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Last week's welcome program included painting the large "SMC" up on the hill. Photo Ohlen Alexander

WoW: Meet the SMC Class of 2015

By Alex Kozela

The first weekend of college life can be an opportunity to kickstart an exciting new chapter in someone's life, but that's not to say the task isn't also daunting at an unfamiliar school. The student leaders at Saint Mary's College, however, have done their best to wel-

come the incoming Class of 2015 with open arms.

After moving in last Thursday, freshmen Gaels participated in a full slate of activities in the appropriately-named "Weekend of Welcome," including: a farewell dinner; a scavenger hunt; painting the SMC; "Gray

zones" that focused on the struggles of college life that range from alcohol use to roommate situations; and a "Playfair" that eased the process of meeting peers through a series of icebreakers.

... continued on page A8

Quote of the Week:

"(She) taught me that thinking outside the box is not only acceptable but the best way to bring about lasting peace." Sadly, read the article, *Peace Activist and Green Award Winner Louise Clark Dies*, on page B3.

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Firestorm: Prepare Your Home

FireWise home assessments offered by MOFD

By Lucy Amaral



Homeowner Keith Horrocks takes notes while MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley discusses what actions to take to make his home a more defensible space. Photo Lucy Amaral

Many of us would rather not think about what might happen in a major disaster, and it can be even harder to go about preparing for such an emergency. We tell ourselves, "It may never happen." Or, "it's too complicated." And probably most common: "We have time...we'll do it later."

When it comes to natural disasters, such as a wildland fire, that kind of thinking can be dangerous. Moraga Orinda Fire District's (MOFD) Fire Chief Randy Bradley has said that it's not a matter of "if" a firestorm will happen; it's a matter of "when." And, when it comes, it could be big, and fast. High temperatures, racing "Diablo Winds," and low humidity can combine with disastrous results. A tragic example of this combination is the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire storm. In less than 24 hours it consumed more than 1,500 acres, destroyed or damaged 3,469 living units, killed 25 people, injured 150 people caused \$1.5 billion in loss.

Bradley said that Moraga and Orinda share a number of similarities to Oakland. "The homes are about the same age, and the vegetation and topography are similar," he said. The thing going for the area, he added, is that the lots are bigger than the standard Oakland lot, so there might be less home-to-home ignition.

... continued on page A9

Life in Lamorinda B1-B8

Labyrinths: Walking in Circles with a Purpose

By Cathy Dausman

The pace of life in Lamorinda can sometimes make people feel as if they're running in circles. Oddly enough, some seek out another circle to quiet the mind and disconnect. They walkread on page B1



Sports C1-C3

Tough Competition Ahead

By Alex Kozela

The Saint Mary's women's soccer team is off to a flying start in what promises to be a challenging but hopeful campaign.

The Gaels have begun the young season undefeated, tying 1-1 on the road... ..read on page C3



Our Homes D1-D8

Luxury Homes Rise at Wilder

By Diana LaScala-Gruenewald

The Wilder exit lies just east of the Caldecott Tunnel on Highway 24, and pulls quickly away from the noise of traffic. Shortly the road drops over a hill, revealing a silent, stunning vista full of radiant yellows and greensread 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, September 12, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
in the Arts & Science Discovery
Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Lafayette:
www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Chamber of Commerce:
www.lafayettechamber.org



Police Report

Dominoes, 8/8/11
An auto chain reaction at Moraga Road and St. Mary's Road happened when car #1 was rear-ended by car #2. The force of the impact drove both cars into car #3. Damages were minor and there were no injuries, but car #2's driver was charged with driving at an unsafe speed.

Wheels in Motion, 8/10/11
An unknown thief stole not one but two bicycles from a Lafayette resident's porch. The white bike was valued at \$1,000; the green bike was valued at \$500.

An Apple a Day and More, 8/12/11
Somebody broke into a house via the front door glass panel and stole a \$2400 MacBook, a \$599 I-Pad, an I-Pad case and a \$199 Wii game.

Zoning Concerns Complicate Potential Development

By Cathy Tyson



Corner of Deer Hill Rd. and Pleasant Hill Rd. Photo Cathy Tyson

Although a city-initiated zoning change has been discussed for years now, actual re-zoning of five

months of well attended meetings, the City Council directed staff to down-zone the properties. Until now however, staff had been busy with other projects, but is currently moving forward to officially change the zoning designations. The attorney representing the landowner sees this as more than just coincidence.

"The City's sole reason for proposing the down-zoning is to ensure the denial of the Dettmer/O'Brien application," said attorney for Christmas tree lot owner, the Anna Maria Dettmer Trust and the O'Brien Land Company (Dettmer/O'Brien) in a letter to the Lafayette's Planning Services Division.

Attorney David Bowie also represents Dettmer/O'Brien, he spoke up at a Planning Commission meeting about prior actions: "There were hear-

ings - but it was a popularity contest. I didn't hear any analysis or see a study that would support re-zoning. Why are we being singled out?"

Located at the corner of Deer Hill Road and Pleasant Hill Road, the Christmas tree lot is diagonally across from Acalanes High School. Since 1976 it's been zoned APO - Administrative Professional Office - up to 35 units per acre; the City proposes to change that to Low Density Residential District 5 - one dwelling per five acres. The fallout of the proposed zoning change would reduce the potential density for the roughly 22 acre parcel from 770 units to four.

The Dettmer family has owned that parcel along with two others on Deer Hill Road for over fifty years.

... continued on page A10

Biggest Real Estate Deal in Lafayette History

By Cathy Tyson



After purchasing what they describe as "tired" Lafayette Highland apartments in 2005, Bascom Northwest Ventures, along with its partner Capri Urban Capital, invested \$5.4 million dollars upgrading the property. Everything from the leasing office to the fitness center

and especially the 150 apartments on Carol Lane got the once over: new granite countertops, new cabinets, a washer/dryer in every unit, along with new roofs, HVAC and seismic upgrades.

They purchased the property for \$29.4 million and after extensive upgrades sold it to a publicly traded REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust), BRE Properties, for \$48.75 million dollars. That works out to \$325,000 per unit - a record high for the East Bay. Managing Member of Bascom Northwest Ventures Brian Wirtz said, "The deal was driven by the Lafayette apartment market and good schools in the area."

Not only will Lafayette benefit with freshly updated apartments, but there will also be property tax revenue coming to the City. Administrative Services Director Tracy Robinson estimates that, "the addi-



Photos Cathy Tyson

tional property tax that accrues to the City annually will be approximately \$10,400 since we get about 6% of the 1% property tax. In addition, there is a property transfer tax of \$0.55 per \$1000 of the sale price,

which should bring in another \$26,800 (one-time)." This is due to the change in value of the property from the previous assessment of \$31,383,000 to the current sale price of \$48,750,000.

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Merrill Gardens Project Moving Forward

By Cathy Tyson



BEFORE: Plans received July 11, 2011



AFTER: Plans received August 8, 2011

Representatives of Merrill Gardens recently brought revised designs for a mixed use development with 72 assisted living apartments, a 17-bed memory care facility and about 6,000 square feet of retail space along Mt. Diablo near Second Street to the Design Review Commission.

Looking for input on the proposed modern prairie-style design, the developer received generally positive remarks from the Design Review Commissioners. They have "substantially responded to comments and direction resulting in a better project," notes a staff report.

Six existing parcels, including the former Keenan Heinz shop and Yan's restaurant along with four

other parcels, are being consolidated to form the 1.35 acre site that will accommodate 74 underground parking spaces below street level retail and the retirement facility.

Discussion at the Design Review meeting focused on the courtyard, landscape, street frontage and parking. Merrill Gardens would like to incorporate diagonal street parking similar to what's in front of the Mercantile building. The Design Review Commissioners were pleased with the project and forwarded a recommendation of approval to the Planning Commission, as well as the Circulation Commission, to investigate if diagonal parking is feasible and if so, how to make it work while incorporating it into the design.

Making Magic at the Library

By Cathy Tyson



The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation knows how to throw a party. In 2009 it closed Mt. Diablo Boulevard for a glamorous evening of dining and dancing to celebrate the completion of the library. This year the gala

fundraising event, Celebrate the Magic, on September 10 from 6:30 to 11:00 p.m., "will be a magical, memorable evening of Arabian nights and surprises at every turn," said the Executive Director of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation, Kathy Merchant.

Funds raised support current and expanded Library programs, events and open hours. Once again there will be delicious food prepared by local caterer SpringLoaf and festive music by Martini Straight Up, fantastic raffle prizes and auctions - this time around, Golden Gate Way will be closed for the festivities.

Celebrate the Magic promises surprises, sparkle and magic throughout the night.

... continued on page A10



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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, September 14, 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, September 12, 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

Tire slasher, 8/15/11 Sometime between 8:00 a.m. and noon an unknown person slashed both front and rear passenger tires of an Ivy Drive resident's car while the car was parked on the street in front of the house. Estimate to replace both tires, approximately \$300.

Stolen cell tower, 8/16/11 Not one, but three mobile cell towers were stolen from St. Mary's College. Aren't cell towers ridiculously tall and heavy you ask? Actually these three were relatively petite, Erickson CDU 1900 Frequency Modules from a, I kid you not, "cell on wheels" trailer on the campus. Estimated loss \$30,000. AT&T security is investigating the theft.

Found cash returned, 8/19/11 An unidentified female approached a Moraga police officer to report that she had found a twenty dollar bill at an ATM on Moraga Way. She told the cop that it didn't belong to her and wished to turn it in. Mystery woman has racked up some seriously good karma.

D.U. I. 8/19/11 A white VW Rabbit was pulled over at Moraga Road and Sky Hy for speeding. Shockingly the 17-year old male driver from Orinda had the distinct odor of alcoholic beverages on his person - Eau de Booze. He eventually submitted to a field sobriety test where he had a blood alcohol content of .114, over the limit for a kid under 21. The lad was transported to Moraga Police Department and his mom was called. Mother refused to pick up her son, and the cops weren't able to contact the subject's father. So he was taken to county lock-up in Martinez to be "medically cleared" - apparently that means "sober up" - then taken to Juvenile Hall.

Car theft, 8/19/11 Not the car, but the stuff inside. Sometime during the night a Claudia Court resident's unlocked car that was parked in the driveway was broken into. A first aid kit, iPod and a lot of power tools disappeared. The victim estimated the value to be approximately \$4,205. No suspects or witnesses.

Egg toss, 8/22/11 The son of an Ascot Drive resident parked his Nissan 300 ZX at the curb in front of the residence at approximately 9:00 p.m. The next morning at 9:30 a.m. the mom discovered someone had tossed about a dozen raw eggs at the vehicle - which appeared to have damaged the paint. No ideas as to reasoning behind the egg scramble.

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New in Town: Shawna Brekke-Read

Community-builder takes the helm at Moraga's Planning Department

By Sophie Braccini



Shawna Brekke-Read in her new office at 329 Rheem Photo Sophie Braccini

Moraga's new Planning Director, Shawna Brekke-Read, is an experienced planner who enjoys a good challenge and specializes in working with stakeholders who bring very different perspectives to the table.

The mother of two teenagers who attend Miramonte High School, Brekke-Read has worked as a planning consultant in Orinda and Lafayette (among other communities), and often mingles in Moraga where her husband, Don Read, is a popular teacher at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School (JM). She brings a fresh look, an inclusive personality, and high hopes for a town that she believes has unique potential.

Brekke-Read comes from an Oakland family of eight children. She worked in her father's business, Brekke's Cafeteria, from age nine until

she left for college. As a young woman she cooked in restaurants to support herself during college, but decided that this was not her calling. Instead, having lived in Oakland all her life and witnessing the disintegration of the social fabric of that community, she decided to pursue a career in city management. "One of my older brothers studied political science and introduced me to the way cities operate," she remembers, "then I had professors and mentors who confirmed that city planning was what I was meant to do and where I could apply myself to make cities better places to live."

Brekke-Read sees the role of a planning director as someone who enacts the will of the community and works for the benefit of the whole town. As far as process is concerned, she thinks that approval processes in

Moraga should be streamlined, but should also empower the Town Council and Planning Commission to respond to the community's needs.

Brekke-Read was interested in the Moraga opening because it is her understanding that a lot of things are happening in the little town. "Moraga's greatest asset is that it's off the beaten path," she says, "People like going to such places; its location far from the freeway is an opportunity and Moraga has a lot going for itself, including Saint Mary's College."

"I've been telling her for years that she would have a great time here," says Don Read, "and she agreed with me when she came on the European field trip (that Read runs for JM students) and met the students and some parents. She is very excited about her new job; it dovetails nicely with what she's done previously."

In her early career, Brekke-Read was Interim Planning Director for the City of Oakley and Community Development Director in Susanville for five years. She also worked as the Administrative Director for the Oakland Heritage Alliance and, in that capacity, initiated the committee to preserve the Fox Theater. When her children were born she started her own consulting business, working part time while advocating for Oakland schools.

"My business often focused on projects that were a bit more contro-

versial," says Brekke-Read, "I liked the challenge of it." These experiences solidified her belief that taking into account the community's perspective from the onset and working collaboratively helps establish consensus-driven solutions.

"When I worked in Susanville (in northeast California) we obtained a grant to restore a creek," recalls Brekke-Read, "There were many stakeholders impacted by the project, ranchers, environmentalists, residents, industry owners. Each of them had a different agenda and was convinced that none of the others would understand where they were coming from." She met with all of them, listened to their concerns and managed to get all of them to realize that, beyond their differences, they would all benefit from a healthier creek.

Another recent, controversial project she worked on was the construction of a hotel in Berkeley. "The neighbors were concerned with the visual impact of the new project, with loss of privacy, and they had parking concerns, too," says Brekke-Read, "the staff report identified all of residents' concerns, and since the zoning called for a conditional use permit, the project needed to be compliant with the General Plan." It took only three meetings to mitigate the impacts and work out an approval.

... continued on next page

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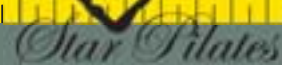
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Council Rescinds Ordinance

Complaints continue regarding concert noise

By Sophie Braccini



The Beatles tribute band Because played at the Commons on August 4

Photo Andy Scheck

During its August 24 meeting, the Moraga Town Council voted unanimously to rescind an ordinance that it had passed at the end of 2008, which aimed at exempting the Town from the limitations of its sound ordinance in an effort to protect itself from lawsuits pertaining to noise from events such as the summer concert series at the Moraga Commons Park. A resident challenged that ordinance and the Court ruled in her favor, leaving the Town no choice but to discard the rule.

Kingsford Drive resident Gary Glassel, who lives some 300 yards from the Commons, came to the

Council meeting to express his outrage at the Town's attempt to exempt itself from its own rules and speak to the noise impact of the concerts in his home. "Where I live, on top of the hill, the decibel level is higher than if you are sitting at the park," he said, "and no one from the Town ever came to listen." Glassel said that he was pleased that the Court ruled against the Town and he vowed to continue to follow up on the issue. "The concerts can go on, but they have to be at a lower noise level," he said.

According to Jay Ingram, Moraga Parks and Recreation Director, the noise ordinance is now back to its

original state and the Town has no plans to do further noise impact reviews. "The Court ruled that we had not done an adequate CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) study to exempt ourselves from the noise ordinance," said Ingram, "we could have decided to do a full blown CEQA study, instead the Town will continue to be a good neighbor and pursue its mitigation efforts to reduce the noise impact."

During the summer concerts, noise levels were measured to make sure that the limit of 60 decibels was not exceeded. If noise was found to exceed the limit, Town staff communicated with the concert's sound engineer to reduce the volume. Readings were taken in three different locations, but not on Glassel's street. After hearing the complaints at the Council meeting, Town Manager Jill Keimach decided, "During the Pear and Wine Festival (coming up on September 24) we'll go up to Kingsford Drive and will take measurements there," she said. "We want to keep good sound quality, while making sure it does not become a nuisance in neighborhoods."

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NEW FALL CLASSES

- **Fall Fun with Mommy and Me** (ages 1.5 to 3.5) Tuesday mornings, starts 9/20
- **Ballet** (ages 3-10) Wednesday afternoons, starts 9/14
- **KidZ Love Soccer** (ages 2-7) Monday afternoons, starts 9/19
- **Carpentry** (ages 5-12) Tuesday afternoons, starts 9/6
- **Splashball Waterpolo** (ages 5-9) Sunday evenings, starts 9/11

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New in Town: Shawna Brekke-Read

... continued from page A4

"The original plan changed significantly," she said, "some people were still dissatisfied with three stories, but we addressed most of the concerns through the conditions of approval."

The new Planning Director is

enthused by the energy of the Economic Development Action Team and its plans for the Rheem Center. "There are other municipalities in the Bay Area that have re-imagined old shopping centers to create a successful downtown, such as Healds-

burg," she says. At press time, Brekke-Read hoped to participate to the Community Workshop to Create a Vision for Rheem on August 27 and 29 – a great opportunity to start getting a feel for what the community wants

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\$1,249,000 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, September 27, at 3:00 pm
 Gallery Room, Orinda Library
 26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, September 13, at 7:00 pm
 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

Ill-suited, 8/18 A dry cleaning customer, unhappy with what he said were stains on the suit he recently had cleaned, threw the suit at the unsuspecting employee. Police were called; the offending customer was treated at the scene for a medical issue and then booked into Martinez Detention Facility.

While We Were Sleeping, 8/5 While sensible folk were asleep, someone broke into a Toyota parked in Orinda. The break-in caused \$300 in damages. The thief, being thorough, rifled the passenger compartment and trunk and came away with \$546 dollars in stolen goods including an Ipod and charger, CDs, an amplifier and two stereo sub woofers. Police dusted for fingerprints, but don't have a suspect. They noted there were multiple burglaries in Orinda that same night.

Please submit Letters and Opinions:
letters@lamorindaweekly.com

please...



Urgent Road Repairs: New Policy in the Works

By Laurie Snyder



Urgent issues such as this one on Zander Drive receive priority attention from Orinda's Public Works and Engineering Department.

Earlier this year the Orinda City Council directed \$63,750 toward the repair of problems on six Orinda streets, raising questions about the manner in which repairs are classified as urgent and prioritized for repair by City staff. The Council directed Public Works staff to work with the Orinda Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Committee (CIOC) to draft a new policy clarifying the criteria for emergency and urgent repairs. Chuck Swanson, director of Public Works and Engineering Services for the City of Orinda, presented a draft to the Council for comment at its mid-August meeting.

The CIOC, a committee set up by the City Council to ensure that

Photo courtesy City of Orinda

Orinda's infrastructure issues (drainage, roads, etc.) are addressed in the most cost and time efficient manner possible, is comprised of a group of subject matter experts who reside in Orinda and volunteer their expertise as advisors to the Council.

After the Council meeting, Swanson explained that the City has had a good policy in place for several years that defines how the majority of repair work is implemented for Orinda's roads. Due to budgetary constraints, those repairs are currently restricted to roadways classified as Arterials, Collectors, and School Routes.

Saying that it's "not necessarily how much traffic" the streets carry, but "how they perform," Swanson

suggested that residents interested in having a better understanding of this overall classification system review the roadway classification chart that's available on the City's website.

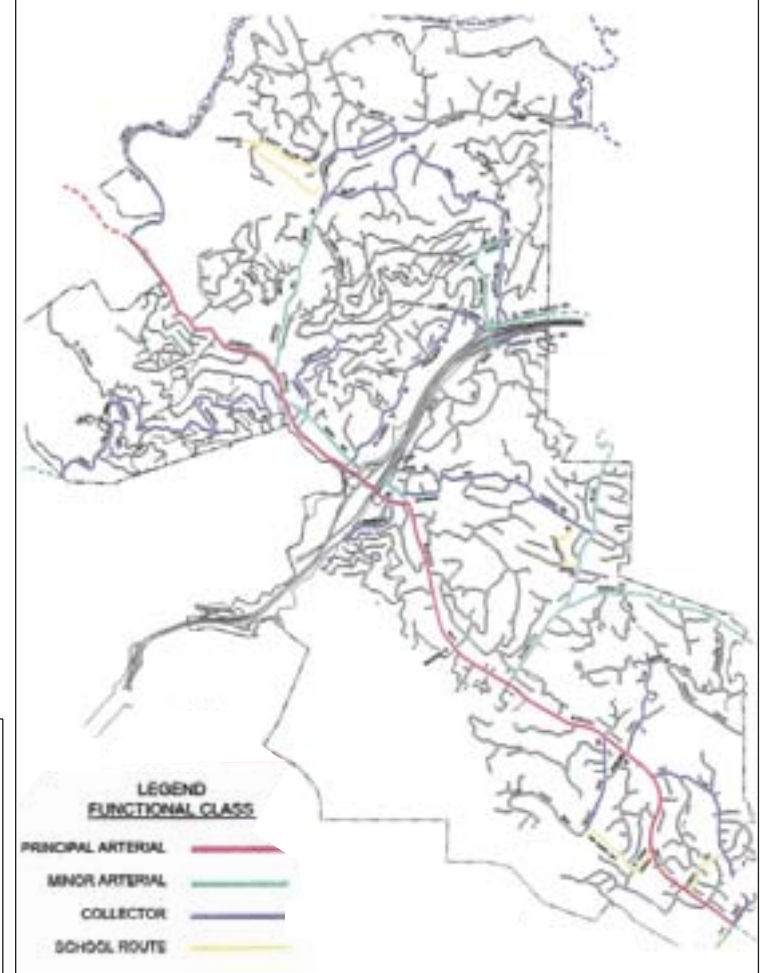
Many residential, or "Local," roads that were placed on the back burner for maintenance show signs of deterioration from time to time—those maintenance issues that are potentially serious, or require repairs which are beyond the capabilities of City staff, are elevated to "urgent" status and prioritized for action by the CIOC using its existing list of urgent

repair criteria.

The draft revised policy, which combines the Pavement Management Program and the list of criteria used to determine which roadways, including residential streets, should be prioritized for repair, is currently available on the City's website under City Council Agendas/Staff Reports for August 16, 2011, Item I-3.

A final revised policy, with a few minor wording changes requested by the Council, should be presented for approval at the September 20 Council meeting.

City of Orinda Roadway Functional Classification



Map courtesy City of Orinda:
<http://orinda.waterware.com/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-514/090217H1SR.pdf>

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Orinda Capital Improvement Plan 2012

By Laurie Snyder

Orinda's roads are no longer the worst in the Bay Area, according to the most recent edition of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Pothole Report, but their overall rating of Poor remains. Factoring in the 50-year old corrugated metal pipes of the drainage system that the City inherited from the County when it incorporated, Orinda's infrastructure becomes an aging starlet crying out for more than just cosmetic surgery.

Continuing concerns were evident at last week's Orinda City Council meeting as members spent the majority of their time reviewing improvements proposed to infrastructure and parks for fiscal year 2012.

City roads and storm drains are prioritized in this year's Capital Improvement Plan, and residents will also see long-awaited projects take center stage thanks to partnerships that City leaders and staff have forged with federal, state, and regional agencies. A complete list of projects is

available on the City's website, www.ci.orinda.ca.us.

Manzanita Bridge. The replacement of the bridge over San Pablo Creek on Manzanita Drive near Academia is finally a go. Residents will experience inconvenience when the bridge is torn out, starting in summer of 2012, and replaced by a one-lane structure. (Construction will be limited to April through October 15 each year due to environmental constraints.) Seismic support and flood protection capacity will be significantly improved while still protecting the fragile habitats of the red-legged frog and Alameda Whip Snake. Nearly 80 percent of the \$1,907,900 cost projected will come from State Seismic Retrofit funds. City gas tax revenues and local traffic impact fees will make up the difference. City staff are already planning ways to keep residents informed in advance of detours and other pending disruptions.

Glorietta Storm Drain Improvements. Described by Council

member Steve Glazer as "the elephant in the room," this \$1,687,427 project will drain City coffers now so that storm water may be safely eliminated moving forward. Engineers will build a new 60-inch drainage facility parallel to Glorietta Court and Moraga Way, bore and jack a new 60-inch reinforced concrete pipe from San Pablo Creek to the manhole, and improve an existing CMP (corrugated metal pipe). Included in this plan is repair work to a collapsing storm drain required by the settlement of Robles v. Orinda. The total project cost will be spread over three years. \$342,000 has been budgeted for fiscal year 2012 with expenditures of \$715,019 and \$396,294 anticipated for fiscal years 2013 and 2014.


"It's costly, but it's something that has to be done," said Chuck Swanson, Orinda's director of Public Works and Engineering Services. Without drainage system upgrades, Swanson noted, damage to adjacent properties and structures could occur as existing

systems fail, resulting in far more costly expenditures for City and its residents.

North Lane Storm Water Mitigation. Because the storm drain system near the water treatment plant is undersized, storm pipes in this area have blocked so seriously during major downpours that parts of the neighborhood have washed out several times. FEMA and the East Bay Municipal Utility District, realizing the potential for repeat harm to the neighborhood and the likelihood that the water treatment plant could also face serious damage in a future storm, joined forces to award Orinda substantial funding to fix the problem. FEMA will provide the lion's share of the project's total cost, awarding \$1,265,570 for fiscal year 2012. EBMUD will match the City's portion of \$210,928.50. It is estimated that \$275,000 of the total project cost will be expended in 2012 with the remainder spun out over subsequent fiscal years. The project should be

completed by the summer of 2012 (pending FEMA approval).

Lamorinda Skatepark Parking Lot. Council members also reviewed Orinda's planned contribution of \$62,500 toward a parking lot for the Lamorinda Skatepark. Speaking in support of the City's continued involvement with this project, Julie Whitsitt, an Orinda mom and the longest serving member on the City's Parks and Recreation Commission, said, "It's not just a parking lot; it's a recreational hub for our community." Whitsitt also advised the Council that the current manner in which parents must park when dropping off their children is often unsafe, and noted that Moraga has borne the day-to-day operating and maintenance costs of the skatepark since its inception. "I think 25 percent is a fair share for Orinda," she concluded. The Council approved the project on a 3-1 vote. (Council Member Glazer voted no; Council Member Orr was absent.)




















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 <p>MORAGA \$625,000 3/2. Wonderful Home! Serene and spacious with fantastic views Walter Nelson 925-253-6300</p>	 <p>LAFAYETTE \$719,000 3/3. Custom built single level home, very private 1+ acre lot, & gorgeous Mt Diablo views! Frank Woodward 925-253-6300</p>
 <p>MORAGA \$1,049,000 5/3. Updated Campolindo home. Large, flat yard, high-end finishes, dual-pane windows, hardwd. Wendy & Michelle Holcenberg 925-253-4600</p>	 <p>LAFAYETTE \$3,378,000 5/3. Happy Valley 1930s Estate. Notable 1930s Estate has architectural charm, views & tennis court. McCann & Castello 925-253-6300</p>
 <p>MORAGA \$839,000 3/2. Remodeled with a new kitchen, family room, bathrooms and expanded master/study. Great yard. Jim Ellis 925-253-4600</p>	 <p>LAFAYETTE \$1,225,000 4/2. Stunning contemporary with breathtaking views & a short distance to downtown. The Beaubelle Group 925-253-6300</p>
 <p>ORINDA \$1,495,000 5/4. Fabulous updated home in Glorietta neighborhood. Great backyard. Close to downtown Orinda. Elena Hood 925-253-4600</p>	
 <p>LAFAYETTE \$1,399,000 4/3. Stunning, sophisticated, rebuilt contemporary w/ Pano views, and dramatic vaulted ceilings. Val Durantini 925-253-4600</p>	 <p>ORINDA \$649,000 3/3. It's a Gem. Character & charm describes this home in the heart of Orinda's Oak Springs Patti Camras 925-253-4600</p>
 <p>ALAMO \$1,250,000 3/3. Spectacular home with .75 acre park-like yard. Stunning one of a kind property Charming! Susan Schlicher 925-253-4600</p>	 <p>ORINDA \$3,995,000 5/4. Pure Elegance! Situated on a gated cul-de-sac, this home offers the ultimate in privacy and luxury. Jamie Roder 925-253-4600</p>
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Community Service

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

Local Book Club Project Helps Homeless in Hawaii

Submitted by Christi Higgins



The girls at one of the libraries, from left: Maddie Higgins, Kellen Scanlan, Kimi Klein and Mollie Swan Photo provided

For nine years, four Lamorinda girls, Maddie Higgins (Orinda), Kimi Klein (Lafayette), Mollie Swan (Orinda), Kellen Scanlan (Moraga) and their mothers have gotten together to participate in a mother-daughter book club. Because the girls are graduating next year, they decided to celebrate their time together with a capstone project supporting literacy.

Through friends they learned about Hope Charities, an organization that supports and runs several homeless shelters on the big island of Hawaii. With the high cost of living, limited employment opportunities and few resources, helping the homeless is a major undertaking on the islands. But because of its reputation as a vacation destination, Hawaii's underprivileged population often fails to receive the appropriate aid that it needs. Working around sports, volunteer work and summer studies, the foursome and their mothers coordinated a literacy project for two shelters.

Soliciting help from friends, family, and Glorietta Elementary School, the girls gathered over 1,000 books with the intention of setting up two libraries in the shelters. In June, they met with program directors, planned the required space, and flew to the island to build book shelves and install the donated books. The majority of the books went to an adult shelter in Kona, and the remaining third went to a shelter in Hilo, adding to its existing Keiki (children's) room.

Kimi Palacio, volunteer coordinator for Hope Charities, had kind words for the group: "Thank you so much for the book donation for our West Hawaii Shelter! Our shelter residents have really enjoyed the access to so much variety of reading material. Our residents have even started a small book club, which is so beneficial for them to partake in! We can't thank you enough for all that you have done for us. People always say they want to help, but very few come through. We will never forget you."

Moraga Garden Club Continues to Grow

Submitted by Marcia Fisherkeller



Moraga Garden Club members at their last garden study. From left: Martina Alexandre, Nell Sellers, and holding one of her home grown squashes, Diane Feldhammer Photo Marcia Fisherkeller

An unprecedented 23 new members will be welcomed in to the Moraga Garden Club's first meeting of the year on September 15. Held at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center on School St. in Moraga, attendees will be treated to a demonstration of floral arranging by Kren Rasmussen of Bloomsters in San Jose.

The new members will join others in the Club in civic beautification projects, enjoying horticultural presentations, excursions, workshops, and social activities. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. The Club's new president, Mardi Potts, is enthusiastic about plans for the new year which include mass daffodil planting, garden study meetings, partnerships

with local schools, tending our community gardens, the highly anticipated Spring Salad Luncheon, and the traditional Holiday Luncheon.

We grow dahlias the size of dinner plates, unbelievable squashes, learn how to care for roses and other plants, propagate succulents, tame pests in the garden and, perhaps best of all, make new friends. Those interested in any aspect of gardening are welcome to join us at the meeting. Please call Marcia at 376-3296 for more information.

Board members for the 2011-2012 year include Judy Ayres, Hol-lace Gertmenian, Wendy Neilsen, Marilyn Smith, Joan Cole, Janet Grant, Margard Egeland, Lucille Zammiti, Jean Roberts, and Joan Webb.

Local Girl Scouts Provide Day Camp for Concord Kids

Submitted by Sharon Maher



From left: Katie Coates, Sharon Maher, Juliet Rosso Photo Kamille Nixon

Three Lamorinda Girl Scouts recently ran a day camp for low-income children in the Monument Corridor area for their Silver Award Take Action Project. Campolindo High School Freshmen and Moraga residents

Sharon Maher, Katie Coates, and Juliet Rosso put on a camp to provide constructive and creative summer activities for low-income children at the Lakeside Apartment Complex in Concord.

At Camp Silver kids played

games, including "Sharks and Minnows" and "Sprout." In addition, the campers made several art projects. The younger children used watercolors and wax crayons to find hidden "Spy Messages" on paper. They also made creative masks using an assortment of media. Older campers made household coasters using materials such as cardboard, transparencies, and construction paper. A free lunch was provided—sandwiches and fruit—and the children were kept well hydrated with water. The Scouts spent approximately fifty hours planning and executing their project.

The campers were given a chance to form new friendships and strengthen previous ones, and received sports equipment and art supplies for all Community Center visitors.

Teens Travel to Zimbabwe

Submitted by Kathi Torres



Devon Bruzzone gets a hug from children in Zimbabwe Photo provided

Can witnessing a child's smile actually change a person's life? For a group of Lamorinda teens, the answer is yes. Several students recently spent part of their summer vacation in Zimbabwe in southeastern Africa, where they volunteered on behalf of the J.F. Kapnek Charitable Trust. The Lafayette-based Trust operates the largest pediatric HIV/AIDS prevention program in Zimbabwe, supporting thousands of vulnerable and disabled children through its preschools, orphanage and health clinics.

The teens journeyed halfway around the world and then spent several days doing construction, renovation, and maintenance

work on classroom facilities in the town of Chegutu, an economically-challenged town south of the capital of Harare. They also worked with local staff to distribute donated supplies, including dozens of soccer balls which were brought to Vimbainesu Orphan's Village. One of the student volunteers, Haley Cassriel of Orinda, reflected, "The excitement was tangible when we donated the balls. The orphans were so thankful to receive such a small donation. It showed me how so little can go so far."

In Zimbabwe, the AIDS pandemic has orphaned nearly a million children, a trend which is sharply declining thanks to crucial work by the Kapnek Trust.

Yet in their 78 preschools across the country, many young children have lost one if not both of their parents. The preschools provide meals, regular health checks, and most importantly, the opportunity to play and learn in a stable, nurturing environment. This provides them the best emotional support possible to overcome their devastating loss.

Despite the difficulty of their circumstances, the children of Zimbabwe had something significant to give to the students from California: a deeper perspective of themselves and their place in the world. As volunteer Devon Bruzzone, from Lafayette, put it, "(What) stood out to me most when we were traveling through rural areas in the Kapnek van was that the villagers would smile and wave enthusiastically and I felt as though our presence and work through Kapnek was welcomed and appreciated entirely. It struck me how happy and gracious the community members were despite having so little of the material items we place such a value on."

These young volunteers brightened the lives of countless children and were in turn positively impacted, carrying this experience in their hearts forever. As Cassriel said, "We felt just as much gratitude and thankfulness as they did!"

...from Front Page

WoW: Meet the SMC class of 2015

... continued from page A1

With an attendance of 2621 undergraduates, Saint Mary's prides itself on being a small, tight-knit community, and new students have come to embrace that aspect of the liberal arts college in Moraga.

"The best way to describe it is togetherness," said freshman Stephanie Romo. "They try to get you to stay involved."

At the start of the 2011-2012 school year, the freshman class has 630 members, while as many as 200

transfer students have chosen Saint Mary's as their new school.

This year has been one of the most competitive in recent memory with nearly eight applicants for each place in the freshman class.

The Class of 2015, which is 39 percent male and 61 percent female, includes students from Australia, England, Canada, the Philippines, and the People's Republic of China, as well as states such as Hawaii, Washington, Montana, New Hamp-

shire, and Florida. Out-of-state students make up 12 percent of the freshman class.

The sense of optimism on campus is infectious, and with classes only starting Monday, the mood is not likely to die down anytime soon.

"A lot of the people here seem really excited and motivated to be here and it's cool to be a part of it," said freshman James Scolamieri. "I'm really looking forward to it."

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MOFD Delays Decision about Administrative Offices, adds More Options

By Lucy Amaral

Citing the need for further review and more information, the Moraga Orinda Fire District's (MOFD) Board of Directors opted at its last meeting to delay any decision regarding combining and moving its administrative offices.

Options that are on the table included leasing space from the City of Orinda, buying a building located next to Station 41 in Moraga, retrofitting the current administrative offices located in Station 41, or leaving the offices split as they are currently.

In a presentation giving an overview of the process so far,

MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley added two additional options to the mix: a modular building that would be built behind Station 41, and the retrofitting of the lower level of Station 45, located in downtown Orinda. While one would be new construction and another a complete retrofit, the cost of both options were similar to the other three original proposals. Chief Bradley said that he is still most in favor of purchasing the building located at 1150 Moraga Way—he believes it offers the most benefits including adaptability, improved efficiencies and the

possible revenue generation.

The Board members agreed that retrofitting Station 43 in Orinda is the first priority. A project management company has been retained and the process of rebuilding the station is underway. Retrofitting Station 41 and combining the two administrative offices were considered second and third priorities, according to the MOFD facilities report.

Board members continued to be divided in their support of the various options. New concerns included cash flow challenges, taking established priorities out of

sequence, and possibly taking on too many projects at one time.

The Board agreed to have the finance committee meet to review forecasts regarding funding for the projects. The Board also asked Chief Bradley to flesh out the new options, allowing the Board to compare them side by side with the original proposals.

Four members of the Board will meet on September 21 to review the additional information. The full Board will meet again on September 27 to deliberate and possibly decide on a course of action.



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 September 21, 7:00pm, Station 41 (1280 Moraga Way, Moraga), (go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

...from Front Page

Firestorm: Prepare Your Home

... continued from page A1

To be prepared, Bradley said residents need to change how they look at protecting their home from wildfire. During a large-scale fire, there won't be time to turn on a sprinkler, move firewood away from the house or even take down decorations. "If the hills are on fire, and the wind is blowing toward your home, we are going to evacuate you," he said. "Residents must think about how their home is going to handle a major fire when no one is (on site) to help it."

Bradley said that there are about 22 firefighters on duty each day and 10,000 homes in the MOFD area. Even with outside support, during a major wildland fire, resources will be stretched thin. Creating a defensible space before it is needed will be key. "Chances are we are going to be up on the hill trying to stop the fire," he said. "Creating an ignition resistant neighborhood can dramatically improve safety and survivability."

To help in the process, MOFD is promoting the FireWise program. FireWise, a program managed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), focuses on encouraging communities to adopt a long-term, proactive approach to protect their homes before a fire starts. In April, MOFD hosted a FireWise Workshop, training volunteers from Lamorinda to conduct home assessments. The course, prepared by the NFPA's Fire-

Wise Communities program, taught the volunteers how wildfires burn homes where open space and homes meet, trained to review a home's "ignition zone," and how to make suggestions to the homeowner.

Charlie Green, one of the trained volunteer assessors were a support system for the community, not an enforcement arm. "We are at a home strictly by invitation," he said. "We offer suggestions that may help in case of a fire storm, to help prevent their home from actually going up in flames."

"We give a simple list of suggestions," Green added. "Then, it is up to the homeowner to decide what to do, (however) it is certainly to their advantage and the neighborhood's advantage to deal with these things."

Homeowners Keith and Susan Horrocks of Orinda invited MOFD to their home for a review of their 'home ignition zone'. Bradley and the assessors looked for the 'ladder,' the most logical path a large firestorm would take to reach one's home. At this assessment, the group noticed a row of pine trees that could move a fire to a lower hedge then ignite a wooden fence that was attached to the home.

While not every threat can be eliminated, Bradley said it is possible to do small things to make it more dif-

ficult for a fire to reach a home. Changes the group recommended for the Horrocks' home ranged from simply cleaning up some plant debris to working with neighbors to 'limb up' several trees that were leaning onto the Horrocks' property, and covering part of their roof.

MOFD has applied for two grants, totaling \$180,000, for education, evacuation planning and fuel reduction. Bradley said that once MOFD receives the grant money, they plan to issue \$5,000 grants to groups of five homeowners (who apply jointly) in the same neighborhood to help with the cost of fire hazard reduction.

Bradley also said that part of the grant money will be used to fund more home assessment training programs and is working on a schedule for the training sessions. Currently MOFD has 15 trained volunteers available for home assessments, and so far 35 homes have been assessed.

What Can You Do?

MOFD's home assessment review, which is offered to residents at no charge, can provide a basic list of suggestions to make a home more resistant to fires. Below are some examples of potential hazards from the FireWise Communities website that assessors (and homeowners) might find. (Not a complete list):

- Use of flammable roofing materials
- Overlapping home ignition zones
- Placement of homes with respect to topography (e.g., at the top of a bluff)
- Dense/unhealthy vegetation
- Locations of trees and heavy vegetation in relationship to homes
- Flammable vegetation in direct contact with houses
- Attached wooden decks
- Flammable vegetation in direct contact with the house
- Leaf needle build up on roofs/gutters
- Attached wooden fences/decks (Remember that if it is attached to the house, it is part of the house...to a wildfire)
- Flammable furniture/cushions on decks or porches
- Vinyl soffits

NFPA research shows that there are things individuals can do to improve their home's chances of surviving a passing wildfire. The FireWise website offers suggestions for successful FireWise modifications. These include but are not limited to:

- Use of fire-resistant native vegetation
- Fire-free space surrounding the structure
- Use of stone and/or other non-flammable building components for walkways and driveways
- Thinned vegetation.

More information can be found on the FireWise website www.firewise.org/communities.

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Letters to the Editor

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

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

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

Editor:
The Lafayette Redevelopment Agency is in serious financial trouble. They are not making payments on six different loans. Interest is accruing on these loans, \$1,633,889 has accrued this year. Every year in the future, interest will accrue on the interest. The Redevelopment Agency "borrowed" from the general fund, the parking fund and The Library Foundation. The General fund money could have been used for roads if it wasn't depleted for Redevelopment's extravagances..

Now the City Council, who created this financial disaster, has another road tax on the ballot. It's sneaky and tricky. It lowers the amount from the general fund that goes into road repair for three years. After three years the general fund stops contributing to road repair altogether.

Lafayette's roads are in fabulous condition compared to the financial condition of The Redevelopment Agency. In all appearances the City Council wants the taxpayers to bail them out.

To make an intelligent decision on Measure G, ask the friendly City Clerk for the full text of Measure G (it is only available by request, it does not come with your ballot) and the arguments for and against the Measure. Compare the legally binding language of the full text with words in the arguments. Don't be fooled by propaganda. Please write a letter to the editor of this nice newspaper, after you have read all of the information.

Bruce R. Peterson
Lafayette

Celebrate Orinda Night Out on 9/15

Submitted by Rebecca Kunzman

It is time to start planning your potluck, ice cream social, happy hour, block party or barbecue. On Thursday, September 15th, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., Orinda is celebrating the 4th Orinda Night Out. Last year 34 neighborhoods sponsored 15 events. Don't miss this opportunity to get together with your neighborhood group and have fun building your community.

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month and a good time to get together and get to know your neighbors. This annual event will help you prevent crime and make your neighborhood safer in an emergency. Orindans are encouraged to collectively support each other, neighbor to neighbor, in planning and preparing for a disaster. Learn how to prepare an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and become informed about emergencies and their appropriate response. Concrete, simple steps do make a difference.

By getting involved with local community efforts, anyone can ensure that everyone be-

comes better prepared. Contact your neighbors— plan an event for your neighborhood. Keep it simple and fun, whatever works for you. Need help? Don't have a Neighborhood Watch/Emergency Preparedness group? Want to have a representative from the Orinda Police Department, Orinda City Council, Moraga Orinda Fire District, or the Orinda Citizen Corps Council visit your neighborhood event? Please call or email Rebecca Kunzman: (925) 254-1849 or rkunzman@comcast.net.

Zoning Concerns Complicate Potential Development

... continued from page A2

On March 21, 2011 it submitted a development application for a 315 unit multi-family development. The City accepted the application and associated fees, requested additional documentation, which was provided, and on July 5 sent a letter noting the application has been "deemed complete."

"Our law offices in thirty years of practice have never encountered a more punitive and illogical action taken by a City against a family and a proposed application," said Moore. He calls the City's actions "utterly inconsistent," specifically accepting the application and just weeks later initiating down-zoning which would preempt processing the Dettmer application.

According to Senior Planner Christine Sinnette, it's possible to change the rules after accepting a development application and deeming it complete.

"The ordinances, regulations and laws in effect at the time a decision is made on a development application are applicable," said Sinnette. "The exception is for a subdivision. The ordinances, regulations and laws in effect at the time a subdivision application is deemed complete are applicable unless notice has been published that the City is proposing changes, then the regulations at the time a decision is made are applicable."

The matter is a long way from finalized. The task for Planning Commissioners at a recent meeting was deciding whether to recommend to the City Council changes to the General Plan Map reclassifying five properties on Deer Hill Road, along with associated re-zoning.

"I'm very troubled by this," said Commissioner Karen Maggio. "I recall specifically that we asked for a study. I can't support the re-zoning as it is now." Maggio and Patricia Curtain-Tinley were in the minority. Although only five of the seven Planning Commissioners were in attendance, on a three in favor, two against vote, the matter will move forward to the City Council.

Moore describes the project as less than half of the maximum density allowed and conforming to all the zoning standards of the site. He says it's an issue of "fundamental fairness," the family has owned the parcel for over fifty years, and after waiting for the past ten years for the City to do something, the family submitted a project application.

Call it a chicken and egg situation; is the property owner pursuing development because the zoning may change? Or is the City attempting a zoning change because of possibility of development? Only time will tell.

Making Magic at the Library

... continued from page A3

Only ticket holders will find out if a Librarian can pull a rabbit out of a hat. Since the doors opened, the Library has been embraced by the community and used by young and old alike to enjoy educational programs via the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium partners and a great place for kids to hang out after school and, hopefully, get their homework done.

"While not everyone can afford to attend, we want to assure the community that the dollars raised are critical to our role in extending open hours, delivering an extraordinary menu of programs, and funding building operations. A fabulous party and support of the LLC wrapped in to a single magical evening!" said Merchant. Tickets, \$175 each, can be purchased at the LLC Foundation Office on the Mezzanine Level of the library – adjacent to upper level of parking, or by calling 283-6513. For more information, visit their website at www.lllcf.org.

Lafayette Library and Learning Center Announces New Hours

The Contra Costa County Library and the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation (LLLCF) recently announced that the hours of the Library are being changed to meet the extraordinary demand by the community.

Effective September 12, 2011, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center will change its service hours and will be open from 10am to 8pm Monday through Thursday and from 10am through 5pm Friday and Saturday. Sunday hours will remain the same, from 1pm to 5pm. The new schedule means that the Library will open at the same time Monday to Saturday, which will be a major convenience for the community. In addition, the Friday and Saturday opening time reflects the strong community demand from working parents and families with small children who have expressed a desire to see the Library open in the mornings on Friday and Saturday.

Life Lessons Learned From Pears



Volunteers gather around the table where the harvest will ripen

Photo Sophie Braccini

Siamack Sioshansi believes that there are many lessons that can be learned from growing pear trees and harvesting their fruit. Over two weekends in August, about 35 volunteers from Urban Farmers, the non-profit organization that Sioshansi founded about three years ago, harvested hundreds of pounds of pears from private gardens across Lafayette to be donated in the area. In the process, they did more than pick fruit, they participated in a movement that aims at nothing less than shifting our ecological paradigm.

For Sioshansi, fruit trees are the perfect means to affect change. "70 percent of the weight of a fruit tree is made of carbon that the tree extracted from our polluted atmosphere," he explains, "after a few years it will feed

those who planted it, then it will continue to grow and feed a community. Long after those who planted it are gone, it continues to give plentifully if it is taken care of. Fruit trees are a perfect metaphor for life at its best on our planet."

Urban Farmers started the program it calls "A Thousand Trees for Lamorinda" two years ago, and continues to plant, train tree owners, and harvest any extra fruit to give to those in need.

Children are often the most enthusiastic participants in the harvest. "I'm not sure that my six-year old daughter really understood where the fruit was going, but she certainly had fun harvesting," said Nanette Hefferman. In fact it was so much fun that over the two weekends the group collected close to a thousand pound of

pears. "We collected 500 pounds today and just as much last week," said Nooshy Mobasher, a volunteer with Urban Farmers, "we also sent

350 pounds of pears that had fallen on the floor to the Lindsay Wildlife Museum—the 'residents' ate all of them within the week."

Pears are picked green so wildlife does not get at it before humans do, and because it is the best way to get excellent fruit. "Unlike most other fruits, pears ripen from the inside out," explains Sioshansi. "The best pear is produced by picking the fruit hard and then ripening it off the tree for one to two weeks." The problem is that soup kitchens and food banks do not typically have enough space to spread the harvest out and allow the

pears to ripen. Sioshansi called upon Urban Farmers' friends, and a number of families in the community offered their home to ripen the pears on desks, ping pong tables, drying boards, etc. "Once the pears are ready, we pack and deliver them to our partner agencies," he says.

Urban Farmers also runs Backyard Farms, a program where homeowners donate the use of land in their back yards and water where the group grows food. The harvest is shared between the homeowners and those in need. For more information go to www.theurbanfarmers.org.

Moraga Pear and Wine Festival

Saturday, September 24, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Moraga Commons Park
Combining both Moraga's pear past and potential wine future, the annual Pear Festival has been renamed and reinvented. The day will include activities for all ages, including wine tasting, bounce houses, artist and business fairs, and service organization and local foundation information booths. Don't miss out on the fabulous pear pies!

Labyrinths: Walking in Circles with a Purpose

By Cathy Dausman

The pace of life in Lamorinda can sometimes make people feel as if they're running in circles. Oddly enough, some seek out another circle to quiet the mind and disconnect. They walk the labyrinth.

Early references to the labyrinth date to ancient Greece. Labyrinth designs show up on ancient coins. In the Middle Ages in Europe churches built labyrinths. Labyrinth designs follow the Chartres, Baltic, Classical, and Concentric manner. A person winding along a 30 foot diameter labyrinth route ends up walking over 100 yards. Technically speaking, a labyrinth is not a maze. A maze has built-in dead ends; a labyrinth always leads the walker to its center. No one gets lost, except in thought, walking a labyrinth.

Labyrinths are found in buildings

and outside, in churches, private backyards and parks. They can be built from rock, lighted candles, groomed from grass or plants, or carved into stone. There is labyrinth art, music, books, workshops, and even labyrinth soaps. There are labyrinth designers, contractors and tours.

An online search referenced 18 labyrinths in a 10 mile radius of Lamorinda. According to www.labyrinthlocator.com, San Francisco's Grace Cathedral has a labyrinth, as does Danville's San Damiano retreat house. A stone labyrinth is located along the Seaview Trail in Tilden Park. Another, Mazarriello's Labyrinth, is in the Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve (Sibley Park). Walnut Avenue United Methodist Church in Walnut Creek has two. ... continued on page B2

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Labyrinths: Walking in Circles with a Purpose

... continued from page B1



Backyard Baltic Wheel labyrinth in Lafayette

Photos Cathy Dausman

And three Lamorinda churches have, or are building, labyrinths. Reverend Jan Holland of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Orinda calls the labyrinth "an ancient Christian walking meditation." She says it is a spiritual tool which evolved from the medieval practice of making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Walking the labyrinth became an acceptable substitute for taking the trip. Holland and her husband, Reverend Larry Hunter, recently returned from an overseas trip which included a visit to the famed labyrinth in France's Chartres Cathedral. Holland's first labyrinth experience was ten years ago. This summer St. Stephen's broke ground on its own outdoor labyrinth. Two years in the planning, it is scheduled to be finished the end of October. For

Holland, having a labyrinth at her church is "the fruition of a dream." Holland cites *Walking a Sacred Path* by Lauren Artress as a good reference.

Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC) is home to a permanent outdoor labyrinth located at the church's main entrance. The labyrinth, designed into the stone walkway, was built in September, 2006 when the entrance was remodeled for handicap accessibility. Karlene Paufler, chair of the church's Labyrinth Committee, has walked labyrinths across the U.S. and in Europe. She says each labyrinth has a different feel, and "once you've done it...it's addictive," and "you don't have to think about where you're going."

LOPC now opens its labyrinth to the public several times a year for what they call a sacred journey. The experience often includes instrumental music and attendance numbers about 60. Its March labyrinth walk was well attended even after rain officially cancelled the event. LOPC's next labyrinth walk is scheduled from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on September 9; see www.lopc.org/home.asp for details.

David Starkweather and Anna Johnson co-chair the Orinda Community Church Labyrinth Committee. Committee research discovered the Bay Area is home to 80 labyrinths, in schools, churches, and backyards. They also learned that the labyrinth is a valuable therapy for those with memory impairment. Starkweather says the church first built temporary labyrinths from luminarias (candles in paper bags) on their property. Next they borrowed a canvas labyrinth from a church in Pleasant Hill. They then bought a Classic design canvas labyrinth, a "perfect fit" for their fellowship hall. It is used during special Christmas and Easter services.

Martha Engelbert built a garden labyrinth in her Lafayette area home in the late 1990's after she and her daughter took a guided tour of labyrinths in France, Germany and Switzerland. When they returned, the pair designed an "easy to make" Baltic Wheel labyrinth from gravel and brick. (The Baltic Wheel pattern



Built 5 years ago, this labyrinth is modeled on the Chartres Cathedral design



Ground has been broken for an outdoor labyrinth at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Orinda.

is a modest five circuit labyrinth good for limited spaces. Larger, more elaborate labyrinths call for 11 circuits.) Engelbert and her Pleasant Hill church friends use the labyrinth,

which she named Oasis, regularly. "It's a marvelous way to be centered," she says.

To learn more go online to <http://www.labyrinthsociety.org/>.

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Saturday, September 24th, 10am-2pm

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The Event:

The Orinda Classic Car Show will feature over 170 American and European cars ranging from the 1920's, to the classics of the 50's and 60's, as well as modern exotics. This year's event will also have an all new edition of the special exhibit -- "Orinda Through The Years" -- coordinated by the Orinda Historical Society and Orinda Motors.

This unique exhibit combines vintage and classic cars with historical materials in a museum-like setting.

This 7th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show will expand displays to the Orinda Country Club's 16th fairway and also have exhibits of race cars, military vehicles and historic fire trucks!!! There will be something for everyone.

The event is free, but those who make a donation of \$10 will have an opportunity to ride in one of the cars during the parade at the close of the show.

Proceeds benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program and donations are tax-deductible. Seniors Around Town Tax ID: 94-609-8323.

About Seniors Around Town:

This non-profit program is organized by the Orinda Association and provides Orinda seniors who are not able to drive and who may not qualify for the County Connection LINK system with free transportation to appointments in the Lamorinda, Berkeley, and Walnut Creek areas. This is the only program of its kind in the county and all Orinda seniors 65+ are eligible.

The Orinda Classic Car Show also supports the Educational Foundation of Orinda:

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7TH ANNUAL ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW ENTRY FORM

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Car/Motorcycle:	Manufacturer:	Year:	Model: Body Style:
If you are new to the show, please provide some interesting facts or history about your car and/or motorcycle along with this entry form.			
Would you be interested in participating in the "Parade of Classic Cars" after the show at 2:00pm? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
Would you be interested in giving a ride in your car in the parade to someone who makes a donation to our charity? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
Would you like to pre-order a commemorative "Orinda Classic Car Show '11" T-shirt? Please add an additional \$15 to your registration check. <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Men's size: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL Women's size: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL			
I understand that by signing below, I release Seniors Around Town, Orinda Motors Inc., the event organizers and other sponsors from any and all liability and/or responsibility for any and all damages that may occur on the day(s) of the Orinda Classic Car Show at Orinda Motors (Orinda, CA), resulting directly or indirectly from activities at the event. I also understand that I am responsible for my vehicle and its contents. I verify that I carry automobile insurance on the vehicle that I am displaying at the event.			
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Peace Activist and Green Award Winner Louise Clark Dies

By Cathy Tyson



Friends and family of Louise Clark remembered her with flowers at the base of the Crosses. Photo Cathy Tyson

Best known as the owner of the hillside that hosts the "Crosses of Lafayette" memorial bearing testament to the over 4500 U.S. service personnel killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, Louise Clark passed away recently at 86, after a year-long battle with lymphoma.

Together with Jeff Heaton, Clark created the Peace Memorial. "Louise has always been a mentor, and taught me that thinking outside the box is not only acceptable but the best way to bring about lasting peace," wrote Heaton on the Crosses website.

She was born in Chicago and attended the University of Chicago where she met her future husband, Johnson Clark. They had six children.

Although the hillside memorial began in 2006, she was active in Lafayette concerns decades earlier. She was an original member of the Lafayette Senior Recreation Center - now part of Senior Services. One of the few women architects at that time, after moving to Lafayette in 1950, she designed the family home. She became active in the antiwar movement of the late 1960's and was one of the founding members of the Mt. Diablo

Peace and Justice Center.

Mary Alice O'Conner, Executive Director of the Peace and Justice Center, remembers Clark as, "A remarkable, passionate woman. What she cared about, she acted on. She was a longtime member, and active in peace work her whole life - a draft counselor during the Viet Nam war. We're very sad at her passing."

In 2009 Clark received a Green Award from Sustainable Lafayette in conjunction with the City of Lafayette "For being a model to her neighbors and the community in retrofitting her 52-year old home to

become energy efficient and not burn any fossil fuel," read the proclamation.



Louise Clark at her home in May of last year Photo LW archive

Zucchini Pride

Beware of leaving your vegetable garden unattended

By Cathy Dausman



Eric Dausman's Moraga-grown zucchini weighed in at eight pounds. Photo Cathy Dausman



A 10-pounder grown in Moraga by Andy Scheck wins this week's zucchini throw-down. Photo Wendy Scheck

Gardening sites will tell you zucchini is a very low-calorie, healthy vegetable. To that, let's add "easy to grow." Easy? They're more prolific than rabbits. Come summer, the plant is unavoidable at grocery stores and farmer's markets, let alone your own backyard, and your neighbor's. If we replaced our greenback economy with green-backed zucchini, the nation would be debt-free within a week. The challenge is not getting zucchini to grow; it's getting them to stop soon enough.

Sun, bees, heat and water are the magic ingredients to make your zucchini grow. Enjoy our photos of prize zucchini and their proud growers and then send us a photo of your own (stats included). The winner will likely be given a free bucket load of zucchini. Meanwhile, here are some zucchini comments culled from garden sites and how we "squashed" their well-meaning information:

Zucchini is an equal opportunity vegetable which can be eaten either raw or cooked.

The squash: Either way, by the end of the summer you've eaten so many that you never want to see another.

Pick the zucchini squash before they become overgrown.

Or we guarantee you will not be able to locate your yard ...

Don't over-plant zucchini; they are prolific producers when properly grown.

Ya think?!

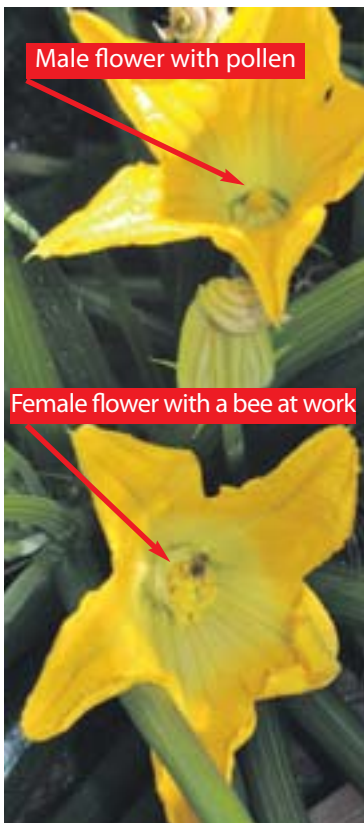
Zucchini squash form only on the female blossoms. If you wish to eat some of the zucchini blossoms, pick only the male blossoms.

Blossoms have gender? Just how do I differentiate?

Don't over-water zucchini plants, as that may cause stem or root diseases.

...or possibly cause them to die. Oh goody!

Be careful...be very careful. And don't make eye contact yet; it's still zucchini season.



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Sunday School & childcare at 10am.

St. Stephen's Preschool
254-3770 x19

Community Service of Remembrance
Sunday, September 11, 2011
10:00 am • Moraga Commons

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church will lead the service in conjunction with members of the Moraga Orinda Fire Department, State Fire Marshall, Moraga Police Department and Mayor of the Town of Moraga.

Please bring blankets or beach chairs. A community BBQ will follow the service.

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church • mvpctoday.org • (925) 376-4800

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
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www.christianscienceorinda.org

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Way, Orinda

September 4 One Worship Service at 9:15 a.m.
Beginning 9/11:
8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship
9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
9:40 a.m. Education for all Ages
10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

925-254-3422

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ART

The Hearst Art Gallery at Saint Mary's College presents Pam Glover: A Life in Art through September 11. The retrospective exhibition showcases the remarkable life and work of Pam Glover, influential en plein air landscape artist and teacher. More than 60 colorful California landscape paintings are on view, including scenes of the North and Central Coast, San Francisco Bay area, Monterey and the wine country, plus rarely seen student work from China and Australia, 1950s fashion illustrations, bold mixed-media abstractions and European landscape paintings. The Hearst Art Gallery is open from Wednesdays through Sundays, 11am-4:30pm. Admission is \$4 for adults; free for groups, K-12th graders. For more information, please call (925) 631-4379.

"Navigating with Color" will be open at Moraga Art Gallery featuring Art Gallery member Nancy Robinson and Guest Artist Ellen Heathcote through Oct. 30. The gallery is open Tuesday -Sunday, noon - 5pm. MAG is tucked in a corner north of CVS in the Rheem Center in Moraga.

The DVC Library presents "Life," an exhibit by Fariba Nassiri, through October 29. Artist's reception on September 8, 3-4:30pm. DVC is located at 321 Golf Club Rd.in Pleasant Hill. (925) 685- 1230 ex. 2681. For library hours visit www.DVC.edu. PHOTO provided

MUSIC

Contra Costa Children's Chorus is now rehearsing in Lafayette. Our new artistic director, Martin Benvenuto, is scheduling Voice Placement Interviews for children 6-18 years of age on Saturday, September 10, Times TBA. Location: 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. To schedule an appointment or for more information, please email us at frontdesk@childrenschorus.org. (www.childrenschorus.org). Fall semester begins in September.

Watch for Orinda Idol participants at these fall events:
September 11, 2011: Finals.
September 24, 2011: Orinda Car Show performance for Finals winners.
September 27, 2011: EFO/Chamber of Commerce Dine Around Town performance for Finals winners.

Orinda Jazz Festival, Sept 18, 6:30 to 9pm at the Orinda Theatre. Ticket Price: \$20 for General Adm, \$15 for Students. Proceeds will be donated to Orinda Arts Council and for the upgrade of the Orinda Theatre's sound and digital system. Winners of the Orinda Idol 2011 will also be singing.

The Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra launches a new season with a concert on Sept. 25 at the Leshner Center for the Arts in downtown Walnut Creek. The CCCO is "Making Overtures" to a brand new audience with six captivating overtures, including Mozart's Overture to "The Marriage of Figaro" and An Outdoor Overture by Aaron Copland. These pieces are musical preludes to tragic, comic, and otherworldly opera plots that speak of flying elves, storytelling cats, and muttering Greek gods. Sunday, 9/25, 7:30pm. Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, Tickets: \$10 - \$30 at the door,
by phone (925) 943-SHOW, or online at www.LeshnerArtsCenter.org.

THEATER

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

Orinda Starlight Players present Moliere's "The Imaginary Invalid" thru Oct 1 on Thursdays @ 8pm, Fridays & Saturdays @ 8:30pm, and Sundays at 4pm at the Outdoor Theater in Orinda Community Center Park, 26 Orinda Way. Regular admission: \$16, Seniors: \$8. Tickets are

available at the Box Office, call (925) 528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org for reservations. Bring a picnic, but dress appropriately/bring blankets. No shows on Sept 2nd & 3rd.

The Broadway classic "Finian's Rainbow" will be presented at Woodminster Amphitheater in Joaquin Miller Park, Sept 2-4 and 8-11. The classic musical will be performed outdoors, with a cast of 40+ and a live professional orchestra. Tickets: (510) 531-9597, or www.woodminster.com, \$26-\$42 (\$2 discount for children/seniors). Preview Performance: September 1, 8pm. All tickets \$10 at the door.

The Lamorinda Film and Entertainment Foundation September showcase selection presents Autumn Spring, September 16-22 at the Orinda Theatre. Directed by Vladimir Michalek, this delightful Czech comedy about senior citizen pranksters Fanda (Vlastimil Brodsky) and Eda (Stanislav Zindulka) is a statement about living life on one's own terms and will keep you wondering what these two practical jokers will do next. Show times Friday and Saturday, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm and 9pm and Sunday through Thursday 1pm, 3pm, 5pm and 7pm.

Veteran performer Joe Orrach, a Saint Mary's College LEAP program graduate,



brings his autobiographical solo show In My Corner to Saint Mary's College on September 22, 8pm in LeFevre Theatre. In My Corner is the tale of a Puerto Rican/Italian kid growing up in a family dominated by a violent ex-boxer father. His coming of age story is one in which he makes his way out of chaos and violence through his discovery of dance. WHERE: Saint Mary's College LeFevre Theatre, 1928 St. Mary's Rd, Moraga. TICKETS: \$15 general; \$10 seniors (65+) and non-SMC students; \$5 SMC community. RESERVATIONS: (925) 631-4670.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Book Sales:
The Friends of Orinda Library Book Sale, Thursday, Sept. 1, 10am-1pm at the Sorting Room and Book Shop. Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda; (925) 254-1358.

The Friends of the Moraga Library Book Sale, Saturday, September 10, 10am-2pm. Bag sale 1:30-2, \$3 per bag. Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd, Moraga; (925) 376-6852.

"Ace the Interview": Wed, Sept 7th, 6:30-8pm with Mary E. Williams, job search specialist, who will teach search skills for midlife applicants; no reservations necessary. Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation, (925) 283-6513. Free.

Hummingbirds Writing Workshop at Orinda Books with Cynthia Leslie-Bole Thursday, September 8, 1-3pm. No writing experience necessary. The group will use the Amherst Writers and Artists (AWA) Method, which creates a safe, supportive context to spark your creativity, develop your unique voice, and cultivate your powers of expression. A \$20 donation to the bookstore is suggested to help defray costs. To register, email lesliebole@att.net. The workshop is limited to 8 participants so sign up now to reserve a spot.

The Commonwealth Club presents Donald Van de Mark, former anchor, CNN and CNBC-TV; author, "The Good Among the Great" on Sept 13 at 6:30pm. Among the world's mega-successes are a minority who are surprisingly aware, egalitarian, dutiful and happy. Van de Mark identifies the personality traits that these super high achievers share that allow them to remain great human beings, and talks about how we can apply these traits in our own lives. Location: Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Time: 5:45 p.m. check-in, 6:30 p.m. program Cost: \$22 standard, \$12 members, \$7 students (w/valid ID). www.commonwealthclub.org.

Free public history lecture at Moraga Library on September 14 at 2 pm, "Triangle Fire of 1911: A Disaster that Transformed Industrial America." Join Professor Gerald Henig, a dynamic public speaker who will present an illustrated lecture to describe circumstances leading to this horrific tragedy, and explain why it happened, who was responsible, and its consequences. Free and open to the public, pre-registration not required. Go to www.ccllib.org or call (925) 376-6825.

"Implications of China's Rise for the U.S." with Dr. N. Bruce Pickering who will discuss China's rise. Wed, Sept 14, 7-8pm Members: \$8 Non-members: \$10; Students: Free. Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation, (925) 283-6513.

Poor and Poorer: The Demise of the American Middle Class. What is happening to the American middle class and the "American Dream"? How has the recession changed the face of poverty? Are the rich getting richer? What can be done? Join us for a lively panel discussion on how our current economic situation is affecting all of us. When: Monday, September 26, 7pm. Where: Claeys Lounge, Soda Activity Center, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. For more information, contact Monica Fitzgerald, mdfl@stmaries-ca.edu or call (925) 631-4605.

Tues., Sept 27, 7-8pm. Science Cafe: A World Without Chemistry. Senior Emeritus Research Chemist, Attila Pavlath, will share chemistry's contribution to daily life. Cost \$5. Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation, (925) 283.6513.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Join Lafayette Girl Scouts. New parent information meeting is Sept. 14 from 6:30 - 8pm at the St. Perpetua Church Hall. This meeting is for all new girls attending any Lafayette school. There are not school specific meetings this year. New kindergarten troops will be formed. We will work to get older girls interested in joining GS placed in existing troops. Not mandatory - but girls are welcome to attend meeting. For additional information go to www.lafayettegirlscouts.org.

The Moraga Library is hosting Bendy Berry Yoga classes for Kids ages 2-4 years on Wednesday, Sept 21, Sept 28, and Oct 5, 10:15-11am. Bendy Berry Yoga is a mixture of yoga games, stories, beginning postures and movement for kids. The class encourages physical and mental development while introducing kids to the language and movement of yoga with a little laughter along the way. Space is limited. Registration with library staff (in library or by phone) begins Sept 1. Classes are free. Paid for by the Friends of the Moraga Library. For information about the instructor go to <http://bendyberry.com>.

C.O.P.E. presents "Bipolar Mania - Victims of the Madness Industry" with Gregory Newton, MFT. Upcoming Support Series dates: 9/24, Understanding the Neurobiology of Addiction with Dr. Manuel Fernandez; 10/22, Understanding Depression in Children, with Dr. Manuel Fernandez. Where: 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste B100, Lafayette, International Enrichment Center, Inc. (French for Fun). When: Saturdays from 10am-2pm. Fee: \$15.00/person (\$20.00/couple).

FREE YOGA CLASS

FREE Introductory yoga class at Lafayette Community Center Sat. Sept. 10 with Howard VanEs, author of "Beginning Yoga: A Practice Manual".

Find out why yoga is so popular!
No experience necessary.
Class time: 11:00 am – 12:15 pm,
wear clothing you can move in.

**Register by calling
925-284-2232 or at
www.lafayetterec.org**

Not to be missed



Not to be missed



R.S.V.P: (925) 639-3143 or register at www.copefamilysupport.org. The C.O.P.E Family Center is nonprofit Parenting Center.

9/11 EVENTS



Lafayette Flag Brigades' 10th Annual 9/11 Remembrance and Candlelight Vigil.
Where: El Curtola Bridge, Hwy 24 overcrossing @ 680 Freeway, Lafayette. Take Hwy 24 to the Pleasant Hill Rd. Exit, turn on Old Tunnel Rd, go to top of hill.
When: September 11, from 3-8pm.
Partial Schedule of Events:
3pm Arrival of Harris Trucking hauling 9/11 artifacts for display at Remembrance 5:30pm Speaker, retired FDNY fireman
7:30pm Candlelight Vigil begins
For more information, see www.nevereverforget911.com.

9/11 Ten Year Anniversary Commemoration - "One World, One Community."
When: Sunday, September 11, 2-5 pm.
Where: at Frank Salfingere Park (Gazebo area next to Pleasant Hill Community Center on Taylor Blvd.) The event will mark the tenth anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and United Airlines Flight 93. Everyone is invited to participate in this event, especially families and children. A formal ceremony begins at 2:15pm followed by music, food and activities for children. Information is available at www.hillcrestucc.org/9-11.

FALL COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

16th Annual Lafayette Art & Wine Festival, September 17-18 in downtown Lafayette. Over 270 Arts, Crafts, Food, Beer, Wine & Commercial Vendor Booths. Kidzone ~ 4 Music Stages ~ Premium Wine Pavilion. Avoid the hassle of finding parking...Park free at any BART station and take BART to the event.

Coastal Cleanup Day in Orinda - September 17, 9am-noon. Join the Friends of Orinda Creeks to participate in Coastal Cleanup, the largest cleanup event on the planet. We will be removing trash and weeds from San Pablo Creek as it flows through down town Orinda. Removing trash here prevents pollution from reaching San Pablo Reservoir, (a source of drinking water). We will have bags and buckets, data cards and pencils, and some latex gloves but if you have work gloves bring them. For safety, wear closed-toed shoes. We will meet in the parking lot behind the shops at 23 Orinda Way at 9am, (across from the Library). If you have questions, please call Elizabeth at (925)376-5378.

Friday, September 23rd at 7pm. Party in the streets of Orinda at Avenida de Orinda & 63 Orinda Way. A Friday night of dining and dancing with car owners and fans - set among the classic cars themselves. Stroll with your cocktail and view an all new version of the exhibit, "Orinda Through the Years" - an incredible display of vintage cars with historical memorabilia in a museum-like setting. Purchase tickets

at www.orindacarshow.com.

The Orinda Classic Car Show, Saturday, September 24 from 10am - 2pm at Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way in Orinda. Free admission to enjoy more than 170 American & European cars ranging from the 1920's, to the classics of the 50's and 60's, as well as modern exotics. This year's event will also have an all new edition of the special exhibit - "Orinda Through The Years" - coordinated by the Orinda Historical Society and Orinda Motors. This unique exhibit combines vintage and classic cars with historical materials in a museum-like setting; www.orindacarshow.com.

Pear & Wine Festival- Saturday, September 24, 10am-4pm at the Moraga Commons Park. Enjoy Wine Tasting, Local Food, Pear Pies, Inflatable "jumpsies" as well as an Artist and Business Fair. For more info contact John Haffner, (925) 330-9930, johnhaffner@comcast.net.

Orinda Restaurant Tour, Tuesday, Sep 27, 5:30 - 8:30 pm. The Tour begins at Theatre Square.

Admission: Advance Purchase \$30 (\$35 at the event). One glass of wine is included for adults. Participants will ride a San Francisco Trolley from restaurant to restaurant. Tickets are now being reserved online and are limited to 250 guests - to purchase your advance discount tickets go to www.orindachamber.org.

OTHER

The Contra Costa Master Gardeners are holding a Fall Event on Saturday, September 10 from 9:am-2pm at the Garden of Learning at St. Perpetua's School at 3445 Hamlin Rd. Lafayette (off Moraga Road). Further details can be found at: <http://ccmg.ucdavis.edu>. (See article on right)

Join National Park Service rangers for a free evening full moon walk on Monday, September 12 at the John Muir National Historic Site's Mt. Wanda. During the two-hour walk, visitors will see the big beautiful moon rise over Mt. Diablo, and may spot the nocturnal native grey fox. Reservations required. Exact start time of walk will be given when reservation is made. Meet at the CalTrans Park and Ride lot at the corner of Alhambra Avenue and Franklin Canyon Road, Martinez (at the Alhambra Ave. exit off Highway 4). Bring water, binoculars (if you have them), a light jacket, and a flashlight. Wear good walking shoes because the trail is steep. If it rains heavily, the walk will be canceled. For reservations, please call the John Muir National Historic Site at (925) 228-8860.

Community Tai Chi is a free class for the community of Lamorinda. We will meet on Saturdays at the Lafayette Reservoir under the big tree just past the second parking lot, beyond the boathouse from 8-10am on Saturdays. Drop in! <http://NorthStarMartialArts.com>.

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Social hour 11am, lunch 12pm. The after lunch speaker will be Bruce Berman, a certified instructor in CERT, and a Moraga resident. His topic will be disaster preparedness. His discussion will include what is a disaster, why we need to prepare for one and how we can prepare for one. For membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

Nana (Taemi Westernoff) a skilled teacher of Japanese cooking, will conduct a fun, easy and healthy method of making Japanese Tempura. This is a hands-on demonstration and traditional Japanese dishes will be served to compliment the tempura. You will learn the difference between fried and tempered. Sunday, September 11, 2pm, St. Mark's Methodist Church, 451, Moraga Way, Orinda. Cost: \$20 (includes all materials) To Reserve call (925) 254-5965 or (925) 0324-4718. (See article page B7)

"The Stroke Support Group Of Contra Costa County will hold its monthly meeting in the Ball Auditorium at John Muir Medical Center- Walnut Creek Campus, 1601 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek on Monday, September 12, 7-9pm. Harvey Brosler, a member and caregiver, will speak on "Being Partially Paralyzed- An Analogy For Stroke Survivors." For further information about the Stroke Support Group, contact Ann Dzuna at (925) 376-6218. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Montelindo Garden Club program: Friday, September 16, Carole Austin, who is the retired curator of the Museum of Craft and Folk Art in San Francisco, will discuss " In a Chinese Garden" at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. A plant sale and refreshments will start at 9am, followed by the lecture at 10:30am. The event is free and the public is cordially invited.

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

Volunteer at Chabot Space & Science Center in the beautiful Oakland hills. Volunteer Orientation: Saturday, October 1, 10am-2pm. For more information on our volunteer program and to RSVP for orientation, visit <http://www.chabot.space.org/adult-volunteers.htm> or email the Volunteer Department at volunteers@chabot.space.org.

Please submit:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Great Advice and Plants Available at Master Gardeners' Fall Event

By Cathy Tyson

Who doesn't need some help in the garden? For Lamorinda residents in need of plants or garden art or those seeking advice from a pro about sick plants - this is your golden opportunity to get the answers from volunteers in the know - Contra Costa Master Gardeners. On Saturday September 10 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the lovely St. Perpetua Garden of Learning, 3445 Hamlin Road, Lafayette, the Contra Costa Master Gardeners will host their annual plant sale with native and drought tolerant plants, flowers and winter vegetables, new and gently used garden items and a personal favorite - help desk and sick plant clinic.

"The scope of our Fall Event is to provide information on home horticulture, pest management and sustainable landscape practices in a setting that would be fun and informational for all ages. St. Perpetua's school garden fits the bill in so many ways!" says Master Gardener and event coordinator Sue Roif.

"This school garden not only teaches sustainable and organic practices to the students, but it also provides an incredibly beautiful and playful environment for the children. Art, science, math and spiritual curriculums are enriched. The harvest is enjoyed by students and also made into culinary delights sold at the Cafe Perpetua. Sales make the garden totally sustainable. In fact, Cafe Perpetua will be open the day of our Fall Event and the students will not only be selling their goodies, but will be helping the public carry their plants,

garden items, etc. to their cars," says Roif.

In addition to spearheading the creation of the garden, Master Gardener Monette Meo has worked long and hard to guide students on projects that include a chicken coop, a cold frame, rain harvesting system and more. "One of my main goals is for the children to realize where their food comes from, when it's in season and why it doesn't have to come from 3,000 miles away. From seed to plate is such a wonderful lesson," says Meo.

A variety of plants will be available at very reasonable prices and there's already an army of thirty volunteers lined up to help at the sale. Feel free to bring sick plants, or clip off a few leaves with issues for diagnosis and advice.

Roif explains that the Contra Costa Master Gardeners receive training from the University of California. The organization functions as a volunteer outreach arm of the U.C. Cooperative Extension with the mission of extending research based knowledge. If you can't wait until the sale on September 10 and have plant questions, the free Master Gardener Help Desk is staffed every week from Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at (925) 646-6586.

- There will be free demonstrations throughout the day and tours of the fantastic Garden of Learning.
- Composting & Vermiculture - 9:30 & 12:30
 - Plant Propagation from Cuttings - 10:00 & 1:00
 - Raising Chickens - 10:30 & 1:30
 - Drip Irrigation - 11:00

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Lamorinda Wine Growers Mean Business

By Sophie Braccini

You could say that Susan Captain and Carol Haag are nothing short of powerhouses. These two women, recently elected the new President and Secretary, respectively, of the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association (LWGA), are taking on the mission to make Lamorinda the next wine destination in the East Bay, with the support of the group's board and membership. Both professionals and well connected, Captain and Haag understand what it takes and are gathering the means to reach their ambitious goal.

"It has always been in our mission statement that one of our association's objectives was to 'promote the Lamorinda community and its status as a winegrowing region, enhancing the marketability of Lamorinda-grown grapes and Lamorinda-made wine,'" said Captain a few weeks after her election as President of LWGA, "but along the way, the social aspect of the group took over and we lost sight of how important it is to market the unique persona of our region." She believes that the new Board is reaffirming the original idea now that the size of the group makes the objective more realistic.

"Our group has grown so much over the past few years," says Haag, "We now have five bonded wineries (licensed facilities where harvest is turned into wine that can be sold under its own label), one more in process, and two have licenses to sell their wine." That will soon make eight different Lamorinda wines sold to the general market. The group as a whole counts 75 members, all grape growers with properties ranging in size from less than half an acre to 10 acres.

The first step is to get a new logo and slogan that will, according to Haag, give the group a fresh look. "We also want to showcase the Moraga Barn (at the corner of Viader and Country Club Drive in Moraga) as a destination for people to participate in local wine tasting, meet the winemakers and growers and purchase local



Chris Avant discussed future plans for The Barn at a recent open house.

Photo Sophie Braccini

wines," she adds.

LWGA will continue to be part of local events, including the Moraga Pear and Wine Festival on September 24. The new Board plans to consistently reach out to community groups such as garden clubs and chambers of commerce to find synergies and establish partnerships. It plans to work with cities to continue to be valued members of the community and good neighbors.

The ultimate goal of the new Board is to establish Lamorinda as an American Viticulture Area (AVA), a federal designation. "If we can get this, it will change everything," believes Captain, "An AVA would really brand our wines and grapes and increase the value of land in the area. But it is a long and complex process that needs to be documented. We have started to work on it."

The specificity that the group is planning to highlight in their application is the unique Lamorinda climate – with less lingering fog than on the other side of the tunnel, and cooler summer temperatures than neighboring Walnut Creek. "We need a wine climate specialist from UC Davis to conduct the study," says Captain adding that the group has already started to talk to the university and people are getting involved and offer-

ing help. "This is not going to happen overnight," warns the new President, who is nonetheless infused with enthusiasm for the project.

There are other aspects to LWGA's mission. "We need to educate our growers on best practices to grow sustainably," says Captain, "for example, the hills and the soil here are perfect for grapes; it does not need to be flattened or fertilized." The whole membership meets quarterly to listen to an expert in one of the different aspects of making wine. "We want to encourage suburban wine grape growing in Lamorinda," she adds, "we are part of this community, we want to participate in its beauty, and by promoting the most environmentally and economically safe farming method, we will also improve the overall grape quality and flavor."

The group also continues to maintain a strong tradition of social activities. "Once a month, we meet at the Moraga Barn, taste wines, mingle and discuss some of our every day issues," says Haag, "for example, how to grow grapes with the abundant wildlife in the area!"

For more information, go to www.lamorindawinegrowers.com.

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



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Tuesday-Saturday 10-6

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

business briefs

Chef Chao Expands and Renovates
343 Rheem Boulevard, Moraga, 376-1740
Chef Chao is a popular Chinese restaurant located near 24 Hour Fitness in Moraga. Recently, the adjoining space was vacated and offered for sale. Henry Chao and his father, Hsin Ming Chao, decided to expand and buy that space. "We are not sure what we are going to do with the empty space yet," said Henry Chao, "Chef Chao is going to be remodeled and totally upgraded starting in September. We hope that our customers will love the new look and feel of the restaurant." Among the possible uses for the added space could be to accommodate very large parties and banquets.

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News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

- Monthly Mixer, Wednesday, September 7, 5:30pm at Yankee Pier Restaurant, 3593 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Ribbon Cutting, Thursday, September 8, 5pm for Deena's Nail Care & Foot Massage at 3330 Mt. Diablo Blvd., #100.
- Shop Lafayette Meeting, Tuesday, September 13, 12pm in the Chamber Conference Room
- Entrepreneur's Club, Thursday, September 15, 8:30am in the Chamber Conference Room
- 16th Annual Lafayette Art & Wine Festival on Saturday, September 17 & Sunday, September 18. This event is one of the largest outdoor festivals in Contra Costa County. In 2010, over 100,000 people strolled among the stalls of art, handmade crafts, sampling foods from top local restaurants and enjoying quality wines and microbrews, pausing to enjoy continuous music from the two main stages. The Festival has a website, www.lafayettefestival.com
- Gorilla Marketing Workshop on Friday, September 23, 11am-1:30pm at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Chamber members will gather to explore the world of "unconventional" marketing, learn how to create a "BUZZ" about them and their business. The workshop's keynote speaker is Tom Frainier, owner and "Chief Boot Licker" of Semifreddi's Bakery. Cost: \$45 (chamber members) which includes lunch. Register online or call the Chamber office at 284-7404.

Moraga

Moraga Pear and Wine Festival on Saturday September 24, 10am-4pm at the Moraga Commons Park. After 13 years, the Moraga Festival is changing its name from Pear Festival to Pear and Wine to recognize the rapidly expanding Lamorinda Wine Growers Association. The day will include something for all ages. Activities include food, pear pies, wine tasting, inflatable 'jumpies', artists and a business fair.

Orinda

Orinda Business Neighborhood Watch on Thursday, September 8, 8-9am at Citibank, 37 Orinda Way, Orinda. This group of merchants takes action in becoming proactive against crime. They work together with the support of the Orinda Police Department and share some ideas about making things better.

Orinda's Longest Weekend, September 23-27. Starting with 'Dancing With The Cars' on Friday, September 23, Orinda Annual Classic Car Show on Saturday, September 24, and the Orinda Restaurant Tour on Tuesday, September 27. Go to www.orindacarshow.com and www.orindachamber.org for more info and tickets.

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Healthy Cooking, Taemi's Way

By Susie Iventosch



Taemi and Gary Westernoff
Photos Susie Iventosch

When I think of Japanese cuisine ... tempura, teriyaki, yakitori and sushi come to mind. That's why I was so delighted to receive an invitation to Taemi Westernoff's house in Moraga to learn how to make a dish I'd never heard of before, "Okonomiyaki." This is a traditional Japanese pancake made with Japanese yam, diced cabbage, egg, flour and bacon, or pork belly. Not only is it fun to make, but it's delicious and quite healthy, too.

And, healthy cooking is what Taemi is all about.

"She likes all types of food as long as it is healthy," says her husband, Gary Westernoff. "But, she feels that Japanese food is the healthiest. She will not eat in any fast food restaurants. She calls them junk food."

The couple divides their time between Moraga, California and Honolulu, Hawaii. Near their home in Hawaii, there is a corner with a few fast food restaurants, which Taemi calls "Junk Food Corner," and the only thing they use it for is a landmark for giving directions to their house.

Taemi teaches cooking classes in both locations and enjoys sharing her cooking knowledge with others because she doesn't think American people eat a healthy diet. Teaching helps her to learn and improve her English, too.

"I would love to teach healthy cooking classes to high school students," Taemi said. "Healthy bodies are important for happy, successful lives and before marriage and babies are born."

On a fortuitous trip to Hawaii five years ago, Taemi met her husband, Gary. After they married Taemi moved from her birthplace of Kyushu, Japan to the United States. Of course, she is still passionate about her native cuisine and, as a result, her husband has become a huge fan of Japanese cooking.

Gary, a former construction management executive, has collaborated with Taemi to co-author "Construction Like Sushi," an intriguing cookbook that likens sushi-making to the construction of a building.

"Before our marriage, I did not dine on

Japanese food because it was too difficult to prepare and too expensive in restaurants," Gary pointed out. "But I was brought up to enjoy all types and kinds of food because my mother and grandmother were wonderful cooks."

And, despite being from a lineage of rather skilled cooks himself, Gary is absolutely amazed by Taemi's food knowledge and her creative cooking and baking methods, techniques and skills.

"She's opened my eyes to a whole new world of healthy eating without any limitations to the kinds and types of foods—including baked goods," Gary noted. "For example, Taemi thinks sugar is harmful to the body so she will substitute honey or fresh fruits for sweetness. She avoids chicken or beef because she believes they contain enzymes harmful to the body. She likes eggs with bright orange yolks (hard to find in America but are found all over Japan) and she uses Himalaya rock salt in moderation."

But, what is music to most folks' ears, is that Taemi believes in eating at least three meals a day ... alas, always with a vegetable!

On September 11, Taemi will be giving a hands-on demonstration class on how to make healthy Japanese Tempura at the St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Orinda. You will learn the difference between fried and tempered, and other traditional Japanese dishes will be served to compliment the tempura. The class is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. and the \$20 cost for materials and instruction will benefit the church. See information box below to make a reservation.

In addition to healthy cooking instruction, Taemi holds licenses in Sado (Japanese Tea Ceremony), table setting and floral arranging. She and Gary also operate Tabi Tours, which specializes in small group tours to Japan, where they take travelers on an insider's journey through Japanese gardens, cuisine, art and culture.

- To reserve a spot in Taemi's Healthy Tempura Cooking Class, please call (925) 254-5965, or (925) 324-4718, or email stmarksorinda@sbcglobal.net. Class will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 11 at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda
- For information about Tabi Tours, please visit: www.tabitours.com or email: taegar@tabitours.com, or call (925) 324-4718
- For information about Taemi's upcoming Traditional Tea Ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 24 in Berkeley, please call (510) 549-7000, or email taste@berkeleycoffeeteafest.com
- To purchase copies of Construction Like Sushi or Construction Management Made Easy, please visit Moraga Hardware and Lumber and Across the Way in Moraga, or visit: www.constructionplace.com, or email: twg@constructionplace.com

Susie can be reached at suziven@gmail.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at 925-377-0977.

Taemi's Osaka Style Okonomiyaki

(Makes 3 large pancakes, or six small)
Okonomiyaki is traditional Japanese savory pancake, which can be served as a main dish or a side. It is made in three distinct styles: Osaka, Hiroshima and Tokyo. The Osaka Okonomiyaki is the type that Taemi prefers, and is made with a batter of flour, egg and water, mixed with assorted vegetables, including a Japanese sticky yam, and seafood, pork or other meat. Hiroshima style is made by layering the ingredients on top of a crepe-like base, and then served over fried noodles and a fried egg. Tokyo style is made as a very large, thin pancake, cooked to golden brown, and served family-style, with each person using their own Okonomiyaki spatula to scrape up bites.

The liquid used in the pancake can either be water or Dashi, a broth that is essential to Japanese cuisine, made from water, shaved Bonita fish and dried kelp. (See recipe below.)

Whichever style one chooses, the dish is usually served with traditional toppings such Okonomiyaki sauce, mayonnaise, dried Bonita fish shavings and even seaweed.

- INGREDIENTS**
1/3 cup water or Dashi
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 egg
1/2 cup grated nagaimo (Japanese mountain yam—available at Asian markets—see information box below)
Pinch salt
2 cups finely chopped green cabbage
1 tablespoon mayonnaise
Peanut or vegetable oil, for frying
1 tablespoon finely sliced scallions (optional)
1 tablespoon sliced, pickled ginger (optional)
9 slices of pork belly, or bacon

DIRECTIONS
In a large bowl, mix dashi (or water) with flour, egg, grated nagaimo (nagaimo will turn into a sticky, thick liquid when grated), mayonnaise and salt. Whisk until smooth with a wire whisk or chopsticks, until smooth. Add cabbage and any other optional ingredients and mix well until cabbage is evenly coated with batter.

Heat one tablespoon of oil in a frying pan or griddle over medium-high heat. When the oil is hot, spoon 1/3 of the batter into the pan to form a pancake shape, about 1/2-inch thick. If using the pork belly, place three pieces on top of pancake. When the edges of the pancake begin to dry and form bubbles (approximately 2-3 minutes), flip pancake so pork belly is on the bottom. When the pancake is golden brown and the pork is cooked, turn pancake over again, and continue to heat for 1-2 more minutes. Press the pancake and, if it is resilient, it's done. Place on warm plate.

Repeat process until all batter is used, or if you have a large griddle or pan, you can cook as many pancakes as will fit so you can easily flip them. To serve, place the pancakes on individual serving plates. Toppings are optional, but recommended for a traditional taste. First spread the Okonomiyaki sauce over the pancake. Then squeeze mayonnaise on the top creating a swirl design. Sprinkle with seaweed seasoning of choice, and finally sprinkle with dried Bonita fish flakes. Ideally, the pancakes are hot enough when serving so the fish flakes will begin to move and shrivel up. This is fun to watch!

Dashi
(can be found prepared in Asian markets, too)
INGREDIENTS
One 4-inch piece dried kelp
4 cups cold water
1 cup of Katsuobushi (shaved Bonita fish flakes)
DIRECTIONS
Rinse kelp and cook in the water to a simmer and remove from heat. Add the dried Bonita flakes and cover. Let steep for approximately 15 minutes. Any remaining Dashi can be refrigerated for a few days.

SHOPPING INFO
*Asian stores where many of the ingredients can be obtained:

Koreana Plaza 2370 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, CA 95670	Berkeley Bowl (two locations) 920 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley (510) 898-9555 2020 Oregon St, Berkeley (510) 843-6929
Country Square Market 510 Contra Costa Blvd Pleasant Hill, CA 94523	



Taemi mixes batter with chopsticks



Taemi's Okonomiyaki cooking



Taemi-Nagaimo-Japanese yam



Taemi's Okonomiyaki with Bonita fish flakes

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- Recreation Time for Todd Skinner
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Tornado Torn Joplin
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- Moraga Art Gallery Loses its Space
- The 1st Annual Lafayette Community Music Festival
- Orinda Cyclist goes Cross Country

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The Ease and Elegance of Fall Fashions for Lamorinda

By Moya Stone



Flared jeans with faux fur vest from Duchess
Photos Doug Kohen



Fall 2011 trend in dresses from Duchess

Although it may feel like summer has only just started, for fashion followers summer is a dim memory and it's on to fall. So what's hot for the biggest season of the year? More importantly, how do the national trends translate to Lamorinda? Three Lafayette boutiques spoke about local style and what fall trends fit into our community.

When it comes to fashion, the must-have for Lamorinda women is ease. "It's got to be easy," says Lafayette resident Claudia Ross, CEO of Cross Marketing PR. "I dress for the lifestyle out here, which is very laid back." Claudia lives in maxi dresses from Tart and J Brand jeans paired with blouses and chunky sweaters. Although she's in a high profile business that demands a sense of style, Ross says she doesn't take fashion too seriously. Her closet houses plenty of Chanel and Prada for work, but when she's hopping around town with her two sons, it's more important to Claudia that she fit in with the Lamorinda look of effortless chic.

Jamie Finegold agrees with Ross. "Women here are conservative," says the designer and owner of the local boutique Tart. "They want fashion, but they don't want anything over the top." Finegold explains that Lamorinda women are not interested in making a style statement. With that in mind he waits out trends to see what's going to hang on. Finegold says faux fur was big last year and it's coming back. For his fall 2011 line, he included faux fur jackets and vests as well as cashmere and wool coats with faux fur trim and, for that rare more adventurous customer, Tart offers a faux fur scarf in aubergine.

Erica Perez, proprietor of Duchess, is also on top of the ease factor for her customers. She describes the Lamorinda style as contemporary casual. "It has to be easy and wearable," Perez says, "and not all trends are wearable." Dresses are a favorite for the Duchess customer. "Because they're just one thing to think about," explains Perez. The look in dresses this season is bright colored patterns. Perez expects skinny jeans to remain popular, but in colors such as red and chocolate brown. Flares are the new jean silhouette for fall, which she says are more figure flattering.

Black is the new black (again) according to Roya Bayat, owner of Posh. Classic black and nude basics topped with colorful accessories were all over the European runways for fall. Bayat attends the fashion shows in Europe and she says this season it's all about texture and detail. "Women want casual elegance for just around town," says Bayat. Posh specializes in select clothing customers won't find elsewhere. For fall, Bayat has stocked full-length cigarette pants, tuxedo style blouses, quality t-shirts with beaded detailing, and coats and vests from Paris made with textured fabrics. Recently hemlines have been inching up, but for fall 2011 Bayat says mid-calf length will hit their stride.

There we have it straight from the experts - fall trends tailored for Lamorinda include the ease of dresses and mid-calf skirts, flair jeans and detailed tees nicely fitted under faux fur vests and jackets. Go forth in style.



For the adventurous a faux fur scarf from Tart



Fall 2011 trend in dresses from Duchess

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Fierce Competition in DFAL Volleyball

By Guy Dotan



Acalanes team at practice last week

Photo Doug Kohen

Last year's girls' volleyball season proved to be one of the most exciting in recent memory, and expectations are high for the DFAL this season as well. Last season featured four teams from DFAL qualifying for North Coast Section tournament. Campolindo won the NCS and eventually took the state title.

As the start of the regular season approaches all three Lamorinda teams are working to adjust to roster changes in the preseason. Miramonte lost four seniors last year—two were starters. Acalanes graduated only three seniors but are featuring five newcomers to the varsity squad.

Acalanes' head coach Steve Siegmann is not worried, however, "We've added a good amount of height to our team and along with the improvement of players from last year I would say we have our most athletic team since I have been at the school."

The team suffering the biggest losses to the starting lineup is the returning champs. The Cougars graduated seven seniors from last year's squad and will have eight brand new

varsity players, including three freshmen. Key losses include Abbie Noland, Chandler Moore, and Mary Vaccaro. Noland and Moore both finished All League First Team, while Vaccaro was the DFAL MVP.

Still, it will take a lot more than the loss of a few players to prevent Campolindo from following their perfect 12-0 regular season with another great year. The returning state champs are still the favorite to take first in the DFAL this year.

Miramonte looks to be the best challenger for the top spot. Last season, Miramonte finished in second place in DFAL with a solid 8-2 record. The two losses were to the hands of the rival Cougars, but that doesn't mean Miramonte expects to coast through the rest of the league.

"Literally all seven DFAL teams are going to be good this year and we are going to have to put up a fight every match to get a win," said Miramonte head coach Shannon Ross.

Ross hopes the team will improve throughout the season. "As a team we need to be more consistent all year. We

need to focus on things we can control, such as our serve receive passing, keeping the ball in play, and limiting little mental errors."

Acalanes' Coach Siegmann mentioned similar areas of improvement, among them the need for leadership. "The number one thing that we need to improve is our on court leadership, it's important in volleyball and we lacked in that department last year."

With official league matches beginning soon, competition and intensity should be high all year in the DFAL.

The season kicks off September 20, with Campolindo facing off against Alhambra, Acalanes against Las Lomas, while Miramonte has a bye. Two days later is the first Lamorinda rivalry match as the Cougars travel to face the Dons.

"I definitely think the DFAL is going to remain one of the top divisions in NCS ... with a lot of teams battling to take the league title, it should be a very fun year," Ross predicted.

Gaels Lock Down Bennett

Men's basketball head coach signs 10-year contract



Randy Bennett at a press conference last year Photo Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's College signed men's basketball coach Randy Bennett

to a new 10-year contract. Director of Athletics Mark Orr made the announcement on August 19.

"I'm thrilled that we are able to sign him to this long-term agreement and look forward to him leading Saint Mary's basketball for the next decade," said Orr.

Bennett has spent ten years with the Gaels and enters his 11th season as the all-time men's basketball wins leader with a record of 208-112. He led the team to post-season tourna-

ments five times, including the NCAA Sweet 16 tournament in 2010. Bennett has earned two West Coast Conference Coach of the Year awards.

"I'm really thankful to Mark Orr, Brother President Ronald Gallagher and the Saint Mary's administration for their support and for providing me the opportunity to continue to serve such a great institution," said Bennett. "My family and I enjoy being at Saint Mary's and living in such a supportive and positive community." C. Graveson

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Lamorinda United Soccer Club Summer Results

Submitted by **Chris Easter**

Winning a championship in the NorCal Premier Spring League raised expectations for a talented U13 Girls LMSC United squad. While they were unable to garner a tourney championship, the squad broke even in Modesto, June 12-14, and the North versus South tourney in San Luis Obispo, August 13-14, recording a win, a loss and a tie in both tournaments.

Their best summer performance was at the Pleasanton College Showcase, July 30-31, where they came within one goal of playing in the finals. They rebounded from a tough loss to win the third place game.

Overall, the team finished summer play with a record of 5-3-2, outscoring opponents 20 goals to 11.



Lisa Bramley, of LMSC United U13, smacks a corner kick towards her teammates Caroline Clark, Katherine Larson and Lindsay Easter during the United 6-0 victory in the first round at SLO Photo Randy Linda

Submitted by **Benson Chan**

The Lamorinda Soccer Club United U17, U16, U14 played a strong summer tournament series, winning key games.

The Lamorinda Soccer Club United '95 girls won their second tournament in two weeks on August 8th,

taking the Mustang Stampede.

The championship match pitted Lamorinda against the Burlingame Blitz 95G. Lamorinda scored first and led 1-0 going into halftime. Burlingame countered with an equalizing goal midway through the second half to even the score 1-1. Lamorinda responded on the very next ball possession to go up 2-1, and then proceeded to score two more insurance goals to secure the championship.

Earlier in the summer the teams took two tournament championships

and a second place finish in July.

Competing in the 2011 Pleasanton Rage Showcase tournament 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.

Moraga Boot Camp Back in Action

By Lou Fancher



Boot Camp at the Commons Park

Moraga Boot Camp is kicking into action under the guidance of Martin Sadalski, the owner of Kinetic Fitness Consulting and selected heir to departing instructor Tim Bayley.

Bayley, a championship runner hoping to make the British team for the London Olympic Games in 2012, is off to Boston. Leaving behind a devoted group of Lamorinda women who grunt, groan and gain muscularity each morning at the Moraga Commons, the well-loved instructor asked Sadalski to continue the program.

"Tim and I spent a good week going over details of the class," Sadalski explained. "I have worked with Tim in the past, so I was familiar with his background and training style."

Toss aside any image you hold of smarmy, sweaty male recruits crawling on their bellies through a field of mud – this boot camp is made up of women like Moraga's Leslie Price.

"I heard about it from my friend Marianne Evenhuis, who is a cute,

skinny gal. I was complaining to her about my middle-age weight gain and she suggested I come to boot camp to get my booty in better shape," Price wrote in an email.

Price, who joined the class one year ago, thrived under Bayley's enthusiastic, upbeat approach and his frequently uttered, "Come on girls, you can do it!"

"When you are 49 years old (and) hauling your butt up the hill at the Moraga Commons, it feels nice to be called 'girl,'" she joked.

The class is outdoors, amidst fresh air and friends. Free from clocks and kids, Price appreciated the beauty of the park and accomplishing something significant by 9:15 in the morning.

Sadalski is offering the boot camp on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 8:15 a.m. schedule and starting in September, he will add Sunrise Yoga on Tuesdays.

"Once I gauge the interest, we may add in a 9:15 class and a five day a

week option is also in the works," he said.

Price has taken two classes with Sadalski and was grateful he has continued many of Bayley's ideas and general approach.

"Classes will be fun, yet challenging," Sadalski promised. "You will be pushed, but have the room to hold back. We will focus on full body circuit style training to burn the most fat in the least amount of time."

In addition to strength and endurance training, balance, flexibility, wellness and nutrition will bring Moraga Boot Camp participants to what Sadalski calls body balance. Pricing is \$150 for a ten class pass and other than water, a yoga mat and dumbbells, the only thing Lamorinda women need to pack is personal power.

All classes meet at the Moraga Commons Park inside the Bandshell at the north end of the park. For more information, visit www.kineticfitnessconsulting.com.

Photo Andy Scheck

Basketball Champions

Submitted by **Suzanne Campillo**



Back Row, from left: Coach Mark Del Rosario, Kate Schimer, Colette Cornish, Isabella Campillo, Hannah Edwards, Coach Doug Edwards; front row: Kana Yamada, Rachel Koenigsberg, Zoe Del Rosario, Ashley Thoms; not pictured, Coach Doug Campillo

With a record of 5-1, the fifth-sixth grade girls' Pumas team won the final game of the summer basketball season in an overtime victory on July 28 to take the championship.

Photo Drew Campillo

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SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

Tough Competition Ahead

By Alex Kozela



Goalkeeper Kate Brenot blocks shot attempt

Photo Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's women's soccer team is off to a flying start in what promises to be a challenging but hopeful campaign.

The Gaels have begun the young season breaking even with a record of 1-1-1, tying 1-1 on the road against New Mexico on Friday, August 19 and winning their home opener a week later over George Washington, 3-0. The Gaels fell to Texas Tech on Sunday, August 28, 2-0.

New Mexico, the defending Mountain West Conference winner, is just the first of many strong opponents on the docket for Saint Mary's this season, which includes top teams such as #13 UC Irvine.

It won't get any easier in WCC play, with Portland, Santa Clara, and San Diego nationally ranked at #4, #16, and #25 respectively. Pepperdine and Loyola Marymount also have received votes and could enter the Top 25 this season.

"We try to make things as complicated as possible here at Saint Mary's," said head coach Kai Edwards, who hopes the difficult schedule will help the team improve upon last year's overall record of 8-7-4 (2-4-1 in West Coast Conference).

Sophomore midfielder Jordan Marada, who earned an All-WCC selection last year for her efforts as the Gaels' leading scorer with 19 points and seven goals, believes they are prepared for those tough games because of the team's work ethic in practice.

"Training how we're going to play helps when we travel and play against harder teams," said Marada. "We battled with [New Mexico] with the 1-1 tie and I think we prepared our bodies well and practiced hard

enough to stay with them at their level. It starts with team building off the field and on the field we connected."

With the young team the Gaels have - 24 of the 29 players are freshmen and sophomores - connecting on the field will be key to victory, and Edwards doesn't foresee the team having trouble in doing so.

"Everyone contributes," said Edwards. "The good thing about this group is they don't know any better but to work hard and find ways to win. Everyone has a role and everyone for the most part plays that role, whether it's ten minutes off the bench, if it's 90, if it's passing and trapping, or if it's beating players. I think they've done a very good job of understanding their roles."

Much of the Gaels' success this season will depend on the play of sophomore keeper Kate Brenot, who came up big against George Washington with four saves, preserving a shutout.

"[Brenot] is tactically probably the smartest player on our team," said Edwards. "She manages her game really well; she keeps us in games and doesn't give up bad goals."

The team's nucleus, however, is the midfield, which features Marada at the playmaker position with two midfielders, a rotation of junior Daelyn Paul, sophomore Emma Kroloff, and freshmen Vicki Shimkus and Brooke Herrick, on either side.

"Our goal is to play through all five of them," Edwards said. "[Marada] usually plays at the highest point, but the work that Daelyn, Emma, Vicki, and Brooke do free her up to do what she does, which is be special in front of net."

Check out the Gaels at SMC Stadium tomorrow, Thursday, September 1 at 4:00 p.m. or Sunday, September 4 at 12:00 p.m.

dium tomorrow, Thursday, September 1 at 4:00 p.m. or Sunday, September 4 at 12:00 p.m.



Jordan Marada



Vicki Shimkus

Sherman Invitational Dive Meet Results

Submitted by Steve Sherman

Over a hundred divers, age seven to 83, traveled from around northern and central California to compete in the 50th Annual Sherman Invitational Diving Meet held on August 13, hosted by Sherman Swim School of Lafayette.



Gabriella Blum

Photo provided

Place	Name	Score	Best Dive	Team	City
FC 1 Girls					
1	Alex Schwartz	81.6	21.6	Sherman	Lafayette
2	Evelyn Andrade	100.7	25.2	Sherman	Lafayette
5	Kendall Martin	110.7	29.7	Sherman	Lafayette
6	Kaitlynn Radican	116.1	30.6	Sherman	Lafayette
9	Asha Singh	126	27	Sherman	Lafayette
FC 1 Boys					
1	Daniel Zabronsky	94.6	21.1	Sherman	Lafayette
FC 2 Boys					
1	Warren Cooper	119.3	17	Sherman	Lafayette
FC 3 Girls					
1	Karissa Sarsam	113.1	14	Sherman	Lafayette
5	Gabriele Blum	126.3	15	Sherman	Lafayette
7	Kamila Sarsam	132.9	18	Sherman	Lafayette
FC 4 Girls					
2	Ariel Ramirez	116.4	17.5	Sherman	Lafayette
5	Addison Naton	141.9	16.5	Sherman	Lafayette
FC 5 Girls					
1	Andrea Gallagher	126.4	19	Sherman	Lafayette
3	Brenda Contreras	147.8	18	Sherman	Lafayette
4	Maya Nunes	149.85	17.5	Sherman	Lafayette
6	Kate Seperack	162.7	17	Sherman	Lafayette
FC 5 Boys					
2	Joe Zacharin	146.95	16.5	Sherman	Lafayette
15 U Girls					
4	Miranda Gold	245.1		Sherman	Lafayette
18 U Girls					
8	Maren Kjell	277.25		Sherman	Lafayette
18 U Boys					
8	Asher Lichtig	341.95		Sherman	Lafayette
21 U Boys					
1	Erich Brodbeck	277.4		Sherman	Lafayette
60-69					
Boys		Score	AAU/USD #	Team	City
1	Mike McGowan	276.45	391	Sherman	Lafayette
2	Andy Stotroen	250.2	4778	Sherman	Lafayette
80-89					
Boys		Score	AAU/USD #	Team	City
1	Bob Sherman	185.1	571	Sherman	Lafayette

The Little Dojo that Roared

Submitted by Caroline Tsuyuki



Front row, from left: Kyle McKinnis, Caroline Tsuyuki, Mari-jo Suzuki, Kelly Suzuki, Asenath Yeung; Back row: Kassie McKinnis, Joseph Tsuboi, Keai Lucasey, Michael Doucet, Patricia Doucet

Photo provided

A team of 10 local athletes from Northern California Karate-do (NCK) returned from the eighth World Shito-Ryu Taikai Tournament held in Vancouver, B.C., July 30-31, with 12 medals: five gold, three silver and four bronze. Eight of the 10 athletes are from Lamorinda.

The Taikai is a biennial international karate tournament held alternatively in Japan and North America. This year's championship showcased teams from New Zealand, Canada, Mexico and Japan among others.

Lamorinda locals Kyle McKinnis, Asenath Yeung, Joseph Tsuboi, Keai Lucasey, Michael Doucet and Caro-

line Tsuyuki all medaled in kata and kumite in their respective divisions.

Doucet and Lucasey both earned their Shodan rank, first degree, and were presented their menjo (certificate) by Soke Tsukasa Mabuni, head of the Seito Shito Ryu organization.

TAI KAI RESULTS:

Kyle McKinnis (Moraga): Men 18-34 Advanced: Gold - Kata, Bronze - Kumite
Asenath Yeung (Moraga): Youth 14-17 Advanced Girls: Gold - Kata, Silver - Kumite
Joseph Tsuboi (Moraga): Youth 14-17 Advanced Boys: Silver - Kumite, Bronze - Kata
Keai Lucasey (Moraga): Youth 14-17 Advanced Boys: Bronze - Kata
Kassie McKinnis (Moraga): Youth 14-17 Advanced Girls: 5th - Kata, 5th - Kumite
Caroline Tsuyuki (Lafayette): Masters Women Beginner/Novice/Intermediate: 5th - Kata
Patricia Doucet (Moraga): Masters Women Beginner/Novice/Intermediate: 5th - Kata
Michael Doucet (Moraga): Masters Men Advanced: Gold - Kumite

NCK's success at this year's Taikai comes at the heels of the team's achievement at the USA Karate Federation Championships and Team Trials held July 14-17 in Arlington, TX. The group of seven athletes returned home with four gold, two silver and three bronze medals.

Four NCK athletes, including Campolindo senior Chris Wellbrook, earned berths on the USA Junior Karate Team. Wellbrook will also be competing in the Junior Pan American Championship in Fortaleza, Brazil later this month, and at the Junior World Championship in Melaka, Malaysia later this fall.

NCK athletes train with Sensei Mari-jo Suzuki, Sandan third degree black belt. NCK, established in 2008, is a 501-C3 non-profit dojo that counts almost 50 percent of its students are from the Lamorinda area. For more information on Northern California Karate-do, visit the website at norcalkaratedo.org.

Karate Kid Competes in National Tournament, Junior Olympics

Submitted by Thomas Westernoff



Local karate kid Hazemach had a busy summer competing in both the 2011 AAU National Karate Championships and the AAU Junior Karate Olympics held in Fort Lauderdale and New Orleans, respectively. Competing in the Male Black Belt Advance Division, Hazemach, 15, won silver in Kata at the AAU tournament. At the Junior Olympics, he took gold in Kata, Shito Ryu style, and a silver medal in Kumite and a bronze in Kobudo.

Haze Mach Photo provided

TEEN SCENE

Five Seconds to a First Impression

By Courtney Tran



Miramonte girls spend September in skinny jeans, short shorts, and bright patterned tanks accentuated by light layers. From left: Tara Leong, Alyssa Lopez, Julia Kim, Jenny Nguyen, Camille Ganacial, and Nicole Maligaya Photo Courtney Tran

Lamorinda middle and high school students are gearing up for school with new pencils, notebooks, and, of course, new wardrobes.

Kaitlin Wong, aspiring model, Tumblr devotee, and Miramonte senior, plans to wear more green this year. "Style lets you express yourself. Like music or art. After all, you've only got five seconds to make a first impression," Wong said.

"My color this year is green. I'm moving away from black. There's been too much in past years...but I don't care about Lamorinda style," she admits. "It's pretty classic and doesn't really change. Even when there are fads, Lamorinda teens tend to stay classic and preppy, with a bit of slouch."

Though this fall's fashion trend remains remarkably consistent with that of the 2010-2011 school year—short shorts for girls, cargo shorts for guys, and graphic tees and jeans for everybody—skinny jeans in particular are gaining momentum, edging wide-cut jeans out of the mainstream style scene.

Many teenage girls are also carrying their summer sundresses and floral skirts into the fall season.

"I'm wearing as many dresses as I can to school until its cold," reported a Campolindo sophomore. "Dresses and skirts are a chance to be girly, playful, and they're practical in this warmer weather."

Inspired by celebrities like Taylor Swift and Vanessa Hudgens, others opt for bohemian styles.

"I really love the boho chic look," says Miramonte's Lisa Chang. "It's classy when young women wear long, flowing dresses with a cropped T-shirt. It elongates their figure and makes them look elegant."

Forever 21 and Urban Outfitters boast moderate prices, up-to-date styles, and soaring popularity among Lamorinda teens. McCaulou's and TJ Maxx are consistently touted as "go-to's" for affordable, nearby options.

"Brand names and stores are my thing. But I shop anywhere it's cheap," says sophomore Alexandra Chavez.

Some teens, however, take their clothing into their own hands.

"I don't really make my own stuff, but I redesign little things. I've re-colored shoelaces," says OIS student Ryan Tran. "I've also bleached a jacket. That looks really cool."

Chavez enjoys sewing details onto her clothing, changing the cut and hem of outfits, and shops specifically for items that can modify or use to amend her personal clothes choices.

"I'm going to start making clothes again," said Chavez. "It's something I love to do. Gets me through the day—if something's on my mind, I can just style something up. Great thing is, styling is easy. Anyone can exhibit original flair with a bit of confidence."

Miramonte senior Courtney Tran enjoys good music and chocolate, has never drunk a can of soda, and likes seeing life as a mildly feminist fairytale.

THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

RedLaser (For iPhone, iPod, and Android) Price: Free

Everybody loves a deal! In this economy, no one wants to over pay for any product, especially when several stores carry the same item. Wouldn't it be great if you could just take your cell phone, scan the barcode on the item of interest, and receive a list of places with the lowest price?

Fortunately, there is a free, simple-to-use app doing exactly that, available for Androids, iPod, and iPhones. It's called RedLaser.

Here's how it works.

Hold your smartphone steady while aligning the product's bar code on your phone's screen as it scans. RedLaser immediately searches online using Google Product Search, TheFind, eBay and Half.com. It then lists, from the lowest price to the highest, online retailers offering the product. Christine Requa, a recent graduate of Miramonte High School, commented, "RedLaser searches quickly so that you can compare the internet prices easily."

RedLaser does much more than online comparisons. It also uses your phone's location to do a local search of all nearby retailers that have your particular item in stock. It displays the retailers name, address, and current price point. Bobby Taylor, a senior at Miramonte High School, said that RedLaser is great because "you may find that you can save money

by driving a few miles down the road to another store."

But wait, there's more! Other features include the ability to email yourself barcodes of items that you may be interested in buying at a later date. RedLaser also has the ability to list allergen and nutritional information on just about every brand-name packaged food.

When you want to buy video games, scanning the barcode showcases game reviews.

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Local Girls are Finalists in State Pageant Contest

Submitted by Tasha Rasilla



Haley Rose Rasilla and Jade Ling Wong, both of Moraga, were selected as state finalists in the princess category of the National American Miss Pageant held in Santa Clara on July 30th.

Ling Wong, 5, a kindergartener at Rheem Elementary School received second place honors in the talent competition. She sang, A Cappella, "The Fifty Nifty States."

Rasilla, 7, a second grader Camino Pablo Elementary School was a top ten contender of the 30 princess candidates. Rasilla was sponsored by local businesses including, Diablo Foods, Penninis Pizza, Terzetto, They Grow so Fast and Moraga Hardware.

Left to right: Haley Rose Rasilla and Jade Ling Wong Photo Sharon Ziegenbein

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Measure E Funds Lamorinda High School Improvements

By Diana LaScala-Grunewald

A new science classroom at Campolindo and a new pool at Acalanes are just two of dozens of upgrades completed or in progress at Lamorinda high schools this year.

In a time of economic downturn, where is the funding for these projects coming from? The answer is Measure E, passed in 2008 to improve instructional classroom technology and school facilities.

One exciting example of a Measure E-funded project is the new science classroom currently under construction at Campolindo High School (Campo), where many students take four years of science classes, and some even take multiple science classes in a year.

In the past, science teachers at Campo have had to switch classrooms throughout the day due to limited space. Accommodating the demand for adequate space has been extremely difficult; it has been especially challenging for teachers to teach lab classes when they only have the passing period to set up.

The new classroom will improve the situation by allowing more teachers their own classrooms, said Campolindo principal Carol Kitchens.

It should benefit students of all

ages, and improve the quality of the labs in the high school biology and chemistry classes. It may also be used to supplement Campo's geology, physics, physiology and environmental science classes. The classroom will have a mounted LCD projector, and eight new lab tables, each with two integrated computers. Additionally, Campo has acquired Vernier probeware, meaning new lab equip-

ment and software that Campo teachers will be incorporating into their regular lab work.

"We are extremely grateful for the continued support of the community," says Amanda Renno, the Science Department chair at Campo. "We know we wouldn't be able to expand our science offerings without it." The new science classroom is scheduled to be completed on December 12th, 2011.

Measure E has funded a wide variety of projects in Lamorinda high schools, including but limited to the following:

Acalanes High School—The new, larger pool is in use; the 3D Art Room (room 506) has been renovated. In the next few months, the small gymnasium floor will be renovated. All of the renovations at Acalanes are projected to use about 13 million dollars of Measure E funding.

Campolindo High School—the digital photo classroom and video classroom have been completed. In the next few months, the new science classroom will be completed. All of the renovations at Campo are projected to use about 22 million dollars of Measure E funding.

Miramonte High School—a new special needs classroom has been completed; a new culinary arts classroom will be ready soon; the small gymnasium will be updated this year. All of the renovations at Miramonte are projected to use about 12 million dollars of Measure E funding.

An independent citizens' oversight committee reviews the use of all Measure E funds.

College Shopping for Students with Learning Differences

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Although all college bound students should do careful research in order to decide which schools to send an application, this advice is especially important for students with Learning Differences (LD). A visit to each college is even more important for LD and ADHD students. Once the list of colleges is well researched and narrowed down, these students should visit each campus and make a beeline for the Learning Support Center and other offices that provide services for students with special needs.

LD students should start their research with inquiries to the Learning Support Center at each school. (The name of these centers varies a bit from-school-to-school, but every school provides support to LD students). Although colleges are required by law to offer support services, the level of support and types of accommodations vary widely. A phone call to the Learning Support Center is an opportunity to ask about the availability of support and accommodations. The objective is to find the right match between the student and the type and quality of support services offered; accomplishing this objective will help to ensure the student's success in college. Ideally, the support services offered in combination with student's motivation and ability to use these services will put the student on a level playing field with peers.

LD students and their families should be prepared to ask questions that will help them make informed decisions about colleges that are potentially a good match. The following are general questions that can serve as a starting point:

1. Is the Learning Support Center staffed by a Director? What is the administrative structure of the Center? (This information should be available in writing along with staff contact information.)
2. How long has the Center's program been in existence? How has it evolved over time? What kinds of services are currently provided?
3. What type of testing and documentation is required for accommodations? How current must the student's testing be to apply for accommodations?
4. What percent of the undergraduate student body use these services?
5. Is there an additional fee for services?
6. Is the staff specialized in instructional work with LD and ADHD? What Assistive Technology (AT) services do you offer? Do they have an AT expert on staff?
7. What is the procedure for getting extended time for exams and/or projects? How do students arrange for this extended time? Where do students take exams and who proctors?
8. Do the students have counselors that are from the Center's program? How many full-time and part-time counselors are on staff? What is the caseload?
9. Does the student have an academic counselor as well as a counselor in the Learning Support Center? If so, how do the two counselors work together?
10. How are conflicts or disputes resolved? (for example, if a professor is not in compliance with a student's accommodations)
11. What are the most difficult majors or areas of concentration for students with learning challenges to manage successfully at the college?
12. What is the four year graduation rate for students with learning challenges? Is any information provided about success after graduation?
13. Are there students who are currently in the program available to interview?

Answers to these questions will be helpful in the initial stages of screening colleges for students with LD.

In addition, there are students who have learning challenges related to other conditions like anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder, depression and bipolar disorders. These students may also benefit from services provided by Learning Support Centers. The Centers are good places to start your research, but also check out the Student Counseling Center (often housed within Student Health Services) since professionals at these facilities may also provide necessary therapeutic, medical and/or pharmacological support.

Each student is unique and so students and their families must prepare

to modify general guidelines and questions in order to obtain the information needed. This is often done best using the help of qualified professionals who can lend support in their respective areas of expertise. The proper input, direction and support helps students with special needs discover which colleges provide the best fit, so they can go on to pursue their goals and aspirations in happy and productive ways.



Elizabeth LaScala Ph.D. guides college, transfer and graduate school applicants through the complex world of admissions. She develops best match college lists, offers personalized interview and essay coaching, and tools and strategies to help students tackle each step of the admissions process with confidence and success. Elizabeth helps students from all backgrounds, including visual and performing arts students and athletes, to maximize financial aid awards. Contact her @ (925) 891-4491 or elizabeth@doingcollege.com.

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Monday, September 12, 6 p.m.

Lafayette School District
LAFSD Office
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Wednesday, September 14, 7 p.m.

Moraga School District
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MEF and PTA Donations Save Programs, Jobs

Submitted by Erica Zeidenberg

Moraga School District and Campolindo High School will be reinstating programs and teachers for the new school year as a result of the over \$1.5 million donated to Moraga Education Foundation (MEF) and the district's Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) through June 30. Total donations to MEF for the 2011-2012 year came to \$1,519,994 with \$1,430,000 being contributed to the Moraga schools.

At the Moraga School District Governing Board meeting on August 8, the Board approved rescission of layoff notices and reduction-of-hour notices for the coming school year given the success of both organizations' fund raising campaigns.

The additional MEF funds raised during the May Campaign allowed for the reinstatement of the following to elementary schools and middle school:

- elementary physical education teachers restored to 1.6 full-time equivalent for K-5
- librarians restored to 3.2 full-time equivalent for K-8
- reading tutors for K-3

The additional PTA donations provided:

- reinstatement of the Kids Connect program
- K-5 teachers, .23 of a full-time equivalent
- Technology coordinator, .73 full-time equivalent
- Reading tutor substitutes
- Reinstatement of the math boost program
- Support for JM electives
- Support for student programs at JM

MSD Superintendent Bruce Burns said in an email to parents, "On behalf of the Moraga School District, I wish to thank you, the Moraga Education Foundation leadership and contributors, our PTA presidents and their members, and the Moraga community for their donations. Your contributions result in the continuation of the weekly K-5 PE program, all libraries remaining open four days a week, counseling support at all schools, a fully supported elementary Reading Tutor

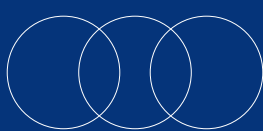
program, and 4th-8th math intervention classes. Whether you made a donation or offered your time and energy to our fund raising efforts, I hope you take great satisfaction in knowing you made a difference for this year's 1,762 students."

Campolindo High School

For Campolindo High School, MEF will contribute \$400,000. Based on district priorities, Campolindo principal Carol Kitchens came up with a list of funding requests for Campolindo. The funds will be split with \$126,000 going to department grants, \$46,000 in classroom lab supplies and \$228,000 to maintaining smaller class sizes, staff development, counseling, tutoring and technology. Some specific areas being supported by MEF's donations are:

- Smaller 9th grade classes and electives
 - Art, Auto technology, computer programming, world language curriculum enhancements
 - Digital photography, drama, instrumental music materials, video production, wood technology
 - Counseling and support services such as the support counselor, peer tutor trainer and coordinator, staff development programs, math tutoring center
 - Classroom technology and curriculum tech coordinator
- The Campolindo Parents Club is contributing \$116,600 to a range of programs and services including:**
- Support services such as English and tutoring centers
 - Classroom technology
 - Staff development
 - Student programs including Model UN, mock trial, robotics, etc.
 - Other curriculum enhancements including social studies, special education, PE/health and more

Mrs. Kitchens said, "The reason Campolindo is ranked among the top high schools in California and the country is directly linked to the incredible amount of support our students and teachers receive from MEF and Parent Club. Thanks for all you do for Campo and look forward to working with you again this year."



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Schedule By Category:

- 11:00 am Elementary K-2 and 3-5
- 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

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 13 Wednesday, August 31, 2011



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian
read on page D4*

Luxury Homes Rise at Wilder

By Diana LaScala-Gruenewald



Construction is nearly complete on a new home at Wilder.

Photo Tod Fierner

The Wilder exit lies just east of the Caldecott Tunnel on Highway 24, and pulls quickly away from the noise of traffic. Shortly the road drops over a hill, revealing a silent, stunning vista full of radiant yellows and greens and the elegant Mount Diablo. Nestled into this peaceful landscape are the beginnings of roads and homes. The Wilder property looks like a lovely phantom of what it will be within a year – one of the most beautiful residential areas of Lamorinda.

Wilder is a 1600 acre plot of private land, of which 300 acres are under development. 245 luxury homes are planned for the site, as well as five playing fields that can accommodate baseball and soccer, a tot lot and a private recreation center. According to OG Property spokesperson Jason Keadjian, the architecture of the development is intended to “encourage connections between the community and its natural surroundings.” To this end, the Wilder community will be connected to trailheads in the neighboring East Bay Regional Park District by paths called “meanders,” which are highly landscaped and will allow pedestrians to travel around the area with-

out walking on the street.

Despite delays in 2009 and an especially rainy spring, construction remains on schedule at Wilder. Today all five playing fields are under construction, as are a few homes. Landscaping and road building are under way. The Quarry House, the private recreation center that includes a gym and an outdoor pool, is completed.

The homes that are currently being built are scheduled to be finished and sold this coming fall. They will be roomy, with square footage varying from 2,000 to well over 5,000. Prices will range from 1.5 to 3 million dollars. Each house will feature many windows and porches with spectacular views of the California hills.

While construction at Wilder will continue for the next several years, this December could bring the property’s first residents. Tours of the area are available seven days a week; tourists can walk through the Quarry House and one of the new homes. Those interested should drop by the Ranch House at 2 Wilder Road and speak to Gerry Bakalian or Robin Rogers.

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	14	\$415,000	\$2,695,000
MORAGA	6	\$420,000	\$935,000
ORINDA	9	\$553,000	\$2,100,000

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

- 849 Broadmoor Court, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2549 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-28-11
 318 Buckeye Court, \$1,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2617 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 7-27-11;
 Previous Sale: \$450,000, 01-30-98
 29 Crest Road, \$750,000, 3 Bdrms, 2537 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 7-29-11;
 Previous Sale: \$389,000, 02-04-93
 3699 Highland Road, \$450,500, 4 Bdrms, 1727 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 7-29-11
 847 Las Trampas Road, \$775,000, 4 Bdrms, 1921 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 7-22-11;
 Previous Sale: \$389,000, 12-28-93
 1092 Laurel Drive, \$780,000, 3 Bdrms, 1523 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 7-27-11;
 Previous Sale: \$810,000, 04-11-07
 3205 Lucas Circle, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 3185 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 7-22-11;
 Previous Sale: \$590,000, 05-20-94
 3386 Moraga Boulevard, \$639,000, 2 Bdrms, 886 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 7-28-11;
 Previous Sale: \$736,000, 03-22-06
 931 Mountain View Drive #E, \$415,000, 3 Bdrms, 1646 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 7-27-11;
 Previous Sale: \$675,000, 10-27-06
 2494 Pebble Beach Loop, \$560,000, 3 Bdrms, 1740 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 8-2-11
 3152 Plymouth Road, \$535,000, 3 Bdrms, 1124 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-22-11
 3443 St. Mary'S Road, \$640,000, 5 Bdrms, 2218 SqFt, 1925 YrBlt, 7-28-11;
 Previous Sale: \$335,000, 09-16-92

- 1182 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$2,695,000, 3 Bdrms, 4320 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 7-26-11;
 Previous Sale: \$284,500, 07-19-80
 1904 Via Ferrari, \$849,000, 4 Bdrms, 2920 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 7-28-11

MORAGA

- 92 Buckingham Drive, \$795,000, 3 Bdrms, 1996 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 8-2-11;
 Previous Sale: \$715,000, 02-20-03
 5 Corte Fresca, \$935,000, 4 Bdrms, 2179 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 7-22-11
 281 Fernwood Drive, \$920,000, 5 Bdrms, 3494 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 7-28-11;
 Previous Sale: \$510,000, 05-28-92
 190 Miramonte Drive, \$420,000, 2 Bdrms, 1525 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 7-27-11;
 Previous Sale: \$340,000, 04-02-01
 1147 Sanders Drive, \$699,000, 3 Bdrms, 1950 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 7-28-11;
 Previous Sale: \$390,000, 09-03-92
 36 Wandel Drive, \$689,000, 3 Bdrms, 1478 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 7-22-11

ORINDA

- 185 Camino Pablo, \$553,000, 2 Bdrms, 1040 SqFt, 1928 YrBlt, 7-29-11;
 Previous Sale: \$186,000, 10-08-86
 7 Charles Hill Lane, \$1,850,000, 3 Bdrms, 2966 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 7-22-11;
 Previous Sale: \$60,000, 03-28-77
 85 Coral Drive, \$758,000, 3 Bdrms, 1591 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-29-11;
 Previous Sale: \$257,000, 04-15-93
 1868 El Nido, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 4602 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 8-2-11;
 Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 04-20-00
 328 Glorietta Boulevard, \$710,000, 3 Bdrms, 1679 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 8-2-11;
 Previous Sale: \$745,000, 03-17-04
 29 La Vuelta, \$1,150,000, 5 Bdrms, 3655 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 7-28-11
 3 Mariposa Lane, \$895,000, 4 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 7-28-11;
 Previous Sale: \$399,000, 08-23-96
 48 Muth Drive, \$837,500, 3 Bdrms, 2519 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 7-22-11;
 Previous Sale: \$1,087,500, 10-10-08
 26 Oakwood Road, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 5067 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 7-29-11;
 Previous Sale: \$3,500,000, 12-19-05



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September, 2011

Digging Deep-Gardening with C The Lawn Ranger

By Cynthia Brian

"A lawn is nature under totalitarian rule!" Mich



*Lush, green, verdant lawns are for playing, cartwheeling, and memory making
Photos Cynthia Brian*



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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



Cynthia Brian

Michael Pollan

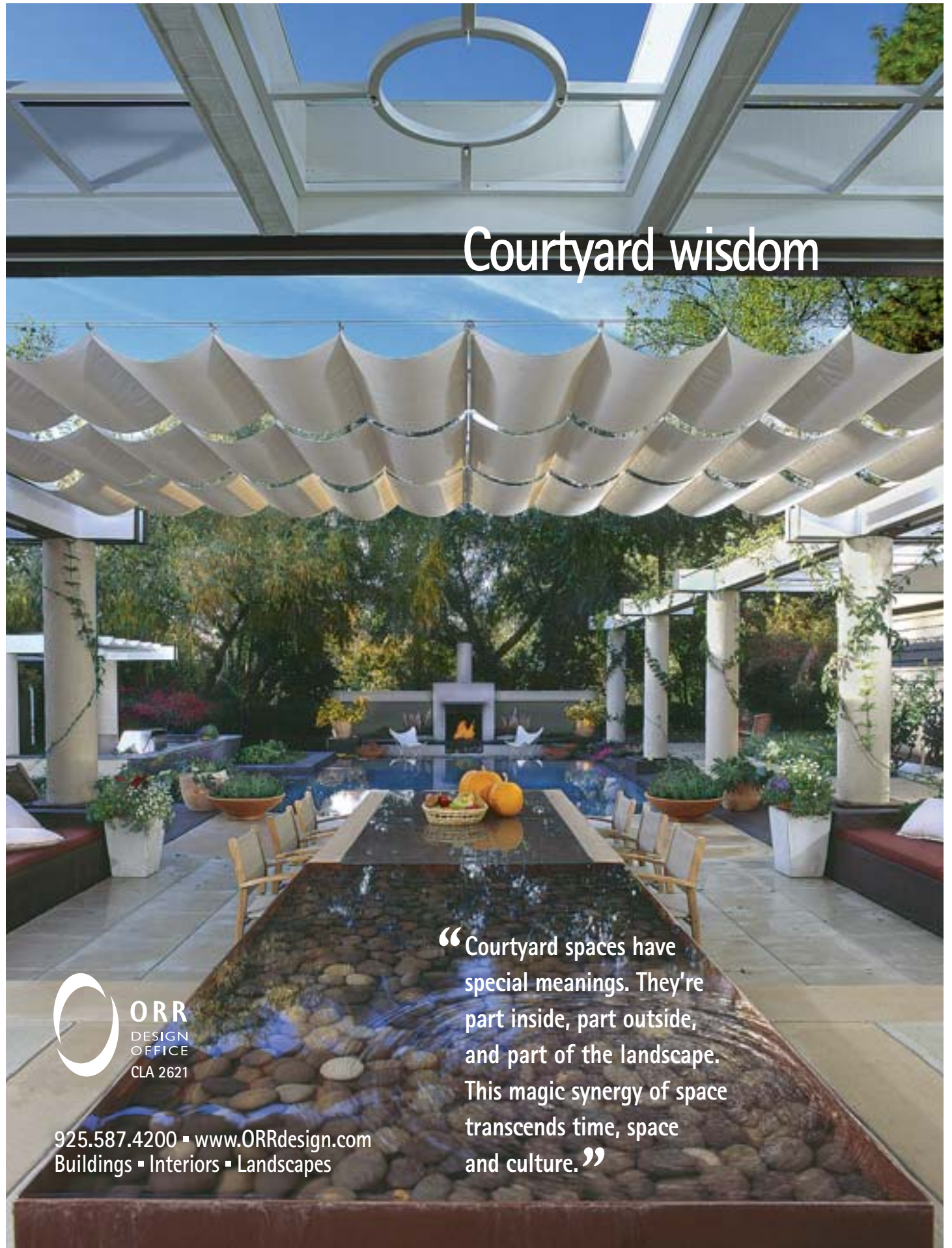
Lawns. People love them or hate them. There seems not to be an in-between.

I err on the side of adoration. Not politically or ecologically correct these days to live amongst the lawn lovers, for me, rich, green, luxurious turf hold magical memories worth the water and the work. Endless hours of enjoyment tumbling, somersaulting, cheerleading, Frisbee throwing, badminton, croquet, playing catch, football rumbles, horseshoes, and camping filled my childhood and that of my children on lawns. How wonderful it was to throw a towel on the grass and gaze at the clouds or meteor showers! Lawns were the location of training puppies, cuddling kittens, and collecting dandelions to blow in the wind as delicate angels of flight. In college, I'd take mini naps between classes lounging on the grass with my backpack as my pillow. A soft green carpet of inviting lawn has always been a welcome security blanket no matter where I've traveled throughout the world. Washington Irving said it best with his comment "Society is like a lawn where every roughness is smoothed, every bramble eradicated, and where the eye is delighted by the smiling verdure of a velvet surface." In short, lawns provide optimism about the world we live in.

If you are thinking about installing a patch of green, this is the time to begin the preparation. Fall is a great time to seed or sod in our part of the country. For both type of installations, you need to prepare the soil by removing weeds, rocks, stones, roots, and other plants.

... continued on page D6

Courtyard wisdom



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September, 2011

Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian ... continued from page D5



A close up of moss, a soft rug for small, damp areas.

If you've had a difficult time growing anything in your yard, get your soil tested and contact the University of California Extension office for advice. Once the site is level, the soil has been tilled and enriched, you are ready to scatter your seed or roll out the sod. If you have a small area to beautify, throwing seed covered in peat moss may be the best decision. I recommend netting the square to keep the hungry birds away from this dining buffet.

Most homeowners in Lamorinda demand instant beauty. If this describes you, sod is your answer. Although more costly initially, sod provides a thick, durable surface with immediate satisfaction. Think of sod as a yard of turf in box that rolls like a carpet into any space you wish. A sod combination of perennial rye grass mixed with pureblue grass provides a glossy green finish. Before you install sod, check out neighborhood lawns that you like. Be brave and ask the name of the variety of grass and the growing experience, then purchase the same type. Abide by the installation instructions, including specifications for watering, feeding, and mowing.

In general, lawns require more water than perennial gardens, including at least two fertilizations per year, in the spring and autumn, weekly mowing in the warm season, and occasional

de-thatching and aerating as needed. For strong root development, water in the morning, deeply and infrequently. My trick for a healthy lawn is to mulch with the lawn clippings by eliminating the catch bag while mowing plus raise the blade on the mower an inch higher. The longer grass keeps the roots cooler while the lawn clippings put nitrogen back into the soil. A daily weed-pulling trek around the perimeter deters the invasives. Although my husband disagrees with me, I enjoy infiltrating our lawn with the delicate, yet hardy isotoma blue star creeper for a splash of surprise. If your garden is extremely shady and wet, you may want to plant a patch of baby tears.

A popular alternative to the mow hungry traditional lawns is ornamental grass, such as silver blue fescue. These "almost maintenance free" grasses are available in a variety of heights, colors, and textures. They are especially useful on hillsides for erosion control and in places where minimal water is available. Lambs ears, dichondria, ajuga, and other ground covers can also be used in shadier areas where mowing is difficult. Iceplant has been used in dry areas, although I find it attractive only when it is flowering in the spring.

Gravel lawns are becoming increasingly popular. With our California outdoor lifestyle, gardeners who want to preserve water and spend minimal hours tending turf have begun installing floors of pea gravel or crushed stone. If this is your environmental choice, the depth of the gravel is critical. If it is laid too deep, you'll feel as though you are trudging through snow. Create a base layer of stones that are one or two inches in length, flatten with a compactor, then add two or three inches of crushed gravel or pea gravel on top for a very stable surface that drains well and weed free. If you are a bit artistic, allow volunteer plants such as verbena or silver spires of *Verbascum* to sprout for visual interest. Add a fountain or water feature, border the gravel carpet with large boulders, and beds of lavender, succulents, agaves, sunflowers, and native grasses. For a Southwestern look, throw in an old wagon wheel or rusty water pump to accessorize.

Outside my Starstyle® Studio, I have a bed of lush green moss under the redwood tree amid the rhododendrons and azaleas. On a hot day the soft coolness of the moss offers a refreshing

respite while conducting a consultation on the bench outside my office. Irish moss, Scotch moss, and creeping thyme can be lovely natural rugs in small patches.

Unless you plan on being a slave to your lawn, hiring a service, or paying exorbitant amounts for water and maintenance, don't compare your turf to the local golf course. It will never measure up. Perfectionists do not noble lawn caretakers make! But if you are a lawn ranger like me and ready to run through the sprinklers, put up with a few brown spots, and pull the occasional weed, your lawn will provide priceless life memories long after the expenses are forgotten.

Here's to cartwheels, sow bugs, hoses, and running barefoot through the grass. Long live lawns!



A sea of waving silver tipped ornamental grasses graces the hillside with watermelon crepe myrtle and the pink puffs of the Silk Tree in the background.



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Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

LAFAYETTE

Camino Colorados, Citibank, 07-27-11, \$596,250, 1678 sf, 4 bd
Martino Road, Bradford Communities, 08-01-11, \$772,018, 2800 sf, 3 bd
Springhill Road, Magnate Fund 2, 08-04-11, \$595,000, 3398 sf, 4 bd

MORAGA

Ascot Drive, Harborview Mortgage, 07-13-11, \$190,755, 1068 sf, 2 bd
Donald Drive, Just Properties, 07-28-11, \$87,251, 560 sf, 1 bd



Cynthia Brian's Garden Guide for September

"The apple does not fall far from the tree!" Yiddish proverb

September is apple season. I fondly remember 4-H events as a child where we "bobbed for apples" sticking our heads into a barrel of water filled with floating pommies. Thinking back, it doesn't seem very sanitary, yet no one ever got sick. Perhaps the adage about "an apple a day keeps the doctor away" is indeed true. School is back in session and apples make a healthy, nutritious, low calorie snack packed with fiber. As you tend your autumn garden, involve your children in your activities. They will learn to be stewards of our planet by watching your choices and participating in your passions. I definitely didn't fall far from my farm family tree.

- BOOST your healing power by plucking ripe tomatoes straight from the vine. Classified as both a vegetable and a fruit, the primary nutrient in tomatoes is lycopene, a powerful antioxidant that neutralizes free radicals and possibly guards against your risk of heart disease, osteoporosis, and diabetes.
- BREATHE new life into a tired vegetable garden by adding a playful combination of fall weather crops with festive grey-blue hues such as cilantro, kale, and ornamental cabbages.
- VISIT the Be the Star You Are!® charity booth at the Moraga Pear Festival on Saturday, September 24th for complimentary seeds. Buy an autographed copy of the New York Times best seller, Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul and Be the Star You Are!® for TEENS to receive FREE potpourri. You'll be supporting the tornado torn schools and hospitals in Joplin, Missouri.
- THIN perennials and transplant to other parts of your garden or share with neighbors.
- FEED camellias, roses, azaleas, gardenias, and fruit trees.
- CHECK out the new bulbs for spring available now from catalogues and some retailers. Next year's daffodils are sensational.
- SUBSCRIBE to a CSA program (Community Supported Agriculture) for farm fresh produce shipped to your home if you don't have your own vegetable garden or fruit orchard yet want the freshest seasonal favorites.
- DOWNLOAD the Bonide Best Solutions app which helps consumers search by name or photo to identify a problem with pests, weeds, and diseases. Available for iPhones, Droid, and Blackberry.
- GOPHER-PROOF your garden by building raised beds with a wire mesh bottom. If you already have gophers, try putting a stick of chewing gum or Exlax down their hole. Let me know your results!
- SOW seeds of short season varieties of vegetables and herbs that tolerate cooler nights and shorter days for a late fall feast. Experiment with mesclun mixes, salad greens, arugula, peas, dill, and broccoli raab.
- PARTY on the patio with all the elements of great entertaining by having the sounds of a fountain nearby, fall colored leaves as table ornaments, and a fire pit to warm the guests as the evening chills.
- PROPOGATE lilies by removing a few scales from the outside of a parent bulb then providing a clean tray filled with sphagnum moss or vermiculite until bulblets form. Make sure to label the type of lily bulb you are growing.
- EXPERIMENT in shady areas by planting varieties of ferns. Ferns tolerate moist to moderately dry soil, and the best news is, drum roll please... deer detest them.
- ADD botanical diversity to a barren or deprived site by collecting

your perennial seeds and tossing them in those horticultural challenged arenas.

- SEND me high quality pics of your glorious garden with a description and they may get published. Email Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com.
- TAP into your inner rainbow by coordinating colorful autumn annuals with the changes in the leaves for your front garden.
- CUT bouquets of the perky pink Naked Ladies for a long-lived indoor arrangement. I love these glorious gals, and hooray, another floriferous favorite despised by the dear deer!
- EAT fresh, crisp red, green, or yellow apples straight from the tree. Don't peel them as 2/3 of the antioxidants and most of the nutrition is in the peel! When some of your crop falls to the ground, make applesauce. Did you know that 2500 varieties of apples grow in the United States with 7500 varieties growing around the world!

See you at the Pear Festival in Moraga on Saturday, September 24th. Looking forward to swapping lawn lore!

Happy Gardening to You!

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Cynthia Brian
The Goddess Gardener
Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
www.GoddessGardener.com
925-377-7827



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

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ORINDA 
220 The Knoll
 Fabulous 2+bd/2.5 ba end unit in desirable Orindawoods. Beaut updated, spacious & pvt. Eat in kit, sep fam rm + ofc which could be 3rd bd. Tons of natural light, vaulted ceilings, skylights. **Offered at \$825,000**




ORINDA 
30 Rio Vista
 Charming "Pottery Barn" 3bd/2ba 1978 sf trad on .42 ac in pvt setting adj to open space. Updated kit w/granite, updated baths, new paint & carpet, most dual panes, lvl lawn/play area. **Offered at \$899,000**




ORINDA 
24 Lavenida
 Impeccably maintained & exquisitely expanded 2410 sf custom hm. Gorgeous grounds w/lvl lawns, gardens, shaded deck overlooking creek. Stunning pvt mstr suite, quiet cul de sac. **Offered at \$1,029,000**



ORINDA 
345 Camino Sobrante
 Updated 4bd/3ba 3301 sf contemp on .55 ac in primo country club loc. Spacious Great Room, updated kitchen, hdwd flrs, most dual panes, lower lvl guest apt w/pvt entrance, ofc, lvl lawn. **Offered at \$1,100,000**




ORINDA 
99 La Cuesta
 Stunning OCC custom home at end of quiet cul de sac. Beautifully renovated w/vaulted ceilings, dual pane windows, wood floors, granite/stainless kitchen, lovely lawn/garden. Views. **Offered at \$1,179,000**



ORINDA 
50 Haciendas
 Classic Old Orinda estate home off sought-after Oak Arbor. Prime 1 ac parcel at end of court. 5bd/5ba, 5110 sf architecturally designed by Wm Knowles. Spectacular setting w/lawns, gardens, pool. **Offered at \$1,895,000**



ORINDA 
20 Monterey Terrace
 Stunning 5000+ sf estate hm on close-in cul de sac. Custom blt for orig owners w/soaring ceilings, gorgeous kitchen w/adj fam rm, pvt mstr retreat. Sep in-law apt. Lovely views, lvl yd. **Offered at \$1,899,000**



ORINDA 
136 Manzanita
 Santa Barbara style in Orinda. New construction 4000 sf 4bd/3.5ba of incredible design & custom craftsmanship. A world of charm for ideal family living yet perfect for sophisticated entertaining. **Offered at \$2,195,000**



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 sgl lvl 3bd/2ba hm w/great curb appeal. Hdwd flrs, fresh paint, newer appliances. Great location, conv to schools & Rancho Laguna Park. Beaut landscaping. **Offered at \$699,000**



LAFAYETTE 
11 Buckingham
 Terrific 3bd/2ba home! Open floor plan with remodeled living/dining rooms and kitchen. Expanded master. Great yard with new paver patio & large lawn. **Offered at \$739,000**



LAFAYETTE 
859 Acalanes Road
 Totally remodeled & landscaped to perfection. Artistic touches thruout. Gourmet kit w/cherry cabinets & granite counters. Beaut views from this pvt home w/iron gate enty, long pvt driveway. **Offered at \$1,125,000**




LAFAYETTE 
614 Huntleigh Drive
 Terrific open floor plan w/remod kitchen w/gorgeous granite counters. Vaulted ceilings, maple hdwd floors, remod baths, new roof, level yard w/terrific views. Very private & quiet. **Offered at \$1,229,000**



LAFAYETTE 
3407 Shangri La
 Fabulous 4bd/3.5ba Craftsman style blt in '05. Stunning architectural integrity, beaut craftsmanship, high end features. Serene setting, 1.08 ac in Reliez Valley, lovely yd w/lawn, play area. **Offered at \$1,495,000**



WALNUT CREEK 
664 Charleston Court
 Fabulous 3bd/2.5ba 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
 Sustainable gardener's paradise! Delightful energy efficient hm on flat approx. 1/3 ac. Solar panels, remod kitchen, "green" materials. Hardwood floors. Separate studio for home office. **Offered at \$599,000**

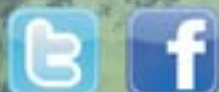
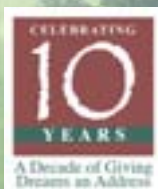
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