

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Photo Doug Kohen

## If You Like Ukulele Playing...

### Lafayette Love for the "Jumping Flea"

By Cathy Dausman

Somewhere between Tiny Tim's "Tiptoe through the Tulips" and the Brudda Iz version of "Over the Rainbow" lies a resurgence in ukulele popularity. It's showing up on television shows like Glee, and American Idol, and fans say they hear it in the background of music for TV commercials.

A group of musicians and would-be musicians gather monthly on Saturday afternoons at Lamorinda Music in Lafayette. Gary Peare, who's quick to explain he's not a professional musician, becomes the pied piper as he leads his class through the basics of an instrument the Hawaiians nicknamed the "jumping flea."

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### Island Music in Orinda

By Cathy Dausman

On a warm autumn evening, over a background of cricket sounds and a waterfall, 27 students settle instruments on their laps and bring music to life, and life to their music.

These Orinda Parks and Recreation students gather to study and play what one called "the friendliest instrument in the world" – the ukulele. Instructor, musician and instrument maker Al Dodge has more than 25 years of experience and has taught in Orinda for several years. Although there are technically two levels of instruction, Dodge essentially combines the classes, allowing beginners to learn from their more experienced classmates. ... continued on page A8

#### Quote of the Week:

"Why is our city council so hell-bent on changing the character of our city?"

Read Letters to the Editor, page A10

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## Tonight: Moraga Town Council to Discuss Selling Open Space

By Sophie Braccini



Map image courtesy maps.Google.com, proposed site overlay based on information provided by Moraga Planning Department; edited by Andy Scheck

Tonight the Moraga Town Council will consider if it wants to proceed with a tentative subdivision map in order to sell a portion of Town-owned property located along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail near the corner of Saint Mary's Road and Rheem Boulevard.

The cash-strapped Town needs money for infrastructure and capital improvements. The Moraga Parks and Recreation Commission, the East Bay Regional Park District, and five members of the Moraga Planning Commission oppose the subdivision of the property.

In late September the Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously passed a motion recommending the site not be subdivided or sold, citing the special nature of the area and concerns around the preservation of publicly-owned open space. At its meeting on October 3, the

Planning Commission left no ambiguity as far as each member's opinion regarding the sale of approximately two acres of open space. Not wanting to "box in" the Council regarding the final decision, the Planning Commission did not vote on the project but instead forwarded their individual comments against the subdivision to the Council.

"The profile of the trail in Lafayette may be more urban, but in Moraga, the idea of developing along the trail is troubling," said Planning Commission Chair Russell Driver. "The project would have no benefit for the public. If the applicant was a private property owner I would advise not to do it, it goes against the spirit of the General Plan." His position was echoed by the other four commissioners in attendance.

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### Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

#### Cal Shakes Offers "Discovery" Program for Students



By Lou Fancher

California Shakespeare Theater welcomed students from around the Bay Area, including a group from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, to its Discovery Matinee of The Taming ... ..read on page B1

### Sports C1-C3

#### Campolindo Defeats Acalanes in Rivalry Match



By Alex Kozela

Despite expecting to face a rebuilding year and finishing with a losing record the past two seasons, the Campolindo Cougars football team continues to win. The team has ... ..read on page C1

### Our Homes D1-D8

#### Local Home Brewers Ready to Raise a Glass to Oktoberfest



By Cathy Tyson

Part art, part science, definitely a consuming and consumable hobby – Troy Feddersen and Mike Bernhardt are ready to celebrate Oktoberfest. With only four ingredients - malt, ... ..read on page D1