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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."

... continued on page A8

### 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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#### This Week Read About:

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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.

... continued on page A8

### 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



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## Lafayette Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Monday, October 24, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, October 17, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

#### Design Review

Monday, October 24, 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 19, 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  
Wednesday, November 16, 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



## Police Report

**Aye, Chihuahua!** 9/18/11 Lafayette experienced its own version of Beverly Hills Chihuahua when a Burton Valley resident reported the theft of his/her dog out of their own backyard. No way could the dog get out on its own, said the owner. But later that night, the owner called to report the dog's safe return.

**Big Screen Burglary,** 9/19/11 How can a couple of thieves possibly enter an in-law apartment and walk away with a 55" flat screen TV without anyone even noticing the crime?

**Wake up and Feel the 'Cuffs!** 9/23/11 A man arrested for being drunk in public went from one end of the behavior spectrum to the other in the blink of a bleary eye. Witnesses say he started yelling at people in a Lafayette business and was itching to pick a fight. By the time police arrived, the same man was asleep and had to be awakened so they could arrest him...

**Screw(driver)ing Around,** 9/18/11 Two men in the act of ransacking a vehicle and tampering with its ignition were interrupted when the owner caught them. One of the two tried to nonchalantly hide the screwdriver he was using in his back pocket. Guess there'll be no tooling around in that car...

## Future of Lafayette Redevelopment is Uncertain

By Cathy Tyson

The City Council has to decide the fate of the Redevelopment Agency (RDA) before Halloween. At the moment, after an in-house report and a thorough review by an independent analyst, the Council is undecided.

At issue is choosing to pay over \$414,000 this year and approximately \$100,000 in subsequent years to continue to have a Redevelopment agency.

With two bills – AB 26 and AB 27, the “Dissolution Bill” and the “Continuation Bill”, the state of California is adjusting all Redevelopment agencies, as part of fiscal year 2011 – 2012 budget. AB 27, “Allows for cities to continue their Redevelopment agencies provided they pay a

large upfront ‘ransom’ as well as ongoing payments to the State annually,” said Tracy Robinson, Administrative Services Director, in a staff report.

However the California Redevelopment Agency is suing to block those measures; the case, being heard by the California Supreme Court, has not yet been decided. If the matter is deemed unconstitutional, no decision is necessary and the RDA will stay as is.

If this seems rather like déjà vu, recall that the state pulled \$1.1 million from Lafayette's RDA for an “Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund” just a few years ago. In response, voters in Lafayette and across California approved Proposition 22 in November 2010 to stop the state from pulling

funds from redevelopment again.

Redevelopment agencies are funded through a portion of property taxes and help local municipalities eliminate blight and develop projects that benefit a targeted area and its economy, such as affordable housing and job creation. Neither Orinda nor Moraga have RDAs.

Lafayette's RDA was formed in 1995. Since then the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, the Veterans Memorial Building, improvements to Lafayette Plaza, undergrounding utilities in the downtown and enhancements along the Mt. Diablo corridor have been made possible through the RDA.

The choices before the City Council are three-fold: Dissolve the

RDA, make ransom payments to continue the RDA, or in case the legislation is deemed unconstitutional, continue the RDA as is.

To help clarify all of the impacts of the choices at hand, Don Fraser, a Redevelopment and Financial consultant, was brought on board. “With or without the Continuation Payments required under AB 27, the financial situation of the Agency is stretched thin. The 2011-12 tax increment revenues of the Agency will provide sufficient revenue to meet its Senior Obligations. These include deposits to the housing fund, bond debt service obligations, and pass through payments,” wrote Fraser in a report to the City Council.

## What Local Trivia Group is Calling it Quits?

By Cathy Tyson



Winning team “Luke and the Black Hearts” at Petars Pub.

Photo Lindy Chan

What started out as an idea at a holiday party blossomed into two years and sixteen Pub Trivia events hosted by Lafayette's own city planning staffers by day/quiz masters by night: Lindy Chan and Michael Cass. From the get go, it was all about having an enjoyable evening and raising money for non-profits – in total, generous attendees raised \$3,485 for a variety of non-profit organizations like World Vision,

Special Olympics, Las Trampas, the Senior Helpline and more.

While organizers graciously congratulated everyone, they gave a special shout out to the winners with the largest cumulative scores. Team “Luke and the Black Hearts” came in first place overall. Team Member Dana Anderson notes that their team just really wanted to have a good time. He “can't credit Lindy and

Michael enough” for all the time, effort and expense it took after hours to put the program together.

“Our team had a lot of useless pieces of information for no apparent reason,” explains Anderson, noting they did exceptionally well on the category that featured three pictures that represented a word and were able to garner extra credit for additional information like song titles. ... continued next page

Here are some of the questions from one popular Pub Trivia category: **Think Pink!**

1. Name what Mary Kay, Elvis Presley, and Clint Eastwood have in common.
2. Name the euphemism for hallucinations.
3. Name the metaphor for a layoff or termination of employment.
4. Name the expression for in good health.
5. Name the international symbol for breast cancer awareness.
6. Name the drink that is made from made of white creme de cacao, creme de noyaux and cream.
7. Name the group to which Rizzo, Frenchie, and others belong.
8. Name the term that is used particularly in the West to indicate work that is believed to be exclusively the domain of women and associates particular tasks with the female gender.
9. Name the symbol that was used by Nazis at the same time that the yellow Star of David and black triangles were used.

(Answers on page A10)

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# Handicapped Ramp Inaccessible to Disabled BART Patrons

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

What's wrong with this picture? The \$2 million ramp completed in April on the south side of the Lafayette BART station has no associated curb cuts anywhere in the adjacent parking lot to accommodate wheelchairs and no handicapped parking spots.

"The ramp was designed to provide access to the trail," said BART spokesperson Jim Allison. He explained that the handicapped parking requirement for the entire station is met with more than the required number of spots, 27, in the north parking lot which is closer to the station and has flatter access.

BART engineers are already working on the curb cut problem. According to Allison, generous curb cuts should be completed in six months, "probably sooner." It seems rather ironic that next to the expensive ramp is a sign informing handicapped riders to go back out to Happy Valley Road, down the block and enter on the north side of the station.

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## New in Town



Photo provided

These two new vehicles can be seen all over town. Rumor has it they have been amazingly successful in their mission to gently remind motorists to obey the law. Slow down or pay – it's a fairly simple concept. C. Tyson

## What Local Trivia Group is Calling it Quits?

... continued from page A2

The team was predominantly composed of city employees and spouses: Robin and Ben Townley, Sue Graves, Mark Robbins, Sarah Allen, and Therese Kain, along with Anderson. With categories like current events, first ladies, name that hat and movie musicals, trivia participants had to be keenly aware of the world outside of Lamorinda. Sometimes those factoids come from unusual sources. A vegetarian team member's mother was a

butcher, so she was the go-to gal for meaty questions.

Second place went to "Never Winter Nights" third went to the "Red Eagles." Petars Pub, which hosted the Thursday night get-togethers, donated the space, the sound system and prizes. While Michael Cass and Lindy Chan are stepping down, Petars will continue the fun. Contact Petars directly or Jeanette at [jkermani@pacbell.net](mailto:jkermani@pacbell.net) for more information.

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## Moraga Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 pm  
Wednesday, October 26, 7:00 pm  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Monday, October 17, 7:30 pm  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

#### Design Review

Monday, October 24, 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, November 8, 7:30 pm  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate  
School Auditorium  
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

#### Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



## Police Report

Sexual Battery, 9/27/11 At St. Mary's College, a female student reported an incident of sexual battery in Hagerty Lounge with an international student. The victim requested the investigation be submitted to the District Attorney's Office for criminal review.

Phone not home, 9/30/11 Great workout, but apparently the phone thief wasn't a team player. At 9:15 p.m. a St. Mary's student was playing intramural football near the gym and placed his iPhone on the ground near the edge of the field. About half an hour later he returned to find his phone had gone missing. No witnesses at this time – the fellas were too busy watching the ball. Approximate value \$400.

Semi-similar vanished phone, 9/30/11 A Campolindo student said she left her iPhone and other personal items on the ground next to her locker at lunchtime. When she turned around to pick up her things, the phone was a goner. Once again – lots of students milling around, but no one saw anything.

D.U.I. 10/01/11 Cops pulled over a Mitsubishi weaving along Moraga Road at 9:30 at night. The 28-year old driver showed objective signs of alcohol intoxication. She flunked the breathalyzer test big time - .24, three times the legal limit.

Thief strikes again, 10/03/11 The Assistant Manager of Orchard Supply Hardware reported that a familiar white adult male entered the store, grabbed a Milwaukee tool set, and left through an unsecured side exit. Apparently the same fellow had stolen several items in the past month at the Moraga OSH and other OSH locations. Loss was approximately \$499.

Smashed car window, 10/3/11 Although nothing was missing, someone broke a car window from a vehicle that was parked on Donald Drive. Estimated cost of having the window replaced, \$300.

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## Wine and a Movie? Maybe Not

By Sophie Braccini

To sip a glass of Chardonnay on a leather sofa while watching a movie on the big screen is one idea of entertainment that the operators of The New Rheem Theatre want to bring to Moraga. After installing the sofas, the California Independent Film Festival Association (CAIFFA) applied for an alcohol license from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) last July. Not long after that the ABC indicated that 'an area resident' filed a protest and the matter will have to be settled through a public hearing.

"I contacted Beverage Control and the person who filed the protest is Emily Justice," said Chief of Moraga Police Bob Priebe, "The over-concentration issue was the reason given for the protest. I was not told how many licenses are active in the Rheem Center, but at one license per 2500 (people), that means only six are recommended for the entire town."

There are already 11 active licenses in Moraga, including restaurants and stores that sell alcohol. Emily Justice was, at the time she filed the protest, the Director of Youth Development and Training at the Center for Human Development, a non-profit funded in part by Contra Costa Health Services. At the time she left that position, Justice was the supervisor of Jaime Rich, the Center's Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coordinator.

In August, the Alcohol & Other Drugs Advisory Board to the Contra Costa Health Services wrote a con-

cerned letter to ABC indicating that it was not opposed to the sale of alcohol but wanted to make sure that no minors would be able to gain access to it.

"We thought it would be acceptable as long as the 21 and over crowd had access to alcohol in a separate area," said Moraga resident and Advisory Board member Jim Doyle, "we were concerned that the theater is a family venue." Doyle also indicated that every time he went to events organized at either the Rheem or the Orinda Theatre (which is also managed by CAIFFA) he was pleased with the way things were handled and he was aware that Moraga needs more businesses, not less. "It is important for the community to weigh in," he said.

CAIFFA's Leonard Pirkle has been quite concerned with the whole process. "We have increasing demands from the studios that are requiring that we buy all digital equipment for our theaters, and we won't be able to make that important investment (in the \$200,000 range) if we do not increase our concession sales," he said, "ABC would like us to have one of our theaters dedicated to viewers 21 and older, which could be hard to manage. I don't know if we have a solution, but we are trying to come up with a plan."

The date of the hearing has not yet been set. John Carr, ABC Public Information Officer, indicated that ABC encourages applicants and protesters to sit down and discuss solu-

tions before heading to a hearing.

Jaime Rich, who does not want to be a hindrance to local business, indicated that she would like to discuss the situation with CAIFFA. "If I could sit down with them and come up with a reasonable solution, there's a possibility that the protest could be dropped," she said, although she was

not sure if she had the authority to do so or if she'd have to refer back to Contra Costa Health Services.

Residents who wish to express their support or opposition to the project can call ABC at (510) 622-4970 or send an email either to ABC at OAKDirect@abc.ca.gov or to Jaime Rich at Jaime@chd-prevention.org.

## The Haunting of the New Rheem Theatre



The California Independent Film Festival Association recently announced the return of the Dark Dreams Haunted House to the large theater the last two weekends in

October. The construction started in late September. "These are all professional sets," explains Joanne Foy, "we are creating 2000 square feet full of nightmares!"

Foy warns younger residents that this is a scary haunt. "Children 10 to 99 years old can come on their own," she says, "but younger ones could be scared by the monster and should only wander in under their parents' supervision."

On Halloween day, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., the "house" will be free of monsters so that little ones can go without risking too big a scare. "It's old fashion fun for the whole family, children, teens and adults alike, and completely safe," adds Foy, who's been doing this for years and admits that she absolutely loves it because it reminds her of her childhood.

Senior Solutions, Foy's company, is the corporate sponsor of the event. "This is an annual fundraiser for the theater," adds Foy, "all of the workers and participating monsters are volunteers." The haunting will take place on October 21, 23, and 28-31 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. and 'til midnight on Halloween.

## TSAC Establishes a Formal Appeal Process

By Sophie Braccini

All appointed bodies in town, such as the Design Review Board or Planning Commission, have an appeal process to allow residents who disagree with decisions to call on the elected body, the Town Council. Until now, the Traffic Safety Advisory Commit-

tee (TSAC) didn't have an explicit appeal process, which led residents who couldn't satisfy TSAC rules to abandon their requests. In response to a demand from the Town Council, the three remaining members of TSAC remedied that situation last week.

"We are an advisory body, we should not be able to terminate citizens' requests with no recourse," said TSAC Chair John Valentine.

Chief of Police Bob Priebe added that it was important, even if a project didn't satisfy all of TSAC's conditions at the neigh-

borhood level, that it could be reviewed by the Council that would consider the overall safety of the Town.

TSAC members decided on a 30-day appeal period. Next month, the committee will reconsider other aspects of its traffic guide.

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**OKTOBERFEST IN MORAGA!**  
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 to reach  
**Star Pilates, Moraga**

# Oktoberfest: Family Fun and Lofty Goals

By Sophie Braccini



Bavarian Dancers will return to the Hacienda to perform at this year's Oktoberfest

The Hacienda Foundation hosts its third annual Oktoberfest in Moraga on the third Sunday in October, featuring traditional German food, music, dancers and drinks, as well as kids' activities, on the beautiful grounds of the historic Hacienda de las Flores.

Events such as Oktoberfest and Cinco de Mayo help the Foundation draw people to the Hacienda, a local treasure that the Foundation has been charged, by the Town, to improve so it becomes self-sustaining. "These events are important for the commu-

nity to enjoy the Hacienda and to build the support to keep the building fixed up," said Board member Judy Dinkle. To that end, after long discussions, the Foundation's Board decided to charge a nominal fee for Oktoberfest of \$2 per person and \$5 for a family.

After missing last year's event, members of the Golden Gate Bavarian Dancers will return to the Hacienda this month to provide entertainment. Bratwurst and other sausages from Saag's, plus authentic German foods and beverages, will be

available for purchase. Activities for children will include jumpy houses, pumpkin painting, and chalk drawing. "Saag's is our corporate sponsor and their executive chef will be at the Hacienda all afternoon cooking with us," added Dinkle.

"We are very pleased to offer this event to the community once again," said Foundation president Claire Roth. "We invite the Lamorinda community to come enjoy the festivities and to see the recent improvements that have been made to the Hacienda."

The mission of the Foundation is to 'enhance, protect, and preserve' the property that used to be Donald Rheem's family mansion at the beginning of the 20th century and that was purchased to become a public park in 1973. There is a lot to say for the beauty, charm and historic value of the Hacienda, but much work remains to make it self-sustaining financially.

"The Hacienda's revenue comes primarily for wedding rentals, which can only be accommodated outdoors at this time," explained Dinkle, "the Foundation is working on a Master Plan that will be presented to the Town, probably at the beginning of 2012, which will show the road map for capital improvements." For example, the Pavilion's kitchen needs repair so the facility can be used as a second wedding spot; and, once amended, the Casita could become a large meeting place for the Town and

the community.

"We have been in the process of raising money and have received a major gift from a private source," says Dinkle, "we need matching funds or grants to undertake the major renovation projects that are needed." In the meantime, the Foundation has already renovated many of the rooms, including the Lady's Lounge and the Fireside Room. The facility will be open on October 16th for visitors to appreciate.

The 3rd annual Oktoberfest celebration is on Sunday, October 16, 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive. Free parking will be available at AAAAA Storage on Moraga Road. A free shuttle will ferry festival-goers between the parking lot and the Hacienda during the hours of Oktoberfest. Admission is \$2 per person, \$5 for a family.

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**\$1,195,000 Alan Marks**



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**\$825,000 Lori Legler**

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



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## Orinda Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

#### Special Workshop on Roads

Tuesday, October 18, at 5:00 pm  
Library Garden Room,  
26 Orinda Way

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, October 25, at 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

#### School Board Meeting

**Orinda Union School District**  
Monday, November 14, 6:00 pm  
OUSD Office  
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda  
www.orindaschools.org  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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

**Grand Theft Bicycle, 10/5/11**  
An Orinda resident is out \$1900 because in a one hour window, thieves stole two custom bikes from the inside of an unlocked garage. They simply walked the bikes out, popped them in the back of a gray vehicle, and drove off into the sunset.

**Hi, Ho, Silver Mercedes!**  
9/29/11 At half past midnight a half-snookered 67 year old woman drove her silver Mercedes Benz into and then off a residential driveway looking for her boyfriend. Police observed she was under the influence; administered a field sobriety test. Noting results, they carted her off to Martinez Detention Facility. The car was a customer of Orinda Tow.

**Bold and (possibly) Armed,**  
9/29/11 A victim reported that a man and a woman drove up her driveway and stole her purse from the car's hood at noon, where she'd placed it. The man also nabbed a duffel bag containing an I-pad from inside the car. She thinks the male thief then pointed a gun at her as they drove away. Monetary damages were reported at over \$1200.

**Stalling for Time,**  
9/26/11 A woman, drunk in public, locked herself into the Orinda Safeway restroom. She may have been trying to beat the rap, because she already was on probation for an earlier drunk in public arrest.

## Raising Speed Limit Raises Ire

By Cathy Dausman



Council member Sue Severson discusses the speed limit issue with Glorietta Blvd. residents at the October 4 Orinda City Council meeting.

Photos: Cathy Dausman

If they made a radar gun to measure high emotions, it would have been pinging away at the October 4 Orinda City Council meeting. No less than ten speakers, plus seven e-mails to council members and city staff, weighed in against a proposal to raise the speed limit from 25 to 30 miles per hour along Glorietta Boulevard.

The Council heard from City Engineer Janice Carey, Police

Chief Jeffrey Jennings, a representative from TJKM Transportation Consultants and Traffic Officer Michael Gray. It also got an earful from residents of Glorietta Boulevard and nearby streets, who feared raising the limit even five miles per hour would further endanger walkers, bikers, and residential property.

The affected area runs along Glorietta Boulevard between Mor-

aga Way and the Lafayette city limit. Glorietta Boulevard between Sally Ann Road and Daryl Drive would remain a 15 mph school zone speed, as it is currently posted.

Some background: It is not individual cities, but the California Vehicle Code (CVC) and the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) which govern the criteria for establishing speed limits in local municipalities. The agencies require a traffic survey every five years to justify posted speed limits. TKJM conducted a Glorietta Blvd. survey on April 28 this year, and the results were presented to the Council.

Because the last survey is now outdated, unless the recent survey is put into use and the speed limit changed the Police Department may not use radar to provide enforcement. In fact, the court would likely throw out a speeding citation issued from that area. According to MUTCD, speed limits are established by the "critical speed" or 85th percentile rule, which is the speed "at or below which 85 percent of the traffic is moving." In other words, as Council Member Dean Orr observed, "The drivers essentially set speed limits."

Jennings spoke of his responsibility for "the preservation of life and property," but many were confused about the means to that end. Would raising a speed limit actually slow traffic down? It's counterintuitive, Jennings agreed, but once the new limit was posted his staff could enforce it. Still, Glorietta residents were not convinced. "Nobody's happy about this," said Allison Banisadr. Darren Pieper compared the move to "letting the inmates run the asylum." Vanessa Imberg asked the Council to delay a vote. "We're walking into a slippery slope," she said. Stuart House says he walks his dog along Glorietta only "with trepidation."

After nearly an hour's discussion, the Council did not vote. The matter was referred to the City's Traffic and Safety Advisory Committee and will reappear on the agenda likely after the first of the year.

Carey cautioned "there is not a lot of leeway" on establishing a new speed limit, but promised that "it's not going to be a freeway going down Glorietta," while Jenkins reassured Orindans he was "pretty confident we'll get it [speed limit] back down...It's just going to take some time," he said.

## Small Town Meets Hollywood at Orinda's Moneyball

By Cathy Dausman and Cathy Tyson

Stephen Bishop's guest appearance at the Orinda Theater premier of Moneyball hit a home run with the crowd on October 1. The former Moraga resident and Campolindo High School baseball player (class of 1987) attracted locals eager to see their neighbor and classmate on screen and in the flesh. "He was a good guy, well liked," said Bob Javinsky who was in the Campo class of 1989. Javinsky and his wife Sarah were among the first in line at the the-

ater. Sarah Javinsky speculated there would have been an even larger Campolindo presence, had it not been for a 25th reunion, the class of 1986, scheduled that same night. Beau Behan, of the California Independent Film Festival, called Bishop a "Lamorindan Hollywood Star" and was excited to have him "share his insights and inside stories on Moneyball."

When Bishop arrived driving a black SUV the cameras came out. The actor, whose credits include Fri-

day Night Lights, Grey's Anatomy, Lost, and The Rundown smiled shyly and politely posed for pictures before seeking out high school friends among the crowd.

This was Bishop's fourth Moneyball screening, but he assured the audience that his role in the film aside (Bishop plays former Oakland A's outfielder David Justice), he really likes the movie. Afterwards, Bishop fielded questions as easily as ground balls. He said he originally met Jus-

tice when he (Bishop) was playing baseball at Diablo Valley College. Justice gave him his batting gloves, and Bishop literally wore them out over the next 22 games. The rest is celluloid history.

Bishop's comment that as a young man he really wanted "out" of Moraga brought a good laugh from the audience. But now, he said, he'd like to return. Judging from the warm reception the crowd gave him that night Bishop was 'safe' at home.



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Photo Cathy Dausman

## Help Shape Downtown Orinda's Future

Where do you see Orinda in ten years? Whether you want Orinda to communicate a quiet charm, or desire a bustling downtown with shuttle service between the theatre district and Orinda Village, now is the time to speak up.

The City of Orinda is engaged in a listening tour and wants to know what's on your mind. City staff are particularly interested in hearing from the parents of school-aged children since many in this group have not yet provided any feedback.

By completing a short online survey, you can ensure that your opinions count: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/DowntownOrinda](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DowntownOrinda).

Or, attend a public workshop from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at one of these elementary school multipurpose rooms:

- Del Rey – October 24, 2011
- Glorietta – November 2, 2011

Give ten minutes or an hour of your time and make your voice heard. The City of Orinda needs and wants your guidance. *L. Snyder*

## Orinda's Restaurant Tour



As trolley conductor Rick Kattenberg showed off his bell-ringing skills and the Orinda Idols belted out tunes, guests at the annual Orinda Restaurant Tour enjoyed balmy weather and tasty samples from participating establishments on Tuesday, September 27. Pictured are Carlos Rangel, of Shelby's Restaurant, and Council Member Dean Orr serving up crab cakes. Photo Ohlen Alexander

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**ORINDA \$1,595,000**  
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Dick Holt 925-253-4600



**ORINDA \$1,499,000**  
4/3. Gorgeous spacious house, lots of upgrades. Private setting with pool and sport court.  
Rick & Nancy Booth 925-253-4600



**LAFAYETTE \$749,000**  
3/2. Original owner. Home sits in a private cul-de-sac setting w/breathtaking views and refreshing light.  
Ted Streeter 925-253-4600



**ORINDA \$600,000**  
3/3. Orinda Oak Springs Gem Character & charm describes this 3+Bonus BD/3BA home.  
Patti Camras 925-253-4600



**MORAGA \$1,559,000**  
4/2.5. Estate setting, completely renovated, expansive yard w/pool, grand views, court location  
The Beaubelle Group 925-253-4600



**LAFAYETTE \$1,185,000**  
4/2. Elegant amenities, hwdw flrs, grand spaces, beaut views. Walk to town/schools/swim/tennis.  
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Wendy & Michelle Holcenberg 925-253-4600



**MORAGA \$1,158,000**  
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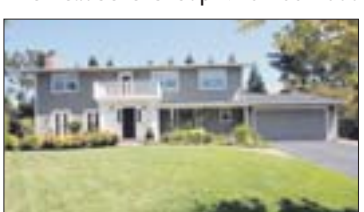
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## Island Music in Orinda

... continued from page A1



A quintet of ukulele players from Al Dodge's Orinda Parks & Rec class serenaded the crowd at this year's Olive Festival at Wagner Ranch Nature Area. Photo Doug Kohen

The group plays traditional Hawaiian songs like Pearly Shells and Lovely Hula Hands, with simple chord arrangements and an easy, fox-trot-like meter. Dodge likes to focus on music dating from "ragtime through the 1940's." Students supply their own instruments. Ukuleles are readily available for around \$60, but collectors can spend \$15,000 to \$40,000 on hand-crafted ukuleles or original instruments from the late 1800's.

The class attracts students from throughout the East Bay. Phil and Sandy Steele of Moraga first took ukulele lessons during a cruise to Hawaii several years ago. Their group serenaded shipmates in a per-

formance which included hula dancers; by the end of the cruise Phil had purchased a ukulele. Sandy, sporting tiny wooden ukulele earrings, sometimes plays her father's 60 year old instrument, although not tonight. She laughs about the "danger" of what she calls "Ukulele Acquisition Syndrome" and playing "air uke" (faking it) if you can't find the right chord.

Kandy Petersen and Dawn Kurisu have attended Dodge's classes almost since the lessons began. Petersen, from Moraga, says those outside Orinda "pay extra [but] it's worth it!"

Sonny Foniomoana was born in Hawaii, and now resides in Pleasant Hill. His family moved from Oahu to

Alameda in 1953, "trading one island for another," he says, and he keeps in touch with island ways through this class. Dorothy Becker, of Martinez, shows off a ukulele she won at the St. Helena Wine Country Ukulele Festival earlier this year. Becker says the stain used on the wood comes from grapes.

Now considered a traditional Hawaiian instrument, the four-stringed ukulele (tuned to G, C, E and A) was actually imported from the island of Madeira, Portugal in the late 1800's. Phil Steel built his own ukulele with the help of Berkeley luthier Mike DaSilva. His is a curly koa wood instrument made with mother of pearl and abalone inlays and a lei design near the keys. He says it took about 50 hours to make. "Monty" Montague played a ukulele he'd fashioned from a cigar box bearing his last name.

Several students performed at this year's Wagner Ranch Olive Festival, and the group is scheduled to play at the Orinda Holiday Bazaar on November 5. Music, companionship, laughter and "free" Hawaiian language lessons thrown in, make this a class No Ka Oi (the best).

Ukulele classes are on Tuesday nights from 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Community Center. A new session begins November 1. For class details, call Orinda Parks and Recreation, (925) 254-2445 or go online to [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

## Lafayette Love for the "Jumping Flea"

... continued from page A1

22 students, ages three to 70-plus, learn to like the little wooden four-string and show their "ukulele pride." The class is free, although those wishing to borrow an instrument from the music store pay a \$5 rental. Peare explains they'll be learning the "laid back" West Coast style, and reminds everyone they don't even have to know how to read music to enjoy playing. He gets them relaxed learning the thumb strum, and before they know it, everyone is playing "Buffalo Gals."

William and Katie McKinney of Lafayette enjoyed their first lesson. Commissioner Stacia Levenfeld, "This proj-

ect would take away from Moraga's real character; it does not feel right." During the public comments portion of the meeting, Barbara Onoda,

back of a musical underdog", <http://mightykemovie.com/>, now playing at international film festivals. Her store stocks Makala instruments made in Petaluma of acacia, mahogany, koa or spruce wood; some painted in tie dye, paisley, checkerboard, flag colors or island scenes. Small enough for a child, nostalgic enough for adults, the little instrument that is the ukulele gathers young and old alike under its four-string spell.

Learn about the next ukulele class by calling (925) 38-0963 or going online to [http://www.lamorindamusic.com/uke\\_class.htm](http://www.lamorindamusic.com/uke_class.htm).

speaking on behalf of the non-profit Preserve Lamorinda Open Space, said, "We do not think it is appropriate for the Town to undertake subdivision and development of open-space lands which belong to the citizens of Moraga, particularly lands such as these that are enjoyed daily by a large number of trail users."

The Staff Report, prepared by Senior Planner Richard Chamberlain and Planning Director Shawna Brekke-Read, points out that the subdivision would not be consistent with a number of policies in the Town's General Plan. The report reads in part, "The potential subdivision would cluster housing in a visually prominent location.....The potential subdivision would also result in residential development of existing publicly-owned open space, rather than preserving new open space."

Planning Commissioner Bruce Whitley was the only one to partially disagree with the Staff Report. "Some elements of the General Plan are missing in the report," he said, "There are many policies that would support the project, such as improved traffic and safety in some parts of the town." Whitley nonetheless concluded, "We should not recommend that piece of property for development."

The two acres in question are part of a 20-acre parcel that the Town acquired, along with the adjoining parcel that became the Moraga Commons Park, from the State of California in 1977 when the State discontinued plans to build a freeway through the town.

The Moraga Town Council meets tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo.

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

... continued from page A1

"Looking at this project for the third time and walking along the trail again was an eye opener," said Commissioner Stacia Levenfeld, "This proj-

ect would take away from Moraga's real character; it does not feel right."

During the public comments portion of the meeting, Barbara Onoda,

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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 19th, 7:00pm**, Station 41 (1280 Moraga Way, Moraga), (go to [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org) as the meeting date approaches for more information)

# MOFD Nixes Building Purchase, Approves 2011/12 Budget

By Lucy Amaral

At the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Director's meeting held September 27, the Board conducted its final deliberations on whether or not to purchase a separate building to house the District's administrative staff. After several hours of discussion, and months of debate, the Board voted 3-2 against the purchase.

As reported in MOFD's facilities report approved in April, Station 41 is in need of several upgrades. Station 41 also houses part of MOFD's administrative staff, with the other portion of administrative offices housed in MOFD's Station 45 in Orinda. One option offered by the facilities report was to combine administrative offices in an off-site location, then repurpose the existing administrative space in Station 41.

In April, MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley presented the option to purchase a vacant building located at 1150 Moraga Way to be used as an administrative facility. In Bradley's staff report he said the cost to purchase and renovate the building would be approximately \$1.9 million with the funds coming from the Special Revenue Fund.

In the Board meetings that followed, opinions from both the Board and the audience in attendance were divided. Concern over the economy, pension issues and construction costs were common themes for those against the purchase. The efficiencies created from having the staff in one place, as well as the possibility of renting part of the space thereby offsetting the cost, was offered by those in favor of the option. The Board eventually requested that Bradley return with additional ideas.

Bradley added leasing space from the City of Orinda, renting space in Moraga, constructing a prefabricated building behind the Station 41, retrofitting the basement of Station 45 in Orinda, as well as the purchase of the building, for the Board's consideration. Bradley consistently stated that due to the location, adaptability, improved efficiencies and costs, the purchase of this building should be considered the best option for the District.

As the contract to purchase the building was set to expire on September 30, the Board meeting this night was only to decide whether or not to purchase the building in Moraga, not act on the other possibilities.

Board members Frank Sperling, Brook Mancinelli and Richard Olsen voiced their concern as to the timing of the purchase. With a strained economy, they felt spending over \$1 million on a building did not seem to be

a prudent move. "The economy is bad and predicted to get worse," said Mancinelli, who voted against the purchase. "There just isn't the money or the prospect of sufficient new money coming in to justify the risk of spending over a million dollars on a building."

Sperling and Olsen echoed Mancinelli's concern over the economy and the timing of the purchase. The two assenting votes came from John Wyro and Fred Weil. Board President Wyro said one must weigh the options and he said he saw more opportunity than risk, and voted for the project.

With the defeat of the proposal, the Board requested that an item be placed on the next agenda to discuss how to proceed.

The Board also gave final approval to the 2011/12 General Fund and special Revenue Fund budgets. In his staff report, Bradley said that while the preliminary budget he presented to the Board was considered balanced, the assumptions for revenue projections were off. Bradley said that the District's original projection for property tax revenue was based on a .6 percent increase. The staff report added that while Moraga's secured property tax revenue increased by one half of one percent, Orinda's property tax revenues decreased by three percent, causing final property tax revenue projections to decrease 1.8 percent. Using revised projected revenue combined with proactively made cost-cutting measures, Bradley said that the budget now shows a projected deficit of approximately \$355,000.

The revised budget, along with three options for the board to consider, was presented. Alternatives ranged from selective staff furloughs, to approving with the deficit, then adjusting mid-year. The Board decided to approve with deficit, opting to balance the budget using reserves from the General Fund.

"We have approved the budget with the shortfall, balancing the budget with the use of reserves, using approximately ten percent of our General Fund reserve to do so," said Wyro. "The final Budget is consistent with the preliminary budget with respect to expenditures. The change was the reduced revenue as a result of the property tax numbers."

"If upon further review at our mid-year budget session we feel a need to make adjustments, we can amend the budget at that time," he added. "We can (also) amend the budget at any time based on new information or re-evaluation of our financial situation."



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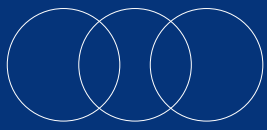
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## Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community!

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

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

email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com);

Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

Thank you to Cathy Tyson for her September 28 article *Zoning Issue Heading to Home Stretch*. In pursuit of a few clarifications, I contacted Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk by e-mail shortly after reading Cathy's article. Mr. Falk was gracious enough to respond to my questions promptly.

First, I asked *why* city staff failed to downgrade the Christmas Tree Lot from APO to LR-5 as directed by city council in April 2010. The application for the Terraces of Lafayette was not submitted until March 2011 -- city staff had 11 months to complete the downgrade. Mr. Falk shared the process was not completed due to staff restraints resulting from the workload of the Downtown Plan as well as staff reductions. Given the consistent and unwavering pressure to rezone from numerous Lafayette citizens, I am left to wonder why city staff did not manage to fit this important work in during those 11 months.

Lafayette belongs to the Association of Bay Area Governments. One of ABAG's many functions is to allocate the low-income housing needs distribution among Bay Area Cities. Lafayette's 2007-2014 ABAG low-income housing allocation is: 133 -- Very Low Income, 77 -- Low Income, 80 -- Moderate Income and 91 Above Moderate Income = 361 total units. Mr. Falk shared that the developer, O'Brien Land Company, plans to build the 315-unit rental apartment complex, Terraces of Lafayette, as affordable housing for moderate-income residents. If that happens, the Christmas Tree Lot project would more than fill the allocation of 80 moderate-income units. This project is completely out of character for the area. There are currently no apartments or high-density housing in Lafayette on the north side of highway 24 in the Pleasant Hill/Reliez corridor.

It's important to note the City of Lafayette is currently reviewing applications for 677 units in 8 different projects throughout Lafayette. Mr. Falk told me, if built, these total units would satisfy 142% of Lafayette's ABAG low-income allocation. Why is our city council so hell-bent on changing the character of our city? These ABAG allocations are strongly encouraged but NOT required.

Jean Follmer  
Lafayette

Editor:

Proper Use of MOFD Fund

On September 27th, the Moraga-Orinda Fire Board decided, 3 to 2, against purchasing a \$2 million commercial building to use 55% as their district headquarters and 45% as a speculative real estate investment. It was a good decision for a number of reasons; not the least being it prevented an inappropriate use of funds.

The building was going to be purchased with money in their "Special Use Fund" which is funded by the Orinda and Moraga Fire Flow Parcel Taxes. Fire Flow Tax money, at least from Orinda taxpayers, was never intended for this purpose. It was not what the voters were told it would be used for when they agreed to the almost \$100 per household tax back in 1997. (A full description of what was promised can be found on [www.FairForOrinda.org](http://www.FairForOrinda.org).)

However, the Moraga Building was just one of six options. Three of the five remaining options also utilize Fire Flow Tax money, just less of it, which is just as inappropriate.

The best option for the district to consolidate its administration and save on that consolidation would be the "zero cost" option of moving its administration into excess space in the Orinda City Hall. While Orinda would charge MOFD rent, that rent just goes around in a circle back to the taxpayers who ultimately end up paying the bills.

And if the district has any extra funds at all, and this includes the \$3 million it plans on using for rebuilding the District's least utilized station off of St. Stephens drive in Orinda, it should use them to pay down some of the over \$50 million in unfunded employee benefit liabilities it has accrued.

Steve Cohn  
Orinda

Letters continued on next page

### Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda, or one of its communities, that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com) and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum. We will not accept Public Forum submissions regarding a current ballot measure or candidate for public office. Opinions expressed in Public Forum are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

### Trivia...

... continued from page A2

Here are the answers to the questions from one popular Pub Trivia category:

**Think Pink!**

1. Pink Cadillac
2. Pink Elephants
3. Pink Slip
4. In the Pink
5. Pink Ribbon
6. Pink Squirrel
7. Pink Ladies
8. Pink-Collar Worker
9. Pink Triangle

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**Lafayette Measure G**

Editor:  
People have asked me why doesn't the City of Lafayette have enough money to pay for their roads? The answer is fairly simple. Lafayette residents pay the same amount in property taxes as residents in other cities under Proposition 13, which was passed in 1978. However, our City does not receive the same amount back as other cities. We only receive back about half the property tax amount as other cities.

Why you ask? This unfair situation was created by State legislation ruling that property tax receipts would be allocated back to cities on the same basis as prior to Prop 13. Since Lafayette incorporated as a no property tax city in 1968, and thus received nothing, they received nothing after Prop 13, even though the residents now paid the same amount as other cities. Unfair? Yes. What did the City do about this unfair situation? The City, together with the other no property tax cities in the State, and led by the efforts of former Lafayette Mayor Richard Holmes, lobbied for a number of years to change this inequity. These efforts finally resulted in Lafayette receiving about half of what other cities receive, or about 6.5% of the amount residents pay. Cities rely upon their property tax receipts to maintain their infrastructure and pay for services. Also, in 1995 a group of Lafayette residents helped pass a bond measure to fix as many roads as possible, but 25% of Lafayette's public roads remain in failed condition, and the 1995 bond monies have been spent. Measure G, to fix our failed roads, will resolve this inequity for all residents living on failed roads and allow the City to maintain its remaining roads in good condition. Vote Yes on Measure G.

Guy Atwood  
Lafayette

Editor:  
Finally, a ballot measure that will return tangible benefits to everyone in Lafayette – Measure G, the "Fix Our Roads" proposal. Unlike many ballot measures that serve special interests or seem to send our tax dollars into the ether, leaving us with little more than hope and a clear conscience, Measure G will improve the quality of life for all people in Lafayette by upgrading our streets. The potholes and chunks of asphalt that are abundant in our streets are not only disgraceful, but they pose real safety hazards, especially for bicyclists. Deteriorating streets increase the City's liability for accidents caused wholly or in part by defective road surfaces. On the other hand, repaved streets enhance vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian safety and mobility, increase property values by beautifying our community and reduce traffic noise. Twenty-five cents a day is a small price to pay for such a valuable and tangible benefit that, in addition, will provide jobs that are also badly needed. The "Fix-Our-Roads" measure is a win-win for everyone in Lafayette. I am FOR it.

Alton M. Lacy  
Lafayette

Editor:  
Measure G on the November ballot will ask Lafayette voters if they should collect a parcel tax of \$89 per residential unit for ten years. This money is supposed to be used to reconstruct failed Lafayette roads and streets.

At a recent City Council meeting, the council approved a request from Moraga for \$67,500 to help Moraga pave a parking lot at the Moraga skate park.

Although the money to pave a parking lot in Moraga could be taken from the excess funds in the Lafayette Park Department, the council decided to use money from the general fund, in other words, money that could be used to repair Lafayette streets and give it to Moraga.

If you take \$67,500 and divide that by \$89 you get 758.

This means that 758 homes will be asked to vote for a bond that will take \$89 of their money and pave a parking lot in Moraga.

The city of Orinda has also been asked to help pay for the paving of the parking lot in Moraga. Orinda plans to take money from their park department and use it for this purpose. They will not use their road money to pave a parking lot in Moraga.

If Orinda can use park department money to pave a parking lot in Moraga, why is the city of Lafayette asking its citizens to tax themselves \$89 a year for road maintenance and then giving this money to Moraga?

This \$67,500 is available at the Lafayette Community Center and can be sent to Moraga by changing the wording in an ordinance.

I would suggest that before the City Council asks us to tax ourselves to repair our roads, they first fix the ordinance so that our road tax money is not spent on Moraga parking lots.

John Briggs  
Lafayette

Editor:  
Great Schools, and good roads, enhance property values. Measure G fixes Lafayette's failed public roads and drains in 10 years or less. Residents will no longer endure the potholes and local flooding that have frustrated them for decades. The problem, if not fixed now, will only get worse and become more expensive.

Once the roads are fixed, ongoing revenues can fund needed maintenance. In 2008, an independent committee of Lafayette citizens who are financial professionals reviewed City expenditures and concluded that the City effectively and prudently manages its resources.

The City continues to act prudently. To maintain a balanced budget in a worsening economy, the City reduced staff and cut annual expenses by over \$500,000 in late 2010.

The committee also stated that while Lafayette can commit \$20 million over the next 10 years for road repair, additional revenue is needed to complete the \$30 million amount required. Measure G completes the funding gap and is a fair and effective plan.

Passing Measure G will enhance property values, fix our failed roads and drains, and treat all residents who have not had their roads and drains fixed equally with those who have. Voting Yes on Measure G is the right thing to do for our community.

Sincerely,  
David Van Etten  
Lafayette

please...



...thanks

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# Yes on Measure G

## Measure G will provide the funds to fix our roads.

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- ✓ All money stays in Lafayette. Not one dollar can be taken by the state.
- ✓ No bonds. **No debt.** No interest payments.
- ✓ **Ten years maximum.** Terminates in less than ten years if roads repaired sooner.
- ✓ **Independent citizen oversight** committee ensures money is being spent as promised.
- ✓ Provides a **stable source of funding** to repair and maintain Lafayette's infrastructure.

## Endorsements

Claude Aiello  
Courtney & Stephen Anderson  
Mike Anderson, Council Member, City of Lafayette  
Brandt Andersson, Council Member, City of Lafayette  
Patricia Andersson  
Carl Anduri, Mayor, City of Lafayette  
Sharon Anduri  
Ann & Peter Appert  
Forrest Arakawa  
Jeanne & Jack Ateljevich  
Guy & Diane Atwood  
Sharon Bancroft  
Richard & Rose Bartholomew  
Jacquelyn & Jim Bava  
Don & Joan Beerline  
Geoff & Sally Bellenger  
Larry & Susan Bellusa  
Diane Bierwagen  
Marie Corlett Blits, President, Lafayette Homeowners Council  
Robert Blits  
Kyle Blocker  
Larry Blodgett  
Linda Bolla-Dow  
Jon Burg  
Ann & Jim Burns  
George Burt & Gayle Grant  
Nancy Caranica  
Tammy Carlson  
Judy Carney, Past Lafayette Citizen of the Year  
Steve Carney  
Philae Carver  
Cathy & Larry Challacombe  
Sereta Churchill  
Diddo Clark  
Dean Coons  
Stephen Cortese, President, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce  
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Daniel Deitrick, Chair, Lafayette Finance Committee  
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Measure G =  
Good Roads

Yes on Measure  
Yes G  
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# Cal Shakes Offers "Discovery" Program for Students



By Lou Fancher



"Bianca" - Alexandra Henrikson (back row, middle) - stopped to chat and pose for a photo with the JM drama class after the show. Photo L. Borrowman

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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 of the Shrew* on September 29th.

Under a bright sun and not a few bees, the kids received marching orders from Teaching Artist Clive Worsley.

"No electronics, no leaving the area without an adult supervisor," he barked.

Leading the pre-show discussion like a misguided Mad Lib page, he gave the synopsis of William Shakespeare's ambitious play about money, sex, and society's view of women.

"There's the daughter, Katherine, whose name was..." he prompted, leaving a pre-described blank for the kids to holler out, "Katherine!"

In two minutes, the students learn what it takes several scenes for Shakespeare to reveal: nobody can

marry the younger daughter until somebody marries the older one. But she's a shrew: a woman with a bad temper.

Worsley paces rapidly in front of the sleek, soft pink beams, then zig-zags under a blazing yellow second story floor. Backed by a splashy advertisement, the set is retro-hip, suggesting the past and the future.

The kids eat it up, especially when Worsley steps aside and the cast, arriving to a whistle blast worthy of a sailing vessel and a thumping, "Come on, boys" soundtrack, vamp in line and toss buxom beauty queens in yellow swim suits.

There's a sense of humor everywhere in Director Shana Coopers' interpretation.

From actor Alexandra Henrikson's blue suede spiked heels to a rapid undressing (down to briefs only) and re-dressing on stage to a Three Stooges-style exchange of hats, laughter keeps the kids engaged during wordy expository scenes.

But it's all aimed at learning, a purpose made evident throughout Cal Shake's extensive educational outreach programs.

The discovery matinees come with a package of optional workshops, a Q&A with the actors, and an extensive Teacher's Guide. The guide, offered online to classrooms, is impressive.

There are plot diagrams, historical context, actors' photos with adjacent character descriptions, Q&A's with the director, evaluations of things like physical comedy and how it was used in Shakespeare's time versus modern theater, classroom activities like Facebook pages for characters, and questions to answer for aspiring theatre critics.

"We discuss how placing Shakespeare's stories in contemporary times helps us to understand the story and characters," Worsley said, about the work he does with student groups. "[With *Shrew*], we ask kids how the gen-

der-based stereotypes in the play differ from our time or what ways they are similar."

Don Read brings one of his classes from Joaquin Moraga every year. ... continued on page B2

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## Cal Shakes Offers “Discovery” Program for Students

... continued from page B1

“Although they’re in drama, they may not all have seen live productions. I want them to notice the physicality and how they stay in character,” he emphasized.

Going on a field trip also creates a bond and hearing the words they’ve memorized in class makes the plot less confusing. Read believes the experience contributes to their being a “special drama community” by the end of the year.

On this day in late September, the students unite through the play’s intense physical interactions. There’s nipple twisting between two male characters who wrestle to the ground, fathers hoisting warring sisters to end territorial battles, a slap fest between Katherine and her fiancé, and a costume that draws a question in the post-show Q&A.

“Do you feel weird with your butt hanging out?” one student asked Slate Holmgren, the actor whose minimalist pant leg revealed spandex undies.

“Actually, it’s really freeing,” he laughed, explaining that a different pair of underwear had been used for the student show.

“Did anything happen that was-

n’t according to plan?” another student asked.

Trees falling, wind, and heads rolling, came the answer, followed by the strangest things each actor had experienced in a play.

Cut faces and forgetting to put on a full costume preceded fainting, fire alarms and seeing a ghost, before the actors answered one of students’ most frequent questions: *What made you want to be actors?*

Henrikson had the most uncommon answer, stating that she had composed an opera at the age of two, called *The Tongue*. She declined a request to perform it, especially without adequate rehearsal.

Students also wanted to know if the lovers in the play were actually married to each other in real life, or were drunk when they played inebriated scenes.

“I was *pretending* to be drunk,” Henrikson answered immediately. “I thought it would be good for the scene, but don’t drink. Ever.”

The students left with a new perspective on Shakespeare, acting, and live theater.

Still, one boy, overheard talking to Worsley as his buddies waited,

had one burning question.

“Do the actors have a hard time kissing strangers?” he asked.

Worsley fulfilled his teaching

role, telling the student that by the time they were in performance, the actors weren’t strangers anymore because “they practice kissing a lot.”

With this information, the student, and his friends, may have found what actors the world-over seek: proper motivation.



JM students present “30-second Shakespeare” (a very abbreviated version of *Taming of the Shrew*), directed by Cal Shakes educational staff, before the show.

Photo L. Borrowman



## My Dad’s Office was the Sky

His crew called him the airplane cowboy, probably because he wore that hat all the time. His job was to keep the plane steady while the camera crew took their shots. They’d photograph roads, mountains and clouds for map makers, archeologists and film directors - anyone who needed a picture of something from way up there.

Times have changed, but Dad still loves adventure. The problem is he shouldn’t be driving. Sometimes he gets confused and lost just walking around the neighborhood.

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# Some Answers are Blowing in the Wind

By Cathy Dausman



Peter Kendall helps Charles Correll don safety equipment prior to leaf blower test Photos Cathy Dausman

Sophia Aguilera and Charles Correll, students in Barbara Denny's AP Environmental Science class at Miramonte High School, have taken their work outside.

Volunteer work at the Chabot Space and Science Center prompted Aguilera, a senior, to enroll in Denny's class. She says she wants to major in the environmental sciences in college. Correll is a junior with a background in public speaking and debate. Recently Denny asked Aguilera and Correll to test leaf blower noise and particulate pollu-

tion at their school. They conducted two studies, a week apart. The first measured the noise levels of a gas powered and electric leaf blower. The second week, the level of "micro particles" blown into the air was measured. That test was completed using only the gas leaf blower.

Originally, Denny was approached by Katharine Barrett, the wife of Berkeley professor Reginald Barrett, who asked if Denny could have students measure the effects of leaf blowers.

Having neither a decibel or par-

ticulate meter, or a leaf blower, Denny was referred to Lawrence Hall of Science's Tony Marks-Block, who provided an air quality sampler (aka particulate meter), and Orinda Quiet's Peter and Susan Kendall, who loaned leaf blowers and a sound meter.

Denny feels the study reinforces her course material on how people sharing common areas can affect those areas, and how governments manage those commons. She sees the study as a chance to "examine what will happen in Orinda as it pertains to leaf blowers and their possible regulation."

Orinda Quiet is lobbying for a cutback in the use of leaf blowers. "I am not taking a position on the issue," says Denny, "I just want the students to generate data."

The students, however, took sides. Correll and Aguilera spoke before the October 4 Orinda City Council meeting to voice their concerns over what Correll termed the city's "dangerous love affair" with blowers. Test results showed that while noise readings were within manufacturer's specs, how the blower gets used changes the noise level perception. During the particulate study, Denny noted the "particles stayed high" throughout the time the blower was on. While test results may not make their way into scientific journals, they certainly ruffled a few dead leaves.



From left: Tony Marks-Block, Sophia Aguilera and Barbara Denny

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## Orinda Takes the Lead in Mapping Lamorinda AVA

By Sophie Braccini



Victoria Smith (left) and Emmanuel Ursu (center) taste local wine with LWGA President Susan Captain (right) Photo Sophie Braccini

The social scene at the Moraga Barn on a late September evening was as diverse and festive as all of the monthly wine tasting meetings of the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association (LWGA). Among the usual aficionados one could spot a few newcomers including Orinda's Mayor Victoria Smith

and Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu, who were invited by the LWGA to meet the group, talk to Orinda growers and make a critical evaluation of the local wine production.

As grape growing and wine making take off in Orinda, Smith and Ursu wanted to show their sup-

port and start asking questions about the impact this activity could have on their city.

"When I recently saw the LWGA map, with all the Lamorinda property where grapes are grown, I was struck by the number of properties in Orinda," said Smith. Planting grapes in one's backyard does not require a permit of any sort. The city only hears from the grower when (s)he wants to be legally allowed to produce and sell wine under his or her own name (becoming a bonded winery). When Smith got an invitation to come to the monthly LWGA libation at the Moraga Barn she decided it was time to get better acquainted with them.

"We had a wonderful time," said both Smith and Ursu. The City of Orinda is coming out in support of the Association in their quest for getting an official Lamorinda appellation (becoming an American Viticultural Area or AVA).

... continued on page B4

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## The Town Of Moraga Relays For Life

By Sophie Braccini



On Saturday morning, after a long night on campus, Kelly Clancy (left) and Kelly Suronen still had the energy to show off their poster. Photo Sophie Braccini

Kelly Clancy and Kelly Suronen were the co-captains of Team Town of Moraga at the Relay For Life organized by the American Cancer Society (ACS) last weekend. During the event at the Saint Mary's College campus, members of the Town staff and Moraga's mayor relayed to walk

for 24 hours in support of the cause.

"I was diagnosed with cervical cancer at age 29," says Clancy, "I've been cancer free now for two years." She and Suronen decided to raise money for research.

The purpose of the event is

also to raise awareness about the different forms of cancer and the best ways to prevent and cure them. ACS pledges that all the money collected will go to cancer research. "Many people from the Town came to support us," said Clancy, "Karen Mendonca showed up with Bob Priebe around midnight and stayed for hours; Jill Keimach walked... Marty McInturf... Jill Mercurio, who came at 1:00 a.m. with her daughter Bella; Shawna Brekke Read and her husband walked on Saturday morning; Jay Ingram and his family; Yuliya Elbo, Beth Cowley and Cheryl Briones...they all came, and raised a lot of money. Many of our friends also came to support us."

On site, Moraga Public Works provided tables and canopy and a tent was installed with a bed so the captains could get a few hours sleep during the night. "We raised more than \$2,000," said a proud Clancy.

Another 20 teams participated in the event, mostly composed of Saint Mary's students and faculty.

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## Orinda Takes the Lead in Mapping Lamorinda AVA

... continued from page B3

"LWGA needs a lot of different elements in order to be approved as an AVA," said Smith, "weather data, soil analysis, and also detailed mapping of Lamorinda, and our Orinda Planning Department will be working on creating the Lamorinda map for the AVA."

Ursu also supports the idea of growing grapes in Orinda, but he has a few concerns about the possible impact from an operation standpoint. "We want to make sure that this does not get out of control," he said, adding that he believes that the city's rules are probably already adequate. But he noted that commercial activities, such as selling wine from the home, are not allowed in most of the neighbor-

hoods where the grapes are growing.

"We are not in favor of over-regulating," said Ursu, "as long as the residential character of the neighborhoods are preserved and things are conducted to everyone's satisfaction we do not need to step in." He believes that small-scale operations should not create a problem. "Wine growers can apply for temporary events permits if they want to have a wine tour a few times a year, like a home tour or a garden tour," he says, "Orinda is first and foremost a residential bedroom community, there can be a small, limited amount of agriculture, but no undue impact on surrounding properties." Ursu also expressed

possible aesthetic concerns with grading on hillsides and the potential removal of native vegetation to accommodate vineyards.

"If this really takes off, we could look at what other cities such as St. Helena have done to regulate the activities of the wine growers," added Smith, who believes that these activities would be beneficial to the economics to the region. "We also want the LWGA to be more involved with the city, its events and the Chamber of Commerce," says the Mayor, who would love to see downtown restaurants serving local wines and a tasting facility in the downtown area, "so people from out of town can come and go by BART."

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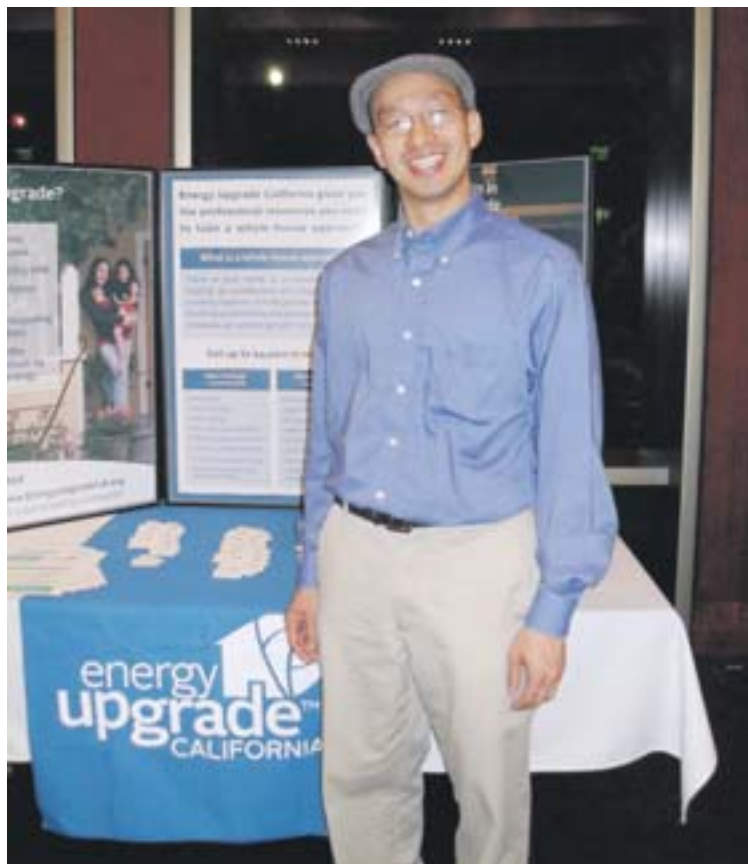
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# Rebates Available to Reduce Energy Use

By Cathy Tyson



Jeffery Liang, Bay Area Energy Upgrade specialist at recent workshop at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Photo Cathy Tyson

Who doesn't want free money to make their home more comfortable – temperature wise? In a statewide program slated to last through March, Energy Upgrade California is offering significant rebates to property owners to improve the efficiency of their home. In addition, Contra Costa County is also offering rebates up to \$5000 for energy retrofit projects that result in at least 20% energy savings. It's possible for homeowners to double or even triple dip, taking advantage of Energy Upgrade California rebates and County rebates and P G & E incentives via their Advanced Retrofit Program.

At a recent workshop in Lafayette, Bay Area Energy Upgrade Specialist with Energy Upgrade California, Jeffery Liang outlined specifics about the programs, and answered audience questions. For residents considering basic upgrades like air sealing, attic insulation and duct sealing, especially relevant as the winter months approach, Liang suggested that taking advantage of the rebates can save energy and significantly lower P G & E bills.

"The average home leaks 30% from air ducts," said Liang. If water pipes are leaking 30%, you'd get that fixed, he explained. Because duct-

work is usually in the attic or under the home, residents aren't aware of the problem beyond having drafty rooms that just never seem to warm up.

For homeowners already considering or in the midst of a remodel, Liang points out that their list of participating contractors will work with remodel personnel already on the job. He explains that if the walls of your home are already opened up it's a good time to consider wall insulation, energy efficient heating and air conditioning systems.

This program is one of the many upshots of AB 32 – California's Global Warming Solutions Act passed in 2006. Specific requirements include a strategic goal of a 40% reduction in green house gas emissions in existing homes by 2020. Another component of this program, according to Liang, is federal stimulus money to get local contractors back to work.

A second public information meeting will be held at the Orinda Community Center on October 19, doors open at 6:00, the program starts at 6:30. For more information go to [www.energyupgradeca.org](http://www.energyupgradeca.org) or [www.energyupgradeccc.org](http://www.energyupgradeccc.org) for Contra Costa County specifics.

# Save the Date for An Evening Out!

By Cathy Tyson



Team Lafayette members in front of Wine Thieves, from left - Dana Anderson, Lisa Martin and Michael Cass Photo provided

Team Lafayette invites you to a Wine Tasting at Wine Thieves – Thursday night, October 20th.

Sip some vino and savor some vittles while you mingle with friends – a raffle will give you the opportunity to score some pretty fine wine and other fabulous prizes. Bob Athayde and a Friend or Two promise to set the mood with their soul soothing smooth jazz; your \$35.00 donation to the American Cancer Society is your ticket into the event (Designated as the driver? You're in for just \$10)...and those Wine Guys at Wine Thieves are donating a portion of the evening's wine sales to the American Cancer Society – thank you, Rod Santos and Jim Myers. To take this

fabulous event a notch above superlative, 100% of our proceeds are going to...you guessed it!

Who the heck is Team Lafayette? Team Lafayette is a non-City related, non-City sponsored – we're doing this in our spare time – City Employee organized group that has a passion for finding a cure for cancer. Through our fun-raising fundraising efforts we're celebrating a third Pink October, meeting great people, and generating generous donations to the American Cancer Society – over \$2,500 to date.

For ticket information and more details please contact Team Lafayette at (925) 935-5950 or [team-lafayette2011@yahoo.com](mailto:team-lafayette2011@yahoo.com).

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# All Creatures, Great and Small

By Cathy Dausman



Dolly and her new friends



Blessing of the animals, St. Giles Episcopal congregation

Cats, dogs and even a chicken named Beatrix took advantage of a Blessing of the Animals offered October 2 following St. Giles Sunday service at St. Mary's College.

The chapel plaza held dogs large and small, friendly and not so friendly, and a pair of cats safely confined in their carriers. Reverend Teri Gilmore presided over the brief prayer service. Each animal was sprinkled with water when blessed; more than a few dogs tried to drink from Gilmore's bowl. A basket of stuffed animals was also presented for blessing; the church runs a "comfort ministry" and distributes stuffed pets to children involved with the Contra Costa court system.

The service was just winding down when one participant noticed a late arrival. Her name was Dolly, and she made a grand entrance galloping up the long green chapel lawn. "Am I too late?" rider/owner Kate Sullivan asked breathlessly. Sullivan wanted to include her Belgian mare in the service. Gilmore was happy to oblige. And as Dolly cast a wistful look back at the delicious green grass she'd just trod, the other participants gathered 'round for a meet and greet.



Dolly outside St. Mary's chapel. Don't worry -- she didn't go in!...



Nellita Antezana, of Lafayette, with her chicken Beatrix



One cat ready for a blessing



Bless this Labrador...

Photos Cathy Dausman

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# One-Dish Meals from Ying Chang Compestine

By Susie Iventosch



Ying and Vinson Photo provided

I fell in love with Ying Chang Compestine's new cookbook, *Ying's Best One-Dish Meals*, before reading a single recipe. As a mom of three kids who've all left the nest, the loving dedication to her son, Vinson, had me hooked.

"To my dear son, Vinson, Ming Da, I will miss you so much when you go to college!"

In my book, family is what cooking is all about, and Compestine has a wonderful flair for creating easy, fresh, home-cooked meals for a family on the go. Her recipes are tasty, colorful and full of locally available ingredients.

Both of the recipes I tried were delicious: Black Rice with Cranberries, Carrots and Ginger,

and Pan-seared Salmon with Lemon-Dill Yogurt Sauce.

"This is not a cookbook just for adults," Compestine mentioned. "It really is a book for the whole family."

Ever mindful of healthy eating choices, her focus on nutrition and healthy lifestyle not only benefits readers, but her own active family, as well. Her husband, Greg, is a distance cyclist, and Vinson is a highly ranked cross-country runner, while Ying immerses herself in competitive badminton to stay in shape.

Compestine learned to cook by helping her Nai Nai (grandmother) in the kitchen, but she confesses her primary motivation was to get to the food before her two brothers did! She didn't develop a passion for cooking until she moved to this country for graduate school. After Vinson was born, she began writing cookbooks and ever since he was very young, they've spent a lot of good, quality time in the kitchen.

"We are busy, but cooking has been a wonderful way for me to connect with my son," Compestine pointed out. "He always helped out in the kitchen by washing and, later, chopping veggies. Now, he is a great cook, himself, and cooks for his own friends when they come over."

Compestine, who has lived in Lafayette for the past eight years, told me that she and Vinson go to

the Moraga Farmers' Market every Sunday together. Sometimes her husband also goes along after his morning bike ride.

"I love it, because it's precious time with our son ... and I get to shop all the booths while Vinson and Greg carry the bags," she remarked. "I'm the empty-handed woman at the farmers' market!"

Among her favorite recipes in the book are: Candied Walnuts with Shrimp in Spicy Garlic Sauce, Garden Salad with Blueberries, Blue Cheese and Walnuts, and Wasabi Salmon with Miso-Sesame Sauce.

The recipes in this book reflect a cosmopolitan cuisine, based upon adaptations of favorite dishes from her jaunts around the globe. When asked what food she misses most when traveling, she said it is definitely fresh veggies.

"One time while I was traveling in Russia, I missed eating fresh produce so much that I had a dream I was planting vegetables in front of the hotel," she mused.

Compestine believes teaching children to cook and develop healthy eating habits is one of the best investments a parent can make in their children.

"It's a lifelong gift," she said. "I know I will never have to worry about my son eating right and maintaining a healthy lifestyle."

## About Ying Chang Compestine

Compestine was born in the Wuhan Province in central China and raised under Mao's Cultural Revolution, where books were forbidden and higher education unavailable to most young people. But, she loved to read and whenever she was able to sneak a book, she devoured it, often rereading those books she could get her hands on.

In 1977, after the death of Mao Zedong, the universities were once again open, but the entrance exams were very difficult and extremely competitive. Compestine studied for the exams for nearly two years, and was the only girl in her whole compound to gain entrance to the university in Wuhan. Though her mother and father were both doctors, Compestine chose to study literature and has since become a prolific award-winning author, with 16 books to her name and two more in the works. Her novel *Revolution is Not a Dinner Party* won 32 awards and is nominated for the California Young Readers Medal. She and Vinson are now collaborating on a novel for middle school students, *A Conversation with a Terracotta Soldier*, due out next fall. Because of her keen interest in healthy eating and nutrition, Compestine finds a way to weave food into all of her books—historical novels, short stories and cookbooks alike. One of my favorite Compestine titles is *A Banquet for Hungry Ghosts*, a compilation of Chinese ghost stories with recipes that comprise a complete banquet!

Compestine feels very fortunate to have been the food editor for *Martha Stewart's Body + Soul* (now *Whole Living*) for three years, and is currently the spokesperson for Nestle Maggi and former spokesperson for *Celestial Seasonings*. She's a regular contributor to many national magazines: *Cooking Light*, *Ski*, *Eating Well*, *Self*, *Men's Health*, and *Delicious Living and Diablo*.

When she's not busy writing, filming television shows, or watching her son's cross-country races, Compestine is off lecturing about a variety of subjects at writers' conferences and universities, aboard cruise ships, and on radio programs.

For more information on Ying Chang Compestine, please visit: <http://www.yingc.com/>

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



## Black Rice with Cranberries, Carrots, and Ginger

(Serves 4)



Photo Susie Iventosch

### INGREDIENTS

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons finely minced ginger
- 1 cup diced fresh oyster or shitake mushrooms
- 3 medium carrots cut into ¼-inch cubes
- ½ cup minced onion (yellow or red)
- 2 celery stalks, cut into ¼-inch cubes
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 cups cooked black rice, cooked according to directions (Also called Forbidden Rice, is usually found in the health food, or even the rice section at your grocery store)
- 1 cup fresh orange juice
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- ¼ cup toasted nuts (I used pecans)

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 325°. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat, swirling pan to coat. Add ginger and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add mushrooms and sauté for 1 minute. Add carrots, onion, and celery. Season with salt and pepper. Stir-fry until vegetables are tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in cooked rice, orange juice, and cranberries. Toss to mix well. Put rice mixture into a 9x13-inch baking dish. Cover loosely with foil and bake until heated through and liquid evaporates, about 30 minutes. Garnish with nuts, if desired, and serve warm. (We found that this dish is very good served cold, too, as leftovers.)

## Pan-Seared Salmon with Lemon Dill

(Serves 4)

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup plain soy or regular yogurt
- 2 tablespoon chopped fresh dill weed
- 2 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 4 (4-oz) skinless salmon fillets
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 cups cooked mixed fresh vegetables or thawed frozen mixed vegetables
- Salt and pepper, to taste

### DIRECTIONS

In a medium bowl, combine yogurt, dill, lemon zest, and oil. Mix well and set aside. In a large sauté pan, melt butter on medium-high heat. Add salmon fillets and sear for about 3 minutes. Turn fillets over and cook for about 3 more minutes, or until salmon flakes with a fork. Place fish on a warm serving plate. Heat oil and sauté garlic until fragrant. Add vegetables and sauté until heated through. Season with salt and pepper. To serve, arrange vegetables around salmon fillets and spoon yogurt sauce over fillets. Serve warm with couscous.



Photo provided



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## Ying's Best One-Dish Meals (Sellers Publishing) is available from online retailers and locally at:

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## Community Service

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

### New Girl Scout Leaders There is still time to join!

Submitted by Chrissa Ventrelle (written by Sandra Patterson)

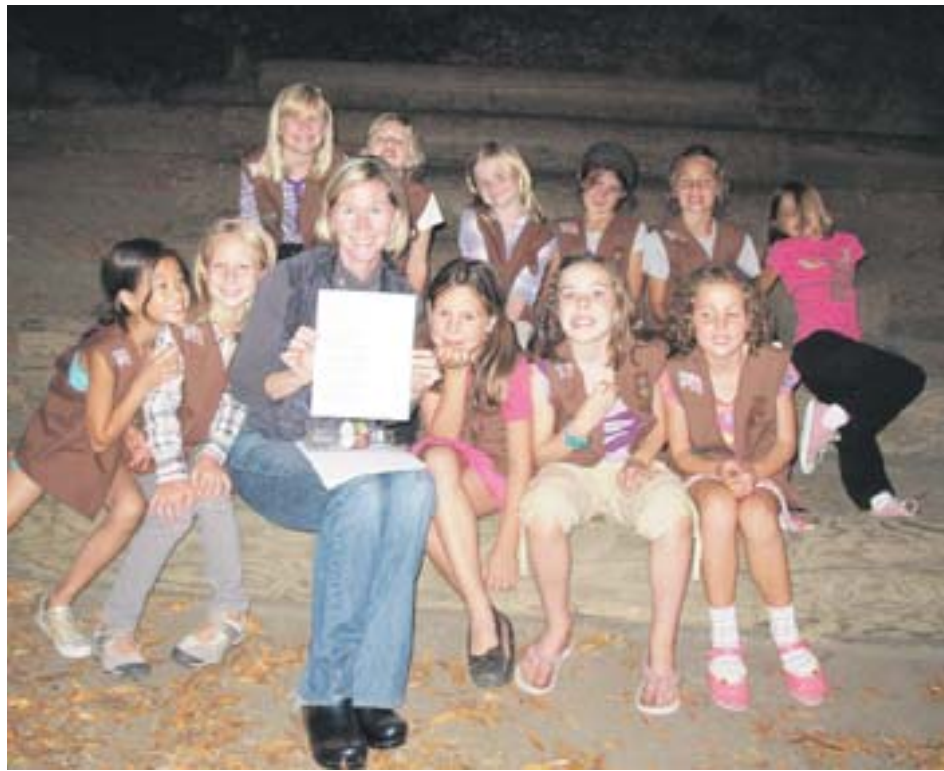


Photos provided

During the Leader Meeting held on September 27 at the beautiful Girl Scout Camp Twin Canyon, located in the heart of Lafayette, the Lafayette Service Unit welcomed the volunteers that stepped up to be leaders of new and existing Girl Scout troops. Cadette Scouts from Troop 30814 conducted the flag down ceremony at sunset during the meeting.

Brownie Scouts from Troop 30577 led the singing of the song "On My Honor" to kick off the start of the 100th year of Girl Scouting in the USA.

There are still girls looking for troops to join and a need for interested adults – male or female- to lead and/or co-lead troops. Without adult leaders, there is no Girl Scouting. To be a Girl Scout leader, you must be at least 18 years of age. You can volunteer to lead your daughter's troop, but if you don't have a daughter, you can still be a volunteer. You do not have to have any experience. Girl Scouts discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together, and you can be a part of it! Please contact us for more information at [www.lafayettegirlscouts.org](http://www.lafayettegirlscouts.org).



### Art Show at Terzetto's

Submitted by Leslie Swartz



Leslie Swartz and guests at Terzetto Cuisine

Photo provided

Terzetto Cuisine and Leslie Swartz, of the Moraga Art Gallery, teamed up for a "Post-Pear Festival" on Saturday, September 24, raising \$210 in donations

for the Moraga Educational Foundation. A large group attended Terzetto's after the festival, enjoying the gastronomic and artistic ambience.

### Moraga Women Sew and Donate Quilts to Post-Surgery Children

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Linda Campbell (left) and Barbara Bruner of Moraga display quilts that will be donated to children who are recovering from cleft lip/palate surgery in Central America. Photo provided

Moragans Linda Campbell and Barbara Bruner are leading the preparation and collection of many custom-made quilts which will comfort children in Central American countries who are recovering from cleft lip/palate surgery provided by volunteer medical organizations such as Rotaplast and Alliance for Smiles. The quilts are all custom designed and sewn by volunteer Rotarians, spouses, relatives and friends in Rotary District 5160; it can take from ten to twenty hours to complete each one. These donated quilts allow the children's parents, who are usually very poor, to take their recovering children home in something very nice, rather than a sheet of plastic.

Campbell visited all 67 of the Rotary Clubs in District 5160 in 2008-2009 when her husband Jim served as District Governor, and she solicited custom quilts and small knitted bears to give to children after surgery. Since many Ro-

tary Clubs wanted to commemorate the Governor's visit, the project developed quite a bit of enthusiasm, and Campbell received more than 650 quilts and 450 knitted bears, which were distributed to medical projects in East Africa and Central America.

Campbell is an active member of the Rotary Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists, and she and Bruner are in other quilting groups. Both are members of Rotary Club of Moraga, as is Campbell's husband, Jim. For many years, Campbell and Bruner have led the Moraga Rotary service project to make and deliver about 300 Christmas Stockings to children at the county juvenile hall.

Moraga Rotary 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.

### Girl Scouts Bring the Tropics to Moraga

Submitted by Kim Jinnett



Girl Scout Troop 30072 from Moraga recently painted a storage container at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School as part of a community service project. The Cadettes transformed a blue background into a tropical wonderland of colorful, bubbling, exotic fish. Principal Danilson, Mrs. Lezak and Ms. Moose Wesler were helpful

in providing ideas and supplies for the project. Ace Hardware of Moraga also donated paints, supplies and provided helpful advice. As leader Lori Sherman noted, "Each fish is a unique masterpiece!" This is the first of many community service projects Troop 30072 will be completing during this school year.



Troop 30072 from left, front row: Kenna, Maria, Lola, Kyra, Kendall, Chloe, Josie, Kiera, Jessie, Clare; back row: Genevieve, Jesse, Kim, Elle, Kiera, Maria, Juliet. Photo provided

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# TEEN SCENE

## Family Boats

By Morgan Hunter

People sometimes ask me what it's like having a divorce happen to your family.

I simply tell them this. Divorce is like owning a boat. Not just any boat. This is no dinky rowboat or clunky rental houseboat. Our boat is a sleek, fifty-foot yacht. It is a beautiful piece of art, with state-of-the-art navigation systems and the most powerful engine to date. It boasts all the best bells and whistles.

We love it. It's reliable. It can weather any storm. It has steered us clear of more hurricanes than we can remember. We always reach the harbor safely. We have total confidence that when problems arise, we are protected.

Lately there have been odd hiccups in the system. The engine just doesn't sound right, and sometimes we have to wrestle with the controls. Thinking that everything will right itself, we don't look closely at the engine. We don't dig deeper. Why should we? We've always been fine. There have never been any mishaps in the past.

We go out power sailing. It's a perfect calm. Then, silence. The engine stopped.

We shrug. It's probably nothing. We click off the controls, reset, and push the buttons to turn the engine back on again. Nothing happens. Engine is dead. Controls are unresponsive.

We climb down to the engine room, and throw open the hatch. A stinking cloud of black smoke greets us. *What?* We want to scream. *When did this happen?*

The gentle currents that rocked our boat become terrifying riptides, waiting eagerly to drown us. The formerly protective walls trap us in a rotting prison. The sea we sailed so many times is foreign and frightening. In the space of a heartbeat, we realize three things:

One, we passed out of sight of land hours ago, and are a far-cry from help.

Two, our boat is taking on water at a terrifying rate.

Three, despite all the warning signs, *we didn't check the engine.*

In our defense, we had no reason to inspect the engine room. We are just kids and everything up until this point has led us to believe that nothing was amiss.

Before we know it, our family boat has sunk and we're floating among the wreckage of our beautiful craft. Somehow we manage to crawl onto a broken piece of wood from the floating deck. The yacht is lost and we can't stop mourning. Panic stricken, we hover on a chunk of the former family stronghold as we attempt to remember a few important items:

1. None of this was our fault. Even if we had suspected the decomposition of our boat, there was nothing we could have done to stop it.

2. These were forces outside our control. Nothing we did contributed to the loss of our craft.

**We have two choices.**

1. We can stay lost in this sea of grief forever.

2. Or we can buck up, dry our tears, and start paddling.

The strangest thing happens as we choose survival with option two. We look around us to notice hundreds of other stragglers struggling to stay afloat on their pieces of flotsam. It dawns on us that together we could build a raft and paddle to safety. Who knows, with all the experience we have accumulated in the sailing world, we can be the captains of our own ships. This time not only will we tie the knots and hoist the sails, we'll check the engines. We will not be shipwrecked. We will pilot the family boat to forever.

We will survive.

*Morgan Hunter is a junior at Campolindo High School. She enjoys writing, drawing, red pandas, not doing things in a conventional manner, being helpful, and watermelon.*

The opinions expressed in Teen Scene are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

# College Application Blunders to Avoid

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

The fall college application cycle always is accompanied by an abundance of advice from college counselors about common application 'red flags.' In fact there are common mistakes that cause red flags and this article strives to provide an organizational framework for the most frequent culprits. Colleges review application differently, however, there are some basic mistakes that high school students should take pains to avoid.

### 1. Honesty and Integrity First:

Warning signals about character can be extremely damaging. Present your application honestly and authentically, taking care to not exaggerate accomplishments or let someone write or over polish your essay. Did you know that the University of California has a "truth in application" program, which randomly samples a number of applications for verification of extracurricular activities? And regarding essays, if the quality of the essay far exceeds what might be realistically expected from an applicant, the UC can choose to review an applicant's SAT or ACT essay (which is readily available on line) as a crosscheck.

### 2. Read and Follow Directions:

Include all required documents, and stay within the specified word or character count for essays and short responses. Last year, one student told me she wrote six 1500 word essays for a university supplement. The instructions stated that each response should be less than or equal to 1500 characters. The student was wait-listed at a university she was well-qualified to attend. Could that have been the reason? Not surprisingly, the student was far more upset by the time she wasted writing those long essays than by the waitlist offer she received!

### 3. Shallow and Broad Responses to Supplements:

Most admission officers read upwards of 40 applications per day—sometimes more. Many colleges add a unique supplement (a set of unique questions) for the student to answer. The college supplement is your opportunity to prove you can communicate substantive ideas effectively and intelligibly. The more selective the college, the more important it is to seize this chance to convince the col-

lege that you are prepared for college-level work. Think about your responses as an interview and give them your best effort. The largest mistake to avoid is the 'one size fits all' approach; this happens when a student comes up with a single response to "Why do you want to attend University X?" and uses the response on each college application. This is especially problematic when the student forgets to change the name of the university as he or she cuts and pastes the response into different applications!

### 4. Grammar and Punctuation:

Spelling and grammatical errors show carelessness and and/or poor time management skills. Read your application aloud and proofread it at least twice. This is the right time to ask someone knowledgeable to review your application before you hit the send key.

### 5. Preparation for Selected Major:

Discrepancies between lower grades and higher test scores can be explained (for example, you understand the material you just didn't like doing homework), however, one discrepancy that is hard to rationalize is your selection of major compared against a background that does nothing to confirm interest. You should think about high school as incremental preparation toward higher education. Every course selection and extracurricular activity is chosen to help you learn more about what

you do (and don't) want to study in college. If you claim on your application that you have yearned to be a doctor since 1st grade, there should be ample evidence over the intervening years to support your claim.

Colleges are trying to build a balanced community of incoming freshmen and they are actually seeking out evidence of your good qualities on your application. They want reasons to admit you. Take your application seriously and the colleges will take you seriously too.



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

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Advertising

# How Six Figure Income Families Get Thousands of Dollars in Free Money For College

Local man teaches free workshops to help parents save thousands in process

**Moraga---**East Bay parents that are planning on sending a child to college in the next few years, but aren't quite sure how to pay for it can now rest a little easier. Gerna Benz of Bay Area College Planners has been educating families in the community for over 15 years.

'It's really sad, but most parents that we talk to have done real well financially, but never found the time to save for college, and now they're facing a bill of \$18,000-\$45,000 a year, and they don't know who to turn to,' he says. 'Further, most of the time, all they hear is to not even bother applying for any aid because they make too much money. However, most of the time, that is simply not true even if they make a six-figure income.'

Gerna would know, because his group has worked with over 1400 families in the last 10 years ranging from single moms to corporate CEO's, and they say they can help anyone get through the process and save a bundle.... no matter how good of a student they have or how much money they make.

'I got started in this because I was a very good student, but no one told us anything about how to access money for college, or even how to pick a career...so I didn't go right away. But, I vowed that I would learn the process and devote my time to helping families not fall into the same trap that we did. 'Simply put, we show parents the truth that they aren't hearing anywhere else about how the college process really works and save thousands of dollars in the process.'

Lamorinda parents will have an opportunity

to hear Gerna speak. He is teaching his class 'How to Give Your Kid a 4-Year College Education Without Going Broke!' on Saturday October 22nd at the Moraga Library located at 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga, CA 94556 from 11:00am-12:30pm.

'We'll discuss everything from the greatest myths about the college process, to how to send your student to a fancy private school for less than the cost of a junior college...it'll be like learning how to get a brand new Lexus for the price of a used pick up truck,' he grins.

Topics will also include why private scholarships and 529 plans are a waste of time, how to double or even triple the amount of free money you receive from each school, and how to avoid the one mistake that will kill your chances of getting any money at all that almost every other parent will make this coming January, and much, much more.

'They will learn a ton, and I do my best to make the class fun,' he says. 'It's like I'm giving them a super bright flash light to navigate a pitch black cave, while all the other parents continue to stumble around blindly! 'Don't forget: the class is totally free, but seats are limited. Also, we are not sure when we will be teaching these classes in the East Bay again since my October and November calendars are already filling up, so come on out and see me.' You can reserve a seat online at [www.baycollegeplanners.com](http://www.baycollegeplanners.com) or by calling our 24 hour reservation line at (877) 924-3726.

## Students Recognized for Academic Excellence

Submitted by Jacqueline Nerney Welch



Photo Barbara Elliott

Front row, from left: Aislinn Welch, Hunter Welch, Carissa Zhu, and Jeffrey Zhu, all students from Moraga, were recently honored as some of the brightest young students in the nation at a statewide awards ceremony for gifted children sponsored by The Johns Hopkins

University Center for Talented Youth (CTY). The students are pictured with CTY Master of Ceremonies Valerie Patten, M.C. and Lawrence Bliss, Director of Academic Advising and Career Education at Cal State Hayward. For more information on CTY go to [www.cty.jhu.edu](http://www.cty.jhu.edu).

# ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

## 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. The Hearst Art Gallery is open from Wednesdays through Sundays, 11am-4:30pm. Admission is \$4 for adults; free for groups, K-12th graders. For more information, please call (925) 631-4379.

**The Lamorinda Arts Alliance** is pleased to announce the return of Open Studios on Saturday, October 22 and Sunday, October 23, 11am-4pm. Open Studios will showcase 29 artists in a variety of media including watercolor, pottery, jewelry, acrylic and oil paintings, garden sculpture and glass. Maps are available at [www.laa4arts.com](http://www.laa4arts.com), Lafayette

Gallery, Moraga Gallery or Lafayette Studio and at the Opening Reception. The public is invited to meet the artists and preview the art at our Open Studios Reception on October 21 from 5 - 7pm at the Lafayette Studio, 3506A Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette.

**"Textures, Layers and Lines"** is a small group show featuring the works of four artists: Dalia Alekna, pastel artist and jewelry maker; Paula Boas, abstract painter; Linda Yoshizawa, printmaker; and potter Martha Kean. The show uses process and imagery to suggest a history or story beyond just a beautiful piece of art. Join us for a free reception to meet and talk with the artists on October 14, 5pm-8pm, at the Lafayette Gallery, 50 Lafayette Circle (across from Chow). Refreshments will be served. The show is open through October 29.

**The exhibit at the Orinda Library art gallery** for November will feature the following artists: Kim Wong, painting;

Terry Riggins, Photos; Thomas Tanney-hill, Block prints.

## MUSIC

**Big band dance and concert with the Big Band Of Rossmoor** at The Veterans Memorial Building presented by Generations In Jazz on Friday Oct 14. 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, 4pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. Free admission; freewill offering. Contact: Martin Morley, (925) 283-3722, [martin@oslcc.net](mailto:martin@oslcc.net).

**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, 4pm at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, 94549 Tickets: \$10-\$60 (510) 836-0789. For more info and tickets: [www.cantareconvivo.org](http://www.cantareconvivo.org).

**AUHSD Fall Choral Classic Concerts.** October 18 and 20 at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr. beginning at 7:30pm. All Seats General Admission. Suggested Donation \$5 for Adults and \$3 for Seniors 60 and older, Students Free. Mixed Choirs with Guest Conductor, Lori Marie Rios 10/18/11. Women's Choirs with Guest Conductor, Morna Edmundson 10/20/11. Miramonte, Campolindo, Acalanes, and Las Lomas High Schools participating.

**Afternoon Jazz Piano at the Library** Featuring Members of the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society Presented by Lafayette Senior Services. Open to All Ages. Enjoy the music of these talented musicians as they bring out the best of the library's beautiful Steinway piano. Light refreshments will be served thanks. Please call Lafayette Senior Services at 284-5050 to reserve a seat. Fri: 10/21, 1:30 - 2:30pm, Community Hall, Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. \$3 Members / \$5 Non-Members.

**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, 2pm, St. Mary's College Chapel, Moraga, and October 23, 2 pm, St. Stephen Catholic Church, 1101 Keaveny Ct., Walnut Creek. [www.vmschorus.org](http://www.vmschorus.org), (925) 944-5239

**To commemorate the October birthday** of journalist/musician Daniel Pearl, who was abducted and killed by extremists in Pakistan in 2002, Temple Isaiah will host a special concert to be held Sunday afternoon, October 23 at 2pm at its hilltop sanctuary in Lafayette, California. Admission is free and open to the public. Temple Isaiah is located at 3800 Mount Diablo Blvd., with its entrance on Risa Road. For further information please contact Michael Gill ([mg@maxjas.com](mailto:mg@maxjas.com)) or the Temple Isaiah office at (925) 283-8575.

**Carol Alban and Friends in Concert, Tuesday, October 25, 7pm** Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Carol Alban (flute/vocals) recently founded the Moraga and Orinda Jazz Festivals and teaches privately in Moraga. Her guest artists perform and tour widely. This free pre-Halloween concert is open to all. Preregistration is recommended at either [www.cclib.org](http://www.cclib.org) or (925) 376-6852, ext 200.

**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](http://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.thtc.org](http://www.thtc.org).

**The Fratello Marionettes present "Vaudeville Follies"** on Saturday, October 15, 2 pm, Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd. A 30 minute marionette variety show performed in the spirit of the old time music hall by a cast of singers, dancers, clowns, classical trick marionettes, and a trained dog, Puddles. Puppeteers perform in full view of the audience, with sophisticated marionettes that range from one to three feet tall! Free and open to all ages.

**DVC Drama presents Romeo and Juliet** by William Shakespeare, directed by Nicole Hess-Diestler, Oct 14th - Nov 6th; Fridays, Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2:30pm; Diablo Valley College Performing Arts Center. Order tickets at (925) 687-4445 or [www.dvcdrama.net](http://www.dvcdrama.net).

**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](http://www.lfef.org).

**Please join Futures Explored and Joey Travolta** at a Red Carpet event that will feature a screening of short films created by campers who attended the 2011 Inclusion Film Camp. The event will include an award presentation and refreshments. Location: St. Mary's College, Moraga Room at the Soda Center, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. When: Sunday, October 23, 4-6:30pm. Ticket price is \$15 per person. Purchase tickets at [http://www.futures-explored.org/film\\_camp\\_red\\_carpet\\_2011.html](http://www.futures-explored.org/film_camp_red_carpet_2011.html).

## LECTURE &amp; LITERATURE

**The Saint Mary's College of California Creative Writing Series** presents: a Reading and Craft Conversation with Ryan Van Meter whose essay collection "If You Knew Then What I Know Now" was published in 2011 by Sarabande Books. Reading: Wednesday, October 12, 7:30pm, Soda Center. Craft Conversation: Wednesday, October 12, 2:30 pm, Hagerty Lounge. How does one write honestly and compellingly about the experiences of childhood and adolescence without repeating what's already been done? Literary nonfiction writer Ryan Van Meter will demonstrate how figurative language can fold a child's sensibility into an adult narrator's voice. Free and open to the public.

**The centennial of California women winning** the right to vote in October, 1911, is being marked by the Contra Costa County and Martinez Historical Societies with a series of five talks on various aspects of the historic campaign here in Contra Costa County as well as across the State of California. The series will be held on five consecutive Thursday evenings beginning at 7pm at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Martinez starting October 13 and continuing through November 10. For further information call (925) 229-1042. Suggested donation: \$5.

**The Friends of the Moraga Library** will celebrate National Friends of Libraries Week October 16-22. We will have a table in the library staffed to explain our organization during day opening hours and have a display in the foyer of the library as well.

**On October 25th at 6:30pm 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, Califor-

nia'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: 5:45pm check-in, 6:30pm program. Cost: \$22 standard, \$12 members, \$7 students.

**Join an informative and entertaining Berkeley Rep** docent to hear all about award winning playwright Bill Cain's newest work, "How to Write a New Book for the Bible". In this poignant new play a man moves in with his mother when she becomes too frail to care for herself. Their reunion heals old wounds, opening a humorous and heart-felt chapter in their relationship. Respected director Kent Nicholson returns to the Bay Area for this world premiere. Free and open to the public, and pre-registration is not required. Moraga Library, 1500 Moraga Rd., Moraga.

**The cathedral of Notre Dame is the topic** of Orinda Library's next Fireside Chat on Tuesday, October 26, at 6:30pm. George Hammond from Humanities West returns to discuss the iconic structure and the place it held at the center of Paris during the Middle Ages. This program is free, open to everyone. The Orinda Library is located at 26 Orinda Way in Orinda, for more information please call (925) 254-2184 or visit the library's website at [cclib.org](http://cclib.org).

## KIDS

**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.

**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!

**Lamorinda Moms 14th Annual Pre-school Fair, Thursday, November 3, 6:30-8:30pm** at Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. Representatives from more than 35 Lamorinda preschools will be available to discuss their programs and answer questions. Children are welcome! This FREE event is open to Lamorinda Moms members as well as the general community.

## HALLOWEEN

**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.

**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. (Or scared big kids). October 21 & 23, 28-31, 7-11pm 'til midnight on Halloween. \$8.00 admission (sold at door) [www.hauntworld.com](http://www.hauntworld.com). (See sidebar, page A4)

**Lafayette Youth Commission's Annual Haunted House** Fri., 10/28 & Sun., 10/30. Time: 5:00-7:00pm. (Not Too Scary; Parents accompany children 7 & under) and 7:30-9:30pm (Very Scary; for children 8 & over.) Lafayette Community Center, Live Oak Room, Ages 7 & Under: \$3 • Ages 8 & over: \$5.

## BREAST CANCER MONTH

**Get Your Pink On! Team Lafayette is selling wristbands** for \$5 - 100% of profits go to the American Cancer Society. On sale at the following four locations: Lafayette Health Club, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Lafayette Park and Rec Center, and Lafayette City Offices.

## Lamorinda's Religious Services



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[www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://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  
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**BREAST CANCER MONTH**  
... continued

**On October 15th, "The Many Faces of Breast Cancer"** will take place at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, from 10am-12pm. This educational community event focuses on the unique needs and issues of survivors, providing the latest information on breast cancer. Heather Quarterman from KKDV 92.1 FM will be the moderator and medical experts will speak on issues effecting survivors and offer insight into treatment options and lifestyle changes that can help with rehabilitation. The event is sponsored by Diablo Valley Oncology, the American Cancer Society, and the Cancer Support Community. There is no charge for the event, however reservations are required as seating is limited. RSVP at (925) 677-5041, xtn 231.

**A special Breast Cancer Awareness event entitled "Pink Up The Mall"** will be taking place throughout the month of October at the Sunvalley Shopping Center. Merchants of the mall will feature "Pink" themed merchandise and special discount offers. The highlight of the event will take place on October 16th at 1pm in the Grand Court. Breast Cancer survivors will be recognized by their oncologists and surgeons and featured in a Surviving in Style Fashion Show. Open to the public.

**Spooky Sweets on Sale at the Lafayette Parks and Rec** Haunted House Friday, Oct. 28th & Sunday, Oct. 30th - Fortify your nerves and shore up your sweet tooth with an Edible Eyeball or Creep Crawly Cupcake before heading into the Youth Commission's House of Haunts - Thirsty? Try a tumbler full of swamp juice. The Lafayette Youth Commission will donate all proceeds of this bake sale to American Cancer Society and they'll be selling some pretty cool Community United T-Shirts, too!

**OTHER**

**Bath Simple & Canyon Construction presents "A Night of Wine & Bathroom Design"** on Wednesday, October 12 from 6:30pm - 8:30pm. Bath Simple's Founder and Lead Product Designer will discuss how new systems and products are streamlining the workflow for contractors and improving the customer experience for homeowners remodeling their bathrooms; several Bay Area bathrooms will be featured as case studies. Link to event details and RSVP: <http://paperless.ly/oLCSKh>. Cost: Free and open to the public.

**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.

**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. (See article on page A5)

**WomenSing presents WomenSing's Annual Gala** on Sunday, Oct 16, from 4 to 7pm, at Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. WomenSing's Annual Gala kick-off. Win a \$500 cash door prize and let SoVoSo, a premiere a cappella ensemble, entertain you. Great food and wine. Cost: General Admission \$45.00, Reserved Seating \$75.00. For more info see <http://www.womensing.org> or call (925) 974-9169 or email [info@womensing.org](mailto:info@womensing.org).

**Saint Mary's Guild Italian Night: Thursday, October 20, 5-9pm** at the Soda Center, Saint Mary's College; featuring Italian cuisine & music by Gene Falcone. \$32.00 per person. Contact Pat Wiegmann, Saint Mary's College Guild, P.O.Box 3002, Saint Mary's College, 94575. Proceeds to benefit SMC scholarship fund.

**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/lafayetteadance](http://sites.google.com/site/lafayetteadance).

**Widowed Persons Support Group sessions** are on-going at 10am 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.

**A Journey with Mercy Ships October 23, 11:30am,** Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. All are welcome to attend a presentation and slide show by our member John Creech on his latest tour with Mercy Ships to Sierra Leone, Africa. Mercy Ships is a global charity that has operated hospital ships in developing nations since 1978. Mercy Ships brings hope and healing to the forgotten poor by mobilizing people and resources worldwide, and serving all people without regard for race, gender, or religion.

**Who's Who in the Lafayette Cemetery?** Join one or two of the Lafayette Historical Society's events in October and find out! Wednesday, October 26 at 3pm in the Arts & Science Room in the Lafayette Library & Learning Center, hear about the history of the Cemetery. Sunday, October 30 at 1:30 pm Mary McCosker takes us on our first ever walking tour of the cemetery. She will point out the gravesites of the well known settlers of our area. Please send an email with your reservation or questions to [lafayette.history@comcast.net](mailto:lafayette.history@comcast.net) or call the History Room, or call (925) 283-1848.

**19th Annual Lafayette Reservoir Run October 30.** Over 2,500 participants compete in a 10K, 5K or 2 mile race through the heart of downtown Lafayette, around the reservoir and back. Sprinters, walkers, the "stroller brigade" and many of Lafayette's top four legged residents. Race times begin at 8am and "day of" registration begins at 6:30am. Pre-registration can be done by visiting the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce website, [www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org) or [www.active.com](http://www.active.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 7pm 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. For details, call Keith at 925.376.3269 or Leasa at 925.631.6650, or e-mail [K6KWR@arrl.ORG](mailto:K6KWR@arrl.ORG).

**Special Event for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital** on Sunday November 6, 8:30am, Lafayette Moraga Trail; Stanley Middle School to Olympic Blvd. and return. Come participate in Lafayette in a Walkathon to benefit St. Jude and join us in reaching our goal of \$10,000.00 to help St. Jude Children's Research Hospital fight pediatric cancer and other catastrophic diseases. You can register on line at [St.Jude.org/special-events.com](http://St.Jude.org/special-events.com) or contact Andria at [StJude-walkathon@yahoo.com](mailto:StJude-walkathon@yahoo.com).

**POLITICAL GATHERINGS**

**The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley and the Social Justice Council** of the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church present a Celebration of 100 Years of Women's Right to Vote in California. The party and opportunity to meet your Electeds will take

place on Saturday, October 15, 2-5 pm at the new Bortin Fellowship Hall at the church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Wine, cheese, finger food, pink tea, and singing. Wear suffragist colors of white, yellow and/or purple if you can. All are welcome to attend. Wheel Chair Accessible. \$10 donation.

**CLUBS**

**Moraga Women' Society program, Monday, October 17:** Stevie Mann will speak about her work in Oakland and Richmond as a crime and violence prevention consultant. She has written four national crime prevention books and is a nationally recognized expert in the field. At Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Meeting 9:30am; speaker 10:45am. All are welcome.

**Lamorinda Toastmasters will be hosting Ed Alter of SpeechSkills LLC** in an evening dedicated to the nurturing and development of public speaking and leadership skills. The event will be held at the Social Hall of Temple Isaiah in Lafayette, 7:30-9pm on Tuesday, October 18. Anyone Interested in improving public speaking and leadership skills is invited. Please contact the club at (925) 385-8793, or e-mail to [membership@lamorinda.freesthost.net](mailto:membership@lamorinda.freesthost.net).

**The American Association of University Women, Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette Branch (AAUW, OML)** invites the general public to our October 18, 2011 meeting. Helen Hutchison, President of the League of Women Voters, Oakland, will be speaking about the Initiative and Referendum Process. Ms. Hutchison will discuss the history of the process and focus on California. Is California's process different than other states? She will also review issues identified with the CURRENT initiative and referendum process in California. The meeting will be held from 9:30-11:30am at the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Cultural Center, 1700 School Street in Moraga.

**The Moraga Garden Club will see a demonstration** in container gardening by Susanne Frey at their general meeting on October 20th It will be held at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center on School St. in Moraga at 10am. Ms. Frey is the owner of Seasons Landscape Design and will discuss the choice of containers, plants and techniques. Interested parties are welcome to attend.

**Montelindo Garden Club meeting Friday, October 21,** Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Gary Gragg, who is the President of Golden Gate Palms and Exotics in Richmond, California, will discuss subtropical gardening for Northern California. Gary's design work can be seen throughout the Bay Area, including residential communities, avenues, public buildings and the Oakland Zoo. He is also the host of HGTV's "Superscapes". The lecture is

at 10:30am and a plant sale and refreshments are at 9am. The event is free and the public is cordially invited to attend.

**"Family Quilts" was the theme of the October meeting** of the Acalanes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, (DAR). Members displayed their family quilts and shared stories about their quilt's history. If you are interested in joining DAR and can prove a direct ancestral link to a Revolutionary War patriot, please call Pat Peterson at (925) 284-9590 or email her at [pat\\_p94549@yahoo.com](mailto:pat_p94549@yahoo.com).

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**8:00am Downtown Lafayette**

Parking available at BART

**2 Mile Run/Walk (8:00am) • 5K (8:30am) • 10K (8:45am)**

To register, go to [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) or [www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org)  
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# WSA – Working at the Frontier Between ‘For Profit’ and Academia

By Sophie Braccini



Jim Allan discusses findings with WSA scientists in the lab. Photos Sophie Braccini

**B**eware: scientists at work, high brain energy in the air – yet all is quiet in the offices of WSA, both in the Orinda office and the lab in Walnut Creek. WSA is an Orinda-based cultural resources management consulting firm where archeologists operate on the fine line between ‘for profit’ and academic work.

Headed by Jim Allan in Orinda,

who also teaches at Saint Mary’s College, and William Self in Arizona, the firm is called upon to investigate sites that are going to be disturbed, mostly by construction. Per regulations, all that work has to be paid by the project’s developer. “We used to hear a lot of complaints about these costs,” says Allan, “but now people are used to it and they know it is part of the game.” This

work can also lead to significant discoveries.

When a site contains elements of historical significance, archeologists must identify the findings, and depending on their importance, document, record, and/or preserve what was in the soil. If the findings are significant enough, a project may be modified or the findings archived in a State or National repository; sometimes resulting a published scientific article.

WSA was founded by archeologist William Self when he lived in Orinda. The archeologist took Allan as a partner and went to open a new branch of the company in Tucson, Arizona. Allan leads the California operation and a team of 22 scientists with advanced degrees, nearly half of whom hold a Ph.D.

He is also a specialist in sub-marine archeology (he takes a group of students to Bermuda every summer to research shipwrecks) and teaches at Saint Mary’s College. “Having both occupations is a ton of fun,” says Allan, “With the consulting work we are ‘doing’ archeology – it is profit oriented and has to be on time and on budget. Working with students is very energizing. The students push me and I can pursue scholarly interests with much less of a timeline.”

Locally WSA is finishing the preservation work around the construction of a shopping center in Pleasant Hill. “We knew from previous work that the site was a Native American settlement and burial site,” said Allan, “we were not expecting to find so many remains when we submitted our proposal.”

Just digging the trenches for utilities and other necessities in the parking lot uncovered 120 burial sites.

“What the tribal descendants wanted was that all the human remains that were excavated because of the construction be placed in a vault and buried back on the premises after proper ceremonies are performed.” Allan declined to indicate the exact location of the remains because it was the desire of the Native Americans not to identify it in any way.

A lot of the research work took place in WSA’s lab. Scientists studied the bones and drew conclusions on the type of life the indigenous people lived. “We’ve found two layers of settlements,” explains Rhea Sanchez, who particularly works on animal bones, “One that dates back 400 to 500 years and another one that’s more than a thousand years old.”

From their findings, the archeologists draw conclusions on the way of life of the native tribes, their migration patterns, what they ate, their religious and symbolic life. In the lab, the young scientists are still studying bones bearing symbolic carvings and pear-shaped carved stones that took hours to shape, hypothesizing on their functions.

WSA has been involved in several significant projects in the Bay

Area, including the Carquinez Bridge and the Bay Front Shopping Center. Closer to home, the consulting firm was asked its opinion of the J&J Ranch development project that comprises the historical Joaquin Moraga Adobe, constructed in approximately 1841, which is the oldest remaining adobe residence in Contra Costa County.

WSA evaluated archeological and paleontological resources on the site and identified potential project-related impacts, and completed a stand-alone Cultural Resources Assessment Report. The report, ordered by the City of Orinda, was conducted in collaboration with Architectural Resources Group that studied the historical and cultural resource assessment of the project. WSA concluded that the Moraga Adobe site, based on preliminary archeological site reconnaissance, appears eligible for listing as a historical resource. The consultants made several recommendations in the design of the project to limit its impact on the site (final decisions have not been made on this project).

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



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## business briefs

**Ribbon Cutting for Studio Jule**  
1024 Oak Hill Road, Lafayette  
385-0155, www.jlapportephoto.com

On Thursday, October 13 at 5:00 p.m., Studio Jule will hold a ribbon cutting to celebrate its installation in a charming little downtown bungalow. Juleen Lapporte, the talented Lafayette resident and photographer, decided after about nine years in business to move her operations out of her home. “My family told me that they wanted to see pictures of themselves in the house, not of clients anymore!” With two teenage daughters in the house, it was time to separate her family and work life. Lapporte started her professional career as an environmental scientist analyzing data for Quality Assurance/Quality Control. After having children she looked for another way to balance her life. Lapporte finds that her work brings out the artist in her, while still using some of her love of math and science. “There is a scientific part to photography that has to do with the effect of light on people and places,” she says, “and math is definitely needed for the business part.” Being a professional photographer in a time where everyone has image capturing devices constantly with them and take pictures all the time can be challenging. “In fact it takes years to understand how light can express emotions, and that cannot be done with an iPhone,” says Lapporte, “I love that people can capture some precious little moments of life on their own, but there are times you need a professional that will create a work of art...I love being around people,” she says, “When somebody comes to me, usually the mom, we talk about what they are looking for. If I take a picture of a whole family, I like to have a little time with the kids to keep the atmosphere relaxed and playful. I guide them and they guide me. What also makes the portrait special is that we have fun doing it.” Lapporte has gotten all her work so far through word of mouth and feels grateful for the community she lives in. She participates in fundraisers for schools and is also a volunteer with ‘Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep’ (www.nowilaymedowntosleep.org) a non-profit that takes photos of children who are not going to go home from the hospital, as a gift for their family. “It’s very hard, but it feels right,” says Lapporte.

**News from the three Chambers of Commerce**

- Lafayette**
- The Chamber continues to support “Team Lafayette”, a group of city staffers that raises money for cancer research. The group was created three years ago by Town staff members Dana Anderson, Michael Cass and Lisa Martin to support a colleague who was going through treatment for breast cancer. The group is partners with Lafayette businesses (including Mangia Ristorante on October 5 and Powell’s Sweet Shoppe on October 12) that give a percentage of their sale on a specific day. “Wrist bands supporting them are on sale at the Chamber of Commerce Offices at 100 Lafayette Circle, suite 103,” said Barbara Gilmore.
  - Monthly Mixer on October 12, 2011 at ManorCare Health Services, 5:30-7:00 pm, 1226 Rossmoor Parkway, Walnut Creek.
  - Optimizing LinkedIn for Local Business Networking Workshop presented by Robin Fox, October 19, 8 am at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center. Reserve your seat at workshops@lafayettechamber.org.
  - Ribbon Cutting for Robert Jenson Salon, October 20, 5:00 pm at 999 Oak Hill Road.
  - 19th Annual Reservoir Run on Sunday, October 30, 6:30-10:00 am. For more information go to lafayettechamber.org/events/reservoir-run. Registration table opens at 6:30 am.
- Moraga**
- Chamber Mixer & Speaker on Tuesday, October 25, 6:00-8:00 pm at the former Moraga Swim and Tennis Club, 1161 Larch Ave. Moraga. Hosted by the Moraga Country Club; with wine and cheese. Speaker Topic: Understanding the “Cloud.”
- Orinda**
- Business Neighborhood Watch Meeting on Thursday, October 13, 8:00 a.m., at Kattenburg Architects, 11 Moraga Way, #3, Orinda. Next meeting of the group that aims at preventing crime in Orinda businesses, supported by the Orinda Police Department. Coffee will be provided. RSVP via email to info@orindachamber.org or phone (925) 254-3909.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)



# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Campolindo Defeats Acalanes in Rivalry Match

By Alex Kozela



Joseph Dreyer (44) runs it into the endzone for Acalanes' only touchdown against Campolindo Photo Doug Kohen

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 begun the season undefeated with a 6-0 overall record and a 2-0 Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL) record, and last Thursday, October 7th added an exclamation point with a commanding 42-7 road victory over Lamorinda rival, Acalanes.

"Early in the year, everyone had us picked at the bottom of the league," said Campolindo head coach Kevin Macy. "They surprised me. I didn't think that we could do something like this, but so many things came together tonight. Every kid was involved from top to bottom. I'm impressed with the way the kids played."

After a scoreless first quarter, the Dons started the onslaught with a short run to the end zone with 9:35 left in the second quarter to go up 7-0. The Cougars then went on to score two more second quarter touchdowns courtesy of junior quarterback Brett Stephens and senior wide receiver Karl Thornton, making it 21-0 at the half.

Campolindo would continue to punish the Dons in the second half with touchdowns from senior running backs Connor Rosenbaum and Reiner Ebarle before Acalanes was able to score behind senior running back Joseph Dreyer just before time ran out. The win was the Cougars' fifth blowout of the season, which includes a 37-7 win over Moreau Catholic, a 49-7 win over Ygnacio Valley, and a 55-20 win over St. Patrick/St. Vincent.

Macy attributes health as one of the main reasons his team, who faces Dublin (4-1, 1-0) for their homecoming game on Friday, October 14th, is performing well.

"We're sort of thin everywhere, we're a small team, but we're keeping people healthy, and we didn't know where we'd be this far into the year," he said. "Kids are finding their roles and things are starting to work for everybody."

However, the opposite is the case for Mike Ivanovich's injury-hit Acalanes team. The Dons have had at least two starters out since the first game of the season and lost two players to injury against Campolindo.

"We had catastrophic injuries, and our team never got to play," he

said. "That's what's disappointing to me. We never got to see our team. We've got so many injuries and, the teams at the top of the standings have won their games and they've stayed healthy."

While the Dons (2-4, 0-2) won their first two nonconference games 49-0 over Ygnacio Valley and 28-21 over Skyline, they lost the next three by a combined 14 points, including a 24-14 loss to local rivals Miramonte on September 30.

"We've lost three games in a row - two of them with a minute left - but were trying to continue to go but it's been really hard," said Ivanovich. "It's really hard for young guys to come back every week fired up after having such

heartbreaking losses."

Despite the four-game losing streak, Ivanovich is hopeful that these losses will motivate his players, who face Alhambra (2-4, 0-2) on Friday, to keep improving.

"You either come out and play as hard as you can and try to keep getting better and deal with adversity in a way that's productive, or you give up," Ivanovich said. "There are going to be a lot harder things in life that our guys are going to have to deal with, and as far as I'm concerned this prepares you with that. How you deal with the situation, how you manage this mentally is how you manage those things later."

### Miramonte Remains Undefeated



QB Ross Anderson (9) and RB Luke Carrillo (38) Photo Doug Kohen

Campolindo isn't the only local team to boast an undefeated record. Orinda's Miramonte also has a 6-0 overall record as well as a 2-0 DFAL record and have been every bit as impressive as their rivals from Moraga.

After squeezing past Analy 36-35, the Matadors went on to post non-conference wins over Kennedy, Fremont, and Liberty before defeating DFAL teams Acalanes and Dougherty Valley 24-14 and 29-14, respectively.

"The key to our success is offensively keeping teams off balance," said Miramonte head coach Jack Schram. "The defense has been doing a great job bending but not breaking and not giving up big plays, and offensively we're making big plays."

The team will look to continue making big plays and keeping its streak alive Friday against Las Lomas (5-0, 1-0).

"They're a very well coached team," said Schram. "They're huge, they're very physical, they have a distinct size advantage, and it's going to be a very tough game for us. If we have to turn it into a shootout, then hopefully we'll come out on top, but our game plan is just to outscore them."

Miramonte travels to Campolindo to take on the Cougars on October 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the final Lamorinda rivalry match of the regular season.

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## SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

### LMSC Takes Third Place

Submitted by Andrew Jenkins



Back row, from left: Jasko Habibi (coach), Matty Ringquist, Scottie Smythe, Payson Newman, Charlie Delamore, Mason McKay, Richard Gong, Alejandro Cardenas, Hugh Olsen; front row: Zach Jenkins, Ben Nash, Seppi Ortman, Alvin Sanchez, Roin Flynn, Kai Weyland, Manny Pestana, Tom Higgins. Photo provided

The LMSC U13 boys placed third in the Dublin Fall Classic Soccer Tournament. They beat East Diablo, 3-1.



### Boys Finish 1,3 in 7k Race

Submitted by Dan Mader



From left: Peyton Dabasinskas with Jack Mader Photo provided

Two Orinda Intermediate School boys placed in the Male 8-12 age group at the Bridge to Bridge 7k Race in San Francisco held on Sunday, October 2. Jack Mader finished in first place with a time of 29.43 and Peyton Dabasinskas finished third place with a time of 32.22.

### Orinda Aquatics Competes in Open Water Challenge

Submitted by Julie Carlson



Bottom row, from left: Sven Campbell, Albert Miao, Christine Lum, Sam Swinton; middle row: Megan Howard, Megan Fuqua, Jenna Haufler, Talbot Jacobs; top row: Alexa Hanley, Mitchell Carlson, Cameron Hoyh Photo Wendy Jacobs

Orinda Aquatics swimmers participated in the annual RCP Tiburon Mile Open Water Swim. Participants swam one nautical mile from Angel Island to Tiburon, braving the 58 degree water without wetsuits on Sunday, September 18.

Open water swimming expert Rick Arnason trained the OA participants with a practice swim the day before the big race at San Francisco Aquatic Park.

For many of the 12 participants, this was their first time attempting the Tiburon Mile. In the non-wetsuit division, swimmers included: Meghan Bicomong, Mitchell Carlson, Megan Fuqua, Alexa Hanley, Jenna Haufler, Cameron Hoyh, Megan Howard, Talbot Jacobs, Christine Lum, Albert Miao, and Sam Swinton.

Sven Campbell came in second in the wetsuit division.

Several OA Masters swimmers participated as well, including Cathy Hanley, Ramey Stevens and Karen Humphreys.

Orinda Aquatics, Inc. is a year-round swimming program for the youth of Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette and surrounding areas.

### Teen Competes in South America Karate Tournament

Submitted by Mari-jo Suzuki



Photo Tom Wellbrook

The 2011 XXII Junior Pan American Championships for karate was held in Fortaleza, Brazil on September 1-3. Moraga teen Chris Wellbrook captured a silver medal at this prestigious tournament, where he competed against athletes from Central, South and North America. Wellbrook is a senior at Campolindo High School where he also wrestles.

## Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA

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# SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

## Three Top Recommendations for the Recruited Athlete

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Adding sports to the college admission equation can make an already complex and time-consuming process more confusing and emotional. The "official visit" to the college is a prime example of one of the events that is often fraught with anxiety. October is the primary season for "official visits" for many collegiate sports. You can go on unofficial visits any time you wish but the number of official trips is limited. On these formal visits, and over the weeks that follow, many disappointments can be avoided if you plan well. Here are 5 great strategies to avoid stress and increase your odds of making sound decisions.

**1. Think Reciprocal Evaluation:** Many athletes experience so much anxiety about an official visit that they forget an important aspect that can help them feel more at ease. Yes, you are being evaluated, but you too should be doing your share of evaluation. You are checking out the sports program in general, the team in particular and, most important of all, the college environment that houses it all. An athlete can decide the experience does not match up with her expectations or the coach can drop a student from the recruitment list because they get thumbs down from the Admissions Department. It is a two way street.

**2. Use the Overnight Stay Wisely:** Most coaches will invite recruits for an overnight stay and this visit typically includes a team practice, an interview with the coach and a dorm sleepover with a team member. This is an important opportunity to evaluate whether the coaching style will bring out the best in you as an athlete and the social environment matches your personal values and interests. If the team's idea of making you feel welcome is to keep you awake all night partying with kegs of beer, you need to determine if that is how you want to spend your next four years.

**3. Remember Admissions Has the Final Word:** Ultimately, you must get admitted to the school before you can play sports at the college. A coach has only so much say in the matter. Your transcript, test scores, and personal statements must be reviewed by an admissions officer or in committee. How colleges do this varies, but the end result is you must be a successful applicant to be a successfully recruited athlete. If you want more acceptance letters or an athletic and/or academic scholarship, be certain to consider some schools where your athletic and academic skills and abilities are stronger than those of your peers and fellow recruits.

**4. Get Educated about College Athletic Scholarships:** The expectations of parents and athletes often differ sharply from the financial realities of college athletics. Sources differ in their estimates, but most agree that the average athletic scholarship is around \$10,000—and this figure includes the glamour sports of football and basketball. The average scholarship is often far less since coaches must adhere to strict NCAA guidelines regarding mandatory annual renewals and no year to year guarantees. Scholarships are typically split and distributed across a team because most institutions do not fully finance "non-revenue" sports like soccer, baseball, swimming and track and field. The scholarship an athlete is offered is likely to pale in comparison to the \$20,000 to \$40,000 bill the college sends for tuition and fees alone. Nearly every parent that spends years sitting on the sidelines at youth sporting events dreaming of

that elusive sports scholarship experiences a wake-up call when this reality hits.

**5. Keep Your Options Open:** A word to the wise is to keep several college options in the mix until the Early Application deadlines pass. Coaches may insist on a verbal commitment before that time. However, it is in your best interests to stay neutral until you have more information. You should be certain the formal visits go well, have written confirmation that admissions approves your application, and be clear about finances before you commit. You can be direct and honest by telling the coach that his/her college is one of your top choices, but you and your family are still visiting colleges and reviewing affordability issues.

College sports can be rewarding and fun, but the extra commitment taxes the student's energy and can limit academic options. There are 6 AM practices, team meetings, and long bus and plane trips to games. Team commitments often limit the college coursework students can take, and sometimes even the selection of a competitive major, like engineering or pre med. Getting informed and being prepared at the onset can help to ensure the sacrifices are outweighed by the rewards of collegiate sports.



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

## Saint Mary's Defeats No. 17 Santa Clara



Photo Tod Fierner

Senior Agustin Cazarez (#11) scored the winning goal for Saint Mary's on Friday, October 7 against No. 17 Santa Clara. Cazarez scored in the 52nd minute to put SMC up 1-0. One win was all the Gaels needed to beat the Broncos but in the 69th minute, redshirt senior Julian Godinez added another for good measure to seal the 2-0 victory with a shot from 10-yards out.

Senior Doug Herrick recorded his 21st career

win, and is now just one goal short of tying the Saint Mary's career win record at 22.

On Sunday, October 9 the Gaels traveled to San Francisco to play the USF Dons. The teams walked away from the match with a scoreless tie in double overtime.

Saint Mary's is 3-3-5 overall and 2-0-2 in WCC play. The Gaels remain unbeaten and have not allowed a goal in WCC play.

## SMC Women's Soccer Drops Game to SCU



Photo Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's women's soccer was unable to upend the No. 14 Santa Clara Broncos on Sunday, October 9. The Gaels took the lead early, with a goal from junior Christina Tognetti in the 47th minute off of passes from

Caroline Kreuz and Jordan Marada (#10 pictured above). The Broncos responded with goals in the 52nd and 97th minutes to win the match 2-0.

The Gaels have not defeated the Broncos since 2000. With the loss the

Gaels fall to 9-3-2 overall and 0-1-1 in WCC play.

Saint Mary's returns to action on Friday, October 14 against Loyola Marymount at 4 p.m. at Saint Mary's Stadium.

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 16 Wednesday, October 12, 2011



## 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, hops, yeast and water – that can be combined to produce an almost infinite variety of flavors, these gentlemen have found that making beer is a hobby they can sink their teeth into.

**Lafayette resident, experienced brewer and local realtor Troy Feddersen** started making beer at age eighteen with friends. He's come a long way from the simple brewing techniques of his younger years, expanding his knowledge and equipment collection. "There's a definite progression," he said, from extract brewing where the beer is ready to be enjoyed in two weeks to all-grain brewing. His advice: "The secret to excellent beer is good temperature control and lots of happy yeast. Anyone can learn to make their own good beer. It just requires paying attention to your recipe, process, and proper sanitation."

Why beer? "Quite simply, it's fun to make beer that I like, and to share it with others. It's like asking a chef what they like about cooking. A chef probably enjoys good food and enjoys their work in the kitchen, but what a chef is really about is sharing what they create with someone else. One of the best things about the DOZE beer club is becoming friends with other homebrewers, and everyone sharing their beer."

Along with fellow Diablo Order of Zymiracle Enthusiasts, or DOZE members, Feddersen participated in the Lafayette Park Hotel's first ever "Parktoberfest" recently. The group gets together once a month to discuss beer and brewing techniques, plan events and organize pub crawls. Feddersen estimates that a large percent of DOZE members are "certified judges" having passed the official Beer Judge Certification Program. "It's a very difficult exam to pass, much harder than my real estate license exam," he notes. At Parktoberfest he was proudly pouring a delicious German Hefeweizen, creamy head, medium body with a mind-boggling slight banana and clove finish.

...continued on page D4



Troy Feddersen helps himself to a refreshing beer from his customized garage refrigerator.

Photo Doug Kohen

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Ideally located at the end of a court and within walking distance to schools, town, and Sunday's farmers market, this approx. 2470 sf home features an abundant use of millwork and molding, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, and a gourmet kitchen that opens to the family room and backyard! 4 large bedrooms, 3 full baths. **Offered at \$1,158,000**

## MORAGA ~ NOT ON MARKET ~ GREAT FIXER ~ .91 ACRE



Ideally located at the end of the court and down a long driveway, this 5+ bdrm, 3 bath, two level home, offers a courtyard, views and lots of potential. Enjoy a living room with vaulted beamed ceiling and large windows, kitchen with nook and granite, formal dining, new carpet, some hardwood flooring, recessed lighting, and great grounds! **Offered at \$825,000**

## MORAGA COUNTRY CLUB ~ NOT ON MARKET ~ IDEAL CORNER LOT



Beautiful views, charming front courtyard, appx. 3424 sf of living space, vaulted ceilings, 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, new stainless steel appliances, 3 fireplaces, dual pane windows, new furnace, paint and carpet. Master suite with Jacuzzi tub and private viewing deck. Enjoy golf, tennis, and the new club house and pool! **Offered at \$855,000**



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	8	\$798,000	\$1,400,000
MORAGA	5	\$295,000	\$901,000
ORINDA	9	\$625,000	\$2,350,000

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

### LAFAYETTE

- 3019 Bradbury Drive, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 3863 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 9-2-11;  
Previous Sale: \$475,000, 01-19-90
- 900 Camino Del Rio, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2345 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 9-2-11;  
Previous Sale: \$740,000, 11-14-03
- 395 Castello Road, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1371 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 9-7-11;  
Previous Sale: \$585,000, 10-14-10
- 30 Crest Road, \$935,000, 3 Bdrms, 2396 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 9-13-11;  
Previous Sale: \$880,000, 10-30-09
- 31 Crest Road, \$915,000, 5 Bdrms, 3152 SqFt, 1981 YrBl, 9-7-11;  
Previous Sale: \$599,000, 01-29-99
- 3474 Hamlin Road, \$917,000, 3 Bdrms, 1907 SqFt, 1947 YrBl, 9-7-11;  
Previous Sale: \$690,000, 04-05-02
- 617 Huntleigh Drive, \$798,000, 4 Bdrms, 2011 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 9-2-11;  
Previous Sale: \$695,000, 09-14-01
- 8 Spruce Lane, \$1,080,000, 4 Bdrms, 2534 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 9-14-1

### MORAGA

- 944 Augusta Drive, \$720,000, 3 Bdrms, 2680 SqFt, 1988 YrBl, 9-2-11
- 923 Camino Ricardo, \$901,000, 4 Bdrms, 2478 SqFt, 1967 YrBl, 9-14-11
- 651 Moraga Road #11, \$295,000, 3 Bdrms, 1418 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 9-9-11;  
Previous Sale: \$325,000, 02-13-04
- 25 Ross Drive, \$850,000, 4 Bdrms, 1979 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 9-1-11;  
Previous Sale: \$48,500, 08-05-71
- 102 Sanders Ranch Road, \$899,000, 3 Bdrms, 2879 SqFt, 1988 YrBl, 9-8-11;  
Previous Sale: \$430,000, 08-31-94

### ORINDA

- 44 Calvin Drive, \$1,185,000, 4 Bdrms, 2451 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 9-7-11;  
Previous Sale: \$437,500, 08-15-91
- 5 Charles Hill Place, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2145 SqFt, 1915 YrBl, 9-14-11;  
Previous Sale: \$775,000, 02-15-06
- 323 La Espiral, \$995,000, 4 Bdrms, 2083 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 9-1-11;  
Previous Sale: \$595,000, 10-23-98
- 18 La Vuelta, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 4110 SqFt, 1939 YrBl, 9-13-11;  
Previous Sale: \$547,000, 12-30-86
- 8 Monterey Terrace, \$1,630,000, 4 Bdrms, 4162 SqFt, 1991 YrBl, 9-8-11;  
Previous Sale: \$849,500, 08-30-96
- 129 Spring Road, \$633,000, 3 Bdrms, 1252 SqFt, 1967 YrBl, 9-9-11;  
Previous Sale: \$340,000, 08-06-99
- 17 Tarabrook Drive, \$625,000, 3 Bdrms, 1544 SqFt, 1961 YrBl, 9-2-11
- 83 Tiger Tail Court, \$2,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 4340 SqFt, 2004 YrBl, 9-13-11;  
Previous Sale: \$2,950,000, 03-16-05
- 524 the Glade, \$886,000, 3 Bdrms, 2127 SqFt, 1985 YrBl, 9-14-11;  
Previous Sale: \$569,000, 07-15-97

## Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

### LAFAYETTE

- Pine Lane, 94549, Aurora Loan Services, 09-13-11, \$1,513,815, 4966 sf, 5 bd
- Condit Road, 94549, Bank of New York, 09-06-11, \$810,000, 3277 sf, 4 bd



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## Put a Ring on It

by Andi Peterson Brown

The early taste of winter weather that we had last week got me to thinking. And not about cozy nights in front of the fireplace or steaming mugs of hot chocolate. As a Realtor, it's hard for me to get anything house-related off my mind, and so as I sat at my desk and watched the rain come down, the first thing I thought of was...deferred maintenance. Yes, I see a little rain and I immediately think about clogged gutters, missing flashing, leaking pipes—you name it.

And it got me to thinking about a good friend of mine who shared with me a recent experience. A few years ago he discovered that one of the toilets in his home had been installed incorrectly and was missing a wax ring to prevent water from leaking between the toilet and the drain pipe. He had every intention of fixing it, but then life got in the way, the bathroom was seldom used, and it became out of sight and out of mind. "All of a sudden" he noticed one day that the floor was uneven and the grout was a rusty red. He called in a contractor who discovered that the entire subfloor beneath the tile was water-damaged, complete with a watermelon-sized rotting hole. And the culprit? That darn missing wax ring.

Needless to say, he is now replacing his entire bathroom. While he is excited about the prospect of updating the 1982 décor, the remodel is going to cost a wee bit more than that five dollar wax ring. The lesson? While it might be time-consuming and somewhat costly to take care of home maintenance issues as they occur, deferring that maintenance will only end up costing more.



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## Local Home Brewers

...continued from page D1



Mike Bernhardt with his modified refrigerator Photo Cathy Tyson

Feddersen brews approximately ten to twelve times a year, usually in five gallon batches, which translates to about fifty beers per batch. With his current system, the maximum he can make is ten gallons. He adds, "If I had more time, I would brew more often. Depending on parties or events, I often run out of beer before my next creation is ready."

Look for Feddersen at the Bay Area Craft Beer Festival in Martinez on October 22. He will be pouring his Chocolate Oatmeal Stout, with Guinness-like nitrogen gas. There will be about eight home brewers from DOZE who will have their beverages available to try at their booth, in addition to an expected thirty commercial breweries pouring their beers.

**For Mike Bernhardt of Moraga**, his love of home brewing started with a brewing kit he received as a birthday present from his wife, Yvonne Lefort, just a couple of years ago. As his interest grew, so did the array of equipment in the garage – now they have a separate stand-alone freezer, a second fridge that has been tricked out with taps in the door, and an outdoor propane powered turkey fryer that has the necessary juice to get the beer cooking and kegs ready for sampling, not to mention a small capping machine and bottle sanitation equipment.

Despite a slightly messy setback on his first batch – an "issue" during fermentation – he's definitely hooked on Zy-murgy. Wife Yvonne says that with a new avocation he goes

in deep and quickly ascends the learning curve. At the very first competition he entered earlier this month, his Vienna Lager won first place in its category at the Oakland Dimond District's Oaktobefest. "I'm trying really hard to keep enough to share with guests" for an Oaktobefest get-together later this month.

When asked if there are any aspects of his day job that help in the beer making process, Bernhardt responded, "I'm a Senior Network Engineer with BART. I'd say that the ability to soak up knowledge, and to analyze and troubleshoot problems probably helps me to keep improving my brewing. There are a surprising number of home brewers who are in IT, at least in the Bay Area. I don't know if that's because of work skills or because they really need beer when they get home."

Like having the latest golf club, the "gadget factor" can be appealing to hobbyists. For Bernhardt, moderation is the key, "I've learned what will make a big difference and balanced that with my commitment and what I'm willing to invest in it.



Boiling a yeast starter

Photo Troy Feddersen



There is also a strong home brewing community that shares gadgets or equipment they've built themselves, which is great for those on a budget. I've built a couple of very useful items with parts from the hardware store." Although he has bottled in the past, and still had a healthy collection of bottles bearing unique names in the garage fridge like Bagpipers Holiday, Ugly Frau and Deadly Squirrel, Bernhardt prefers keeping beer in a keg – it's just easier. He estimates that he makes eight to ten batches per year, at five gallons per batch.

From ancient Egypt, 6,000 years ago, to Lamorinda today, who knew that malting, milling, mashing, lautering, boiling, fermenting and conditioning could taste so darn good – and make successful home brewers the most popular guys in the neighborhood?

To reach the Diablo Order of Zymiracle Enthusiasts, go to <http://clubdoze.com>. For more information on the Beer Judge Certification Program, go to [www.bjcp.org](http://www.bjcp.org). For more information on the Martinez Craft Beer Festival, go to [www.bayareacraftbeerfestival.com](http://www.bayareacraftbeerfestival.com).



Never a shortage of home brew in the Feddersen fridge, hoses are attached to taps on the exterior. Photo Troy Feddersen

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**RE/Max Accord is happy to announce that I. Bruce Maxon has joined their Lafayette office.**

Bruce will be Sales Manager and selling homes for his clients of 34 years. Bruce has experience in commercial, residential and real estate management. He started in Orinda with Grubb and Ellis and Coldwell Banker. Bruce was one of the original founders of Village Associates Real Estate in Orinda and was there for the past 11 years. Bruce and his wife, Debbie, raised their family in Moraga for 25 years before moving to Danville. Bruce is looking forward to the international exposure that RE/Max provides and working with the agents in the Lafayette office, "This is my 4th real estate cycle and it is an exciting and challenging time to be in Real Estate."



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## The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS

The third quarter of 2011 again showed consistent activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from July 1 through September 30, 2011, 76 single-family homes closed in Lafayette which was higher than the 67 that closed in the third quarter of 2010 and down slightly from the 89 that closed in the second quarter. Sales prices ranged from \$445,100 for a bank-owned property to \$2,900,000. The average number of days on market was 46 days versus 67 in the same period for 2010. The average sales price was \$1,071,776, which was almost identical to the second quarter average of \$1,073,771 but well below the \$1,188,628 for the same 90 day period a year ago.

In Moraga, the number of single-family closings was 46 which was up from 34 in the second quarter of 2011 and the 34 in the third quarter of 2010. Prices ranged from \$530,000 to \$1,540,000. The average sale price was \$874,909, down significantly from \$942,082 a year ago. The average marketing time was similar at 35 days on market where a year ago it was 48 days.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was up to 47. There were 44 closings in the second quarter of this year and 57 in the third quarter of 2010. Sales prices ranged from \$552,000 to \$2,350,000 with an average price of \$1,055,629. In the third quarter a year ago, the average sales price was \$1,091,208. One sale did not list the sales price. In the second quarter of this year, the average price was \$1,073,694. It took an average of 55 days to expose a home to the market prior to contract and it was 60 days a year ago.

In the second quarter of this year, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$416.05 per square foot... almost the same as the \$418 per square foot on 2Q10 and below the \$438 per square foot one year ago. Moraga homes sold for \$381.18 per square foot, down \$7/foot versus a year ago and Orinda was at \$523.77/square foot... way above the \$426 a year ago.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had two closings at \$350,000 and \$415,000; Moraga had 17 ranging from \$185,000 to \$715,000. The two highest sales were in Moraga Country Club and those were the only two sales during the quarter in MCC for attached homes. Orinda had only one—\$680,000 for a property in OrindaWoods.

The seasonal nature of the market is also evident as of the 71 pending sales in the area, 44 have received acceptable offers since September 1. That is an average of just over one per day.

## 11 El Verano Orinda Country Club



Fabulous opportunity for a three bedroom 2 bath single level home in the heart of the Orinda Country Club. The kitchen and master bath have been updated in the last 2 years. The very pristine house has been in the family since it was built in 1941. Refinished hardwood floors, dual pane windows, fireplace in the vaulted ceiling living room, lovely natural light and a fabulous large patio. Situated on approximately a quarter acre lot with a pool and lawn, this warm and inviting home is a treasure!

Open 10/16 1-4



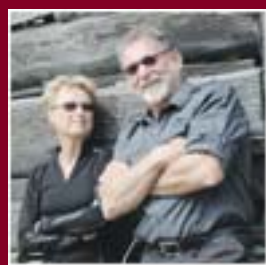
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... continued from page D6

As of October 7, 2011, there were 71 homes under contract per the MLS in the three communities combined. The asking prices were from \$119,950 for a Moraga condominium to \$3,450,000 for a single family home in Lafayette. It should be pointed out that there are 13 "Potential Short Sales" that are currently pending and were subject to lender approval. Five of the pending sales are REOs (bank-owned properties.) The number of REOs in Lamorinda has increased significantly, but continues to be very low on a percentage and actual basis when compared to other communities.

The seasonal nature of the market is also evident as of the 71 pending sales in the area, 44 have received acceptable offers since September 1. That is an average of just over one per day.

Inventory, however, continues to fall when looking at the available homes one year ago. In Lafayette there are 84 on the market where in July of this year there were 102. At this same point a year ago there were 114 on the market. In Moraga buyers have their choice of 41 properties, down from 54 homes or condominiums on July 1 of this year and 64 on the market on this date in 2010. Orinda inventory has fallen from 80 available properties in October, 2010 to a current supply of 64 homes.

In total, as of October 7, 2011 there were 189 residences available in the three communities including two in Canyon. Asking prices range from \$139,000 for a short sale condominium in Moraga to \$10,750,000 for a Lafayette property.

As is the case nearly every quarter, the most active price range is in the more "affordable" price ranges. At the high end, six homes sold above \$2,000,000 in the three communities combined, the same as in the second quarter of this year. Five were in Lafayette and one in Orinda. In the same period in 2010, nine homes closed above \$2,000,000 in Lamorinda. There are 18 currently available above this amount—ten in Lafayette, seven in Orinda, and one in Moraga.

Sales to families who are relocating to the Bay Area continue to help keep Lamorinda strong versus other communities. Buyers cite the nice weather, the outstanding schools, the access to BART, and the proximity to employment centers as their top reasons for settling in Lamorinda.



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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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**ORINDA**   
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 Classic mid-century 2bd/2ba full of stylish charm, clear redwood surfaces, beamed ceilings, glass everywhere & chic concrete floors. Tons of one-of-a-kind beauty in this prime OCC location. **Offered at \$765,000**



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**255 La Espiral**  
 Great value in OCC! Classic "Old Orinda" hm completely renovated w/style & charm. 2870 sf, formal liv/din areas, chefs kitchen, 4bd/2.5ba. Ideal setting, privacy, views, vineyard. **Offered at \$997,000**



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**ORINDA**   
**20 Wood Acres Court**  
 Beautiful 3800 sf traditional home with open floor plan, soaring ceilings, incredible gardens. 4bd/3.5ba, office, den, library, formal dining, gourmet kitchen. Quality thruout. **Offered at \$1,695,000**




**ORINDA**   
**29 Brookside Road**  
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**MORAGA**   
**101 Brookline Street**  
 Detached spacious 2bd/2ba + office in MCC. Wimbledon model, lg bedrooms, vaulted ceilings. Great views from top of the hill. Flat yd in back. Brand new redwood decks. **Offered at \$695,000**



**MORAGA**   
**8 Camelford Court**  
 Beautifully remodeled 4bd/2ba ranch hm on lvl cul de sac lot within walking distance to Campo HS. Hdwd flrs, spacious updated eat-in kitchen/family combo. Dual panes, A/C. **Offered at \$885,000**




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




**LAFAYETTE**   
**3152 Somerset Place**  
 Beautifully updated approx 2258 sf 4bd/2.5ba on cul de sac in desirable Burton Valley. Hdwd flrs, tons of natural light. Bonus rm w/sep entrance & 1/2 bath. Stunning yd with privacy. **Offered at \$930,000**



**LAFAYETTE**   
**3272 Woodview**  
 Spacious 4bd/3ba hm on sprawling .37 ac lot w/lv lawns & pool in desirable Burton Valley. Terrific views & privacy. Refinished hdwd flrs, lovely kitchen, huge fam rm. Conv to trail & Bart. **Offered at \$949,000**




**LAFAYETTE**   
**2950 Windtree Court**  
 Sprawling remodeled one-story 4bd/2.5ba rancher on flat lot on cul de sac. Close-in location. Charmr - remodeled - great floor plan. [www.2950WindtreeCt.com](http://www.2950WindtreeCt.com). **Offered at \$1,095,000**



**LAFAYETTE**   
**855 Mt. View Drive**  
 Sophisticated design comes together boldly w/the finest materials in this fully renovated 4bd/3ba hm ready for holiday occupancy! Elegant yet comfortable, lovely pvt setting w/views. **Offered at \$1,319,000**



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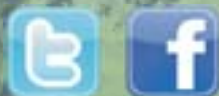
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