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Photos Ohlen Alexander

Small Town Fun at the Moraga Pear and Wine Festival

By Sophie Braccini

Under last Saturday's deliciously mild sun, families and older residents alike came to the Pear and Wine Festival at the Moraga Commons Park for a good time, rejoicing in the simple pleasures of living in a community with a small-town ambience.

For the first time, Moraga's famous pears were joined by grapes at the annual fall event. An easy-going tone was set for the day by Mayor Karen Mendonca when she rolled up her pants and went on stage to crush grapes with her bare feet. The pear recipe and pear pie-eating contests were rivaled in fun by a wine-pairing mini-class and the Lamorinda Winegrower Association's (LWGA) wine

tasting. "It was one of our most successful Festivals," commented proud organizer John Haffner. "This is something I always wanted to do, since I was a child and saw Lucille Ball do it on I Love Lucy," said the mayor, when offered the opportunity to crush grapes provided by the LWGA. Mendonca confided that it had felt wonderful, "like a foot massage." LWGA's Tony Rollo organized the crushing, along with Parks and Recreation staff. "I cut some of my own barrels and brought them here," said Rollo, who owns Vincenza Ranch Vineyard, the town's third bonded winery, "that's the way it's always been done."

... continued on page A10

Quote of the Week:

"I wanted to express my thanks and appreciation to Jennifer Russell...for listening to my concerns..."
 Read Letters to the Editor, page A9

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Productive Summer Interns Wow Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



Summer Intern Megan Canales working the Planning counter at the City of Lafayette offices.
 Photo C. Tyson

Embracing summer interns for more than thirty years, the City of Lafayette has been a training ground for bright eyed students from nearly the dawn of time – or the incorporation of the city. This summer six young men and women contributed to keeping the city running, gained valuable experience and lightened the load of staff members- a good deal all the way around.

"This year's crop of interns, which include Zoe Merideth and Zachary Baron (Planning), Jay Yu (Public Works), Spencer Stahl and Robert Burt (Engineering), and Megan Canales (Planning), has been a particularly good group," said City Manager Steven Falk. "To give you a sense of their range consider that, just as Zoe departed to begin her Master's Degree program at Harvard University, Robert will be entering his senior year at Miramonte High School."

"I know how invaluable an internship can be to someone fresh out of college," said former intern and now Planning & Building Services Manager Niroop Srivatsa. "In the Planning Department, our

interns get to participate in such important tasks as the General Plan update, the Downtown Specific Plan, amendments to the zoning ordinance and development review and are able to present their work to the Planning and Design Review Commissions and the City Council. The City benefits from their fresh perspectives and innovative ideas. So it's a win-win situation."

In fact the city's longest-tenured employee at thirty years and counting, Jennifer Russell, who is now the Director of the Parks Trails and Recreation Department, started as an intern. Falk reports that two of Lafayette's interns – Dan Singer and Karen Stein – went on to become city managers (Stein once filled that position in Moraga).

Assistant Planner Michael Cass must really "Love Lafayette," he attended Acalanes High School and started interning while attending St. Mary's College. Falk now calls him, "a grizzled veteran and key member of our planning staff"

... continued on page A10

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

Cal-ESAR: They've Got your Back(country)



By Cathy Dausman
 Lamorinda's branch of California Explorer Search and Rescue (Cal-ESAR) is the nicest bunch of people you never want to meet—at least on the job. Cal-ESAR is a volunteer wildernessread on page B1

Sports C1-C3

Lady Cougars Serve up a Win



By Marissa Harnett
 The Lamorinda high school girls' tennis teams are starting DFAL conference play. Campolino is enjoying a 3-0 run in the DFAL and are 6-1-1 overall. Miramonte has split its out-of-league record but also remains undefeated in leagueread on page C1

Our Homes D1-D12

Orinda's Rain Trackers



By Andrea A. Firth
 "In California for so many years, we could count on no rain from May to October. But this year it rained measurably in June," says Lynn Trowbridge. She has lived in Orinda since the mid-1970's and startedread on page D1



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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, October 11, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Monday, October 3, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Tuesday, October 11, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
in the Arts & Science Discovery
Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District

Wednesday, October 5, 7:30 pm
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 pm
LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

Zoning Issue Heading to Home Stretch

By Cathy Tyson

Discussion on the controversial proposed downzoning of the acreage commonly known as the Christmas Tree Lot is slowly moving toward a conclusion. With two distinct groups at a recent City Council meeting, those in favor and those against, and a concerned City Council that has to decide the matter, the long simmering debate is reaching a head. Because of recently received documents from attorney for the landowner and developer, Allan Moore, the City Council wanted to take a time out so legal counsel could review and analyze the situation. At the meeting those in attendance were invited to offer comments on the matter, which will be open for more discussion, and ultimately a decision, at a later date.

For the first time ever, the landowner, Anna Maria Dettmer who flew down from the northwest to attend, gave emotional testimony: "I plan to fight to protect my prop-

erty rights." She grew up in Lafayette, went to Acalanes High School and called the matter "critically important."

"What you are proposing is unconstitutional," declared Moore, attorney for Dettmer and the developer, O'Brien Land Company. Back in March, an application for a 315 unit multi-family housing complex was submitted to the City, additional information was requested and the application was deemed complete in July of this year. The zoning for the parcel is currently APO – Administrative Professional Office that allows up to 35 units per acre to be built. The City is working through the process of changing it to LR-5 – one unit per five acres of land.

The City of Lafayette has been considering re-zoning the parcel, and four others along Deer Hill Road, for some time and finally directed staff to start the process in late

April of 2010. Directing the process to start and completing the process are two different things – to date the downzoning has not been finalized.

A number of representatives from area homeowners associations including Springhill Valley, Secluded Valley and Silver Dell stated there was broad support of the proposed downzoning among their many members. Marie Blitz of the Lafayette Homeowners Council noted that since the matter is being continued to a later date, they will comment next time. A parade of residents came forward reiterating the concerns they've had all along about traffic, the visibility of the parcel, aesthetics and the affect on property values.

Longtime opponent Eliot Hudson called the proposed project not consistent with the character of Lafayette and sited case law about a similar matter in Morgan Hill where attorneys decided that maintaining a

unique character was a rational reason for re-zoning.

In a dramatic highlight of the evening a resident and land use attorney stated, "I am really unhappy the City is gambling with our tax dollars," he predicted the matter will "go down in flames" for a number of reasons. He advised the City to take careful steps, adding, "you will lose this case," and pointed out the City of Half Moon Bay ended up paying \$50 million in damages.

A quick check reveals the final judgment of a very convoluted case was rendered in federal court by Judge Vaughn Walker for \$36.8 million plus legal fees against the city of Half Moon Bay in 2007 for a dispute over a 24-acre parcel purchased by a developer who planned to build an 83-unit subdivision. That City Council eventually decided to settle with developer Keenan Land Company for \$18 million.

Toasty Crowds Gather on the Boulevard for Art and Wine Festival

After two ridiculously hot days, the popular Art and Wine festival came to a close without any major incidents, besides schvitzing. Taking advantage of social networking, there was a lot of Tweeting and Facebook messaging going on this year to promote the annual fundraiser. "It was very successful – tons of people took BART and over 100 cyclists per day used the bicycle garage," said chief organ-

izer and Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce Jay Lifson. He had a litany of compliments for the army of volunteers who made it all possible and the fabulous musical talent that graced the multiple stages over the weekend. "It was great to watch the City turn into a village overnight, and back to business as usual by Monday morning," said Lifson. *C. Tyson*

Unstoppable force meets moveable object, 9/12/11 Two cars got car-rumped when they both failed to yield before making their turn.

Oh, so petty, 9/12/11 Petty Theft: Is that you behind those Foster Grants? Just who stole a pair of \$200 sunglasses from a Lafayette business? We may never know.

Sleep Driving? 9/13/11 It is so annoying to park your car overnight and come out the next morning to find it gone. A Lafayette resident is hoping the missing 1996 Honda comes home soon.

A Petition Against Petitioners, 9/13/11 An elderly woman complained to police that she was being harassed by petitioners, whom she described as "unreasonable." After a stern talking-to by police, the petitioners left the area, presumably to find a more receptive audience.



Police Report



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He was a recent guest on CNBC's *Power Lunch*, and has also appeared on Fox Business News and the Fox Radio Network. He has been a featured columnist on *Forbes.com* and Reuters News and was featured in the San Francisco Chronicle and Dallas Morning News in September 2011.

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Homeowner's Group Holds Annual Meeting

By Cathy Tyson

The annual meeting of the Lafayette Homeowners Council couldn't have been more neighborly. With gracious thanks to recently retired board members and very brief business to attend to, the meeting ran like clockwork. President Marie Blits welcomed everyone and spelled out the group's mission – "to advocate for homeowner interests" throughout Lafayette and noted that the all volunteer organization spends hundreds of hours in "rather endless" City Council, Planning Commission and subcommittee meetings.

Representatives from virtually every neighbor homeowner association from Happy Valley to Silver Dell came to get the latest updates on major issues in Lafayette. Mayor Carl Anduri had a factual presentation on Measure G – the road repair campaign. Planning Commissioner Patty Curtain-Tinley along with Planning and Building Services Manager

Niroop Srivatsa talked about the Downtown Specific Plan and gave an overview of the process to date and next steps: the release of the revised Downtown Specific Plan in October or November of this year, Planning Commission hearings in November and December, City Council hearings and Plan adoption expected to take place in January of 2012.

Finally as plates of homemade cookies circled the room, Council Member Carol Federighi and Transportation Planner Leah Greenblatt took the floor to discuss the proposed pedestrian and bicycle right of way. The recently completed feasibility study, funded by a grant from CalTrans, demonstrated that a walk and bike-way is indeed feasible along the one and a half mile EBMUD right of way from Risa Road to Brown Avenue. Further grants and more research is needed to move forward on the proposed project.

BART Solar Project at the Lafayette Station

By Cathy Tyson

Looking to garner public input, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Director Gail Murray and Frank Schultz, Manager of BART's Energy Division, made a presentation on the benefits of a potential solar canopy above the eastern section of the Lafayette BART parking lot recently at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. This is just a preliminary step in the process – approval by the BART Board of Directors will be required before going forward. If approved, construction would start in 2012.

"We want to diversify our power supply," said Schultz. With the lowest climate change emissions per passenger of large urban transit systems in the nation, BART is looking for a reliable and renewable clean energy source that supports their sustainability goals.

The Lafayette station was chosen after BART performed a comprehensive study of locations. Originally Orinda was considered, but those plans were partially scrapped after discussions with the City. BART agreed to put plans on hold at that station while Orinda wrestles with its General Plan – they compromised on a smaller installation on the parking section nearest the station.

The Northern California Power Agency, a joint-powers agency with BART and other local government members, looked for an experienced operator of energy projects and after review, decided on LightBeam En-

ergy to construct and manage the project. LightBeam plans, develops and operates renewable power generation facilities, "We put generation where the load is," said Light Beam President Jim Lavelle.

He went on to explain that California has made renewable power more attractive and BART is responding to those incentives. The long term cost is expected to be about the same as the conventional supply. If approved, the Lafayette solar panel array is expected to produce 750 kilowatts of energy – that would take care of the entire energy needs of the Lafayette station and then some.

LightBeam is financing the entire project; Lowell describes his firm as a "new age utility company" – that is getting more and more pervasive as demand continues to grow.

The benefit to BART parkers, aside from supporting renewable energy, is a shady spot to park and significantly better night time lighting. The shades will be slightly angled to maximize solar absorption and stand approximately nine feet tall.

In addition, drivers should be aware that travel by BART is eleven times cleaner than driving alone in your car.

Residents in attendance voiced concerns about loss of parking spaces – and aesthetics. One woman called it "unattractive – it looks like a cheap carport." The project's next step is Design Review; perhaps they can make it more attractive.



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4 WANDEL DR	235 SANDRINGHAM	1437 CAMINO PERAL	2 AGHALEE LN
149 WALFORD DR	1072 COUNTRY CLUB	1416 CAMINO PERAL	1018 RIVER ROCK LN
108 WALFORD DR	1080 COUNTRY CLUB	1475 CAMINO PERAL	1919 YGNACIO VLY RD
4 SPARROW CT	398 BIRCHWOOD DR	1515 A CAMINO PERAL	309 CORTE GABRIEL
11 KETELSEN	268 BIRCHWOOD DR	236 VALLEY GLEN	3545 BOYER CIRCLE
8 PIMENTEL CT	13 DONALD DR	180 VALLEY GLEN	938 MOHR LN
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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, September 28, 7:00 pm
 Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 pm
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, October 3, 7:30 pm
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Tuesday, October 11, 7:00 pm
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Liaison

Friday, October 14, 8:00 am
 Fire Station, 1280 Moraga Way

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District
 Tuesday, October 11, 7:30 pm
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate
 School Auditorium
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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 www.moraga.ca.us
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.moragachamber.org
Moraga Citizens' Network:
 www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Police Report

Stolen credit card number, 9/20/11 A Woodside Drive resident had a surprise when he found out that his debit card had been used to make purchases for someone else. The shopping spree, totaling \$1,200, was reported to the bank.

Mailbox hit and run, 9/17/11 At 3:45 in the morning a Hardie Drive mailbox valued at \$1,700 was struck by a car that fled the scene. Moraga police checked the area and found the car and adult male driver nearby. The case is currently under investigation.

Caught allegedly in time, 9/16/11 Moraga police were dispatched near midnight to Saint Mary's College for three adult men who possessed burglary tools. The Saint Mary's College Public Safety officer reported that no burglary had occurred on campus. The detained men offered to give the cops their burglary tools. Since there wasn't a crime, the fellows were free to go.

Cash Maximized?, 9/16/11 A Woodminster Street resident contacted police because someone withdrew \$250 from her "Cash Maximizer" account. The slightly poorer card owner has no idea who is involved and how her account number was pilfered.

Car broken into, 9/16/11 The front window of a Volvo was smashed at the Moraga Swim Club and a red Cole Haan purse was taken along with the usual wallet-related contents. Bank cards were cancelled, although only after one bank card was used at the Concord BART station. Silly thief, cops requested security video from their pals at BART.

Car vanished, 9/15/11 On a random Thursday night, the daughter of a Hardie Drive home and car owner parked and locked her Honda Accord in their driveway. Daughter was ready to leave at 7:30 the next morning, but the car was gone. No sign of the car in the area.

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Should Rancho Laguna Park Stay Untouched?

By Sophie Braccini

"We have a beautiful park, why fix what is not broken?" asked Diane Renton at the Town Council meeting on the evening of September 14. Her statement was echoed by about 20 Lamorinda residents who came in protest of a plan by Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram to hire a consultant to re-think the design of Rancho Laguna Park to include sports fields and a dedicated dog park. Most of the people who spoke urged the Council not to spend \$7,000 on a study. The Council, wanting to see a park design where dogs and playgrounds would be physically separated, approved the spending with a requirement than an option that did not include sports fields also be studied.

"Callander (the consultant) was asked to consider a design that could accommodate a three acre dog park and a 'U-12' (50 x100 yards) soccer

field within existing park boundaries," stated the staff report presented by Ingram. That sentence and preliminary drawings that proposed a separate dog park led many residents to believe that the Town had decided to try to do away with the present multi-use park where, depending on the hour, dogs, sports teams, families and community groups all share the same grass. Opponents came from all strata of the population.

"I am not a dog owner or a soccer player," said former mayor, Parks Foundation and Parks and Recreation Commission member Cherie Grant who revisited the history of the park for the benefit of the Council, "this is a rustic park, made for inclusive multi-generational use. Over the past 20 years it was always decided not to use it as a sports facility because of limited parking and remoteness in case of emergency."

Other opposed to planning for sports fields indicated that it would be too expensive to amend the park. "The slope of the park would not allow proper soccer fields," said Steve Smith, a builder and sports coach, "it would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to grade the park and insure proper drainage."

Many residents just expressed their love for the park as it is, "Rancho Laguna is the nearest thing to heaven I've seen on a public property," said Doug Home, the father of three and dog owner, "don't waste a dime on a study."

Finally, members of the organization Lamorinda Dogs, who will present their plan for the park in the near future, felt they had been undercut. "Entering an agreement with a designer before seeing our proposal does not make sense," said Jeanne Moreau. Bill Carman added that it

would seem fairer to look at their ideas before hiring someone else.

Members of the Eclipse Soccer Club, a new elite soccer club in Moraga, spoke in favor of hiring a consultant. They already use the park for practices, but will have to stop when the sun goes down earlier and Rancho Laguna becomes an off-leash park at 4:00 p.m.

In proposing that a consultant be hired but that a proposal that included no sports fields at all should also be evaluated, Council Member Dave Trotter noted, "I think this is probably going to be the least expensive alternative."

The Council reminded the audience that its initial request to the Parks and Recreation Commission was to find a way to physically separate the playgrounds from the off-leash dogs and that getting professional designs to achieve that result, including the cost of each option, was a good idea.

LED: Let Moraga be Light

By Sophie Braccini



Picture provided by Town Staff

Who knew that along the same streets in Moraga some of the lights are owned by the Town while others are owned by PG&E? It's no problem most of the time, but when the Town decided to install LED (light-emitting diode) streetlights to reduce its utility bill by taking advantage of stimulus money that can be used only for Town property, it became a bit complicated.

"When we got the EECB Grant (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, stimulus money), we could apply it only to our own property, and when I looked at who owned what lights in town, it

looked like a patchwork," says Moraga Staff Engineer John Sherbert. He researched the effect of changing light patterns and found it was dangerous for drivers whose eyes need to adjust very rapidly. But the opportunity of 'free' money, lower electricity bill and better lighting was not something to be passed up.

LED lights have been tested by PG&E and are deemed to last 50,000 hours. They use less electricity than old technology and the light they shine is closer to that of the sun, but that is not all. "One of the advantages of the new lights is that they can be very tightly focused," explains Sher-

bert, "they emit a rectangle of light that can be focused just on the road/sidewalk and will not shine into neighbors' properties like the large round yellow radiance of the regular lights."

After lengthy negotiations, PG&E and staff agreed on a program that will upgrade all of the streetlights along Moraga Road, Moraga Way, St. Mary's Road, Rheem Boulevard and Camino Pablo using a combination of funding from the EECBG, a low-interest energy loan and the Lighting

Assessment District funds. According to staff's calculations, the upgrade will save the town approximately \$5,500 per year in energy costs alone. "That does not include the maintenance and is based on the current 5% increase in energy cost," adds Sherbert, "the pay-off might end up being faster than the 20 years we initially forecasted."

Look out for PG&E trucks in the coming weeks. The utility company agreed to work on weekends to minimize the traffic impact.

Temporary Reprieve for Moraga Art Gallery

By Sophie Braccini

Comcast has agreed to allow the non-profit Moraga Art Gallery to remain in its Rheem Center spot for free until the end of the holiday season. "We are grateful that Comcast has given us the added time to find a new space as well as to offer one-of-a-kind, unique gifts through the holiday season," said Gallery volunteer and artist Nancy Slack.

For the last ten years Comcast offered the art collective use of the storefront at no charge, but the group was recently told that it must move out in October or begin paying \$2000 a month in rent, due to an increase in the rent that Comcast is required to pay Kimco. Comcast uses the space at the Rheem Center to house telecommunications equipment.

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RECON on Roads

By Sophie Braccini



Jill Keimach (left) and Howard Harpham (right) with two members of the Moraga Lions Club
Photo Sophie Braccini

Moraga Town Council Member Howard Harpham and Town Manager Jill Keimach recently met with the Moraga Lions Club. The topic of discussion was, in Harpham's words, "not the most glamorous."

Roads and potholes, and the Town's financial capacity to address these problems, comprised the agenda that these two members of the RECON (Revenue Enhancement Community Outreach to Neighborhoods) committee were tasked with presenting. This presentation was one of the first in an ambitious plan to reach out to every Moraga resident to

provide information about the state of the Town's roads.

"It is our duty to inform residents about the situation," said Harpham, "you may say that you do not care about it and decide to let the infrastructure deteriorate. But at least you will do so knowingly." Harpham started the presentation by telling the story of his homeowners' association and how it is required by law to set aside reserves to maintain its capital assets. Unfortunately, according to the council member, such a reserve was not set up when the Town was incorporated. Today Moraga has a bal-

anced operating budget, but does not have the means to set aside the reserves that would be necessary to address the delayed infrastructure maintenance.

According to the report Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Moraga's roads are 'at risk'.* "The cost of repairing deteriorating roads is exponential," said Keimach, "What we can do today to save our roads, we might not be able to do ten years from now." The Lions in attendance reacted to that statement, "It's like a leak in your house," said one, "if you do not fix it immediately, it might become very expensive in the future."

The group wanted to know if the Town was liable if something happens because of a pot-hole and why the Town could not get grants to fix neighborhood roads. But most of their questions were about how to fix the problem, including, "Couldn't the Town pass a bond? How about an assessment district? Have you thought about privatization of the neighborhood roads?"

"In fact, you are coming to meet all the groups in Town to sell the voters," concluded one person.

"We are here just to inform you of the reality of our infrastructure," Harpham responded, "what will be done about it will be your decision." Keimach reminded the group that Orinda tried twice to pass such a bond and that the population twice rejected it.

Ellen Beans, who is also a RECON member, is setting up meetings with community groups. "Our plan is to be done by the end of February," she said. Anyone can ask to host a coffee in a home and have a presentation made for neighbors. So far only community service groups,

neighborhood associations, and local clubs have been contacted. For more information, email Beans at ellen.beans@gmail.com.

*Read a related article in our archive: <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0512/pdf/Moraga-far-only-community-service-groups-Roads-at-Risk.pdf>

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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, October 4, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Committee

Wednesday, October 12, at 6:30 pm
Community Room, City Hall
22 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, October 11, at 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, October 10, 6:00 pm
OUSD Office
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda
www.orindaschools.org

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

You Passed (out) This Test, 9/2/11 Public drunkenness + probation violation = jail time at Martinez Detention Facility, especially when they've recorded a breathalyzer test of .19.

Double Duty Delinquency, 9/10/11 Police found the passenger/owner of a 2004 Jeep involved in a single car rollover to be intoxicated. The guy blew a .20. After being attended to by medical personnel, he was booked at Martinez Detention Facility. Good thing he wasn't driving. Oddly enough, the one who was driving fled the scene of the accident.

And yet again...9/20/11 Orinda Police pulled a driver over for a headlamp violation. They noted red, watery eyes and smelled alcohol; the driver obviously wasn't firing on all cylinders. Add to that the fact that he's a repeat offender—still on probation for a previous DUI. He submitted to two blood alcohol tests and was taken to Martinez Detention Facility.

RENT, 8/31/11 A woman tried to rent a house, using a false name and her ex's name. She paid by check, got keys and garage door openers and then moved in friends who were not on the rental agreement. She denied knowing anything about the false name even while carrying ID with the same false name. She also said she had power of attorney to sign for her ex. Ex said she'd tried that stunt before. Police believed the ex, and booked the woman into Martinez Detention Facility.

Coming Soon in Orinda

The City of Orinda is holding another series of community workshops to discuss the future of the downtown area. The City hopes to make it easier for busy families to provide their input by going into the neighborhoods and holding workshops at the elementary schools, and by providing the option of giving input through surveys. Workshops will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the following schools and dates:

Wagner Ranch – October 3, 2011

Sleepy Hollow – October 5, 2011

Del Rey – October 24, 2011

Glorietta – November 2, 2011

In addition to the four evening workshops at the schools, the City is working on dates for a daytime workshop to hear from members of the community at large that have not yet participated in the discussion on downtown. Orinda residents who are unable to attend a workshop can also provide input through an online survey available at www.ci.orinda.ca.us.

Orinda Approves CIP and Street Repairs

By Cathy Dausman

Orinda City Council voted unanimously September 20 to adopt the city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for fiscal years 2011 through 2015. In Vice Mayor Steve Glazer's absence, the vote was recorded as 4-0. The latest CIP draft identifies 32 projects in three categories and another 17 projects under "Future Improvements – Projects Not Funded."

Street paving projects for fiscal year 2012 also passed unanimously

(again, 4-0, with Glazer absent). Mayor Victoria Smith recused herself during repair discussions concerning the street on which she lives. City staff said they expect to hire a consultant by November and have the work ready for bid by February or March, 2012.

The 98-page CIP proposal and list of streets affected by upcoming repairs is available online at the City's website, www.orinda.ca.us under City Council Agendas.

Quiet Orinda Not Blowing Away

By Cathy Dausman

Orinda's recent City Council meeting was on the whole a lightly-attended, brief affair. By meeting's end the audience had dwindled to three. But earlier in the session eight Orinda residents spoke during public forum time to raise their voices in protest over leaf blower pollution. Although the Council voted unanimously last November against a ban on leaf-blowers, the citizen group Quiet Orinda is determined to keep the issue alive.

Quiet Orinda founders Susan and Peter Kendall, who have spoken out at previous council meetings, first raised the issue in a 2009 letter to our editor

— since then, they've established a blog, founded a forum, invested personal funds and researched their cause. They've been featured in a multi-page article in *New Yorker* magazine, spoken on Sea Change Radio, inspired words from Canadian poet Wendy Morton and posted clips on the internet. This time at the council meeting each speaker's prepared remarks were captured on video. When asked whether the videographer was working with Quiet Orinda, Kendall replied only that "there really is a much bigger story." He plans to release details soon.

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Wilder Things Are Happening

By Laurie Snyder

Following on the heels of public hearings this past spring in which the Orinda City Council determined that OG Property Owners, LLC (OGLLC) had fallen behind in its work to complete the playfields and maintenance facility associated with the Wilder development, OGLLC Project Manager Michael S. O'Hara offered an update and revised timeline to the Council on September 6.

To date, two major targets have been completed ahead of schedule — the installation of bleachers and construction of stairs. The installation of light poles and fine grades of playfields are also finished.

However, the inability to irrigate the playfields continues to be an issue. In response to City staff concerns that water meters are not yet connected, O'Hara advised the Council that East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) fees have been paid, water pipes have now been installed, and meters should be connected before the end of October.

O'Hara also explained why the company was unable to meet its initial target goals for several additional elements of the project.

The developer had been making good progress, he said, toward meeting the August 8th target for completion of the maintenance facility. With the City Planning Department's approval of the construction plans in May 2011, OGLLC moved quickly to submit those plans to the Contra Costa County Building Department by June 8th but was forced to regroup when County staff requested more data on August 8th. The additional information was submitted on August 25th, but the County has not yet responded.

Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu observed that it was unusual for the County to take so long to respond to a developer's request for a building permit. "This puts them (OGLLC) back a month," said Ursu, adding that because the County's concerns are minor and unlikely to affect the con-

struction process, the City would contact County staff and urge them to approve the permit.

With respect to additional target items projected for September completion, Ursu noted that the mowbands have been completed for playfield one and are also nearly completed for playfield two. City staff will visit the site to assess the progress made to the planned creek enhancement.

Freeway Maintenance Agreement and Park-and-Ride Lot

City staff also secured permission from the Council to revise the existing 1965 Freeway Maintenance Agreement (FMA) with Caltrans. The improved FMA will clarify the terms of transfer, from Caltrans to the City, of responsibility for planned landscaping upgrades to the Wilder entryway.

The developer and the Wilder Home Owners' Association (Wilder HOA) are responsible for the installation and cost of the landscaping; however, if either organization fails to fulfill its obligations, the City will have the authority to remove the landscaping so that it will not be required to assume the expense of maintenance.

Because several of these improvements will be made within a paved Caltrans right of way, an existing park-and-ride lot on the south side of Highway 24 will be displaced by the landscaping. As a result, OGLLC must mitigate this situation as well by replacing the 22 parking spaces lost near the Wilder exchange.

OGLLC plans to relocate those spaces to the graded parking lot currently used by the California Shakespeare Theatre (Cal Shakes) — a concept supported by Cal Shakes, Caltrans, and EBMUD, which leases the lot to Cal Shakes. Since the lot is located outside of the City's jurisdiction on land owned by EBMUD, the City will incur no expenses. Thirty-seven additional striped spaces will also be made available in the Caltrans right of way on the north side of the interchange.

New Visitor from Tabor



Stepanka Jandova is an international exchange student from Orinda's Czech sister city Tabor. She was introduced at the September 20 Orinda City Council meeting and received a city pin from the mayor.

The 17-year-old is enrolled as a senior at Miramonte High School. She is the second exchange student in two years hosted by Bob and Maryette Thompson. Jandova likes to bike, snow ski, do Zumba exercises and study artwork.

C. Dausman

Photo Cathy Dausman

Caring for the Creek



About 20 people, including some high school students and Girl Scouts, gathered at the Orinda Creek on September 17 to participate in the national Coastal Clean-Up Day. City engineer Cathy Terentieff was also there, conducting a State-mandated study of all of the debris collected from one stretch of the creek.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Olive Festival Presses on at Wagner Ranch

By Cathy Dausman



Shopping for an olive tree at last year's event Photo Ohlen Alexander

Orinda's second annual Olive Festival will take place the afternoon of October 2 despite a last minute paperwork snafu that nearly caused it to be cancelled. A misunderstanding between the State and Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area (FWRNA) involving lapsed paperwork for the organization's non-profit status had board members making several trips to Sacramento last week. "We've been jumping through hoops the last five days," said FWRNA Board Secretary Kathy Barrett last Thursday.

The Nature Area is 18 acres of wild lands bordering San Pablo Creek that has served as an environmental classroom for Orinda school children for over 30 years. The site was named after Theodore Wagner, California's first Surveyor General and founder of Orinda's first school. FWRNA is restoring a heritage grove of Mission olive trees on site.

Last year's festival attracted 300 people and raised \$10,000; Barret says they hope to do even better this year. The three hour event (festival hours are 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.) features olive tasting, arts, crafts and games, cooking demonstrations, live music, a silent auction supported by

over 60 local businesses and a live raptor show by Jenny Papka of Native Birds. *Lamorinda Weekly* food writer Susie Iventosch and E.J. Keller, Carrot et Caviar, will demonstrate olive recipes.

Event food will be catered by Dana Jaffe. Retired Del Rey Elementary teacher Marjie Masonte will oversee olive games, an olive regatta, an olive "pit spit" and something she calls "olivacious exploration." Music is provided by Orinda's Academy of Language and Music Arts (ALMA) and the Orinda Ukulele Band. Orinda Rotary, Friends of Orinda Creeks and The Recycle Bank are also represented at the Olive Festival, which Barrett says is the only one in Contra Costa County.

Proceeds from the Olive Festival support nature programs, including the two day Rancho Days program, for third, fourth and fifth grade students in Orinda Union School District. Last year FWRNA donated \$16,000 to the school district. Wagner Ranch Nature Area is next to Wagner Ranch Elementary, at 350 Camino Pablo and Bear Creek Road, Orinda. Festival hours are from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, October 2. Details are available online at www.fwrna.org.

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Moraga Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors Meetings

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

Next meeting:

Next regular MOFD Board meeting is October 19, 7:00pm, Station 41 (1280 Moraga Way, Moraga), (go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

MOFD Assists With East Coast Hurricane Efforts, Propane Tanker Fire

By Lucy Amaral

The recent hurricane threat in New York and the propane tanker explosion in Lincoln, California may not seem to have anything in common with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) at first. But several members of the MOFD staff were on hand at both of these events, managing logistical, operational, safety and community issues related to the incidents.

At the September 21 MOFD Board of Directors meeting, Battalion Chief, Stephen Healy briefed the Board on the recent efforts by MOFD staff and their involvement with the East Bay Incident Management Team (EBIMT). The EBIMT consists of 84 command and general staff members from Contra Costa and Alameda fire agencies. Along with Healy, five members of MOFD are part of the team: Battalion Chief Darrell Lee, Fire Marshall Mike Mentink, Battalion Chief Sean Perkins, Fire Prevention Officer Kathy Leonard, and Telecommunications Specialist Bob Williams. During the presentation, Healy said that while the events were disparate, the experience received during these two deployments is excellent training if similar emergencies were to occur in this area.

For the Lincoln incident, which occurred on

August 22, Healy and Perkins were deployed with the management team to assist in planning and logistics in cooperation with the local fire agency. The team worked for 28 hours straight to organize resources, create an incident action plan and contingency plans.

Two days later, at the request of State of New York, Healy joined 33 other members of the EBIMT deployed to the City of New York, and later, Essex County to offer command, planning and logistical support.

Along with Lincoln and New York, Lee said the EBIMT has been deployed to incidents in San Mateo, San Joaquin, and Contra Costa County. The team trains together twice a year and is called into service on average once or twice a year. Healy also said that MOFD is reimbursed any salary or fees associated with the assistance through a method similar to that when strike teams are deployed through California.

"The Incident management Team was developed to help agencies or city governments manage any incident, develop plans, and be a resource for planning to mitigate the incident," said Lee. "When the incident de-escalates, the team turns it back to the local agency or government."

MOFD Meets to Review Revised 2011/12 Budget

The Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors was scheduled to meet last night, after press time, to discuss adjustments that might need to be made to the 2011/12 Budget.

A MOFD finance sub-committee meeting was held on September 1 during which the staff report indicated that in the preliminary budget development and approval process, the District was able to produce a balanced financial plan with no impact on current service levels. However, it added, the assumptions that were used for the 2011/12 General Fund Preliminary Budget revenues projections were now incorrect. The report noted that due to a projected decrease in property tax revenue, revised projections would now call for a \$537,499 decrease in revenues.

Read a full report of actions taken by the Board of Directors regarding the 2011/12 budget in our October 12 issue.

L.Amaral



MOFD Announces New CQI Nurse

By Lucy Amaral

Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Fire Chief Randy Bradley recently introduced to the Board the district's new Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Nurse/Coordinator, Greg Kennedy.

Kennedy's responsibilities will include providing a prospective analysis of MOFD's EMS System and a retrospective analysis of individual EMS incidents. In Bradley's staff report, he said that Kennedy will identify personnel strengths and weaknesses, and participate in assessments and provide targeted training.

"We are always evaluating

processes and employee performance to identify areas to improve our overall service levels," said Bradley. "Kennedy's education, reputation with the County, and his familiarity with the MOFD and county EMS processes and protocols makes him the best candidate for the job."

According to Bradley, the position was restructured to become part-time, with a number of the previous CQI responsibilities being integrated throughout the MOFD staff. He said that this will allow the District to maintain the same level of service while saving money.

Kennedy currently also works with the Contra Costa Fire District, holding a similar position. Bradley noted that Kennedy has a flexible work schedule at the Contra Costa Fire District which will allow him to spend one day each week at MOFD.

Along with working at the Contra Costa Fire District, Williams has been a Registered nurse for 20 years, served as a medic in the Air Force for seven years, was a Mobile Intensive Care Nurse for 11 years, and is a reserve firefighter.

20 Years After the Oakland Firestorm, What Can Lamorinda Learn From It?

Submitted by Jonathan Goodwin

On October 20, 1991 Oakland, California suffered one of the most devastating fires in United States history. The fire began around 10:40 am but could not be brought under control until the late afternoon. In the first hour one home ignited

every five seconds and most of the eventual 25 fatalities occurred during the course of a desperate evacuation. By the time it was over there were over 1000 injuries, more than 3000 residences were lost and the damage was estimated at \$1.5 billion in 1991 dollars.

On October 12th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Orinda Library Auditorium (24 Orinda Way), the Lamorinda Wildfire Forum will present a program remembering the 1991 Oakland Firestorm. Speakers will include CAL FIRE Unit Chief Steve Woodill, Oakland Firestorm survivor and Special Assistant to Oakland Mayor Jean Quan, Sue Piper, a representative from the Berkeley Fire Department and a representative from the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. They will discuss the policy and im-

plementation lessons, changes and remaining challenges they've been working on over the past 20 years. The program will conclude with MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley presenting the initiatives the Moraga-Orinda Fire District has been undertaking to mitigate local hazards.

The Lamorinda Wildfire Forum is supported by the Canyon Fire Council, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission, the Orinda Citizen Corps Council, the City of Orinda, the City of Lafayette, the Town of Moraga and Lamorinda CERT. The purpose of the program is to provide a basis for future wildfire policy discussions in Lamorinda.

If you plan to attend, please contact Jonathan Goodwin, Canyon-Fire@VFEmail.net.

Emergency Planning Moves Forward

By Sophie Braccini

The three Lamorinda communities are getting closer to establishing workable emergency plans. The Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) recently hired an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Dennis Rein, and according to Moraga Police Chief Bob Priebe, the City of Lafayette has expressed an interest in joining forces in planning, testing and enacting emergency response.

A recent Moraga Town Council meeting began with the Council issuing a Proclamation in support of a program hosted by the Lamorinda Wildfire Forum on October 12, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Orinda Library Auditorium to commemorate the 1991 Oakland Firestorm. The proclamation was given by the Council to Canyon Fire Council and emergency preparedness activist Jonathan Goodwin.

Priebe acknowledged that regionalism is a great thing in case of emergency and he believes that the City of Lafayette will seek to enter a

Memorandum of Understanding with its two neighbors.

"We will establish a functional Emergency Command Center, we will organize exercises and drills, coordinate with CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) volunteers, and we will have an emergency plan," said Chief Bradley, "but we will not take the responsibility of the response from you - this is a greater community effort."

Bradley was echoed during the public comment period by Goodwin, who added, "There are all kinds of policy decisions that have to be made. In a serious earthquake, what will happen to people who need oxygen? How are injured people going to be identified? The sewing together of the staff, the people in the neighborhoods, and the volunteers, has yet to be done. City councils should make the policies and should have an implementation group to test them."

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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:

I wanted to express my thanks and appreciation to Jennifer Russell, Director of Park and Recreation in Lafayette for listening to my concerns this spring over the fencing at Lower Community Fields in Lafayette. It became clear while watching baseball games there that the low fencing at this field was an accident waiting to happen. In addition, there was no shade protection for people watching the games. Ms. Russell was very receptive to my suggestions and quickly handed the project over to Greg Travers, Parks Maintenance. He was tasked with coming up with a solution that would make the ball fields safer and more comfortable. He was successful, and was able to do it for about \$2400. Great job!

Sincerely,
Traci Reilly
Lafayette

Editor:

Contrived Downtown Plan meetings at Orinda Elementary schools?

Here we go again. City officials seem to once again be trying to come up with ways to change Orinda's General Plan, with its current height limit of 35 feet.

The latest "public meetings" are now going to be held at the four local elementary schools in October and November. Apparently, the city will present only their downtown plan. They concur pretty much with a local group called "Orinda Vision" in their desire to go 55-70 feet high in structures, construct condos and new retail (thus displacing our independent, small businesses), raze city blocks, create underground parking, and build a transit hub with many residences over the BART parking lot (BART was stopped from putting in solar panels there). In addition, an extensive bridge from the Crossroads side to BART and the village is being considered.

This "Vision" has been proposed in many other communities. The results could be Tuscan style architecture with hanging greenery, where every city starts to look alike --- and retail often goes vacant. Most in the community do believe that beautification and updates are in order -- but perhaps not at the expense of our village character. A concerned group of residents formed SaveOrinda.com to inform others. -- and have proposed a ballot initiative, like Walnut Creek and Berkeley, to see if this is the direction our community wants.

Personally, I have been making positive presentations with my own ideas (see "Another Vision for Orinda", Lamorinda Weekly, April 27 and "Local Resident Offers Compromise on Downtown Plan", The Orinda News, June). The proposals appear to have been well received.

However, when asked if alternatives for the downtown plan could be put forth at the upcoming elementary school meetings, the answer from the city seems to be no. A panel which could present various approaches is apparently not an option.

My proposals can be done as a community project, which is in keeping with the volunteer atmosphere of Orinda. The city indicates their choices are mandates, but is that so? The viewpoints from residents seem to be largely ignored.

My ideas and story boards will be available for your purview at the meetings, even if I and others are not allowed to present. Please be prepared to ask questions at the meetings; otherwise our human scale downtown and our view of its surrounding hills could permanently disappear.

Ann O'Connell-Nye
Orinda

Lafayette Measure G

Editor:

As a 32 year resident of Lafayette, I have found it to be one of the most ap-

pealing cities in the nation. Wonderful weather, great schools and parks. However, if you happen to live on one of the twenty-five percent of the roads that are crumbling, every trip to and from your home includes an asphalt obstacle course.

We have an opportunity to fix this problem. That is why I have joined a community-wide coalition of residents and organizations -- including the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the Lafayette Homeowners Council and the Lafayette Taxpayers Association -- in supporting Measure G on the November ballot.

Measure G will fix the remaining failed public roads in 10 years or less at a cost of \$89 per year per house. The money raised will augment City funds dedicated to road repair. Lafayette has funds to keep all roads in good condition for many years after the tax ends.

Good roads raise property values, improve safety for all residents, reduce vehicle costs, and improves the quality of life for all of us in Lafayette. Let's come together to solve a big remaining problem.

Please join me in voting Yes on Measure G!

George Burt

Lafayette

Dear Editor

I would like to encourage everyone in Lafayette to vote for measure G in this next election.

I am a resident of Lafayette (on one of the "failed" roads) and also a local real estate agent. I am keenly aware how the state of our roads affects our property values. When neighborhoods look good and well-maintained, people want to live here. Its as simple as that.

I know people think that our City, with the taxes we pay, ought to be able to keep up with the roads. Unfortunately, because of how we became a city, Lafayette gets very little of our property tax money. Concerned citizens and members of the City Council came up with this proposal for a parcel tax combined with hefty contributions from the City's reserve funds. It is a plan whereby within 10 years we should be caught up and maintaining all of Lafayette's roads going forward.

Those of us on the "failed" roads pay the same taxes as other households in Lafayette. We have voted and pay for the school parcel taxes, even though many of our children have long since graduated and moved on. We do this because it is right to provide the best education possible for our children. It is only fair.

By the same token, it is right and fair that all of us in Lafayette have the benefit of good, safe roads on which to live and travel. Please vote for Measure G!

Thank you!

Pamela Halloran

Lafayette

Editor:

Yes On Measure G

When the City of Lafayette earlier recognized that the roads and drain facilities it inherited from the County in its 1968 "incorporation", were in serious failure modes, it appointed two committees of knowledgeable volunteers -- one, to assess specific "work needs" -- the other, to develop and implement strategies for funding the work...i.e., Capital Project Assessment Committee (CPAC)...and, Capital Projects Funding Committee (CPFC). These two functions essentially replicated the processes which business and industry employ to deal with ongoing corporate capital funding needs.

Since "roads" are a basic element of Lafayette's "founding universe" of Its limited governance function -- the "3Ps" of Public Safety, Planning and Public Works...the CPAC and CPFC teams used comparable approaches to convey to voters, why it was in the personal interest of every property owner, to support a bond issue for

restoring priority elements of these badly degraded elements of infrastructure.

CPAC categorized "needs" of "drains restoral" that would minimize any flooding or other hazardous water runoff conditions to town infrastructure or residence properties. In the case of roads -- priorities included main central arteries -- and, connecting-sections roads linking the town's various sub-communities. It was recognized that these were the high priorities which "willingness-to-pay studies" gave as most likely to be approved by voters.

The "campaign stories" conveying "needs rationales", concentrated on encouraging voters to recognize that their "individual self interests" were being fully accommodated in the bond tax. It was also noted that for those seeking personal investment opportunities, purchase of the tax exempt bonds served such purposes well (the bond interest applying nicely to paying the bond tax). So it is, that the Lafayette Homeowners Council has been applying many of these same approaches to communicating how virtually every Lafayette taxpayer will enjoy the benefits of "paying a little now" (to fix remaining roads) -- as opposed, to paying a great deal more if the roads are allowed to become totally degraded! And, as before -- the Lafayette Taxpayer's Association is supporting the tax as it did the original Roads measure.

Don Lively

Lafayette

Editor:

I have revised figures for The Lafayette City Council's Party Palace's costs and debts. It took five weeks of persistence to get the numbers out of the Lafayette Administrative Services Director. \$11,485,634 in interest was not previously available. Lafayette's Party Palace's current total cost is \$65,485,634.

The Lafayette Redevelopment Agency has missed 21 payments accruing \$5,069,553 in interest for the last 5 years. The RDA currently owes the General fund \$6,806,453. This money could have been used for road repairs. But people are easily tricked into voting for road taxes.

In 2007 the tax proponents hid debt information in the full text of the measure that was not mailed in the voter information package. In 2011 the information about debt, is in the fine print of the full text of the measure again. Now the smiling tax proponents are trying harder to trick voters, with large print in their propaganda, denying debt. The \$28,000 taxpayer funded, Lafayette Vistas propaganda piece, leaves out little words like "up to", "may" and "the City Council desires to commit". If you fail to apply for the full text of measure G, you will never know the truth. The full text of Measure G and the ERU table are also available on the City's website. www.love-lafayette.com. News: Click on Special Municipal Election. The propagandists never mention these links. The debt that they deny, is written in the full text of Measure G, number 4. Specific Purposes. The amount each apartment unit and business establishment is gouged, is in the ERU table. If you read the full text carefully, you will find that the City Council is trying to remove road repairs from the General Fund's expenditures.

\$2,038,433 in interest payments went for the 1995 road bonds in the last 5 years.

I witnessed six people in the entire City of Lafayette voting for the Party Palace (called a Learning Center). All six were past or present City council members. Now these politicians and the people they party with, are asking for more money from us because they squandered to much on themselves. They are trying to trick you.

Bruce R. Peterson

Lafayette

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Small Town Fun at the Moraga Pear and Wine Festival

... continued from page A1



Left to right: Mina Lucacher, Grant Subbelfield, Virginia Smith and Bob Gardner Photo Ohlen Alexander

The theme of pears and wine was picked up by one of the contestants in the pear recipe contest. Robin Valentine created a pear in wine sorbet dessert that tasted delicious and won her 4th prize. In the meantime, Monica Chappell was teaching a wine and food pairing class with three wines (two of them local): a Parkmon Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc was paired with goat cheese; Captain Vineyard's Petite Sirah went with rare beef; and a Washington State Riesling met chips and salsa. Chappell, who usually teaches a two-hour class, said,

"The Town of Moraga asked me to create a shorter class to do outside during the festival. It worked very well, with mostly local wines." Artists, community service groups, representatives from the

Town and inflatable jumpies for the kids completed the scene in which neighbors, friends and families met and mingled. There was nothing pretentious, nothing outrageous – just nice, fruitful fun.

The winners of the Pear Recipe contest are:

- 1st place: Elaine Cable's Savory Pear Tartlets with Chevre
- 2nd place: Sharon Metcalf's Fresh Pear Upside Down Cake
- 3rd place: Robin Valentine's Pear and Red Wine Sorbet
- 4th place: Brian Pergamit's Cinnamon Pear Pockets

Front page photo: On the left, Mayor Karen Mendonca jumps in with both feet; right, a fair young maiden stomps grapes while Parks and Rec Director Jay Ingram kneels to capture the juice.

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Productive Summer Interns Wow Lafayette

... continued from page A1

He joins current Planning Technician Sarah Allen, Administrative Assistant Donica Katayanai, and Public Works Technician David Terhune – all former interns who now work for the City.

This year's summer interns took on a variety of tasks include posting public hearing notices and reviewing development applications for completeness, working on the downtown

streetlight replacement project, and the Lafayette Open Space Plan.

Born into a family of engineers, Lafayette resident and Miramonte senior Robert Burt worked in the Engineering Department under Leah Greenblatt, Transportation Planner. "He has a big future ahead of him," said Greenblatt. He spent most of his time this summer working on an interactive map with traffic counts – recording the number of cars and their speed. "It was a great opportunity for hands on experience and this will definitely help with college applications," said Burt. He hopes to go to UC Berkeley or Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He describes staff as "extremely friendly" and "very efficient." He's President of the Young Engineers Association at Miramonte and still works for the City on Wednesdays – after school.

Michael Cass supervised the charming, effervescent Megan Canales, who just started her senior year at University of Oregon and anticipates receiving her degree in Public Policy Management this coming June. "I learned so much – it's a really dynamic environment...and very inclusive." She describes the Planning Department as a "tight knit group - eager to teach, very collegial - gathering input from each other, and extremely helpful." She split her time interning between Danville, where she worked two days per week, and Lafayette where she spent the other three. Between her college classes and this interning experience, she has a keen appreciation for the benefits of good planning: "Planning helps mold and preserve lifestyle already here and enhance it further." Armed with a diploma, perhaps last year's intern can become next year's new employee?



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OCF Welcomes New Board Member

Submitted by Sue Severson



Front row, from left: Richard Westin (President), Dick Burkhalter (Vice President); back row: Sue Severson (Founding Trustee), Susan Vandegrift (Secretary), and Carol Penskar (Treasurer). Photo provided

Susan Vandegrift joins the Board of the Orinda Community Foundation; Vandegrift replaces Paula Goodwin, who moved out of Orinda. OCF is now accepting grant applications, due October 15.

The Foundation maintains a Community Master Calendar on its website. Visit www.orindafoundation.org for more information.

Cal-ESAR: They've Got your Back(country)

By Cathy Dausman



Background: Ryan Riggins, Matt Riggins, Richard Weerts

Photo provided



skills I've learned helping people in real need. The teamwork is unbeatable and the program allows teens to work side by side with adults."

Parent Wes Riggins loves "being out in the field on actual searches." His training and work has taken him across Northern California, from San Francisco to Mendocino counties and many other places, including Yosemite National Park. Riggins says no two searches are alike, and the group has learned never to make assumptions. He cites a search earlier this year for an Alzheimer's patient who walked away from his care facility: "As the search progressed we got a call from the Los Angeles Police Department. Our subject, without money or a car, had managed to get himself to L.A. from Sonoma." Riggins serves in the program alongside his son Matt.

Richard Weerts is an Orinda resident of 23 years. He and his wife have three sons. An "avid outdoorsman," Weerts was a Boy Scout leader for 10 years. Weerts says joining Cal-ESAR was a way "to stay active outdoors [and] use the skills I have from years of experience for something more than recreation. The Orinda group...has all been friends of mine for many years." A licensed Amateur Radio operator, Weerts, call sign W3BTO, helps keep search communication lines open by bringing his own radio. Two other members of the interview group, Wes Riggins (K2WRS) and Travis Wiley (KJ6NZE) are also amateur radio operators.

Travis Wiley is an Eagle Scout from Troop 237 and a recent Whittier College graduate. Wiley joined the group in 2009. "Cal ESAR happened to be the only search and rescue team whose training schedule fit my college schedule." Because Wiley "wanted more action" he joined the Napa County search and rescue group as well. Wiley often provides transportation for the group, in the form of his crew cab Ford F-350 truck nicknamed "The General."

... continued on page B2

Lamorinda's branch of California Explorer Search and Rescue (Cal-ESAR) is the nicest bunch of people you never want to meet—at least on the job. Cal-ESAR is a volunteer wilderness search and rescue team, and if they're looking for you—you're lost.

Chartered as Boy Scout Explorer Post 12, Cal-ESAR is a resource of the California Emergency Management Administration (Cal-EMA), and is open to anyone 15 or older.

Lamorinda Cal-ESAR are your neighbors and classmates; they share a love of outdoors, a healthy respect for nature, submit to emergency response training and are willing to drop everything to head out and lend their assistance on searches. They buy their own uniforms; furnish their own supplies and transportation. We recently caught up with six Cal-ESAR volunteers - three parents, one college grad and two teens, to learn more about the program.

Erin Grey, mother of three, is a Miramonte High and U.C. Berkeley grad. She works at REI and has guided trips for Sierra Club. The former assistant scoutmaster has facilitated emergency preparedness programs for Orinda's Sleepy Hollow neighborhood and at Orinda Intermediate School, and is Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Wilderness First Responder (WIFR) trained. Grey loves Cal-ESAR "because it allows me to use the



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New in Class: Staff Changes in Lamorinda Public Schools

By Cathy Dausman



New staff at Stanley Middle School include, from left, front row: Vicki Bertrand, Suzanne Tom, Launa Parnas and Michele Murphy; back row: Sayna Peeff, Brian Cooper and Robert Anke. Missing from photo: Ami Nichols, Lauri Panther and Marjolein Byl

Photo Cathy Dausman

Pay attention, class: it's time to learn the new faces appearing at your nearby Lamorinda public schools. At the high school level, Acalanes reports just one personnel change this year—the addition of

teacher Karen Kelly, who transferred in-district.

Campolindo has a new Associate Principal, Sharon Bartlett, as well as new teachers Shannon Collins and Lindsay Webb-Peplow—Social Sci-

ence; Angela Prado, Jessica Hoff-schnieder and Lisa Bruzzone— Learning Center; Sarah Marheine—Physics, Shih-Min Holland—Mandarin; Mark Roberts—Choral Music; Tren

Kauzer—Biology.

Miramonte hired Michael McAlister as its new Associate Principal.

Stanley Middle School Principal David Schrag explains that his long list of new teachers is a result of in-district personnel moving up from K-5 schools. Three special ed teachers are new to Stanley this year; they are Vicki Bertrand, Ami Nichols and Laurie Panther. Robert Anke, Shayna Peeff and Suzanne Tom teach core classes; Michele Murphy teaches wood technology, Launa Parnas teaches foreign languages and Brian Cooper is a math instructor. Stanley also shares school psychologist Marjolein Byl (new to them), with Lafayette Elementary. "It's great new energy [for Stanley]," he says.

The new Assistant Principal at Orinda Intermediate School is Stacy Wayne. The school roster also includes new teachers Brenda Thompson (band), Katherine Palmer-Collins (English/History) and Greta Heintz (Science).

Joaquin Moraga Middle School welcomes science teacher Jason Blalock, and intensive learning teachers Mary Uscilka and Rosy Audette.

Orinda Union School District reports "a lot of personnel changes." Dr. Ken Gallegos is Sleepy Hollow Elementary's new Principal. The district has also hired three new administrators – Director of Curriculum and Instruction: Kathy Marshall; Director of Special Services/Personnel: Brian Inglesby, and Director of Business Services/CBO Loreen Farrell.

Retirements forced several changes within the Lafayette School District. John Egnor is the new Director of Student Services; he arrives from Big Bear School District in Southern California. Heather Duncan, the former Buena Vista Elementary principal (Walnut Creek) succeeds Bruce Wodhams as principal at Springhill Elementary. Jim Manheimer is new Assistant Principal at Burton Valley Elementary. Manheimer taught at Lafayette Elementary last year.

Meanwhile, Moraga School District's Marie Parti gets an A+ for her clear, concise report. When asked about staff changes, the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent said simply: "Everybody's back."

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Joel Roster (Picasso), Alexandra Creighton (Suzanne), and Mick Mize (Einstein)

Photo Stu Selland

Paris at the turn of the 20th century is on the mind of many creators and curators this season, from Woody Allen's *Midnight in Paris*, to the Picasso exhibit at the De Young Museum (until October 10), or the just-closed Steins Collection at the SFMOMA. Steve Martin's play, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*,

which is set in 1904 Paris, runs from September 24 to October 15 at Lafayette's Town Hall Theater (THT).

"It was quite a coincidence," said THT Artistic Director Clive Worsley, "when we planned for our 2011 season the Woody Allen movie was not yet heard of. All these cross

references are interesting, but the play is not really about that particular era or place."

Picasso at the Lapin Agile tells the story of a fictitious encounter between Picasso and Einstein one Paris night (along with a few other surprising characters.) "The play asks a lot of questions," says Lisa Anne Porter who directs the production, "about what happens in geniuses' brains when creation take place, what kind of people are the geniuses, what happens when the market place takes over their creation, what becomes of the dreams of people at the beginning of a new century. Steve Martin throws a lot of things in the air, not always giving answers, and of course it is spiced up with his typical sense of humor."

The action is classically constructed with the rule of unity of place, action and time (with a caveat), but that's about all the classical there is about it. It takes place in the little Parisian Café called Le Lapin Agile (which is, in fact, the oldest cabaret in Paris and is still in operation at 22 rue des Saules). Working from documents of the time, the set was constructed representing the inside of the popular Montmartre place. The bartender, the barmaid and a regular customer (named Gaston, of course) are on stage all along, as interesting patrons come in and out.

Think of the first act as the appetizer, or

even the *mise-en-bouche*, of the play. The real fireworks begin after the short intermission, when Picasso makes his entrance. Porter cast Joel Roster as Picasso. It's a dream role for anyone with a bit of spunk, and Roster takes it away brilliantly. Mick Mize, who plays Einstein, gets even better in his interactions with Roster. The duo—sometimes duelists—is quite believable.

There is more to the play than Picasso and Einstein. "It is interesting in the play to listen to the voice of the women," said Porter, "the heroes are the men, but the women are the ones that tell the truth about human nature." The character of the Barmaid, Germaine, played by Beth Deitchman, is particularly endearing and clairvoyant. One can't help thinking of Gustave Flaubert, who after writing *Madame Bovary* allegedly said, "Madame Bovary... it's me!" Did Martin put a lot of himself in Germaine? Or was he thinking of himself as a genius? Possibly a bit of both.

The evening ended with a feeling of lightness and amusement. As the play picks up speed and Martin's humorous take on things shines through, a third act would be good but he leaves the audience wanting more.

For more information or to buy tickets, go to www.THTC.org.

Cal-ESAR: They've Got your Back(country)

... continued from page B1



From left: Lamorinda Cal-ESAR volunteers, Pictured, left to right: Myles Holland, Erin Grey, Wes Riggins, Matt Riggins, Travis Wiley and Richard Weerts

Photo Cathy Dausman

In spite of once driving three hours one way only to have the search called off, Wiley says "I wouldn't trade the experiences, the friendships or the hardships for anything in the

world."

Miles Holland spent much of the interview time simply listening to and watching his Cal-ESAR counterparts. Grey fills in the blanks

when describing Holland as "a master in the outdoors and thoughtful of other people. She says "the things that come out of his mouth [are] very insightful and observant...beyond his years in many cases." Holland, currently a senior at Bentley High School, joined the program in September, 2009, because he said "it looked like fun." He's working toward his Eagle Scout rank and plans to stay with the program until he starts college.

Matt Riggins is a Miramonte High School senior who learned about Cal-ESAR from family friend Richard Weerts. He is almost an Eagle Scout, and says he loves to "go on searches and get to go where no one else does." The younger Riggins, who plans to stay active until at least June 2012, once became hypothermic at high elevation in Yosemite. He said "if two of my team members weren't there I most likely would not be here today." Later that day Riggins helped evacuate a hiker hit by a boulder. Riggins says Cal-ESAR has "heavily motivated me to become some sort of helicopter rescue crewman."

The group agrees that becoming a Cal-

ESAR volunteer is a blast, but cautions it is not a glamour job. They are self-professed "ground pounders," a mutual aid organization that serves only at the request of professional first responders. Cal-ESAR training requires committing one weekend a month, October through May. An optional nine day summer session, held at Yosemite in June, is also available. All meetings and outings are drug, tobacco and alcohol free.

An informational meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m., October 4 in the Gallery Room of the Orinda Library. Details are available online at <http://www.cal-esar.org/>



Matt Riggins, Wes Riggins on board a helicopter
 Photo provided

SMC's Fall Creative Writing Reading Series

A Reading Sampler for Lamorinda

By Andrea A. Firth

“People can get their own literary education through our reading series,” says Brenda Hillman, the Director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing at Saint Mary’s College in Moraga. For over 25 years, Saint Mary’s College has invited writers from across the country to come to the campus to read their work and share their insights on the writing life as part of the Creative Writing Reading Series. “We have had hundreds of writers read including Pulitzer and Nobel prize winners,” says Hillman as she leafs through programs from the past years pointing out the many prominent poets, novelists, and nonfiction writers who have participated.

SMC’s Fall Reading series kicks off on October 5th with Bay Area writer Yiyun Li whose writing explores traditional and contemporary Chinese culture. Li, an award-winning short story writer and novelist, was pegged as a remarkable writing talent with the publication of her debut collection *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers* in 2005. Her latest book, also a collection of short stories, is called *Gold Boy, Emerald Girl*.

Later in October, San Francisco-essayist Ryan Van Meter will share his memoir-based stories of coming-of-age and coming out. And the third writer among the Fall evening readings is poet and recognized literary translator Clayton Eshleman. “We have

some of the finest poets in the country reading here,” says Hillman, who is also the Olivia Filippi Professor of Poetry at SMC. “Clayton Eshleman is a dazzling, surrealist poet,” she adds.

Hillman encourages area residents to come listen to the visiting writers noting that there is something in the series for every reader. “It’s a diverse and dynamic program,” she says, “It’s the only prominent reading series in the Lamorinda area.” Hillman adds that the series makes a great outing for local book clubs and bibliophiles alike and gives them the opportunity to speak directly with the authors they are reading.

In addition to the evening readings, SMC holds “craft conversations” with the visiting writers who talk about the writing process. A highlight of the craft conversations this fall will be poet Richard Moore who published his first book of poetry at age ninety. Formerly known more for his groundbreaking work in public broadcasting and as a filmmaker, Moore will discuss the relationship between poetry and politics.

Three times a year, the graduate students in SMC’s MFA in Creative Writing Program read their work. “The students, who concentrate in nonfiction, fiction, or poetry, each read for ten minutes,” says Hillman. “It’s like a reading tapas. The students’ work is amazing.”

SMC Creative Writing Reading Series

Readings are held on Wednesdays starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Soda Center on the Saint Mary’s College campus in Moraga. The afternoon craft conversations are held at 2:30 p.m. in the Hagerty Lounge at SMC. Both the series and craft conversations are open to the public.

October 5th Yiyun Li

5:30 p.m. Craft Conversation
7:30 p.m. Reading

Li is an award-winning Bay Area fiction writer of short stories and novels. Her craft conversation will focus on the essential nature of storytelling, and what makes a story worth telling.

October 12th Ryan Van Meter

5:30 p.m. Craft Conversation
7:30 p.m. Reading

Van Meter is a San Francisco based essayist whose first book was described as a “coming-of-age and coming out story.” Van Meter will discuss voice and authenticity in coming-of-age nonfiction in the craft conversation.

October 26th Readings by SMC graduate students, 7:30 p.m.

November 3rd Clayton Eshleman, 7:30 Reading

Eshleman is an award-winning poet and translator.

November 30th Richard Moore, 2:30 p.m.

Moore will reflect upon the arts and revolutions.

December 7th Readings by SMC graduate students, 7:30 p.m.

The 2012 Spring Series will feature author and poet Judith Claire Mitchell (2/14), poet and filmmaker Shane Book (3/14), and novelist Samina Ali (4/11).

For more information go to <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/academics/schools/school-of-liberal-arts/departments-programs/mfa-creative-writing/reading-series.html>

Artistic Fresh Air at St. Mary’s College

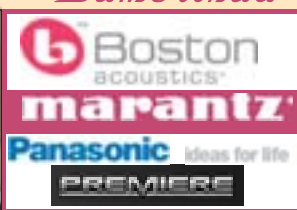


Field Day: Cathy Corsi (left) and JoAnn Stooksberry spent five hours brushing up on their oil-based plein-air paint skills around Lamorinda during a recent Sunday competition to promote the October 2 art show at St. Mary’s SODA Center. Photo Eric Dausman

The sixth annual Preserve Lamorinda Open Space (PLOS) art show will be held October 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in St. Mary’s College SODA Center. The show features the work of 25 Bay Area artists. A portion of artwork sales will support open space campaigns in Lamorinda. Now 10 years old, PLOS is partnered with Sierra Club and Golden Gate Audubon Society. Admission is free; children are welcome to attend. For details go online to www.lamorindaopenspace.org. C. Dausman

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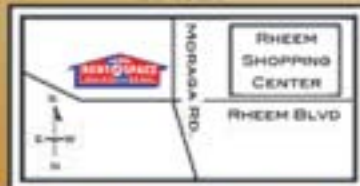
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Community Service

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.

Lafayette Woman's Club Sponsors Student

Submitted by Mary Lou Beeler (written by Betsey Young and Tury Riksheim)



Loretta Nutti presents Hailey Finnane to the club.

Photo Mary Lou Beeler

For the last 30 plus years the Suburban Woman's Club of Lafayette, along with other Northern California Federated Women's Clubs, have sponsored a sophomore from the local high schools to the Northern California Leadership Seminars. This year the seminar met in May at Menlo College, Atherton, California.

Hailey Finnane, from Moraga, was selected by the faculty and staff of Campolindo High School to represent our club. Students are chosen for their leadership and scholastic accomplishments. Hailey was an outstanding choice. She came to the club's June meeting and spoke enthusiastically of the activities the students

were involved in over the weekend - the inspiring guest speakers and the lasting friendships made. Her enthusiasm was contagious.

The students returned from the weekend filled with a desire to begin volunteering and setting up charitable organizations in their communities.

Hailey was so impressed with her experience at the seminar she is looking forward to attending next year, on her own, as a junior.

For more information on the Leadership Seminars contact Loretta Nutti, (925) 376-4786.

For information about the club and our other charitable activities call Jean Cappa, (925) 283-2759.

A Silver Experience

Submitted by Shelley Kwok



Sasha Newton (left) and Shelley Kwok.

Photo Elizabeth Newton

For nearly a hundred years, Girl Scouts have been helping their community through means of service. Whether it's assisting the elderly or picking up trash, Girl Scouts have always been ready to offer their aid. Often times, these services are needed to complete a Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award project. These endeavors teach girls about leadership and helping others in many different ways.

It took much coordination to get to the "take-action" part of our project. Our first step towards our Silver Award project was to complete the "Leadership Journey Book," called *Breathe*. After we finished that, we decided to enhance our town through means of gardening and painting. We were able to accomplish this by contacting the trail supervisor of the East Bay Regional Parks District and an Assistant Principal and Grounds Keeper for the school district.

In order for our project to be successful, we needed to develop a team of people that could

help us with all aspects of our project. This consisted of our dedicated troop leader and project supervisor, Sue Olson, as well as the help of many volunteers and advisors.

We accumulated the majority of our hours (leadership, as well as action) in two different ways. This included painting the rail fences of the Lafayette-Moraga Trail with the help of others and weeding the flower and plant beds of our local high school.

In addition to all this labor and leadership, we spent a lot of time collaborating with each other. The two of us learned much about time management, leadership, organization, and communication. If you (or anyone else) are interested in a simpler version of this project, you can go to www.ebparks.org/getinvolved/volunteer to help out. We highly recommend doing this as a way to help your community. You probably won't earn a medal but the feeling of helping is gratifying enough!

Sunrise Rotary Joins Forces with Buena Vista Auxiliary

Submitted by Delia Tully



Photo provided

As a part of the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary's new focus on Children's Literacy, the Club decided to "adopt" Cambridge Elementary School in Concord, which is one of the local schools that benefit from Buena Vista Auxiliary's literacy tutorial program.

At Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary's June charity auction gala, Motorama, enough funds were raised by the event's attendees to provide an entire school year of tutoring sessions through Buena Vista Auxiliary's tutoring program. Students who are selected by their teachers to participate in the program will receive 16 one-hour sessions over a four to six-week period. The Club's generous donation

will provide enough funding for 31 students at Cambridge Elementary to participate in the program. "The Cambridge staff is very excited to learn that our students have recently been adopted by Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary", said Joyce Demsmore-Thomas, teacher at Cambridge. "Their focus on children's literacy by funding one of our Buena Vista Auxiliary reading tutorial sessions will allow us to help our students become successful readers. We are very appreciative of their support of our children's future and look forward to partnering for student success."

"Buena Vista Auxiliary is thrilled that Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary has selected our Organization to support, in their efforts toward children's literacy", said Andrea Callaway, Buena Vista's Chairperson for 2011/2012. "The success of their recent Motorama event, and their ability to promote their causes so effectively, speaks to the high quality of their organization. We look forward to working together in the future to make a difference in children's literacy in our community."

Rotary Sends Miramonte Student to Camp Venture

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Alex Glazer with parents

Photo provided

Alex Glazer, a Miramonte senior, spoke at a recent meeting of Rotary Club of Moraga about her experience at Camp Venture, a Rotary-sponsored one-week camp for students who wish to become familiar with entrepreneurship and general business concepts. Alex reported that the Camp was an exceptional experience for her and other students, and that she hopes to establish a career in business someday. Her scholarship was awarded by Moraga Rotary.

Camp Venture is a training and motivational camp for students who have finished their junior year and are interested in enhancing skills in teamwork and leadership. It is held in late June at the Maritime Academy of California State University in

Vallejo. Students have the opportunity to interact with experienced business people and meet with other students who have similar interests. Students form teams which conceive of a new business and then develop and present a business plan as if they were seeking investors, and Alex's team was judged 2nd

out of the ten teams competing.

Alex has been a member of the Orinda Teen Advisory Committee for four years and is currently its co-chair; this group consists of about two dozen young men and women who plan and implement youth activities and who provide guidance to the Orinda Department of Recreation. Alex is also a public speaker who has recently won local competitions and participated this summer in the National Public Speaking Competition at Dallas.

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

Sons in Retirement Celebrate

Submitted by Lamorinda SIR



Recently the two Lamorinda Branches of SIRS joined together for a BBQ at St. Mary's College. In addition to great food and camaraderie, President Emeritus of St. Mary's College, Brother Anderson, gave a talk on Moraga, St. Mary's and their mutual histories.

SIRS is an organization for retired men. We meet one Wednesday each month for lunch and a speaker. In addition we have groups providing opportunities in various activities: golf, bridge, bocce ball, tennis, walking and many others. For additional information call Pete Giers, 254-4667, or Phil Arth, 376-3784.

Troop 212's 50th Anniversary

Submitted by Stacy Giglio



From left: Jim Van Meter, Eagle #8, Doug Clarke, Eagle #17, Ron Skinner, Eagle #111, Troop Founder, Tom "Pop" Clarke, and Steve Skinner, Eagle #93.



From left: Rick Cronk, past Troop Trekmaster and past National President of Boy Scouts of America, Scott Hazard, Eagle #225, Rob Cronk, Eagle #147, past ASM Bob Merson, and Scoutmaster emeritus, Tom "Mac" McIntosh.



From left: Troop Founder, Tom "Pop" Clarke and Scoutmaster Emeritus Tom "Mac" McIntosh. Photos provided

On Saturday, August 27, 2011, at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church in Moraga, Boy Scout Troop 212 celebrated its 50th anniversary. Over 400 Eagle Scout and leader alumni, family members, and current troop members of the troop were in attendance. Celebrants came from all parts of the country, as far away as Florida, Georgia, Michigan, New Mexico and Washington.

The celebration involved a Court of Honor ceremony, time for scouts, past and present, to visit and reconnect, and opportunities to view the almost 200 posters that Cam Teasdale of Moraga had prepared and posted on the walls of the church's Fellowship Hall, complete with pictures of the troop's Eagle scouts and information about their lives after they "graduated" from the troop.

The Court of Honor ceremony featured keynote speaker Rick Cronk, of Lafayette, California. Rick was one of the troop's first Trekmasters and a founder of the troop's outstanding High Adventure program. Since then Rick has served as the National President of the Boy Scouts of America in 2006-2008, and as Chairman of World Scouting in 2008. Rick spoke about the importance of Scouts learning and living the values of Scouting, and the role that plays in developing good character, citizenship, leadership

abilities, and life skills.

Troop 212 was started in Moraga in 1961 by Tom "Pop" Clarke, who served as its scoutmaster until 1974, when he resigned and Tom "Mac" McIntosh took his place. Mac served until 2009, when he resigned and Rainer "Rhino" Del Valle, of Lafayette, CA, replaced him. McIntosh says, "I am honored that Rhino was able to take over for me. I was the rookie scoutmaster when Rhino was a rookie scout in the Troop, and Rhino is one of the first Eagle scouts who went from start to finish under my leadership."

In its 50 years of scouting, over 1,000 Lamorinda youth have been involved in the troop, and 355 of them earned the Eagle Award. Troop 212 has developed many traditions, including its outstanding High Adventure program. It conducts a one-week summer camp at Camp Timberwolf, in the Plumas National Forest.

The troop's High Adventure program includes backpack treks, bike treks, and canoe treks across the US and Canada.

For more information about Troop 212 visit the Troop's website at www.bsa-troop212.org, or contact Scoutmaster Rainer "Rhino" Del Valle at scoutmaster@bsa-troop212.org.



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"Congratulations and Thank You to Ann Sharf and Margaret Zucker" who won the Real Estate Agent Donation Competition for the largest donation made by an agent to EFO for the 2010-2011 year.

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* Honorable mention and a big Thank You goes to *Alain Pinel Realtors* with 6 agents and their company making donations.
**The 2011-2012 EFO donation year has started and the contest is being held again. *Which agent will donate the most money this year? Which office will have the highest number of contributing agents?*

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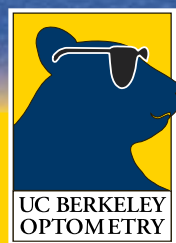
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By Eric Pawlakos

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One of the best apps for these instant coupons is called GeoQpons. An easy to use shopping app, GeoQpons lists coupons and deals alphabetically by brand or store. With the touch of a button you can break it down into categories, including fashion, sports, dining, auto, furnishings, and more. For example, on the day I checked my GeoQpons, Macy's ad-

vertised \$10 off any purchase of \$25.00. Abercrombie and Fitch offered a discount of 25% off an entire purchase with no restrictions. When shopping in Lamorinda, use the local option feature listing current coupons for local merchants. Hair by Andrea in Lafayette publicized \$10 off a child's haircut and Diablo Smog Test in Lafayette offered \$30 off smog tests.

By using GeoQpons, you'll stretch your budget with those additional back-to-school necessities as well as your upcoming holiday shopping list. If you love to shop and save dollars, yet hate to clip coupons, this is a "must have" app.

Eric Pawlakos is a senior at Miramonte High School.

Don't Let Your Child Miss This Year's Opportunity to Create

Submitted by Valyrie Friedman

Each year, the National PTA® Reflections ProgramSM challenges students to create art inspired by a specific theme. The program has six areas—dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography and visual arts—and four grade divisions—primary, intermediate, middle/junior and senior. Designed to enhance quality arts education, the Reflections ProgramSM provides opportunities for students to express themselves and receive positive recognition for their artistic efforts. When children express themselves through words, pictures, music, dance, film and other art media, they grow intellectually; they learn to analyze their thoughts and feelings.

This fall, the PTA/PTSA's of eight Lamorinda and five Walnut Creek schools, supported by the Las Trampas Creek Council (LTCC) are participating in Reflections. The Lamorinda schools are Burton Valley, Lafayette, Camino Pablo, and Donald L. Rheem Elementary, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate and Stanley Middle School. The theme this year is "Diversity means..."

Workshops and special events are being held at many participating schools, as a venue for students to bring their works in progress and/or be inspired to begin a creation based on the theme. Thursday, September 29th, Burton Valley Elementary will host an after school workshop from

2:30pm-4pm. Keep an eye out for announcements around your school regarding Reflections workshops and events.

Works are judged upon theme interpretation, artist's statement, artistic originality and creativity, and the student's mastery of their medium. Works selected are submitted to LTCC, who host a showcase of the entries from participating schools in December. 24 entrants advance to the district/regional level, are Showcased in January, and continue to State with possible advancement to the National level.

Last year, the theme was "Together We Can..." Two local students' entries advanced to the State Level: Marcello Severo and Zevin Acuna of Burton Valley. An Awards of Merit was given to Marcello in musical composition. Zevin Acuna's film, "Together we can save the homeless. Together we can save the world.", received an Award of Excellence at the State and National Level. Zevin's video can be viewed at <http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm> under 2011 Film/Video production winners.

Students interested in participating should contact individual schools for entry forms and deadlines.

To learn more about the Reflections Program, visit http://www.ptareflections.org/cs/about_reflections.

TEEN SCENE

A Window to the World

By Jacqueline Tao



Photo by Tao Family

Looking back, I have been incredibly fortunate to be a teen that has grown up and gone to school in the Lamorinda community. Yet at times the fact that it is so safe, so peaceful, and so sheltered really does justify its being compared to a "bubble." Being able to travel provides new perspectives on the world and exposes the traveler to the myriad of different things that lies outside our home. Through my travels I have had the privilege to experience the different cultures, histories, people, sceneries, and foods of the world. I think that travel is a great portal for enjoyment but also for openness and understanding of more people and things than we would otherwise be familiar with.

A recent trip to Tibet opened my eyes to the opulence we enjoy in Lamorinda and how we take so many conveniences for granted.

After a long drive in a rickety Jeep, my family and I arrived at the top of a mountain, admiring a beautiful yet desolate Tibetan landscape—distant snowy mountains, minimal vegetation, and long crisscrossed chains of Tibetan prayer flags. Unexpectedly, a group of Tibetan children came to us, fascinated by everything about us. Their animated joyfulness contrasted drastically from the wind-swept, barren landscape. In an effort to transcend the language and cultural barrier, I opened a bag of pea-sized crackers to share with the kids. They swarmed excitedly, a hungry mob tantalized by this rare foreign treat.

Surrounded on all sides, I scattered the snacks. Even though these snacks fell in the dirt, the children devoured them, excited to taste something new. Big smiles filled their faces and their eyes danced with delight. De-

prived of worldly possessions, living in a harsh natural environment, they had easily managed to find reasons for contentment and satisfaction in their simple, minimalistic lifestyle.

With their curiosity and gratefulness for our visit, the Tibetan children offered me a glimpse of how effortless it was for them to live with so little yet be so gleeful. As a Campo student, such a feat is not always easy. How often throughout my high school career stress consumed me. My friends and I regularly lamented the course work or our lack of something as we searched for anything better than what we had, although we had no idea what that "better" was.

It took a trip halfway across the globe, to a world very different from Moraga where I have lived for eighteen years, for me to realize an important counter perspective. Happiness does not depend on fancy clothes, cars, homes, or what school we attend. The gifts of gratitude and simplicity allow us to harness the sources of pleasure that we often overlook and take for granted. By appreciating everyday joys of life, letting go of worries and tensions, and welcoming foreigners as friends, we can't help but experience fulfillment.

As I leave to go to college, I want to encourage the youth of Lamorinda to enroll in programs that encourage international exchanges. There is no better classroom than traveling. Open the window to the world and take a trip to understanding.

Jacqueline Tao graduated from Campolindo High School in June and will attend Stanford University. Through her travels she has been able to get a taste of many different cultures and places.

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Orinda Idol – Winning and Beyond

By Nina Mohan



Sophie Lurie wins the K-2 Soloist competition

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Finals for the sixth annual Orinda Idol took place Sunday, September 11 at the Orinda Theatre. The event brought together Round One winners to compete for grand prizes including Best Solo Performer, Best Group Performance and the Audience Choice Award. Over 200 students from the Lamorinda community auditioned for this year's Orinda Idol and on Sunday the finalists delivered a series of incredible performances that drew seismic applause – the Theatre shook with stomping and clapping. The votes were counted and the following students were announced as the 2011 Orinda Idol winners:

Grades K - 2 Soloist:

Sophie Lurie (Glorietta)

Grades 3 - 5 Soloist:

Michaela Sasner (Stanley)

Middle School Soloist:

Ellie Glade (OIS)

High School Soloist:

Katie Marino (Campolindo)

K-5 Group: Topaz Girls:

Samantha Martin (Happy Valley) and Jennifer McFarlane (Lafayette Elementary School)

Grades 6-12 Group:

Maritza and Katie: Maritza Grillo (Miramonte) and Katie Marino (Campolindo)

Orinda Idol is a fun experience for participants and audience members, and it has also ignited professional ambitions for many of the winners, all of whom credit the program with advancing their skills and inspiring bold dreams.

Katie Marino of Campolindo is a graduating senior, so 2011 was her last Orinda Idol. But she fully intends to keep singing and performing, and has hopes of becoming a recording artist. A five-year participant, in her award speech Katie thanked Orinda

Idol for providing a creative outlet for vocal performers and the opportunity it gave her to grow as a singer.

Martiza Grillo, who won the Grade 6 -12 Group competition with Marino, is also a long-time participant and likewise plans to keep singing through high school and college. She also hopes for a professional singing career, perhaps in musical theatre.

While high-school, college and the professional world are further away for younger winners, they too plan to keep singing, and like Marina and Grillo, many will continue with Orinda Idol.

First time participant and winner of the Grade 3 – 5 Soloist category, Michaela Sasner, says Orinda Idol elevated both her vocal and performance skills: "Orinda Idol was a really good experience," she said, "I've been in a lot of musicals but I never had a solo. And because of Idol, I got a vocal coach and worked on new levels of performing, things like stage

presence, emotion and facial expressions." Michaela plans to continue musical theatre through middle and high school, and hopes to someday work as a professional musical theatre actor, as well as continuing to compete in Orinda Idol.

Return contestant and winner of the Middle School Soloist Category, Ellie Glade first started singing with Orinda Idol and definitely plans to continue. "Orinda Idol has certainly built my confidence on stage," says Ellie. "I've done other performances through school and it's really helped me with that by helping me get comfortable on stage."

When asked if Orinda Idol had improved her singing, Ellie said "absolutely, I would recommend Orinda Idol for anyone who likes to sing and perform, if you try out and you don't make you can try again, there's no boundaries. A lot of people try and it's pretty tough, so if you don't make it, don't be discouraged and try again!"



Multiple award winner Katie Marino

Photo Ohlen Alexander

The Orinda Idol Community

Katie Marino, who won three awards this year – High School Soloist, Group Category 6-12 (along with Maritza Grillo) and the Audience Choice Award – has three previous awards to her credit, including two Audience Choice Awards, which she's won over the five years that she's participated in Orinda Idol.

Her Group partner Maritza Grillo has also sung in five Orinda Idols and likewise has won two previous awards. Still in high school, she plans to participate in Orinda Idol until she graduates.

Grillo and Katie exemplify an unexpected but happy side-effect of Orinda Idol, says Susan Garell, who created the program along with Petra Michel. Founded to provide a creative outlet for young singers, and to support community arts, the program has also turned out to be a great platform for young singers to develop vocal and performing skills, and hone their artistic style:

"Kids are growing up through Orinda Idol. We remember when they were little ones in the elementary groups and now they're in middle and high school. Orinda Idol has been a great creative outlet for these kids and a place for them to grow as singers and performers; it a great opportunity for them to develop their skills," said Garell.

It's not just the necessary practice that helps these young singers; the structure of the whole event provides them with numerous training and performance opportunities. For example, participants are invited to sing at other local events, including the Orinda Farmers Market and the Orinda Car Show. They also attend group seminars on what makes a great performance and a summer pool and karaoke party.

"The competition is so much more than just the event you see. It begins in April, and throughout the summer until finals, students are training, rehearsing, developing their skills and style. It's a really large event that serves to develop the vocal and performance skills of the participants," Garell explained.

In fact, an entire singing community has grown out of Orinda Idol. Chairman Steven Harwood has established a peer mentoring program for the young contestants, which allows the students to come together not as competitors, but as fellow singers helping one another to grow and achieve. Harwood has also opened his home to the kids, with his own local singing lounge for young performers, Club 93. Built above his garage, and complete with disco ball and smoke machine, Club 93 is an after-school-hours karaoke venue where Idol participants (and other local singers) come to practice, or just for the fun of belting out their favorite tunes.

While Harwood thinks Orinda Idol is a wonderful community event, even he is a little awed by the popularity: "For some reason, it really struck a nerve. Maybe it's because of the celebrity singing shows, but maybe there was a need for a channel for creative kids that we tapped into. Orinda Idol really gives creative kids a program to work with, and a great chance to develop their skills and express their creativity and talent. A lot of these kids become close friends, and we've established a great creative community." N.Mohan

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Family Focus

Ten Great Things You Can Do For Your Children

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

The title of this column may be misleading, since this isn't about concrete things to do for your child, such as taking him to Disney World or buying him fabulous toys, electronics, or clothes. Rather, these are actions you can take that will enhance your child's life.

1- Catch your child behaving well. Be sure to notice and comment frequently. Be specific about what you witness him doing or saying.

2- When disciplining your child, make a correction quickly without too much fuss, and then go back to being positive. You want him to think of himself as a good child. For example, if Josh knocks down some cans from the grocery store shelf, ask him to put them back. After he complies, thank him for cooperating.

3- Express affection for your child verbally, physically, and through your actions. Actions can include: taking his preferences into consideration, showing him you enjoy his company, and taking him to see an exhibit of lizards and snakes when you really don't like lizards and snakes.

4- Demonstrate kindness, consideration, and generosity to others. Be the best role model you can be.

5- When you spend time with your child, do so willingly and happily. A child can tell when his parents aren't fully present or if they begrudge giving up their time. (But no need to feel guilty for occasionally skipping pages while reading to your young child at bedtime). On the other hand, be sure to reserve time for yourself and your other interests and relationships to avoid feeling burdened or resentful about sharing time with your child.

6- Take good physical and emotional care of your child, but also be

sure to do the same for yourself. This is a hard one for parents to find time and energy to do, but it's essential.

7- Have an encouraging, optimistic outlook with your child as much as possible. You don't need to be Mary Poppins, but it's important to keep your worries to yourself or share them with other adults. Hearing about too many serious or worrisome issues, directly or indirectly, can burden and inhibit a child. He may become anxious, withdrawn and clingy, and lack confidence in himself.

8- Avoid excessive behavior – too much spending, cleaning, drinking, anger, working, electronics use, etc. Try to find balance and demonstrate this to your child. Seek help if necessary. I'm currently seeing one mother of three young children to address her compulsive need for neatness and orderliness in her home. She realizes she has sacrificed relaxed quality time with her husband and children by constantly trying to maintain a perfect house. She has been critical and dissatisfied with herself as well. Our children are happiest and feel most secure when we are able to be happy with ourselves and our lives.

9- Provide clear, consistent expectations and consequences. We read this in every child-rearing article – and that's because it's essential! Be sure to implement consequences no matter how convincingly your child pleads his case. Allow increased input about rules and consequences as he gets older. Work together in a cooperative, respectful manner. If your child is not behaving respectfully toward you, others, or himself, seek outside help promptly. If he is under eighteen, do not give him a choice about seeing a therapist. After all, you don't allow him to decide about going to the den-

tist or medical doctor. Be firm and loving in your efforts. Often the way to get your child to see someone is to go in as a family, so that he is not singled out as "the one with problems." But if he absolutely refuses to go, as some children do, don't force the issue. Rather, consult regularly with a professional to get the advice and support you will need.

10- Be a good listener. One of the most powerful tools in parenting is being able to provide a calm, reflective, neutral ear for your child. With supportive listening from their parents, children can learn how to make decisions, express their thoughts and feelings, and interact better with others. They develop greater confidence and self-worth. Avoid judging, advising (unless asked), asking questions that have a critical edge, and reacting too emotionally. An excellent guide is *The Lost Art of Listening: How Learning to Listen Can Improve Relationships* by Michael P. Nichols.



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

World Rabies Day

Mona Miller, DVM



istockphoto

Today is World Rabies Day – September 28, 2011 – a day to increase awareness about the public health problem of rabies infection throughout the world. Each year, about 55,000 people die from rabies disease, mostly in Asia and Africa. An important global source is dog bites in these areas and children are especially at risk.

Rabies virus enters the nerves of the victim from a bite wound or saliva, and ends up infecting brain tissue. The average time between bite and brain penetration is 20-30 days. Once the virus reaches the brain, symptoms occur such as change in behavior, change in voice, larynx (voice box) spasms, and weakness of muscles. Drooling is considered the "classic" sign and is a result of the larynx becoming paralyzed. Once signs appear, there is no standard treatment

for animals. (It is important to note that many other problems can cause drooling, however!)

California is an endemic area for rabies virus, as are most of the other states. In fact, only Hawaii does not have rabies present. There have been only 15 human cases in California since 1980, according to the California Department of Public Health, August 2011. In 2010, 175 cases of rabies found in animals were confirmed. The most common carriers are bats and skunks. Other animals included dogs (two cases), coyote and fox (five combined), cattle (one case). Two bats were found in Contra Costa County. Almost every part of the state was affected, with multiple counties reporting a low incidence.

Part of the mission of World Rabies Day is to spread the word that rabies is 100% preventable. All dogs

and cats in California can be vaccinated at four months old. Keeping your pet current on his/her rabies vaccine not only provides a high-level of protection against rabies disease, but also provides "insurance" against a euthanasia mandate by the County if your pet is bitten by a suspect rabid animal. If a wild animal bites you, promptly wash the wound thoroughly with soap and contact your physician. If a wild animal bites your pet, do not try to handle the wild animal, but contact Animal Control for advice. It is best to avoid contact with unfamiliar domestic animals and wild animals, especially the known common carriers such as bats, skunks and foxes.

Further information can be acquired through websites such as www.cdph.ca.gov/, www.veterinary-partner.com, and www.worldrabies-day.org.



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

To Buy or Not to Buy? Organic, that is ...

The Dirty Dozen, Clean Fifteen and Others

By Dr. Theresa Tsingis, DCMS



Organic eggs at the Olivera Egg Ranch booth at the Moraga Farmers' Market
Photo Andy Scheck

Lamorinda has attracted wonderful food purveyors, and some of the finest grocery shops are available minutes from home. My patients have often inquired if buying organic foods is necessary for good health. There are many opinions about this topic. Mine is that certain foods are healthier when organically grown, and others can safely be purchased as conventionally grown. I'll explain further and then share some lists to help both your budget and health guide you through the grocery aisles.

In 2009 and 2011, The Center for Disease Control released the results of studies on chemical exposure and wrote the Fourth National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. They found that most Americans tested positive for the presence of 212 chemicals and heavy metals. The six most widespread chemicals were: PDE (flame retardant), BPA (food-related plastics), Acrylamide (fried foods), PFDA (nonstick cookware), Mercury (seafood), and MTBE (gasoline). Studies show these toxins to be correlated with allergies, diabetes, infertility, and neurological and autoimmune conditions. Some, for example dioxin, are no longer used but are still found in dairy products, farm-raised fish and beef. (Dioxin is a known contributor to the development of type 2 diabetes – see reference 5).

There are nutritional approaches which aim to decrease the toxin burden on the liver which I think are helpful but are a topic for another article. Regarding future exposure to toxins, I think that the "cleaner" the food eaten, the less the body is burdened over time. Below are lists I have developed and those adopted from other food educators. I dubbed the first list the "Scary Six" because they are highest on the food chain and are high-fat (toxins concentrate in fat tissue). The other lists describe fruits and vegetables according to their average amounts of pesticide and fertilizer residues. Load these lists on your cell phone so you'll have them handy when grocery shopping):

THE "SCARY" SIX

*(Buy Organic)

1. Dairy products
2. Eggs
3. Farm-raised Fish
4. Meat
5. Peanut butter/nuts
6. Poultry

THE DIRTY DOZEN

*(Buy Organic)

1. Apples
2. Bell peppers

3. Blueberries
4. Celery
5. Cherries
6. Grapes
7. Kale/ other greens
8. Nectarines
9. Peaches
10. Potatoes
11. Spinach
12. Strawberries

THE CLEAN FIFTEEN

*(Okay to Buy Conventional)

1. Asparagus
2. Avocado
3. Cabbage
4. Cantaloupe
5. Corn
6. Eggplant
7. Grapefruit
8. Honeydew/ melons
9. Kiwi
10. Mangoes
11. Onions
12. Pineapple
13. Sweet peas
14. Sweet potatoes
15. Watermelon

While these lists aim to consider both budget and health factors, it is true that organic foods are still more expensive. My recommendation: where to spend, is to pay the most attention to the Scary Six (food sources higher on the food chain). As organic and local foods gain in popularity, prices will lower and everyone will benefit. Bon appétit and To Your Health!

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2. www.foodnews.org
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4. Bland, Jeffery, PhD. "Nutrition-eering"
5. Environmental Health Perspectives; Vol. 114/#11/Nov 2006



Theresa Tsingis, DCMS specializes in functional nutrition - emphasizing prevention, medical research and therapeutic lifestyle changes. Her practice is located at 251 Lafayette Circle #240, Lafayette CA 94549; Tel. (925)283-9355. Email - DrTsingis@comcast.net

Mayor Mendonca and Her Marvelous Master Chefs

By Susie Iventosch



From left: Karen Mendonca, Hugo Figueroa and Bruce Burns
Photo provided

I just learned a tidbit about Moraga Mayor Karen Mendonca and Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns. They both love to cook, and are quite accomplished cooks at that! On September 10, they teamed up with Chef Hugo Figueroa of Moraga's Terzetto Cuisine to bring home fifth place in the 3rd Annual Mayor's Healthy Cookoff. The primary goal of the event, promoted by the Wellness City Challenge, is to bring civic leaders, chefs and educators together to fight obesity and promote healthy eating.

This year's contest imposed a few new rules, one of which required each team to use only products available to all other participants at the Farmers' Market, eggs supplied by the local 4-H members, plus other assorted ingredients provided supplied by Whole Foods. Each team also had to create an egg dish, and produce some type of salsa from available ingredients.

Team Moraga put on a beautiful spread of grilled salmon with a peach salsa, garden omelets and Chef Hugo's Eggs Benedict, which happened to be one of his favorite dishes! "It was an amazing experience," remarked Figueroa. "I would do it all over again, because I really enjoyed working with our mayor and Bruce Burns, too."

The common thread for all three members of Team Moraga is that they all had family members who greatly

influenced their love of cooking. Mayor Mendonca's Austrian grandfather was a chef, and her grandmother was a gourmet cook, as was her own mother. Her Portuguese father raised all of the family's vegetables in his huge, immaculately tended garden.

"Growing up in Sebastopol, I used to love going out to the orchard to pull up a carrot or two to munch on," noted the mayor. "I also enjoyed the harvest of Gravenstein apples, plums, cherries, prunes, peaches and pears."

Superintendent Burns enjoys meal preparations almost as much as the meal itself, and remembers cooking alongside his dad, who was a gourmet in his own right. He was a member of the gourmet club "Engine 65," so named for the old San Francisco firehouse where they met.

"Our family benefited from all the recipes he used to test on us in preparation for his annual turn at providing dinner to the members of the group," Burns said.

It was part of the family routine for Burns and his siblings to help prepare dinner.

"There were six of us, so help was needed," Burns pointed out. "While a 'chore', it was also a learning and family-time opportunity. I never really minded assisting, and in fact, now I find great satisfaction in being patient with preparations ... taking the

time to slice and dice food as part of the culmination of the products coming together."

Chef Figueroa, who has been with Terzetto Cuisine for the past 15 years, is a self-made cook who was inspired by his mom.

"I always wanted to do something important in my life," he said. "Terzetto owner Roos Pal gave me this opportunity to experiment my knowledge of cooking. I can connect with the people of Moraga and now I have a big family. I am proud to be Terzetto's chef, because we at the Terzetto family believe in healthy and fresh cooking."

And as cooking enthusiasts all three members of Team Moraga said the Mayor's Cookoff was a very worthwhile cause and all would do it again if given the opportunity.

"This event was all about fun competition amongst our neighboring cities to arrive at healthy cooking strategies using fresh, locally-grown produce and creative cooking strategies," reflected the mayor. "I believe that it is important to demonstrate how easily we can all cook healthy, tasty, nutritional meals made from sustainable, local produce."

Though I was not able to get Chef Hugo's exact recipes from the "Cookoff", he did say he makes his eggs Benedict with fresh spinach and sliced tomatoes. He also was kind enough to share his fresh fruit muffin recipe, which is a favorite for Terzetto customers. He says you can use any fresh fruit, and I chose blueberries and white nectarines. Yummy!

Terzetto Cuisine
1419 Moraga Way
Moraga, CA 94556
(925) 376-3832
Hour of Operation: Mon: 6.30 to 2.00 pm
Tuesday to Sunday: 6.30- 8.30 pm
Open all day Tue to Sun
For more information about Terzetto Cuisine, please visit:
www.terzettocuisine.com
For information on the Wellness City Challenge, please visit:
<http://wellnesscitychallenge.com>

Chef Hugo's Fresh Fruit Muffins



Photo Susie Iventosch

(Yields approximately 16-18 giant muffins, or 24-26 regular sized muffins)

INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups flour
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2½ cups brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons baking powder
- Pinch of salt and cinnamon
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup canola oil
- 5 eggs, beaten lightly
- 1½ cups fruit of choice (berries, peaches, nectarines, apples, etc.)

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 325° on *convection, or 350° for conventional oven. Place all dries in a large mixing bowl and mix well. In a separate bowl, whisk oil, milk and eggs. Pour egg mixture into dry mixture and stir until well integrated. Fold in fruit. (If using berries use whole and if using larger fruit, cut into small pieces.) Pour batter into prepared or paper-lined muffin tins and bake until centers are done and a cake tester comes out clean. Cooking time will depend upon the size muffins you make, and also whether you use pure convection, convection-bake, or a regular bake setting on your oven. Muffins should be golden-brown on top and done in the center, when ready. I used convection-bake and found it took almost 30 minutes for the larger muffins, and 20-25 for the regular sized muffins.

*For information on converting from conventional to convection ovens here is a good website:

http://www.broilking.com/convection_cooking.html

Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziven@gmail.com.

These recipe is available on our web site www.lamorindaweekly.com

If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at 925-377-0977.



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ART

The Saint Mary's College William Keith (1838 -1911) Collection will welcome visitors into the expanded galleries of the new Museum of Art. Among never before seen recent acquisitions and newly restored paintings are magnificent early views of the Columbia River Valley, Pacific Northwest, Mt. Tamalpais and Russian River. Opening Day Lecture: Thinking About William



Keith ~ Some Centennial Considerations, with Kevin Starr, Ph.D., October 2, 2 pm, LeFevre Theatre. \$5 general admission, Members free. Advance

reservations recommended online or by telephone. October 12 at 11 am, there will be Public Keith Tours with collection specialist Heidi Ehrman Donner. The museum is open to the public Wednesdays through Sundays, 11am-4:30pm. Information: (925) 631-4379.

Preserve Lamorinda Open Space Art Show: Sunday, October 2, 10am-5pm, St. Mary's College, Moraga. (At the Soda Center, across from the Hearst Gallery). Twenty-five of the Bay Area's finest artists will exhibit. Proceeds from paintings sold will support open space campaigns in Lamorinda. Admission is free. Event info: plos@robella.com, (925) 878-9682.

MUSIC

The Mike Vax Big Band, with vocalist Denise Perrier, will appear at the



Rheem Theatre in Moraga October 2, and perform a Sunday afternoon concert and dance 2-5pm. Tickets are \$17 in advance by 9/30 (tickets held at door), \$20 at the door (\$10 students). Purchase them online at www.bigbandjazz.net, or by mail, by sending a check to FBJJ, 3316 Fir Ave., Alameda, 94502.

Mary Fettig, legendary saxophonist and flutist, will perform at the Moraga Library, Thursday, October 6, 7-9pm. Having played with such brilliantly talented luminaries as Tito Puente, Roy Obiedo, Stan Kenton, and Flora Purim, Fetti's resume is one at which to marvel and behold. Preregistration is encouraged; call the Moraga Library at (925) 376-6852 or go online at cclib.org. For more information, contact Beth Girshman at bgirshma@cclib.org or (925) 376-6852, ext 200.

Pacific Chamber Symphony, Sunday, October 9, 4 pm, Community Hall



Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Featuring Dvorak/Caliendo, Caliendo World Music Suite #2 (World Premier), Sheridan Stokes - Flute Soloist, Dvorak Serenade for Strings. Concert Tickets: \$30 General, \$25 seniors (65+), \$10 students. Tickets: Brown Paper Tickets on line or call (800) 838-3006.

Generations In Jazz presents The Big Band Of Rossmoor on Friday Oct 14 for a big band dance and concert at The Veterans Memorial Building. Tickets are on sale at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce for \$10. Reserve tickets at 284-7404 or purchase at the door. Free dance lessons are available from 7-8pm with instructor Doris Burgman. Then the dance and concert begins at 8pm.

The Auerbach/Morley Organ/Piano Duo (organist David Auerbach and pianist Martin Morley) presents Eighty-Eight and Swell and Great, a program of piano/organ duets. On the program are classical selections by Bach, Handel, Saint-Saëns and others. Sunday, October 16, 4 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. Free admission; freewill offering. Contact: Martin Morley, (925) 283-3722, martin@osl.net.

The Royal Society Jazz Orchestra ~ Playing the tunes that made 1920s San Francisco roar! Wednesday, October 19, 6:30-7:30pm at the Orinda Library.

Directed by David Morales, the Cantare Chorale presents Sit Down! You're Rockin' the Boat a family concert featuring a Duke Ellington medley, Broadway tunes, American folk, popular and patriotic songs. An après-concert ice cream social will cap off Cantare's Silver Anniversary Season opening event. Sunday, October 16th, 4 pm at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, 94549 Tickets: \$10-\$60 (510) 836-0789. For more info and tickets: www.cantareconviso.org.

Voices of Musica Sacra presents a centenary celebration of the choral, organ and chamber works of visionary French composer, Jehan Alain, featuring John R.S. Walko, organist and young local musicians. John Kendall Bailey, Music Director. October 22, 2 pm, St. Mary's College Chapel, Moraga, and October 23, 2 pm, St. Stephen Catholic Church, 1101 Keaveny Ct., Walnut Creek. www.vmschorus.org, (925) 944-5239.

Saint Mary's Music Recital Series. Enjoy listening to students sing opera arias, perform piano sonatas and play Baroque trios and other chamber music on Wednesday October 26, 1 pm. Where: Soda Center, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Admission: Free.

THEATER

Cal Shakes presents "The Taming of the Shrew" by William Shakespeare, directed by Shana Cooper, September 21-October 16. For details and to purchase tickets go to www.calshakes.org or call (510) 548-9666.

Town Hall Theatre presents "Picasso at the Lapin Agile" by Steve Martin, directed by Lisa Anne Porter, September 22-October 15. For tickets and show times call the box office at (925) 283 1557 or go to www.thc.org. See article page B2.

The International Film Showcase will screen The Man Who Will Come, L'Uomo che verrà, beginning October 21, at the Orinda Theatre, as part of a UC Berkeley Law School symposium on the civilian massacres committed by the Nazis in Italy during World War II. On Saturday, October 22, the sponsors will host a special event, "The Man Who Will Come: A Conversation about Remembering the Monte Sole massacre of 1944," starting at 6:30 pm followed by the screening of the film and a Q&A session. For more information and to purchase tickets go to www.lfef.org.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Orinda Books events: Thursday, October 6, 2 pm, Sisters in Crime Rhys Bowen and Penny Warner will discuss and sign copies of their new mystery novels, "Naughty in Nice" and "How to Party With a Killer Vampire." **Wednesday, October 12 at 3 pm,** the Second Wednesday Book Group will read and discuss "Seduced by Madness" by Carol Pogash. In a stunningly intimate recreation of one of the most sensational true-crime cases of recent years, Pogash demonstrates how the excesses of California's decadent therapy culture set the stage for a story that ends in murder. The book group meets monthly at Orinda Books and welcome new members. On **Thursday, October 13 at 3 pm,** Julia Glass, author of "Three Junos," will discuss and sign copies of her novel "The Widower's Tale." With equal parts affection and humor, Julia Glass spins a captivating tale about a man who can no longer remain aloof from his community, his two grown daughters, or the precarious joy of falling in love. Orinda Books is located at 276 Village Square, Orinda; (925)254-7606; www.orindabooks.com.

On October 25th at 6:30 pm the Commonwealth Club of California is hosting an exclusive event with University of California President Mark Yudof

at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. With budgets being slashed, tuitions on the rise and more students than ever seeking limited UC acceptance, California's public higher education system is in troubled waters. What does the future of the renowned University of California hold and what does it say about the state of higher education in America? Join us for an exclusive conversation with UC President Yudof and get your questions answered. Time: 5:45 pm check-in, 6:30 pm program. Cost: \$22 standard, \$12 members, \$7 students.

Book Sales - Friends of the Orinda Library: Thursday Oct. 6, 10am-1pm at the Book Shop and Sorting Room (Book Shop is open until 6 pm); Children's Book Sale, Saturday, Oct. 8, 10am-1pm at the Book Shop and outside Library entrance. Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda (925)254-1358.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Teens: Volunteer in Latin America Summer 2012: Amigos de las Americas, a program which sends high school students to volunteer for 5-8 weeks in Latin America during the summer, announces its annual informational meetings for students and parents interested in learning more about the program. Meetings will be Sept. 27, 7:30 pm at Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek, and Oct. 5, 7:30 pm at Stanley Middle School in Lafayette. For more meeting times and locations, visit www.eastbayamigos.org. Training begins in November.

Lafayette School District Parent Education presents Michael Josephson, Ethicist, Founder, & President of Josephson Institute on Thursday, October 6th, 7:00-8:30pm; Acalanes High School, Theater, 1200 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette. Michael Josephson is the creator a character-development strategy based on universal ethical values called the Six Pillars of Character (trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship). Tickets are \$10/each and are available through PayPal at https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/websec?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=UWCJAH74QXMN4.

"Parenting Teens in Today's Culture" seminar at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Ln, Moraga on October 13, 6:30-9:30pm. Join Mark Gregston, founder of Heartlight, a residential counseling program for teens, for an evening of practical wisdom and insights to help you navigate the teen years. Price: \$10/person or \$15/couple. Phone: (925) 376-4800. Email: dricketts@mvpctoday.org. For more information and resources: www.parentingtodaysteens.org.

It's time again for Sleepy Hollow Elementary School's Annual Pumpkin Patch - and you won't want to miss it! Head over to the school's grounds, located at 20 Washington Lane in Orinda, Saturday, Oct. 15, from 10am-3pm and enjoy a day of old-fashioned fun and games with family and friends.

FESTIVALS

Second Annual Olive Festival on October 2nd, 1-4 pm in The Nature Area, next to the Wagner Ranch Elementary School in Orinda; 350 Camino Pablo, on the SE corner of Bear Creek Road and Camino Pablo. See article page A7.

Oktoberfest, Saturday, October 15, 10am-1pm. Food, Fun for Kids, Prizes & Games. Free Admission. Diablo Valley Montessori School, 3390 Deer Hill Road Lafayette; (925) 283-6036.

Serbian Food Festival, Saturday, October 15, noon-9pm. Featuring authentic Serbian cuisine, music and dancing. Free admission. Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. For info. (925) 376-6850.

... continued on next page

Lamorinda's Religious Services



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Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 10 - 1

www.christianscienceorinda.org

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Way, Orinda



Regular Worship Schedule
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
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 Great value in Moraga Country Club. 1743 sq ft 2 bed 2.5 bath w/ loft. Open floor plan with vaulted ceiling. Private back yard and deck. Quite cul-de-sac location and soon to be new club house. \$479,000.

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

...continued from page B10

FESTIVALS

Oktoberfest at the Hacienda de Las Flores, Sunday, October 16, from 2-6pm. Big Lou and her German band will offer live music, the Golden Gate Bavarian Dancers will entertain with authentic Oktoberfest dances. Draught beer, bratwurst, weisswurst, strudel and pretzels are available for a nominal charge. Jumpy houses, pumpkin painting, and other activities will be available to entertain children. All proceeds used for improvements to the Hacienda de Las Flores.

OTHER

Donate Your Old Furniture to Hospice of the East Bay. Are you planning to update the look of your home and looking for a charitable organization that will accept your old furniture? Hospice of the East Bay thrift stores need your contributions and will come to your home to pick them up! For store locations and hours visit www.hospiceeastbay.org. Pick-up service for large items is available by calling (925) 674-9072.

Music, Dance, Conversation at Seniors Social. Music lovers, social fans, all-level dancers, couples and singles invited to join the fun Wednesdays 12:30-2:50pm, Live Oak Room, Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road. Large dance space, sociable table set-up, smooth new floor. Ballroom lessons first Wednesday of each month. \$2 for Lafayette Senior Center members, \$4 for non-members. Additional details and map: sites.google.com/site/lafayetteteadance.

Widowed Persons Support Group sessions are on-going at 10 am Saturday mornings at Saint Stephen's Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda. For more detailed information, please call Janice With at (925) 210-0333.

Blood Drive – Drop by and share a pint! Saturday, October 1, 9am-3pm, at MVPC, 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga. It's a chance to be a hero, and to give someone another birthday. Sign up online at helpsavealife.org (Sponsor Code: Moraga925) or call Les Deane at 283-5648.

At 10:45 am on October 2, Our Savior's Lutheran Church will have a special service of appreciation and blessing for our pets (an acknowledgement of the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi two days later). Fresh water and animal snacks available around the room on an easily-cleaned floor surface! 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. 283-3722, www.oslc.net.

Blessing of the Animals - 3pm Saturday, October 8. Join Orinda Community Church friends -- furry and feathery-- to celebrate the blessing of the animals. 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. All animals invited. We've blessed lizards, pictures of animals, stuffed animals. Bring dog/cat food and blankets to benefit local animal shelters.

Stanley Middle School Book Fair: October 3-7. Monday - Thursday: 7:50am-4pm, Tuesday: 6pm-8pm, and Friday: 7:50am-8:30am. Monday at lunchtime: Canine Companions for Independence. Tuesday at lunchtime: Author Talk with Bruce Cameron, author of A Dog's Purpose. Tuesday at 6 pm: Author Talk with Bruce Cameron and Top Dog Hot Dogs to be served for dinner. Wednesday at lunchtime: Local veterinarian, Dr. Pam Wittenberg, will answer questions about pets.

The Orinda Library invites everyone to help celebrate the 10th Anniversary with music by Orinda's own The Real Placebos on Wednesday, October 5 at

6:30 pm. The popular group plays American Roots Music which includes everything from Mississippi blues to traditional bluegrass and is perfect for the entire family. This program will take place inside the Orinda Library which is at 26 Orinda Way in Orinda. For more information, please visit the library website at ccclib.org or telephone (925) 254-2184.

5th Annual Martinez Home Tour on Saturday, October 8 from 10am-4pm. The Tour begins at the Shell Clubhouse, 1635 Pacheco Blvd, with displays of vintage clothing, antique cars, refreshments and music by "The Spinning Wheel." The tour includes the 1890 Borland House (home of the Martinez Museum), John Muir's 1882 Italianate Victorian Home, the Martinez Adobe and seven private historical homes circa 1880-1930. Tickets are tax deductible and are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the Shell Club House on the day of the event or on www.MartinezHomeTour.com.

Moraga Mover's October program will feature John Muir Laws, a direct descendant of John Muir, as the guest speaker. Naturalist, educator and artist John (Jack) Muir Laws delights in exploring the natural world and sharing this love with others. Guests are welcome for this dinner/program at the Soda Center, St. Mary's College on Oct 10. The cost is \$15 per person and reservations can be made online by visiting www.moragamovers.org or by calling (925) 376-6622. Social hour begins at 5pm with dinner to follow at 6pm.

On October 12th at 7 pm in the Orinda Library Auditorium the Lamorinda Wildfire Forum will present a program remembering the 1991 Oakland Firestorm. If you plan to attend, please contact Jonathan Goodwin, CanyonFire@VFEmail.net. See article page A8.

Be Prepared: Top 8 Remedies for Emergencies. Dr. Golovanov & Myra Nissen, CCH discuss remedies that can keep you safe: Ease injuries, calm the shell-shocked, or save a life. Thursday October 13 6-7pm, Quail Court Office Park, 43 Quail Court, Suite 215, Conference Room, Floor 2, Walnut Creek. (925) 826-3858, register www.HomeopathyEveryDay.com.

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District is hosting their Fall Open House and Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, October 15th, from 8am-12pm (breakfast begins at 9am), at Station 41 - 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga. Bring the family to meet your local firefighters, representatives from local community groups, Smokey the Bear and take a tour of the fire engines and trucks. Come learn about fire prevention and emergency/disaster preparedness, Firewise and the CPR Anytime programs. Schedule a car seat check-up appointment, learn how to use a fire extinguisher and how to perform animal CPR. There will be a fire truck bounce house/slide, free popcorn, raffles and prizes for the kids!

On Friday, October 21 Gary Gragg, who is the President of Golden Gate Palms and Exotics in Richmond, California, will discuss subtropical gardening for Northern California. The lecture is at 10:30 am. A plant sale and refreshments are at 9am. The event is free and the public is cordially invited to attend. The event is held at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda.

Dark Dreams Haunted house returns to the Rheem Theater raising money for the California Independent Film Festival. Creepy movie sets and live monsters leave you shaking. Open 4-6pm Halloween with lights on, no monsters for curious little kids. Scary October 21&23, 28-31, 7-11pm 'til

midnight on Halloween. \$8.00 admission (sold at door) www.Hauntworld.com.

Do you like working with people? Are you good with numbers? Contra Costa County AARP Tax-Aide is looking for volunteers to become members of a team providing free tax preparation for individuals of all ages. Volunteers are trained by Tax-Aide and become IRS Certified tax counselors. Other volunteer positions are available. If interested, call LaVerne Gordon, District Coordinator, at (925) 726-3199 for information and to apply. Orientation is in November 2011 and classes for tax counselors start in January 2012.

Step into the world of amateur radio! Communicate wirelessly across town, across country, internationally or out into space. Learn about Amateur (ham) Radio and earn a Technician Class license through classes taught by Lamorinda area ham radio operators. Classes start, November 2, at 7 pm in the Sarge Littlehale Room of Orinda City Hall and run for two hours each Wednesday night through the month. The class is free, but participants will use Gordon West's book Technician Class 2010-2014. The book, normally \$20, will be available at a reduced price at the first meeting.

Virtually anyone can become a licensed operator. Learning Morse Code is no longer a requirement for obtaining any amateur radio license. A federal license exam will be administered at the completion of the class. For details, call Keith at 925.376.3269 or Leasa at 925.631.6650, or e-mail K6KWR@arrl.ORG.

Please submit:
 calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Opening Day Preview
The NEW Saint Mary's College Museum of Art
 Sunday, October 2



In the Hearst, Walker & Keith Galleries

The Comprehensive Keith: A Centennial Tribute

130 paintings by California's 19th c. landscape master artist



In the Studio Gallery

Masks and Costumes: Ethnographic Art from the Permanent Collection



In the John and Julia Armistead Gallery

Reflections in Time: Photographs by Stanley Truman from the Permanent Collection

Kevin Starr, Ph.D.

Thinking About William Keith: Some Centennial Considerations

Sunday, October 2, 2 pm, LeFevre Theatre \$5 admission

Discounted tickets and museum fee available online: stmarys-ca.edu/museum

Kevin Starr is University Professor and Professor of History at the University of Southern California and California State Librarian emeritus. Considered the nation's leading expert on California history, he was honored by the White House with the 2006 Humanities Medal and inducted into the California Hall of Fame in 2010. Professor Starr graduated from the University of San Francisco with a B.A. in English, earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. in English and American literature at Harvard University and his master of library science at the University of California at Berkeley.

For information on October 18 Hetch-Hetchy Forum and November 9 Recital or to preview new William Keith book, visit the museum website at stmarys-ca.edu/museum or call 925.631.4379.

Museum Hours: Wednesdays - Sundays, 11 AM - 4:30 PM
 Admission: \$5 adults; K - 12 graders and members free



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5TH ANNUAL DARK DREAMS HAUNTED HOUSE
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Friday, October 14th

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Chipotle Mexican Grill Opens in Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini



Multi-generations eat at Chipotle on its opening day in Lafayette

Photo Sophie Braccini

Is Chipotle a kids' joint? It certainly looked like it on opening day on September 21 in Lafayette. Reporters and photographers from several school newspapers came to the new restaurant that opened at 3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite F, between Peet's Coffee and Noah's Bagels. The fast moving line, after 3:00 p.m., was mostly made of kids from the nearby middle school, but there were also older patrons sitting at tables, enjoying their \$7 freshly made burrito.

"Chipotle is cool, hip and a bit quirky," said local Marketing Manager Ashley Head who had come to support the opening, "high school and college students love us." According to Head, what makes the brand popular is that the menu is very simple: only 14 to 17 ingredients to choose from, that patrons can see and combine the way they want. "And, of

course, because it is very good," she added.

The company's communications emphasize its claim to quality and the local nature of the ingredients that are used in the restaurant: "When he started his first restaurant in Denver, Colorado, Steve Eells was not very pleased with the taste of the carnitas (roasted pork), so he looked for a tastier meat and found naturally raised animals taste better. Since then, we sell only meat that comes from naturally raised animals," states a press release.

Head also pointed out that the cilantro is organic and comes from Hollister, the romaine lettuce from Salinas, tomatoes are sourced from Taylor Farms also in Salinas (June through November), and all the dairy products are purchased at Petaluma Creamery. "There are no growth hormones or antibiotic residues in the

meat/dairy products we use," stated Head. This commitment is part of what the publicly traded company calls "Food with Integrity."

Selling good quality ingredients in a fast food setting for a reasonable price means that the volume has to be very high. "We serve 150 people in an hour," explained the energetic manager, Patty Rojas, who oversees 15 employees in the Lafayette location, some of them local students. Speed and accuracy are top requirements for employees working in the assembly-line type setting.

Chipotle's menu consists of four main items – burritos, tacos, bowls and salads – with a choice of chicken, steak, or vegetarian (with guacamole). The price of the items is based on the type of meat chosen. Additional toppings include rice, beans (vegetarian or not), four types of salsa, sour cream, cheese, and lettuce. "The relatively small number of ingredients we offer allows us to focus on their quality," said Head, "and we also can keep it affordable to everyone."

The same day Chipotle opened in Lafayette, the company also inaugurated a restaurant in San Francisco. All the restaurants are owned by the company; at this time there are 45 of them in the San Francisco Bay Area, and more than 1000 in the US and Canada, with some new openings in Europe. Chipotle was ranked the third fastest growing restaurant chain in 2010.

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

business briefs

Sandy's Temporary Move

As owners Sandy and Louis Richard prepare to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary and the 33rd anniversary of their clothing store, Sandy's, they've also had to move their well located store on Mt Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette (next to Postino, Radio Shack, Patchi's and Tart) to the back of the building while renovations are taking place. "We are looking forward to the change," said Richard, "we will take that opportunity to change our décor and we'll take a fresh look at our collection." Richard is not afraid of moving. As a secondary business he and his family have moved their primary residence eight times over the past 30 years, renovating and improving homes primarily in Lafayette. "We are used to packing and unpacking and living in a construction zone," says the cheerful storeowner. "We noticed the difference (being in the back) during the Art and Wine Festival," says Richards, "every year we've had quite a lot of people coming in, but this year, not many made the effort to come by." The company that owns, and is renovating, the building paid for a prominent sign to be painted on the plywood that blocks the entrance of the old store. "Our regular clients come, but otherwise, the only foot traffic we have are the people who dine at Patchi's and have time to roam around while their pizza is cooked." Richards says that he is grateful for the owner to have paid for the sign. The plan is to get back into their normal space sometime at the beginning of 2012. "The City of Lafayette is planning to renovate our stretch of sidewalk," says Richards, "it is my understanding that the work has to be approved by the end of the year to take advantage of federal funding. We won't go back to our space until it is finished." Richards already has ideas about the new space: "Over the years, our merchandise has evolved toward special occasion clothing," he says, "our décor was contemporary/industrial style; we want the new Sandy's to be more cozy and inviting. It will be really beautiful."

Open House at the Contra Costa Academy on October 9th

Former Stanley and Campolindo student, and recent graduate from University of California San Diego (with a degree in Computer Arts), Bobby Mazaheri, decided to start his own business when he had problems finding his dream job after graduation. A few months ago he started the Contra Costa Academy, an after school program for children who want to learn game creation on I-phones, apps, animation, etc. The four-week session take place Monday-Thursday 3:45-4:30 pm at 3400 Mt. Diablo Blvd Lafayette. On October 9th, an Open House will be an opportunity for his first students to showcase their work. Parents and students are invited to come and take a look. Mazaheri has taught for four years and has published many games. He gained industry experience working for Electronic Arts, Sony, and Bandai/Konami. For more information go to www.contracostaacademy.com.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

- Shop Lafayette Committee Meeting, October 11th, 12:00-1:00 pm in the Chamber meeting room
- Monthly Mixer, October 12th, 5:30-7 pm at ManorCare Health Services, 1226 Rossmoor Pkwy, Walnut Creek
- Ribbon Cutting for Studio Jule, October 13, 5-5:30 pm at 1024 Oak Hill Road, Lafayette

Moraga

General Meeting Friday, September 30, 7:30 am at the Hacienda de las Flores. The topic for this month's meeting is important information about the needs of Moraga's infrastructure. Whether you live in Moraga or not, this information is important for you to have.

Orinda

Business Neighborhood Watch Meeting, Thursday, October 13, 8:00 am, at Kattenburg Architects, 11 Moraga Way, #3, Orinda. The group aims to prevent crime in Orinda businesses and is supported by the Orinda Police Department. Coffee will be provided. RSVP via email to info@orindachamber.org or phone (925) 254-3909.

Our Magical Summer of '42

We were just kids, not even twenty years old but so much in love. When we said "forever" we meant it. We survived wars (not between us!), we raised three kids, built a great business, and even sailed around the world. A few years ago we moved from our large family home – thought that downsizing would make life easier. And it has.

But more and more, my days are spent giving care and worrying about the early signs of memory loss.

If you are caring for a loved one full or part time, you deserve a break. Go ahead and schedule time away for yourself – for a vacation with friends or a visit to see your grandchildren. It's important to slow down and breathe. Peace of mind is possible, just call Áegis.

Áegis Living is the trusted senior living company, known for the finest care, the most delicious and nutritious cuisine, all in loving environments where seniors enjoy planned activities and socializing all day long.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lady Cougars Serve up a Win

By Marissa Harnett



Photo Doug Kohen

The Lamorinda high school girls' tennis teams are starting DFAL conference play. Campolindo is enjoying a 3-0 run in the DFAL and are 6-1-1 overall. Miramonte has split its out-of-league record but also remains undefeated in league play with a 5-3 overall record. The Lady Dons have played the fewest matches of the Lamorinda programs and have recorded one league win for a 2-3 record overall.

On Thursday, September 15th, in the second match of conference play, two Lamorinda schools were pitted against each other when Acalanes hosted Campolindo. The Lady Dons' top two singles players – sophomore Tessa Karagocev and junior Ida Barabi – both pulled out wins, but Campo took the rest of the matches to finish the day 7-2.

The #1 singles match between Karagocev and Campo's senior captain Natalie Korich was a slug-fest from the beginning as the two blasted ground strokes back and forth. It was almost exclusively a baseline match with equally lethal forehands and backhands from both players as they drove deep hard shots into the corners. In the end, Karacev hit more winners and made fewer errors to take the match, 6-3, 6-3.

The #2 singles match between Barabi and Campo junior Miranda Hill saw longer rallies and a larger variety of shots, and the pair battled to the end. After nabbing the first set 7-6 in a 7-4 tiebreaker, Hill gave up the

second set 4-6. In the end, Barabi emerged victorious winning a 10 point super tie breaker played in lieu of a third set. After trading the lead several times and fighting to win by two points, the tiebreaker finally ended at 13-11.

At the close of the match, Acalanes head coach Brad Reiser said, "They brought out the best in each other. You hate to see either one lose."

At 0-2 this season, with only four returning players, Acalanes is in the process of rebuilding. "We have no expectations other than primarily to gain experience and make the concerted effort to improve both individually and as a team on a daily basis. With so many new faces on the team we are still finding our true identity," Reiser said.

Like Acalanes, Miramonte also graduated many seniors last year and is only returning four varsity players but are competing at a higher level, with a 5-3 overall record.

Campo, on the other hand, is largely composed of experienced upperclassmen. Head coach Steve Robinson attributed their success to their depth. "We don't fall off a cliff after (our) #1 (player)."

Despite its young talent, Robinson still sees Miramonte as a threat. "Miramonte has always been tough... our biggest rival in the conference," he said.

While the Lady Mats enjoyed three wins against the Cougars last

year, Miramonte coach Mike McColom hinted at the potential for an upset.

"This year we are going to have to show up and play our best tennis at each position to have a chance to get a team win. Our rivalry with Campo will be the same as usual, spirited and competitive. I know that the Miramonte girls will come out and give each opponent their very best and that we will continue the great tradition of success we are known for."

Campo will host Miramonte on Tuesday, October 4th in their first meeting of the season.

9/15 Match results

Singles:
 Karagocev (A) d. Korich 6-3, 6-3;
 Barabi (A) d. Hill 6-7(7-4), 6-4 (13-11);
 McCue (C) d. Koyake 6-2, 6-0;
 Stone (C) d. Chow 6-2, 6-0;
 Faulkner (C) d. T. Barabi 6-1, 6-1;
 Buberts (C) d. Bittner 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles:
 Perella/Pines (C) d. Chen/Bauer 6-2, 6-3;
 Kelley/Cunningham (C) d. Yang/Liu 6-1, 6-1;
 Eyl/Li (C) d. Bishop/Zucker 6-4, 6-0

Records:
Acalanes: 1-2 in DFAL; 2-3 overall as of 9/22
Campolindo: 3-0 in DFAL; 6-1-1 overall as of 9/22
Miramonte: 2-0 in DFAL; 5-3 overall as of 9/15

Lamorinda Boys Play Tackle Football

Submitted by Tom Godsey



Marauder Scouts approach the line of scrimmage against the Livermore Vikings

Photo Jerry Dermon

The 2011 Diablo Valley Youth Football season kicked off in Livermore, Saturday, September 10 with the Walnut Creek Marauders battling the Livermore Vikings. Since Lamorinda does not have a tackle football league, some Lamorinda boys have joined the Marauders.

The Junior PeeWees (8-to-10 year olds), coached by Lafayette's own Art Thoms, prevailed in a close game, 26-19.

The PeeWees (9-to-12 year olds) held the lead for much of the game but ran out of gas as the Vikings pulled away 19-7. Moraga's Jackson Reneau, a Joaquin

Moraga sixth grader, scampered for the lone touchdown for the Marauder PeeWees behind the blocking of Bryce Henderson, also a Joaquin Moraga sixth grader, and Parker Godsey, a Stanley Middle School sixth grader.

Their full schedule is available at wcyfmarauders.com.

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS



Saint Mary's Men's Soccer Looks for Relief in WCC Play

By Alex Kozela



Photo Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's men's soccer team wrapped up a difficult preseason schedule last weekend and now looks for improved fortunes in West Coast Conference play. The Gaels (1-3-3) travel to San Diego on Friday, September 30th to open the regular season.

The road to conference has been less than forgiving, with a schedule that included games against two nationally-ranked teams, #17 UCLA and #3 Creighton.

"We definitely want our non-conference schedule to prepare us for conference, and it's been a very challenging non-conference schedule," said Gaels' head coach Adam Cooper.

After defeating UC Davis 1-0 in

the team's first game on August 27, the Gaels went 0-3-3, culminating in a 0-1 loss to powerhouse #3 Creighton Saturday, September 24.

Despite Gaels' senior keeper Doug Herrick's best efforts in registering seven saves, Creighton (8-0-0) capitalized in the 37th minute on a penalty kick that preserved the Bluejays' perfect record. Creighton also outshot the Gaels 17-9 overall, while slightly edging Saint Mary's on shots on goal, 7-6.

In addition to the games against difficult teams, the team's congested schedule hasn't done the Gaels any favors.

"It's not easy to play an overtime game on Friday, get in a bus for five hours Saturday, and play another

overtime game on Sunday, both against very good teams," said Cooper, referring to the team's consecutive draws against Sacramento State and CSU Bakersfield, 1-1 and 0-0, respectively.

The Saint Mary's offense hasn't been successful thus far. The Gaels have only found the net three times this season: sophomore forward Justin Howard scored off a header in the lone win over UC Davis; freshman defender Bobby Connor scored against #17 UCLA in a 2-1 loss in Los Angeles; and senior midfielder Justin Grider nabbed an 89th minute equalizer in a 1-1 draw against Sacramento State.

The team's defense, however, has been solid, allowing only five



Photo Tod Fierner

goals in seven games. Much of the statistic can be attributed to the play of Herrick, who has 19 career wins and is only three wins shy of the school record, currently held by Kellan Wilson (1999-03) with 22 wins.

The Gaels haven't won in San Diego since 2008 and will look to reverse that trend Friday. Saint Mary's finished fifth in the seven-team West Coast Conference last

season 10-8-1 overall and 6-6-0 in WCC play.

The team will remain in Southern California for a Sunday meeting with Loyola Marymount. The Lions defeated the Gaels in both of the teams' meetings last season. Saint Mary's will make its 2011 WCC home debut on Friday, October 7 at 4:00 p.m. against Bay Area rivals Santa Clara at Saint Mary's Stadium.

Lamorinda Soccer Club Program Results

Submitted by Benson Chan



The Lamorinda United 95 U16 Boys finished in first place at the Mustang Stampede and second place in the Juventus Tournament of Champions and the Ballistic United Summer Classic.

Photo Jen Donat

The Lamorinda Soccer Club teams spent the summer at practice and tournaments. Over the course of the summer the teams improved to finish on top.

"The kids leave the program and go out into the world bringing

with them a feeling that because of what they have learned and accomplished as soccer players, their dedication and hard work will enable them to ignite a passion and to master whatever they put their mind to, both on and off the field," said Mo-

hamed "Mo" Mohamed, Technical Director of the Lamorinda Soccer Club.

Highlights include:

- Boys U11 Navy (Lamorinda United 00) – semi-finalist at Mustang Stampede

- Boys U12 Navy (Lamorinda United 99) – champion at Santa Cruz Beach Soccer Championships
- Boys U13 Navy (Lamorinda United 98) – second place at Santa Cruz Beach Soccer Championships
- Boys U16 (Lamorinda United

- 95) – champion at Mustang Stampede, second place at Juventus Tournament of Champions and at Ballistic United Summer Classic

- Girls U11 Navy (Lamorinda United 00) – second place at Diablo FC Summer Challenge, and third place at Pleasanton Rage Showcase Juniors

- Girls U11 White (Lamorinda United 01) – third place at Azuri Summer Classic

- Girls U12 Navy (Lamorinda United 99) – champion at North vs. South Summer Classic, and semifinalist at Pleasanton Rage Showcase Juniors

- Girls U13 (Lamorinda United 98) – third place at Pleasanton Rage Showcase Juniors

- Girls U14 (Lamorinda United 97) – champion at US Club Regional, second place at Pleasanton Rage Showcase Juniors and semi-finalist North vs South Summer Classic

- Girls U16 (Lamorinda United 95) – champion Mustang Stampede and at Pleasanton Rage College Showcase

- Girls U17 (Lamorinda United 94) – champion at Schwan's USA Cup, Pleasanton Rage College Showcase, second place at US Club Regional, and quarterfinalist at San Diego Surf Cup XXXI

Lamorinda Weekly

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

Acalanes Volleyball's Sister Sets

By Lou Fancher



(Left) top: Dory Grobeck, bottom: Danielle Grobeck; (Middle) top: Claire Amaral, bottom: Julia Amaral (Right) top: Molly Dalziel, bottom: Megan Dalziel Photo Ohlen Alexander

The Acalanes High School Girls volleyball teams are introducing a new, strategic element to the game: sister sets.

This year, for the first time during varsity head coach Steve Siegmann's tenure at the school, there are three sets of sisters amidst the freshman, junior varsity and varsity teams.

"This is my fourth year at Acalanes and if I remember correctly, we have not had even one set of sisters in the program, much less the three we have this year," he said.

His 2011 rosters includes Julia, 16, and Claire Amaral, 14; Megan, 17, and Molly Dalziel, 14; and

Danielle, 17, and Dory Grobeck, 14.

Siegmann watched the sister-pairs work together during joint practices this summer. He saw three special bonds and liked how they have continued to encourage each other during the fall season games.

"The really cool thing about all three sets of sisters is that they are all very hard working players," Siegmann said, "the older girls want to set an example for the younger ones to follow and the younger ones really look up to their older sisters."

While there's a commonality to their connections, Siegmann described each set differently. The

Dalziels are assertive, with unique arm swings. The Amarals are "quirky," energetic, and active on the court. The Grobecks are technical in all aspects of the game.

Sitting down with the six players, it was obvious that they mean business. There are no chatty asides and every question was examined for the best angle, as if preparing to spike the answer.

"She helps me on my mental game. She tells me to brush off mistakes. I look for her approval," said Claire Amaral, about the best advice Julia has given her.

Julia, answering the same ques-

tion, said her younger sister's advice has come in the form of a protest: "Don't ruin it for me!" because I always tell her everything because I've been through it already."

The Grobecks demonstrate Siegmann's description of them as technical players and share practical advice with each other. Both girls provide a list of examples: "Keep an elbow back," "do a swing instead of a roll shot," and "get homework done earlier."

"I pretend that I don't take the advice, but I do," admitted Danielle.

The younger sisters have to think hard to name something they would change about their siblings.

"On the court, I really like how she always tries her hardest," Dory confided.

"We're really close, but sometimes she gets annoyed," said Molly Dalziel.

Their varsity counterparts speak mostly of wanting their younger sisters to have more self-confidence.

"I wish that she was fully confident in who she is. That she just loved herself," said Claire, capturing the essence of their answers.

The six athletes said that playing volleyball is hectic, but rewarding. For incoming freshman, the team provides an immediate social circle.

"This is a family, not a team," Megan explained. "We're each other's biggest support systems."

"Here, we're really accepting. You put it off: we don't judge," Danielle stated.

The older girls' favorite moments, beyond sharing the sport with a sibling, included select serves with lots of top spin, holding up against tough opposing teams, and receiving recognition for leadership.

Megan remembers last season's final league game as a high point.

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"There was so much pressure, but we clicked as a team and had so much fire and intensity," she said.

It is impossible to predict if the familial relationships will translate into increased focus and leadership for the Varsity girls, or improved ball control issues for the junior varsity team—stated goals for Siegmann and assistant coach Jessica Moore—but there is one thing that is certain: winning at Acalanes will include three, tightly-honed Sister Sets.

Check out the sisters in action tomorrow, Thursday, September 29 when Acalanes hosts Alhambra; freshman play at 4:00 p.m., junior varsity at 5:00 p.m. and varsity at 6:30 p.m.

Eclipse Teams Take Fourth

Submitted by Christina Matek



U12 Eclipse girls celebrate moving on to the medal round

Photo Wendy McClain

The U10 Lunar Girls and U12 girls of the East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club played great soccer at the Tiburon Fall Kickoff Tournament. Both teams earned fourth place at the tournament.

The U10 Lunar Girls used an offensive explosion to advance to the medal round of the tournament. The girls won their tournament opener 4-0 against Tiburon,

and they added six more goals in their game against El Cerrito.

The U12 Girls team played tough team defense all weekend to win 1-0 over Mill Valley and 3-1 over Sonoma.

Most importantly, all of the Eclipse teams had a fun experience at the tournament thanks to the positive learning environment the coaches have created.



U10 Eclipse lunar with their fourth place medals

Photo Robin Gagnon

Soccer Club Eclipse Competition for Top Finishes

Submitted by Steve Mahomes



Eclipse U11 celebrate their tournament win

Photo Steve Mahomes

Although in its first year, the East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club has shown quick improvement. Seven teams from the club made it to the finals of the San Jose Earthquakes 4v4 Tournament in Hayward on September 18.

Eclipse teams won the U11 girls and U14 boys age groups and finished second in the U10 girls, U10 boys, U11 girls, U14 boys and U16 boys age groups.

The East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club is a non-profit organization whose goal is developing young athletes (ages 4-18) in the Lamorinda area as players and as people. For more information about the East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club, visit their website at <http://www.eastbayeclipsesoccer.com>.

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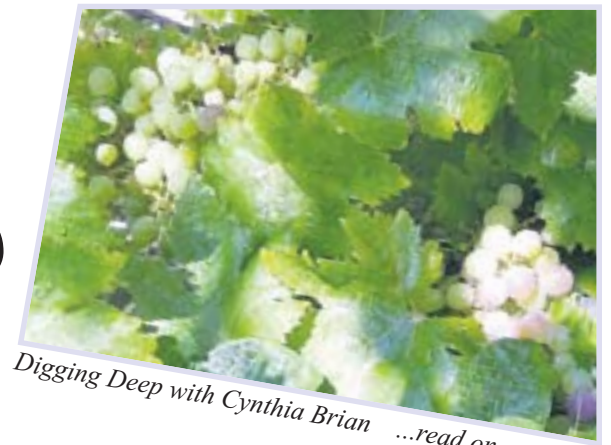
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Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 15 Wednesday, September 28, 2011



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D8

Orinda's Rain Trackers

By Andrea A. Firth

By the end of our Sunday morning walk, my husband and I were soaked. Well maybe not soaked, but we were wet. We had hiked the last ten minutes in the rain, not a downpour, but fat, heavy raindrops fell steadily all around us. That was September 11th. Rain already, really? My first thought was that it was time to check in with the rain trackers.

"In California for so many years, we could count on no rain from May to October. But this year it rained measurably in June," says Lynn Trowbridge. She has lived in Orinda since the mid-1970's and started tracking the rainfall in her Sleepy Hollow neighborhood almost twenty years ago. "I was just curious," says Trowbridge, "I wondered about the intensity of the rains and the impact. We live in an area where four inches of rain in four hours can make a real difference." Trowbridge tracked the daily rainfall with a plastic gauge for years and now uses a self-emptying automated gauge. She reads the rainfall measurements each morning around 7:00 a.m. as she stands warm and dry in her kitchen. [see chart on page D4]

Susan Watson has been following rainfall for over three decades from her house half way up a ridge on the south side of Orinda. She started tracking the rain after severe droughts hit the Bay Area in the late seventies. "We had as little as 12 to 14 inches of rain and were on very strict water restrictions. I would check the water meter constantly to see how much we had to use," says Watson. The marks on her 8-inch plastic gauge have worn away from exposure over the years, but she can still record daily rainfall down to .05 inches. Watson filled several stenographer's notebooks with her rain measurements but has since switched to a computerized record.

"We're not meteorologists. We're amateur rain collectors," says Allan Prager, who keeps his meticulous daily rain measurements on the refrigerator in his kitchen under a magnet that says Save Water. His cone-shaped, plastic gauge is attached to the railing of the deck outside the kitchen on the second story. Prager also lives in Sleepy Hollow but in a forested pocket several hundred feet below his neighbor Trowbridge who resides up on the ridge.

Trowbridge, Watson, and Prager are rain trackers.

...continued on page D4



From left: Allen Prager, Lynn Trowbridge and Susan Watson

Photo Andy Scheck

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MORAGA	7	\$475,000	\$1,100,000
ORINDA	8	\$560,000	\$1,650,000

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Previous Sale: \$709,000, 03-29-05
- 1270 Panorama Drive, \$1,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 3626 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 8-19-11;
Previous Sale: \$2,250,500, 05-31-07
- 2 Park Gate, \$757,500, 4 Bdrms, 3348 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 8-30-11;
Previous Sale: \$193,000, - -
- 1009 Pine Lane, \$2,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 4829 SqFt, 2003 YrBlt, 8-18-11
- 1375 Reliez Valley Road, \$675,000, 4 Bdrms, 1904 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 8-31-11
- 2098 Reliez Valley Road, \$949,000, 3 Bdrms, 1918 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 8-31-11;
Previous Sale: \$56,000, 12-31-75
- 1042 Sunnybrook Drive, \$600,000, 3 Bdrms, 1305 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 8-24-11;
Previous Sale: \$665,000, 10-31-07
- 3 Wallabi Court, \$990,000, 5 Bdrms, 2688 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 8-25-11;
Previous Sale: \$135,000, 03-15-77
- 3939 Woodside Court, \$1,276,000, 3 Bdrms, 2104 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 8-31-11;
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 08-20-01

MORAGA

- 11 Cortes Court, \$865,000, 4 Bdrms, 1973 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 8-19-11;
Previous Sale: \$673,000, 01-23-04
- 319 Deerfield Drive, \$1,078,000, 5 Bdrms, 2671 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 8-23-11;
Previous Sale: \$1,340,000, 07-24-08
- 41 Merrill Circle #S, \$1,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 3425 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 8-18-11;
Previous Sale: \$1,348,000, 01-12-11
- 1276 Rimer Drive, \$895,000, 5 Bdrms, 2184 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 8-26-11
- 1287 Rimer Drive, \$849,000, 4 Bdrms, 1991 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 8-31-11;
Previous Sale: \$133,500, 08-29-80
- 100 Walford Drive, \$1,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 2340 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 8-19-11;
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 12-17-09
- 562 Woodminster Drive, \$475,000, 3 Bdrms, 1572 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 8-23-11

ORINDA

- 22 Charles Hill Road, \$560,000, 3 Bdrms, 2046 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 8-23-11
- 138 La Espiral, \$1,360,000, 4 Bdrms, 3191 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 8-23-11
- 68 Loma Vista Drive, \$880,000, 4 Bdrms, 2520 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 8-31-11;
Previous Sale: \$880,000, 04-29-09
- 559 Miner Road, \$1,255,500, 2 Bdrms, 2612 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 8-23-11
- 18 Oak Court, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 3665 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 8-22-11
- 85 Oak Road, \$840,000, 3 Bdrms, 2131 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 8-19-11;
Previous Sale: \$925,000, 04-22-04
- 1 Parklane Drive, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2722 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 8-26-11;
Previous Sale: \$775,000, 07-20-99
- 25 Parkway Court, \$855,000, 3 Bdrms, 1980 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 8-30-11;
Previous Sale: \$585,000, 08-18-99

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

ORINDA


Dos Posos, Bank of New York, 08-24-11, \$1,750,000, 3920 sf, 4 bd

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Orinda's Rain Trackers

...continued from page D1

While they are quick to point out that their rain data are not official and may lack some precision, the three precipitation watchers have a pretty good handle on the local rainfall picture. Prager compiled his twenty years of data with the data from Trowbridge and Watson and compared it to rainfall records from East Bay Municipal Utility District, which has a gauge at the Orinda filter plant. [see chart] The data track closely, but there are some differences. And the rain trackers acknowledge that their rain experiences vary by location, Watson finds that the rain patterns by her home in south Orinda are more affected by the weather in Moraga. And although Prager and Trow-

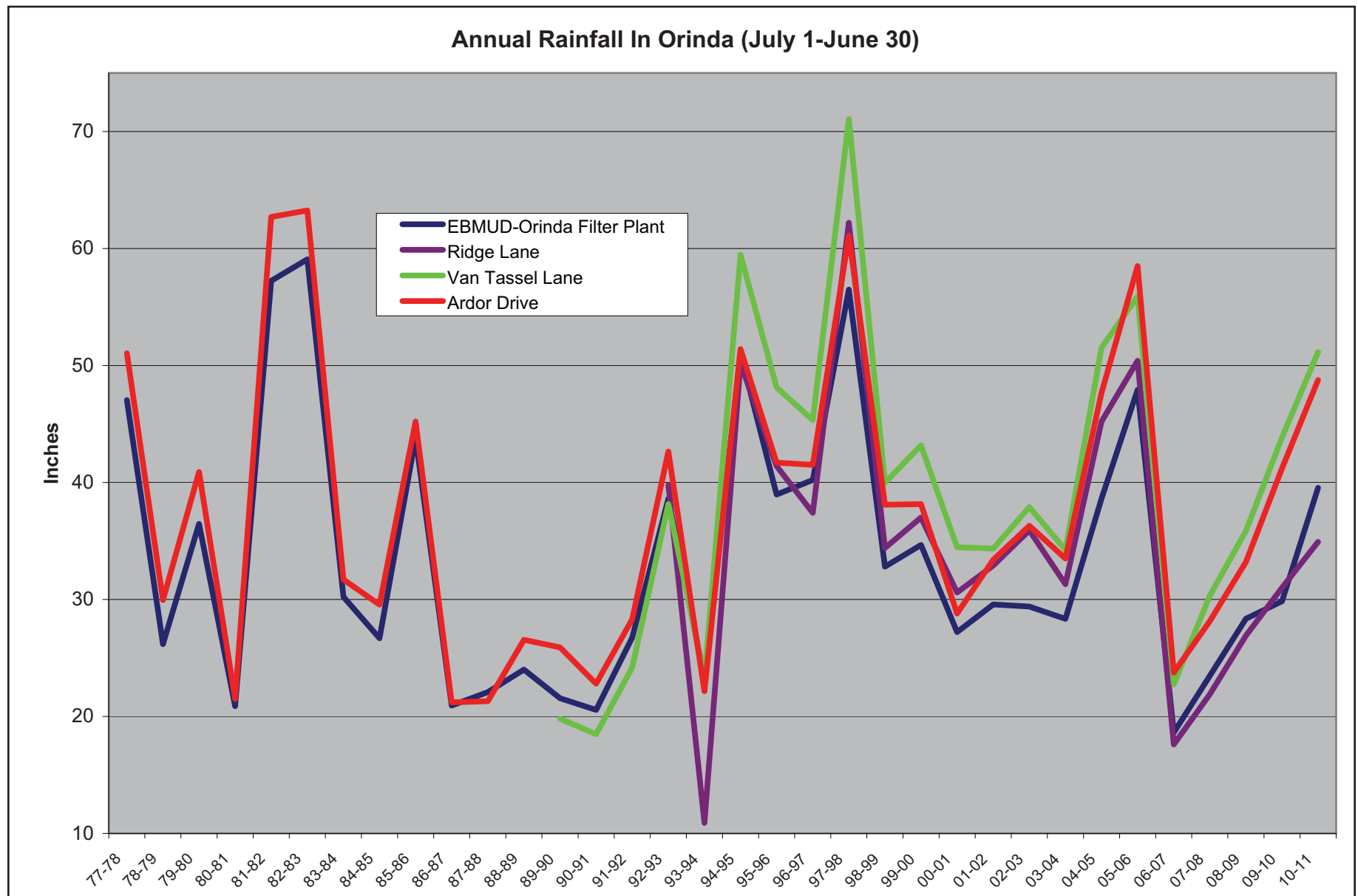
bridge live in the same neighborhood, they have observed variations in both rain and temperature. "Oh yes," says Trowbridge, "It's much colder down where Allan lives."

Why do they do it? "We are interested observers," says Trowbridge, "What I really look at is the average rainfall figure. When it's cloudy out a lot, it can be misleading," she says. "And there's so much variability," adds Prager, "I like to follow what month it rains and how much." And all three agree that when a lot of rain falls in Orinda in a short period of time, problems arise. "I want to know if there is going to be a slide in the neighborhood," says Watson. "Rainfall impacts how you manage properties in

Orinda. The houses sit on hills, in valleys, and many are heavily populated with trees."

How do they do it? A rain tracker must be observant, curious by nature, interested in her surroundings, and compulsive—or at the minimum quite diligent. S/he must keep the rain gauge level and in an open area without any overhang from the building, trees, or other foliage and remember to take measurements daily. And it helps to know the rainfall lingo: meniscus (measure from the bottom), trace precipitation, fog drip, storm cells, etc., and that the standard rainfall calendar runs from July 1st to June 30th. ... continued on next page

Annual Rainfall In Orinda (July 1-June 30)



When the neighbors call... Rain trackers routinely gets calls asking about weather and outdoor plans. They ask me, "Is October safe?" says Trowbridge. When her daughter planned her wedding in late May three years ago, Trowbridge thought it was a pretty safe bet. "Turned out it rained in the morning, but fortunately it stopped," she says. When Prager's daughter chose an early September wedding date with an outdoor reception, he checked

the rain records and felt pretty confident that they would stay dry. His prediction held. But who knows, as the rain trackers say, there is so much variability.

So will it be a rainy year? "There is no way you can know in December if it's going to be a dry or wet year," says Prager. He has analyzed how much rain falls in the area by late December, based on his data over the last twenty year. Early rainfall ranges from as little as three

inches by December to as much as 20 inches and can represent anywhere from 15% to 52% of the year's total rainfall. [See a summary table of his rainfall data] So whether it will be a wet winter will require you to wait and see.

Calling all rain trackers: If you have been tracking the local rainfall patterns, we want to hear from you. Tell us about it at storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com.

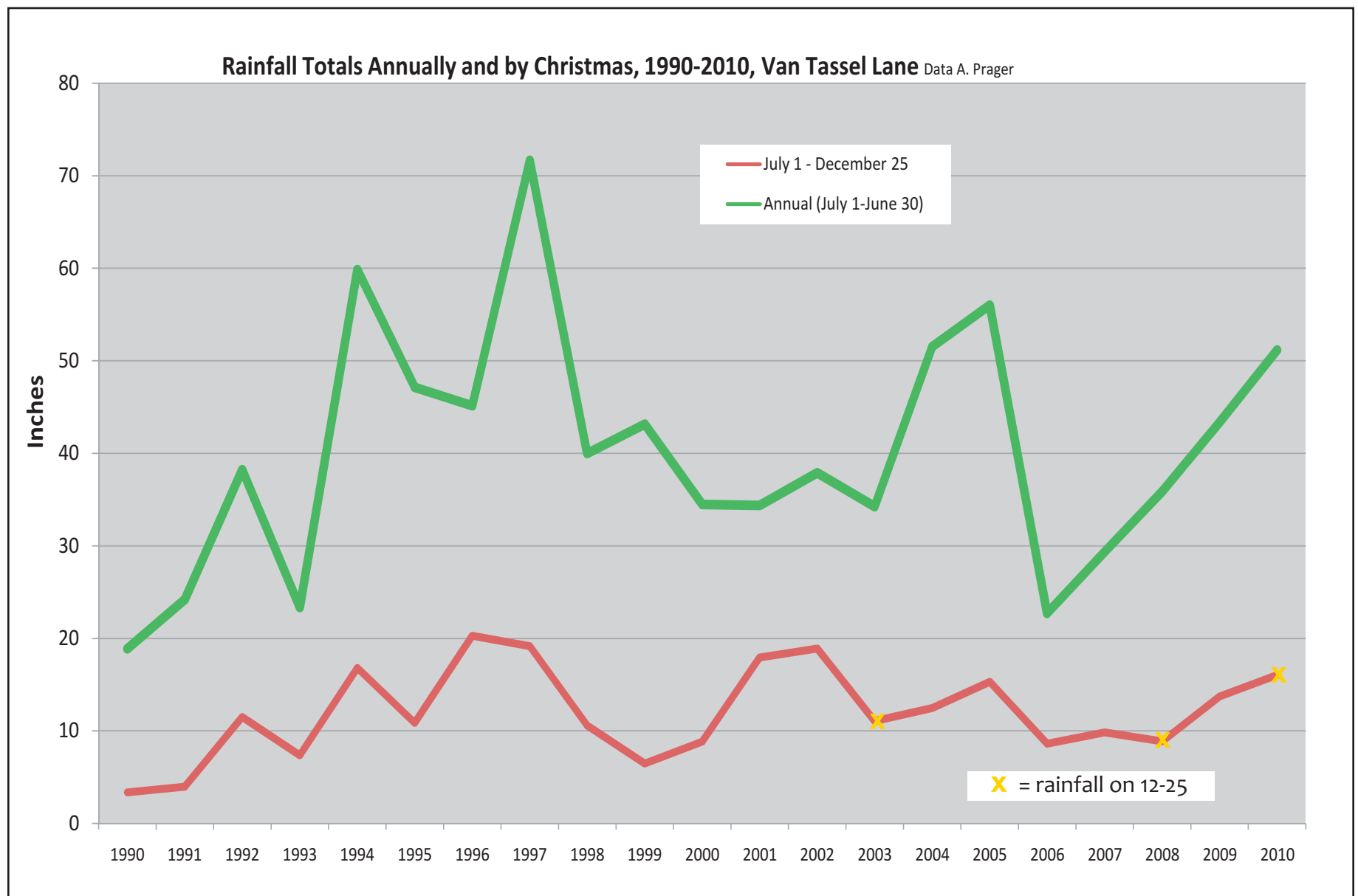
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Contra Costa County's Rain Gauge with daily rainfall measurements from Orinda (fire station 43) and Moraga (SMC) and cumulative annual data <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=1455>

EBMUD's Daily Water Supply Report with daily, monthly, and seasonal data: <http://www.ebmud.com/daily-water-supply-report>

The Cutting Edge Use of Water Use and Reuse (in Lamorinda): <https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0507/The-Cutting-Edge-of-Water-Use-and-Reuse.html>

Orinda Can See the Forest for the Trees—another story with Allan Prager: <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0324/Orinda-Can-See-the-Forest-for-the-Trees.html>



The Ebb and the Flow

by Andi Peterson Brown

While most people are aware that our real estate market is part of the broader economic cycle, many people do not realize that there is also a seasonal influence affecting market activity throughout the year. And when it comes to this annual cycle, all months are not created equal. Sleepy August cannot hold a candle to lively May and bubbly June. And poor January. It tends to get lost in the shuffle.

Why is there an annual real estate cycle? The answer is actually quite logical. The spring and early summer weather is the perfect backdrop for selling a home. Gardens are blooming, the sun is shining, and it's easy for buyers to get out and see what's available. Many of those buyers want to be in their new home before the start of the next school year. Thus, market activity is almost always at its highest during April, May, and June. We tend to see activity drop off around the beginning of August as both buyers and sellers take their vacations and enjoy their summer days. Here in Lamorinda, once the school year kicks in and routines are established, there tends to be a second surge in market activity. This "mini-spring" lasts through the beginning of November, but once Thanksgiving hits, market activity usually drops off. Most people are in holiday mode, and buying or selling real estate slides onto the backburner if it is not a necessity.

By keeping this annual cycle in mind, both buyers and sellers can make the seasonal market work in their favor.



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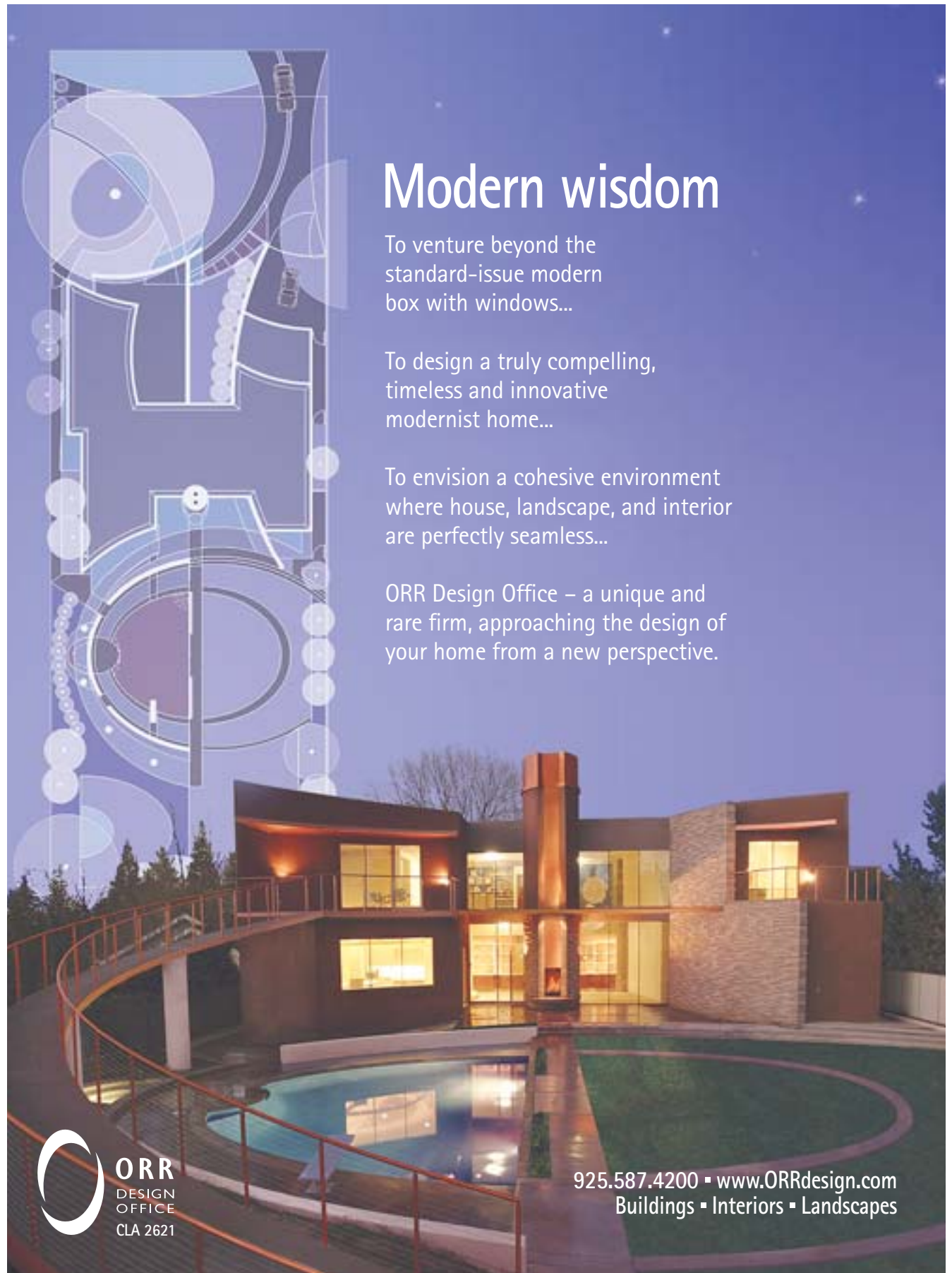
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- 2) Buy a home in Lafayette, Moraga, or Orinda, in a rare buyer's market.
- 3) Sell in the under \$1,000,000 range in Lamorinda, where sales are now improving, and move up to your dream house in a higher price range where the best negotiating opportunities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

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Updated Campolindo Two-Story

New Price



3767 Via Granada, Moraga

This traditional home with a charming covered porch in front features 5 bedrooms (with a possibility for 6), 3 baths, plus an office, and a large, level yard with lawn, patio and play area. It has been updated with attention to detail throughout. The kitchen features stainless appliances & views of the yard. The bathrooms are done with granite and marble. Hardwood, dual-paned windows, 2-zone ac. Excellent commute location.

Offered at \$1,017,000

Single-Story Charmer

Just Sold



18 Wandel Drive, Moraga

This 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on a level lot has been updated with dual-paned windows, granite kitchen countertops, and a newly remodeled master bath. Situated on a corner lot, there is a large, flat front yard, and level backyard with patio, lawn and play structure. There are two wood-burning brick fireplaces, hardwood, & exposed wood-beamed ceiling, plus an office/bonus room with half bath attached.

Sold for \$640,000



Wendy Holcenberg
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Michelle Holcenberg
michelle@holcenberg.com

925.253.4663
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Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

Grape Expectations & Fall la la la la

By Cynthia Brian

“Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth. There I will give thee my love.” - Song of Solomon 7:12

Growing up in the vineyards of Napa County, all our grapes had been hand picked and hauled to the winery crushers by this time of year. Our hands and feet were stained purple and on the warmest days, our special treat was a swim in the water filled grape tanks reeking of fermentation. October was the beginning of walnut season when my dad shook the trees with a self-fabricated arm attached to the Ford tractor while we children kneeled in the dirt clods tossing the falling nuts into five gallon buckets for sorting at the dehydrator barn. By the end of the month, we celebrated with a harvest hoot-enanny. Our hands were now stained green, our knees were brown, and undaunted, our feet tapped the two-step.

It's late September and my backyard grapes are just beginning to color. The Pinot Noir exhibit a blush of purple tint, but no sweetness. The berries are full, the leaves bright, yet despite recent hot days, even my table grapes, Thompson seedless, Muscat, and Rieber are not ready for consumption. The only sweet, juicy grapes dangling from my arbor are aptly named, Sweetwaters. (I'm munching on them as I write.) The vineyards where I grew up have only recently delivered Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, and Chenin Blanc to the Napa Valley wineries. The Merlot, Zinfandel, and Cabernet Sauvignon await picking, with their sugar levels near perfect. Because of the odd weather conditions of the year, the yield is small.

Lamorinda boasts a rich grape growing precedent with a 125 year-old history. The Lamorinda Wine Growers Association (LWGA; www.LamorindaWineGrowers.com), dedicated to sustainable farming and community building, is re-establishing the area's love of the vine and wine along with our pleasant pear past. *... continued on next page*



Clusters of the 2011 crop of Pinot Noir grapes await hand picking at Captain Vineyards in Moraga



Fall colors over Monet's lily ponds at Giverny, France

Although local grape growers are experiencing late ripening crops, Sal Captain of Captain Vineyards in Moraga who farms 3500 vines, the largest amount in Lamorinda, told me that production this year is better than when the season started. His wife, Susan Captain, is the President of LWGA. One of the missions of the organization is to increase resident membership as well as have Lamorinda designated as an American Viticultural Area (AVA). Prominent appellations add value and eminence in wine circles.

The varietals grown throughout Lafayette, Orinda, and Moraga span the French Bordeaux area with Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, and Merlot to the Rhone regions' Syrah, Petite Sirah, Grenache, Mourvèdre, and Viognier. Burgundy is represented by the Pinot Noir grape and Lamorindans also grow small amounts of Sangiovese and Chardonnay. The smallest LWGA member grower tends 20 vines. Numerous amateur gardeners dabble in viticulture and could benefit from becoming a member of a lively grass roots wine region development. Despite the small quantity of bunches, growers talk about the great expectation of a high quality wine production. Will 2011 become known as collectible vintage year?

Last year at this time, I was privileged to visit the gardens of Giverny and the vineyards of the Loire. The wisdom I have savored since growing up in a wine area and living in France as a student at the University of Bordeaux is that gardening and grapes meld cultures, break barriers, and entertain conversation and connection.

Fall is upon us as the harvest days begin. Naturally there is more to do in the autumn garden besides tend to our vineyards, even if you never met a glass of wine you didn't enjoy!

...continued on page D11



Loire Valley grapes hang on a trellis.

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for October

"Autumn is a time of harvest, of gathering together, a time of sowing." Edwin Way Teale

October is not only about ghosts, ghouls, goblins, and gremlins. We harvest our dreams with fall clean-up and spring preparation. Birds pecking at your lawn are not eating it. They are dining on insects that could be harmful to your lawn. The birds, even the crows featured Hitchcock classic, *The Birds*, are your friends indicating that your lawn has an invader. Clover is a positive plant in the garden and lawn because it grabs oxygen from the air and stores it in the soil. Vegetables to plant now for winter harvest include turnips, spinach, lettuces, arugula, cress, mustard, leeks, radishes, kale, Swiss chard, beets, cauliflower, and broccoli.

DIG and divide iris rhizomes in October. Make sure to keep a few inches of the leaves on the stems and bury the roots two inches deep, eighteen to twenty inches apart. **PULL** weeds before they go to seed. Do not put weeds with seedpods on the compost pile unless you want a yard filled with unwanted visitors next spring. **EXPERIMENT** by planting a variety of lettuces to keep your salads fresh all season. You can even plant in a pot on a sunny windowsill and snip often.

Clip the micro greens as they sprout for delicate, delicious delights.

CONTROL black spot and powdery mildew on roses with non-toxic Serenade with the active ingredient, *Bacillus subtilis*, a soil bacterium that discourages plant fungi.

TUNE up your garden by pruning back overgrown shrubs, adding a new pathway, or enlarging a cutting area.

ENROLL in a course on edible gardening, native plants, or composting.

AMEND your hard clay soil with large amounts of compost.

INSTALL a hedge to add structure, privacy, and definition to your landscape. Decide whether you want deciduous specimens such as lilac, forsythia, or cranberry bush, or evergreens like privet, boxwood, or holly.

PRUNE your berry bushes, including summer raspberries, blackberries, and blueberries by removing dead canes, thinning new canes, weeding around the plant, then mulching with wood chips to keep the weeds out, nutrients in.

PROPOGATE perennials for free by taking root cuttings now through December as the plants go dormant. Dig up a clump, cut several firm, healthy roots.

Trim into two or three inch sections making sure to remember which end is up. Plant either in pots or directly in the ground. Good choices include asters, Oriental poppies, acanthus, primulas, phlox, and rudbeckias.

REPAIR birdhouses so that overwintering birds such as bluebirds, chickadees, and nuthatches will have a warm, safe, cozy place to rest during the upcoming cold nights.

INCREASE bird feeders in your yard as birds consume more food in fall and winter.

SUPPORT local viticulture by joining the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association. The monthly meetings include libations.

For information visit <http://www.lamorindawinegrowers.com/>

WALK in nature when you feel stressed to kick up your cognitive performance. A stroll through a park, a jog around the Lafayette Reservoir, or a simple skip through your back yard will do wonders for your mental fatigue.

SAVE seeds from your favorite annuals, herbs, and vegetables by gathering, drying, labeling, and storing. I love to pick the seed pods from fennel stalks, dry them on a cookie sheet, place in an airtight jar and use for seasoning fish, fruit, salads, soups, and savorys all winter.

IMPROVE your health by adding apples and squash to your diet this month.

RESCUE honeybees from water sources when they have fallen in. These workers have pollination duties to complete before the winter storms.

EXPLORE the nursery aisles to plan your purchases of your spring flowering bulbs including tulips, daffodils, muscari, narcissi, hyacinths, frittilaria, Dutch iris, alliums, and lilies. Tulip bulbs need to be refrigerated (not frozen) for at least six weeks before planting.

ROAST seeds from squash and pumpkins by first cleaning, drying, soaking in salted water, then baking at 375 degrees until golden brown.

ENSURE adequate root growth before frost by planting your favorite garlic varieties. Mulch but don't allow cloves to be soggy wet or they will rot.

TIE dried corn stalks together to add to your front door fall décor.

HARVEST the remainder of ripe produce before the end of the month-apples, Asian Pears, peppers, Swiss chard. Eat the last of your fresh-from-the-vine tomatoes then freeze or can the rest.

Stop watering your summer crops to force last minute produce to ripen.

TOAST the full moon with a glass of Lamorinda produced wine! Wishing you grape adventures.

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Cynthia Brian

The Goddess Gardener

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Whether Mother Nature surprises us with warm or cold weather, this is an optimal time to fertilize and augment the soil. Because temperatures will be getting cooler as days get shorter, the nutrients in fertilizers can do their job to balance growth in roots and shoots.

Tomatoes took a long time to ripen this the summer, and now gardeners are reaping bushels of ripe, juicy produce. Be vigilant in harvesting your zucchini, cucumbers, melons, eggplants, carrots, kale, and beans before a cold spell hits. If you are ready to prepare your potager or vegetable garden for the following year, stop watering which will encourage your plants to push for that final crop before withering. Cut back your tomato bushes, toss them in the compost bin, and fry those green tomatoes which will not continue ripening once frost hits.

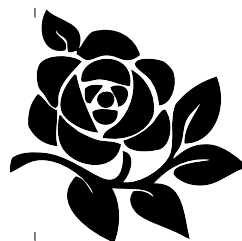
Leaves are starting to turn colors and flutter to the ground. Rake them and put them in the compost pile to amend your soil in a few months. With the dazzling, captivating, changing colors of the foliage, take photos of a tree or bush in your garden from the same angle every day to chronicle the evolution of nature.

If you are installing or repairing a lawn, October is a prime month to get the job done. Are you seeking the perfect pristine lawn seed? Many of you emailed me if such a discovery existed after last month's Lawn Ranger column. Since Halloween is this month, I saved this announcement as it may be so scary that you'll be calling your mummy! The USDA approved a new genetically modified Kentucky Bluegrass from Monsanto this past July that is engineered to resist weed sprays like Roundup. Targeted for golf courses, opponents argue that this new GMO weed-free lawn may cause birth defects. Since perfection is not my plight and I am neither a golfer nor pregnant, I'll let you decide if this development is a dream come true or a hellish nightmare!

Enjoy the rustling of the autumn leaves, the wine from the vine, the changing of the color guard, and the final bounty from your garden efforts. Howl at the harvest moon as Halloween is around the corner. Start gathering willow twigs for your magic wands and bewitching herbs to brew dervish drinks. The holidays will be upon us soon, but for now, we can chant merrily, "fall la la la la."



Orange and yellow spider dahlias burst with autumn hues.



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ORINDA 
5 Woodcrest Road
 Your own pvt retreat conveniently located nr schls & commute. Spectacular 3900 sf thoughtfully renovated 4bd/2+ba hm w/open floor plan with all romms opening to outdoors. Total privacy, lvl yd & pool.
Offered at \$1,865,000



MORAGA 
101 Brookline Street
 Detached spacious 2bd/2bath + ofc in MCC. Wimbledon model, large bedrooms, vaulted ceilings. Great views from top of the hill. Flat yd in back, potential patio, dog run, etc. Brand new redwood decks.
Offered at \$710,000




MORAGA 
41 Greenfield Drive
 Spacious Harold Smith 3bd/3ba rancher, lg kitchen/fam rm combo. Gorgeous backyard w/lvl lawn & patio. Convenient location close to schools, shopping, trails, park & transportation.
Offered at \$899,000



LAFAYETTE 
960 Hawthorne Drive
 Trad 3bd/2ba hm in trail neighborhood. Hdwd flrs, Fr doors, wood windows, lovely deck for entertaining. Flat yard w/lawn & views. Nr K-8 schls, trail, shopping, restaurants and library. Sgl lvl, 1377 sf, .25 ac lot.
Offered at \$749,000



LAFAYETTE 
1017 Dyer Drive
 Delightful totally renovated 4bd/2ba trad rancher. Granite & stainless kitchen, updated baths, wood flrs thruout. Dual panes, walk to Starbucks, shops, restaurants, library. Quiet cul de sac, lovely lvl yd/lawn.
Offered at \$768,000




LAFAYETTE 
2950 Windtree Court
 Sprawling remodeled one story 4bd/2.5ba rancher on flat lot! Close in location! Lafayette schools! Flat. .65 ac lot on cul de sac!
www.2950WindtreeCt.com
Offered at \$1,095,000



LAFAYETTE 
1847 Reliez Valley Road
 Newly renovated w/high style & fully updated amenities & quality features. Lg new Chef's kitchen with adjoining family rm & formal living/dining rms plus stylish master suite. Lots of bedrooms, new baths.
Offered at \$1,095,000



LAFAYETTE 
1089 Rahara Drive
 Happy Valley treasure! Timeless style. A classic 4bd/3ba beauty totally updated w/ stunning architectural detail. Light & spacious, high ceilings, Fr drs, spectacular .55 ac, great neighborhood.
Offered at \$1,745,000

THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

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Click on **Sunday Open House**

Friday after 5 PM for Open House listings

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