provider and the Math Intervention program has been restored to all four district schools; and the library technician position at both Camino Pablo and Rheem has been restored.

Kindergarten through fifth grade classes will have weekly physical education and the school libraries will remain open four days a week. *C. Graveson*

### Bidding Goodbye to Summer

By Diana LaScala-Gruenewald and Lee Borrowman

"Whatcha up to?"  
"Nothin'. Whattabout you?"  
"Nothin'."  
"Wanna do somethin'?"

"I guess."  
"Whattaya wanna do?"  
"I dunno, Whatta you wanna do?"

This conversation, echoed thousands of times in the mouths of thousands of American children, embodies a kind of summer that some fear may be long lost in Lamorinda. Writer Jim Shahin recorded it many years ago – in all its mind-numbing glory – in his article "Searching for Summer," published by *American Way* magazine. Shahin's lost summer is not fun or busy. It is not full of people studying or working or playing on the beach. It is full of people aestivating – a verb the author defines as "spending the summer in a state of torpor."

For many of us, Shahin's summer is that of our own childhoods. Lately, though, it seems that rather than drifting by slowly, summers just slam into home plate.

The next school year presents itself alarmingly. At swim meets and summer camp parking lots, conversation between bored children has been replaced with conversation between exhausted parents. "I can't believe school is starting in just a few

weeks," they say, shaking their heads. "Where did the summer go?"

So where did it go? The answer is different for every family. For some, it simply whirled by as much of life does. For others, it wouldn't be summer in Lamorinda without swim team and the countless hours of practice, volunteering, and the camaraderie born from shared experience.

Perhaps acknowledging and reflecting on summer would achieve some of the slowness that full, busy summers tend to lack. Being busy is not inherently bad, but it may be worth pausing the last week or two of vacation before plunging into the next school year.

With that goal in mind, we took an unscientific poll of a few Lamorinda locals who volunteered to contribute memorable moments from the summer that is currently drawing to a close. We didn't hear much about exotic vacations – almost everyone, from the youngest to the oldest, talked about things closer to home.

Many of the young teens, particularly girls, told us they had plenty of time to spend with friends and family this summer and enjoyed it – Sara from Lafayette, and Serena, Mel, Ariel and Ali from Moraga all said that hanging with friends and/or family was their favorite thing. Alison, an Orinda mom, agreed and said that she enjoyed "a nice, long visit with our extended family."

Miranda, an older teen from Orinda, shared a story: "One of my friends wanted to have at least one last get together with our entire group before everyone heads off to college. We headed down to Pier 39 to look at all the shops there. One store, Krazy Kaps, was particularly fun. All of us tried on the craziest hats we could find and took pictures of each other, laughing at how ridiculous we looked. I really enjoyed that day...I got to have fun and relax with my friends without being stressed out."

Then there was Cameron, a young teen whose favorite thing was a little different and probably didn't go over very well – "When the cat's tail (mysteriously) turned pink!" she smiled (oddly enough, the tail in question then matched her own hair). Jordyn recalled the last day of school as being the best day of summer because, "We had a really fun Silly String fight!"

The teenage boys preferred a bit more excitement. Joshua, from Moraga, told us, "I had a chance to spend some time at the lake with friends – my favorite thing was riding in a raft pulled by a motor boat." And Roman was delighted to embark on a jet ski adventure.

"The day I earned three golds at one swim meet!" – "Good times spent at the pool, just being carefree." – "Going to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk with friends." – "Going to Great America in a limousine!" – and "Church camp" were among the things other local teens enjoyed.

Lee, a Moraga parent, recalled, "We were at a beach, just south of Santa Cruz, at night and I decided to try to build my first bonfire – I had no idea what I was doing, so it took a while – we managed to roast a few marshmallows (on real sticks) before the tide came in...I had picked a spot too close to the water."

Catherine, from Lafayette, said, "I finally put the boat back in the water and went sailing for the first time since becoming a mom two years ago." While Cathy, of Moraga, was jazzed about, "Getting a complimentary retro poster from the Moonalice front man and business tycoon at the Moraga Commons while enjoying the concert with my significant other."

We also ran into a couple of little ones at the park. Ian (age 3) said his favorite things about summer were riding the Little Train in Tilden Park, going to Children's Fairyland, swimming in his aunt's pool, and riding his tricycle – everywhere (look out, Lance Armstrong); and Erik (age 2) enjoyed hanging out with his cousins and playing with trains...and more trains.

We wish you an enjoyable end to summer!

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# Lamorinda Schools

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Orinda Intermediate | Saklan Valley School | Sleepy Hollow  
Springhill | Stanley Middle | St. Perpetua School | Wagner Ranch

## Family Focus

### What Parents of Grown Children Would Do Differently

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

Just for fun I decided to conduct my own informal, nonscientific poll of Lamorinda friends, neighbors, and colleagues with grown children to find out what they would do differently as parents if they had a "do-over." My hope is that these insights will help those who are currently engaged in the "front lines" of parenting. Parenting humbles us. It's impossible to feel that we always know what we're doing or are doing it well enough.

Here is a list, in no particular order, of these longtime parents' wishes and regrets:

- We should have tried to instill more religious training. I always feel guilty that we didn't bring them up with more tradition.
- I'm sorry we were so lenient with our son when he was in high school. We didn't check enough on his plans or know all of his friends and what they were up to. He developed a drug habit that we knew nothing about until there was a near tragedy. Now he's independent, hard-working, and stable, but we had many difficult years that perhaps could have been avoided.
- I wish that we had required them to regularly do some defined community service or other volunteerism.
- I wish we had done more exploring on Saturdays and Sundays of the Bay area.
- I wish we had each had more individual dates with our boys.
- I wish that I had insisted on more dinner mealtimes at home with the kids with foods they had to eat. So important and they both were such picky eaters. A little more bonding and less finicky eating would have been a good idea!
- I wish I hadn't tried so hard to control my daughter's weight when she was in her early teens. I nagged her too much and it took her a long time to trust that I think she's beautiful.
- One thing I do regret is not insisting on using sun block regularly and realizing the importance of keeping young skin covered in the sunshine. I would be more vigilant at the pool and outside events to protect their skin.
- I wish I hadn't worried so much about where they would go to college. Now I realize that getting into a certain college isn't an automatic recipe for success at all. Many of my friends' kids have been highly successful despite starting in community college or going to colleges that weren't prestige schools.
- I regret not making my children follow through with piano. We let them off too easy, one after just one year of lessons, instead of insisting they stick with it.
- We wish we had given them a regular allowance instead of money when they wanted it so that they would have gleaned an inkling into the value of money and how hard it is to earn.
- I regret doing too much of their school

work for them, such as contributing too much to their papers and doing too much work on their projects. I tried to make everything perfect for them instead of letting them make their own mistakes.

- One thing I wish I had done differently would be insisting that my children write thank you notes to their grandmothers.
  - I wish we had demanded that our children consistently do chores around the house, such as cleaning their rooms, doing dishes, and helping with laundry and the yard.
  - I regret not making more effort to go to their games.
  - I wish I had taught my kids the difference between praise and achievement. I see our children as struggling with the real world because I think we have erred in teaching them that it's ok to come in last. When we praise them too easily they don't always learn the most important lesson that the real world insists on teaching all of us... It's tough out there and we don't get jobs, and life isn't handed to us without trying really hard!
  - I would be sure to have tighter curfews and more consistent punishment -- especially grounding -- when they screwed up.
  - We wish we had been less busy and had spent more time just relaxing with our children. (Several people expressed this wish. Some wish they had done more simple activities together, such as camping, playing games, cooking, or leisurely bike rides. They would have liked a slower-paced life with their children).
- So there we have it, some wisdom from experienced parents who know well the challenging, often emotionally and physically exhausting, yet life-enhancing task of raising children.



**Margie Ryerson, MFT,** is a marriage and family therapist in Orinda and Walnut Creek. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com. Her new book, *Treat Your Partner Like a Dog: How to Breed a Better Relationship* is available on www.amazon.com and at Orinda Books.

### Back to School Via the Highway



Cole Martin and Jake Tyson

Photo Cathy Tyson

After enjoying all the cultural highlights of Lamorinda this summer, college kids Cole Martin and Jake Tyson loaded up their respective cars, said goodbye to parents and pals from high school hit the road for their two-day drive back to Boulder, Colorado. Gas card – check; pre-paid season tickets to CU football and basketball games, a shiny new backpack – check; and most importantly, a hunger to absorb all the knowledge that this institution of higher learning has to offer – check. *C. Tyson*



### Shakespeare for Kids

Submitted by Carol Upshaw



Photo provided

Shakespeare for Kids has become a favorite summer camp staple. 11-year old Windy Margerum has been attending for the past seven years. "It is the best camp in the world," she states firmly. During the first week of camp, participants get to know Shakespeare, learning his history and his plays, in ways that include making pup-

pets and masks, and going on treasure hunts. The second week of the camp is spent in rehearsal. Each participant is given a part in a production and they spend the week preparing for the camp's grand finale, the performance. "Everyone will have such a good time. Kids' families come and see them perform," Margerum says. "It will be the night of your life."

### Jazz Workshop Inspires Music Students

By Cathy Tyson



Mary Fettig, legendary Bay Area saxophonist and the first woman to play with the Stan Kenton Orchestra leads students in Big Band music at the Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop.

Photo Cathy Tyson

"The saxophones were the largest instrument group at the Lafayette Summer Music Workshop," said Stanley Music Director Bob Athayde, describing the photo above. "Forty altos and eighteen tenors - with players who had never played jazz, all the way to pros who have graduated from USC. Top that off with Artist in Residence, Tom Scott, and you have magic!" The Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop, now in its thirteenth year, is directed by

Athayde with jazz curriculum director Frank Summares. It's the highlight of the summer for many of these young, and not so young, students. The week long program culminates in a concert featuring the entire student body and their teachers. Moms, dads, grandparents, siblings and neighbors packed the auditorium at Stanley Middle School to hear them play. The Workshop is proudly sponsored by the Generations in Jazz Foundation.

### SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

**Moraga School District**  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate  
School Auditorium  
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
Tuesday, August 23, 7:30pm

**Lafayette School District**  
LAFSD Office  
3477 School Street, Lafayette  
Thursday, August 18, 7pm

**Orinda Union School District**  
OUSD Office  
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda  
Monday, September 12, 6pm

Submit stories to  
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# Al Dente Italian Comedy Soon to Orinda

By Sophie Braccini



**mineVaganti**  
 Il nuovo film di Ferzan Ozpetek

**L**oose Cannons (*Mine Vaganti*) will be shown at the Orinda Theatre from August 19 to the 22 and on August 25. This Italian comedy is brought to Orinda by the Lamorinda Film & Entertainment Foundation (LFEF). Once a month, for about a week, LFEF screens a foreign feature film that has never been

released commercially in the Bay Area, is not currently available through any other medium, and has been recognized in international film festivals. The August movie is a perfect pick for a light summer evening.

Tommaso (Riccardo Scamarcio) is the youngest son of an Italian family that owns a pasta

factory in the Puglia region (the heel of Italy's boot). He's made up his mind to tell his family he is gay, at the family dinner. As he's about to make his big announcement, his older brother steals his thunder and comes out himself, resulting in his exclusion from the family clan and causing his macho father to have a heart attack.

Since this is a comedy, the heart attack is not too serious, but worrisome enough that poor Tommaso does not dare to deliver the 'coup-de-grace.' He decides to delay his own moment of truth and tries to get interested in the farfalle and tortellini produced in the family business. Until his Roman friends, including his lover, show up.

This movie is Ferzan

Ozpetek's first attempt at directing a comedy. The Italian director, with Turkish origins, was better known for melodramas, such as the 2003 film *Facing Windows* that won numerous awards and was distributed by Sony Pictures Classics in North America. In *Loose Cannons*, Ozpetek tries hard and stops at nothing to make the viewer smile, and for the most part, it works. Some scenes are very amusing, but the rhythm lags a bit at times. The situation is not that complicated for Tommaso, but Ozpetek manages to render the main character so engaging that one can't help but pity him and fear for him when his friends arrive.

Riccardo Scamarcio, who plays Tommaso, is a sweet version of the languid Latin lovers portrayed in old Italian movies.

In this film, he is charming and funny at the same time. The social conformity of the upper middle class country family is depicted with accuracy. The character of the grandmother, lucid and generous, is very touching and believable.

Sometimes a bit overdone and bordering on caricature, the movie is light, unpretentious and funny. This is a perfect fit for a summer evening, with the added charm of a picturesque setting and an excellent sound track. Having to read subtitles can be a bit annoying at times, but it is a worthwhile trade-off for being immersed in the musicality of the Italian language.

You'll leave the Orinda Theatre relaxed and with the feeling that you've had a few hours of vacation in Italy.

# Dinner and a Movie – Pasta, Anyone?

By Susie Iventosch

**T**he Lamorinda Film & Entertainment Foundation (LFEF) will feature the Italian comedy, *Loose Cannons*, later this week at the Orinda Theatre. Because the film is about a young man who works in the family's pasta factory (see article above), I was inspired to take a stab at making my own pasta right at home. Since I have no special pasta-making utensils, devices or machines, I was not really anticipating much success, but was rather pleasantly surprised with the results! I did manage to find a metal ruler, and a pizza cutter, both of which came in very handy when cutting the rolled pasta into strips.

The entire process takes about 20-30 minutes or so, and the whole family can join in the fun. If you feel particularly ad-

venturesome, you can try adding pureed spinach, roasted red bell peppers, or even tomatoes and garlic to your dough by mixing them with the egg and oil before integrating with the flour.

If you plan to see *Loose Cannons*, but don't have time to make your own Italian feast before the show, Shelby's in Theatre Square is featuring a special dish just for the occasion—Rouge Risotto, made with oven-roasted beets and grilled New York steak. Or, you can drop into La Piazza across the street, to sample the "Film Festival" special they have in store for theatergoers!

Wherever you decide to dine before the movie ...  
 Buon Appetito!

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 2 Theatre Square  
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 925-253-9191



Family's Favorite Pasta

Photos Susie Iventosch

## Handmade/Homemade Pasta

(Yields approximately 8 oz. of pasta)

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup unbleached flour
- ¼ cup semolina flour (made from Durham wheat)
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt



### DIRECTIONS

1. Sift flours and salt into a large flat bowl, or serving platter
2. Make a well in the center, using the bottom of a cup or bowl
3. Place oil and eggs in the well
4. With a large fork, make a sweeping motion, stirring the egg and oil and integrating a little more of the flour with each stir. Keep stirring until you have a sticky ball. You might have leftover flour, but only use what you need to make the ball.
5. Dump the dough ball onto a floured surface and knead for about 4-5 minutes, incorporating more dough into the ball as needed until the dough is smooth and no longer sticky.
6. Shape dough into a small rectangle
7. On a clean flat surface dusted with flour, roll the dough out to a very thin 1/16-inch rectangle, approximately 14 x 12 or so. Now, you will not automatically be able to make a perfect rectangle, but do your best, or trim it to resemble a rectangle after it's rolled out. Turn surface as necessary to allow for even rolling. (You will need to use some muscle to roll this dough out to the desired thickness!)
8. Using a metal ruler, or some other straight edge on top of the dough, roll a sharp knife or pizza cutter along the edge to cut pasta in the desired width.
9. At this point, you can either wrap the pasta in plastic keeping it airtight and refrigerate until ready to use, or you can cook it immediately. Just remember this pasta has raw egg, so you must refrigerate it if you don't intend to cook it immediately!



pasta linguine



pasta fettuccine

## Family's Favorite Pasta-Sundried tomatoes, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese and Garlic-infused Olive Oil

(Serves 4-5 as a main course)

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound Angel Hair, fettuccine or linguine pasta (double recipe of homemade pasta on left or one 16-oz. package store-bought pasta)
- 1/4-1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled and slightly crushed, but kept intact
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme
- 2 sprigs fresh rosemary
- ½ cup coarsely chopped, pitted Kalamata olives
- ½ cup drained, chopped sundried tomatoes
- \*1/2 cup diced fresh tomatoes (optional)
- 1/3 cup pine nuts, lightly toasted
- ½ cup crumbled Feta cheese
- ½ cup grated fresh Parmesan
- 1/3 cup finely sliced fresh basil

### DIRECTIONS

Prepare oil in advance

In a saucepot, heat olive oil, but do not bring to a boil. When hot, add garlic cloves and herbs and heat for about 10-15 minutes over medium-low heat. Turn heat off, cover pot and allow flavors to infuse for several hours or overnight. Before serving, discard herbs and garlic cloves.

To Assemble Dish

Reheat garlic-herb infused olive oil. In a separate pot, cook pasta to al dente, drain and dump pasta back into cooking pot. Pour warm oil over pasta and stir. Add olives, sundried tomatoes, (tomatoes), and feta into pasta and gently toss. Serve on plates and garnish with Parmesan, basil and pine nuts.

Serve with insalata mista (mixed green salad) and crusty Italian bread.

Susie Iventosch is the author of *Tax Bites* and *Tasty Morsels*, which can be found at *Across the Way* in Moraga, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and [www.taxbites.net](http://www.taxbites.net). Susie can be reached at [suziven@gmail.com](mailto:suziven@gmail.com).

**These recipe is available on our web site**  
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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 12 Wednesday, August 17, 2011



*Thistles on Lamorinda hillside...  
read on page D7*

## Mid-Century Remodel Handled With Care

By Cathy Tyson

With only one prior owner leaving the property mostly untouched, the stars aligned for a group of three architects to collaborate on an artistic remodel of a Lafayette home that respects its original character. Eliza Hart, Stewart Wright and Alex Bergtraun saw potential in an Eichler-esque home in the Hidden Valley neighborhood – although dated, “it had good bones,” said Bergtraun. Hart was good friends with the original owner’s granddaughter, who wanted to make sure it didn’t get torn down. The team managed to modernize and expand the home using sustainable materials and integrated unique color choices and textures throughout.

“All three of us had a shared vision, and worked together on the design” said

Hart explaining that since the house was built on spec, they had a blank slate to work with. “We weren’t afraid to open up the walls,” added Hart, noting there were some pleasant surprises, like the original copper piping under the floors that provided radiant heat. All the pipes were in remarkably good shape, so put to work once again, with the addition of a new boiler.

The trio sensitively reworked the home from floor to ceiling, and positioned walls of windows to take advantage of the surrounding lush natural landscape. Generous, well-proportioned rooms flow from one to the next in the five bedroom three bath home.

...continued on page D4



*From left, homeowners Gordon and Dorian Chong with remodel team Alan Bergtraun, Eliza Hart, and Stewart Wright in the back yard.*



*Unique water feature lends tranquil element to patio area.*

*Photos Andy Scheck*

# THE BEAUBELLE GROUP

Glenn and Kellie Beaubelle *present...*

## LAFAYETTE ~ MODERN AND FRESH



Enjoy remarkable unobstructed views of the rolling hills from every room in the house!

Built in 1974 and sprawling over a .39-acre corner parcel of land, this home offers beautiful amenities, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, bonus/4th bedroom, sauna/steam room, and more than 2,900 sf of a gracious interior design and grand entertaining spaces.

**Offered at \$1,225,000**

## MORAGA – SANDERS RANCH



A gem in the Lamorinda community, this single level 5 bedroom, 3 bathroom home sprawls over a third of an acre and offering striking curb appeal. Enjoy a private security guard at gate, new appliances, paint, new and refinished hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, crown molding, coffered and vaulted ceilings, two fireplaces, cedar-lined closets, skylights, new landscaping and roof.

**Offered at \$1,150,000**

## LAFAYETTE – WALK TO TOWN AND BART HAPPY VALLEY ELEMENTARY



This ranch style home has potential galore! The desirable floor plan offers 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, grand living room with fireplace, country kitchen with large eating area, hardwood floors, wood beamed ceilings, some dual pane doors and windows, new paint, newer roof and air conditioner. The approx. half acre parcel offers a private yard, glorious views and a myriad of exploring opportunities for kids.

**Offered at \$610,000**



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	12	\$350,000	\$3,200,000
MORAGA	11	\$195,000	\$950,000
ORINDA	6	\$738,000	\$1,669,000

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

### LAFAYETTE

- 3221 Apache Court, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2524 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 7-14-11; Previous Sale: \$1,125,000, 06-28-02
- 3348 Betty Lane, \$565,000, 3 Bdrms, 1577 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-15-11; Previous Sale: \$290,000, 10-09-92
- 4010 Canyon Road, \$2,455,000, 4 Bdrms, 6603 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-11-11; Previous Sale: \$1,725,000, 09-30-97
- 3242 Glenside Drive, \$1,355,000, 3 Bdrms, 3012 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 7-21-11; Previous Sale: \$1,145,000, 05-24-05
- 819 Las Trampas Road, \$1,370,000, 4 Bdrms, 3479 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-8-11
- 3268 Marlene Drive, \$350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 7-15-11; Previous Sale: \$325,000, 04-05-02
- 889 Mountain View Drive, \$865,000, 4 Bdrms, 4778 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 7-8-11; Previous Sale: \$250,000, 01-18-89
- 3995 North Peardale Drive, \$3,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 5194 SqFt, 2004 YrBlt, 7-15-11; Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 10-22-03
- 1475 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,135,000, 5 Bdrms, 2499 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 7-12-11; Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 07-29-05
- 42 Sunrise Lane, \$624,000, 3 Bdrms, 2135 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 7-8-11; Previous Sale: \$781,000, 01-21-04
- 3275 Vals Lane, \$1,176,000, 3 Bdrms, 2656 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 7-14-11; Previous Sale: \$1,440,000, 01-26-07
- 3 Westminster Place, \$603,500, 3 Bdrms, 1846 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 7-20-11; Previous Sale: \$619,000, 11-13-02

### MORAGA

- 144 Ascot Court #1, \$195,000, 2 Bdrms, 945 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-21-11
- 2135 Ascot Drive #8, \$258,000, 2 Bdrms, 1643 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 7-21-11; Previous Sale: \$380,000, 01-09-03
- 641 Augusta Drive, \$715,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 7-21-11; Previous Sale: \$466,000, 01-05-99
- 1379 Camino Peral #C, \$202,000, 2 Bdrms, 1031 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 7-20-11; Previous Sale: \$110,000, 10-19-82
- 2121 Donald Drive #1, \$309,000, 3 Bdrms, 1513 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 7-20-11; Previous Sale: \$351,000, 07-26-01
- 26 Laird Drive, \$809,000, 4 Bdrms, 1700 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-15-11; Previous Sale: \$992,000, 08-16-07
- 1179 Larch Avenue, \$905,000, 4 Bdrms, 2332 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 7-12-11; Previous Sale: \$489,000, 01-14-98
- 173 Miramonte Drive, \$410,000, 4 Bdrms, 1772 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 7-20-11; Previous Sale: \$400,000, 06-25-03
- 3983 Paseo Grande, \$680,000, 3 Bdrms, 1745 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 7-13-11
- 811 Villa Lane #4, \$226,000, 2 Bdrms, 882 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 7-14-11; Previous Sale: \$410,000, 11-23-05
- 60 Wandel Drive, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2374 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 7-20-11; Previous Sale: \$488,000, 06-27-91

### ORINDA

- 128 Diablo View Drive, \$922,500, 4 Bdrms, 4579 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 7-19-11; Previous Sale: \$575,000, 08-06-96
- 25 Ramona Drive, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2085 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 7-14-11; Previous Sale: \$467,500, 02-11-98
- 120 Ravenhill Road, \$738,000, 3 Bdrms, 2231 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 7-14-11; Previous Sale: \$563,000, 11-28-00
- 239 Sundown Terrace, \$1,669,000, 5 Bdrms, 3648 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 7-15-11; Previous Sale: \$2,325,000, 05-17-07
- 88 Tarry Lane, \$1,480,000, 5 Bdrms, 3114 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 7-13-11; Previous Sale: \$1,750,000, 05-15-03
- 12 Valley View Drive, \$970,000, 3 Bdrms, 2565 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 7-13-11; Previous Sale: \$1,280,000, 08-11-05

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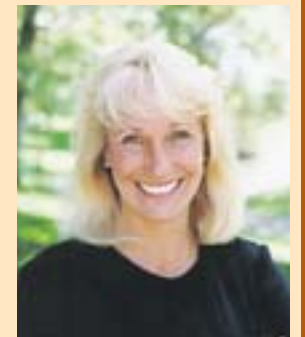
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### Cute-as-a-Button

Charming 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath single-story on level corner lot w/office/bonus room. Updated w/dual-paned windows, granite counters, & remodeled master bath. Close to top-rated schools. **\$649,950**



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## Mid-Century Remodel Handle

...continued from page D1

Once the jungle outside was tamed, clearing away years of unmaintained brush, a new tranquil zen-like yard began to emerge. A fence was moved back toward a natural gully to do double duty, improving the view and keeping the deer out. Adding multiple skylights at key locations provided light at the ends of the spine of the home illuminating both ends and adding an airy feeling. The new homeowners love the lighting – in addition to the windows and skylights, the architects included built in valence lights on dimmers that emit a soft glow on the ceiling.

The former funky, unheated rumpus room has been transformed into a tranquil master suite with a wall of built in cabinetry. Pristine, unadorned functionality continues in the master bath featuring concrete counters, large rectangular sinks and fresh white rectangular tile. Same size, but different color - bright yellow tile is a focal point of the kitchen, echoing the design theme. Concrete countertops are also repeated throughout the home.

When finished, even this gem was a victim of a tough real estate market, and sat unsold for a year. The current owners started a home search a couple of times. On their first foray into house hunting – they saw the recently renovated property and were intrigued – but not quite ready to make a decision. Twelve months later, the home was still on the market so they took a tour on a Friday and made an offer on Sunday. Unfortunately on Monday there were three offers. When it rains it pours, but the sellers ultimately chose Dorian and Gordon Chong's offer because of Gordon's profession – he's also an architect – they knew their diligent work on the design would be appreciated.

The Chong's prior home was perched high in the Berkeley hills with expansive views of multiple bridges. Although they loved the view, they weren't in love with the 38 steps required to get to the garage. Throw in endless schlepping of groceries and life's essentials and it was time to make a change.

Having lived in the home for about a year, the couple has settled in with their Schnauzer, Shelby, to enjoy the breezy informality of their new and improved Mid-century California modern remodel. This residence was recently included, with seven other unique homes, in the East Bay's first American Institute of Architects home tour celebrating design excellence.



*Yellow rectangular tile sets off kitchen.*  
Stewart Wright.



*Spacious living room featuring new*



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## Thinking About Buying?

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## Top 4 Opportunities in 2011

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

DRE# 1835783





# ed With Care



*When with open, custom Europly shelving designed and constructed by architect*



*new cement cladding on existing fireplace.*



*Re-purposed original decking was used as a wall treatment in the main hallway.*



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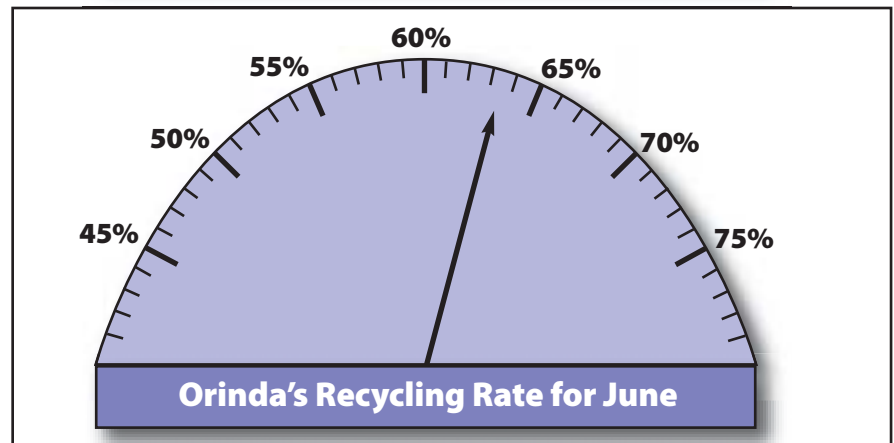
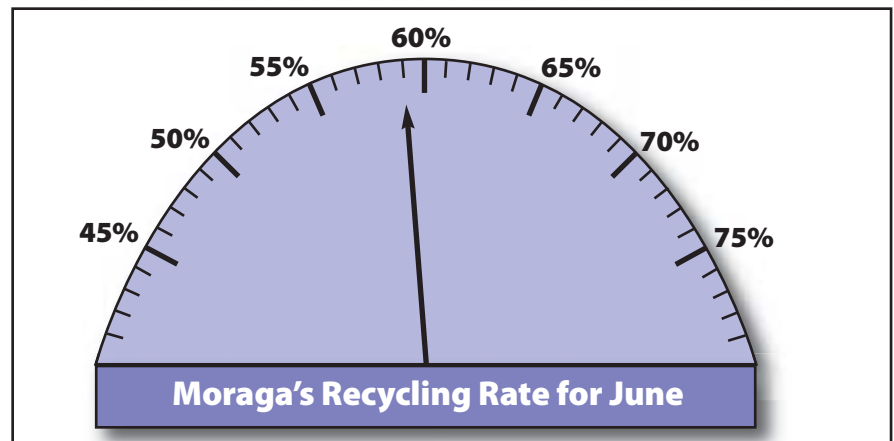
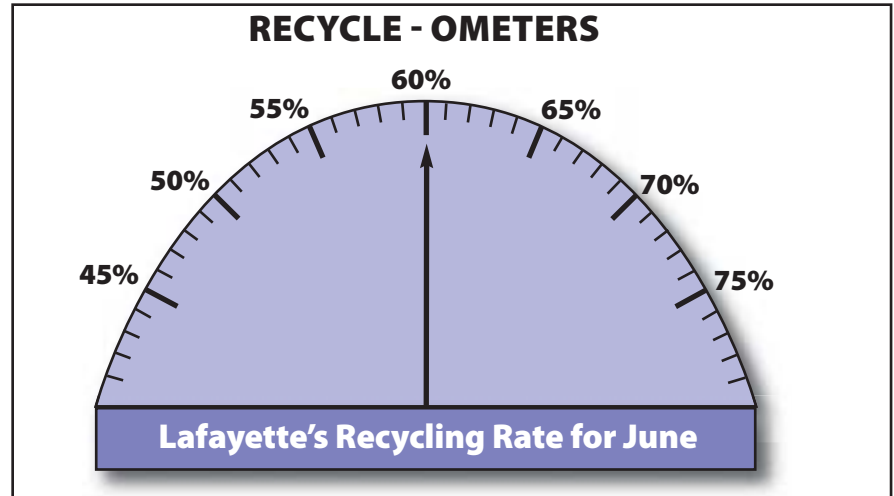
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## Recycling in Lamorinda

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



### To register with Recycle Bank:

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

# As Thick as Thistles

By Cathy Dausman



A swath of purple thistles covering a Lamorinda hillside makes a great photo op. To borrow a phrase from a Frank Baum character, the vista is quite “soothing to the eye”. It turns out these weeds have more in common with the Wicked Witch than any good Oz character. The photo shows *Cynara cardunculus*, or artichoke thistles, says Contra Costa County Agriculture Commissioner Vince Guise. He said those thistles, plus “purple star, yellow star, and French and Scotch broom are major pests in the Lamorinda area.”

Artichoke thistle is the native Mediterranean plant from which the globe artichoke was developed, but you probably don’t want to eat one. The thistles grow several feet tall and can spread to seven feet in diameter. Their needle-like spines are up to an inch-and-a-half long, and the blue flower measures up to six inches in diameter.

Flowering takes place in June. After the flowers mature the plant goes dormant turning brown and black. The plant emerges again next winter. Seeds can last in the soil more than 20 years. To rid an area of artichoke thistle, its taproot must be dug out eighteen inches beneath the soil. Otherwise, it sprouts back. Eradication help from Mother Nature includes gophers and voles that will eat the thistle roots, and birds and squirrels that eat the seeds. Goats sometimes munch on the plant tops but aren’t brought in for grazing because they don’t dig the out the taproot.

A 2009 Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture publication referenced surveying and treating thistle “on a 458 acre privately owned property called Palos Colrados located in Moraga.” At the time the property was over half infested with artichoke and purple star thistle.

The county agriculture department does have a thistle control/eradication program, but “the Lamorinda area is pretty much the hold-out epicenter [on infestation because] we have not had the resources to get on all the affected properties.”

The California Invasive Plant Council out of Berkeley has more information on native weed control. Call (510) 843-3902 or log onto [info@cal-ipc.org](mailto:info@cal-ipc.org).

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## Mulching trees and shrubs conserves water

Mulching is important for trees and also shrubs. Besides being attractive, mulch can be used to conserve soil moisture, to buffer soil temperature extremes, to control weeds and competing vegetation and to replenish organic matter and nutrients in the soil.

The majority of landscape trees evolved in a woodland environment with natural mulch around them. Often the practice is to rake up or blow away any natural mulch in a home landscapes.

In a natural environment, trees generally do not grow in lawns or meadows and their root systems do not compete well against lawn grasses. A mulched area around a tree should be provided for the benefit of the tree. The size of the mulched areas around a tree depends on the size of the tree.

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**11 Arroyo Drive**  
Wonderful remodel, close to all Orinda schools. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room, dining room & great outdoor Tea House. A must see!

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## ORINDA

**30 Rio Vista**  
Charming "Pottery Barn" 3bd/2ba, 1978 sf trad on .42 ac at end os in pvt setting adj to open space. Updated kit w/granite, updt'd baths, new paint & cpt. Level lawn/play area. Walk to Bart.

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## ORINDA

**99 La Cuesta**  
Stunning OCC custom home. Gorgeous views of Lake Cascade filtered thru mature oak trees & lovely pvt level yard. Beaut renovated thruout w/granite & stainless dream kitchen.

**Offered at \$1,179,000**



## ORINDA

**69 Tara Road**  
Very special 4bd/3.5ba hm of great style, lovely decor & quality enhancements. 4382 sf of ideal spaces, high ceilings, ofc. Pvt gated 1 acre w/outstanding outdoor areas w/pool.

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## ORINDA

**50 Haciendas Road**  
Classic Old Orinda estate hm. Prime 1 acre parcel at end of court. 5bd/5ba, 5110 sf architecturally designed by Wm Knowles. Spectacular setting w/lawns, gardens, pool, in-law apt.

**Offered at \$1,895,000**



## ORINDA

**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

**527 Chalda Way**  
Enjoy private attractive courtyard - charming updated 2bd/1.5ba townhome with shaker style cabinetry, granite counters, great convenient location.

**Offered at \$319,000**



## 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

**927 Augusta Drive**  
Best buy in MCC! Fab new price for 3424 sf of living! Located at end of cul de sac, this prof decorated 4+bd/2.5ba home is most desirable. Privacy, views & an open space feeling.

**Offered at \$875,000**



## MORAGA

**136 David Drive**  
4bd/3.5ba home offering 3763 sf w/oversized rms, an abundance of windows & quality craftsmanship throughout. End of cul de sac location on 1.86 ac w/trees, lvl lawn, decks.

**Offered at \$1,295,000**



## LAFAYETTE

**945 Mountain View Drive**  
Charm abounds in this 867 sf 1bd/1ba cutie nr all Lafayette dwntwn conveniences (walk to Trader Joe's). Exceptional curb appeal, attn to detail thruout. Sep artist's studio.

**Offered at \$515,000**



## LAFAYETTE

**3419 Shangri La**  
Huge price reduction! Totally charming 3100 sf 5bd w/updated kitchen, huge fam rm plus bonus rm., 3-car gar. Lg 1.07 ac lot w/pool & use of riding arena. Great Reliez Valley loc w/Lafayette/Acalanes High schools.

**Offered at \$949,000**



## LAFAYETTE

**859 Acalanes Road**  
Up a long drive you will find this allremodeled 3bd/3ba artist's home on .61 acre of mature landscaping, patios & views. Total privacy with iron gate yet close to freeways, schools, Bart.

**Offered at \$1,125,000**



## WALNUT CREEK

**352 Kinross Drive**  
Spacious Heather Farms twnhm w/3bd/2.5ba, 1796 sf on lovely quiet tree lined street. Kit/fam rm combo, LR, DR, spacious mstr suite w/lounge area. New cpt/paint. Nr shopping, trail, Bart.

**Offered at \$389,000**



## WALNUT CREEK

**664 Charleston Court**  
Fabulous 2-story detached home built in '94. Very spacious light & 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.

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