

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Jay Lifson with hat in hand

Photo Doug Kohen

Save the Sparkle

By Cathy Tyson

Although twinkle lights may not qualify as an endangered species, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce is hoping the season of giving will start early this holiday season and is asking for donations to keep the twinkle lights twinkling in downtown Lafayette.

When the City Council was forced to trim its budget this year, the banner program was saved, but twinkle lights got the axe. It's hard to quantify the benefit of festive lighting on holiday shopping, but it goes a long way toward making spirits bright.

Although the city purchased new strings of LED lights recently that use a fraction of the electricity that the old ones did, it costs approximately \$8,000 per season to maintain and re-string as needed. Jay Lifson, the Executive Director of the Chamber, is in the process of calling around to see if he can get a lower bid for the job.

Consider yourself invited by the Chamber of Commerce to be part of the solution. The Chamber is asking for donations, by Novem-

ber 15, to cover the expected cost of keeping the lights on. Generous merchants have given a portion of that amount already. Lifson said that all donations, no matter the size, are welcome - checks can be made out to the Chamber of Commerce, which also accepts credit cards. If residents and businesses are exceptionally generous, donating more than the anticipated cost, the Chamber will roll over any extra amount to next year's twinkle light fund. For more information, call the Chamber at (925) 284-7404, or drop by the office at 100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 103, Lafayette, CA, 94549.



Quote of the Week:

"They said make yourself at home, so I brought my dog."

Read "Charismatic Author Impresses Audiences," page A8

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Grand Plans for Orinda's Mini Park

By Cathy Dausman

When 1960's era eastbound Highway 24 traffic exited into Orinda, drivers encountered a stark, industrial first impression of the city—a "welcome" sign supported by a chain link fence, and dwarfed by the signal light, telephone and utility poles surrounding it. A photo of the area is featured in William Bronson's book, *How to Kill a Golden State*, and is a measure of just how far the city beautification project has come.

Today that site, a designated mini-park, features mature redwoods, park benches, a fountain, several memorial plaques and drought resistant vegetation—and it is on the verge of an update. The city is collaborating with PG&E, which owns the property, the Montelindo Garden Club and the owners of Theatre Square with plans that include removing some redwoods, which interfere with PG&E transmission lines, and two nearby magnolia trees, which have outgrown their street boxes; replacing the redwoods with strawberry trees and the magnolia trees with crape myrtle, beefing up native plants and grasses, raising the landscape rockery, and installing an illuminated, arched metal sign on the west side of the clock tower. Discussions also include installing an art

wall/fence as a backdrop to soften the view. Cost estimates are \$50,000 to \$57,000; each participant will contribute either financially or in-kind.

Orinda's first park was officially designated a mini park in the mid-1970's. The triangular area is

located at the northwest corner of Camino Pablo and Brookwood Road. Landscape architect and Orinda resident Nora Harlow drew up the park's original design as a gift to the city.

... continued on page A6



Photo provided

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

Local Libraries in the Digital Age—it's About the Experience



By Sophie Braccini

A September survey by Harris Interactive confirmed that digital readers are a hot commodity, and that they get people to read more books. The trend does not surprise or worry Lamorinda's... ..read on page B5

Sports C1-C3

Lamorinda Prep Basketball Will Fight for DFAL Title



By Conrad Bassett

High school basketball season kicked off on Monday, November 7 with the first day of practice. For the first time in several years, the defending league champion is not Acalanes,read on page C1

Our Homes D1-D8

What So Proudly We Hail



By Laurie Snyder

Just over the rise of a hill and around the bend of one of Orinda's many winding roads, Old Glory flutters, lifting and resetting with each breeze, drawing the eyes of passers by, up and away... ..read on page D1



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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, November 14, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Tuesday, November 21, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, November 14, 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, November 16, 7:30 pm
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

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

What Point Friendship? 10/23/2011 Someone visiting a friend upset a second visitor (the friend's friend) who pulled a knife and threatened the first friend. The friend of a friend is apparently not so friendly. The knife-wielder slipped away before police arrived.

Catch and Release, 10/28/11 Lafayette police arrested a 23-year old male from Los Angeles on a Santa Clara County warrant, and then released him.

A Dollar for your Thoughts, 10/11/2011 Who loans a rental car to his ex-girlfriend? Someone Thrifty? Or on a Budget? Apparently he never considered his Enterprising ex would take the vehicle without his permission. Now that just Hertz.

Unclaimed Luggage, 10/15/2011 What exactly does a "suspicious" suitcase look like, especially after it's been on the sidewalk for several hours? We can't answer that question, but we do know the contents were "miscellaneous clothing and items." Officers responding found no way to ID the suitcase or its owner, so they carted it away and put it into lockup.

I just can't wash my hands of this... 10/16/2011 Sometimes, washing your hands can be costly. Case in point: a woman who set a \$3500 gold bracelet down in the restroom, stepped away and returned to find it missing.

New Book Drop Coming to Library

By Cathy Tyson



A new book drop will be conveniently located along Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Photo Cathy Tyson

Free books for everyone – a good thing, but Lafayette Library and Learning Center's (LLLC) success in getting books in the hands of readers becomes an issue when it comes time to return those books – existing book drops are overflowing with 30,000 returns per month. The odd location of two book drops at the rear of the building along Golden Gate Way and an automated receptacle in the main entrance lobby that's only available during open hours aren't meeting

the needs of patrons.

A new driver-friendly option was recently approved by the City Council. A drop box will be located along Mt. Diablo near the edge of the sidewalk, just east of the bus stop. Special signs and curb markings will designate one spot for very limited parking, approximately two or three minutes, just enough time to get out of your car and deposit books. Certainly not enough time to collect children, grab a latte from the café or pick up books that are on hold.

"With the new building it's been a learn-as-you-go process," said City Manager Steven Falk, adding "people aren't naturally inclined to drive around the back of the building" to drop off books.

Plans call for a stainless steel structure that would be paid for by Friends of the Library. Mike Gilson, President of the LLLC Foundation, said they have been "considering a book drop for quite some time," the number of returns has "put a strain on their system."

Even when the library is closed, library staff is needed to manually handle the overflow.

"These are our customers" said Kathy Merchant, Executive Director of LLLC Foundation, "and we want to keep them happy." The LLLC Foundation funds 53% of the building's expenses, and has cited the need for increased visibility and convenience for library patrons returning books. Merchant said the Foundation is sensitive to safety concerns—there's plenty of room for a car door to open without impeding the bike lane or vehicles on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Immediate neighbors aren't pleased; representatives from Boswells and Caffino believe it will have a negative impact, calling it "disruptive to our business" and "already a bad situation."

The City Council encouraged staff to make signage and curb painting crystal clear that only parking for approximately two to three minutes was allowed. For readers dropping off books, they should feel free to briefly stop in the designated spot, then round the driveway and head into the parking lot next door for coffee and party supplies.

Vet's Building Re-Branding Itself as Events Center

By Cathy Tyson



Veterans Memorial Building

Photo courtesy Ed Stevenson

Opened just six years ago, the Veterans Memorial Building is now known as the Lafayette Events Center at the Veterans Memorial Building. New marketing efforts call it simply the Lafayette Events Center. Although Contra Costa County owns the building, the Veterans lease it and had been responsible for booking events as well as all the upkeep. The 9,500 square foot building replaced for two now-demolished crumbling Veterans buildings – one in Walnut Creek and one in Lafayette.

The name change is meant to reposition the facility as a great location for weddings, bar mitzvahs and corporate events. Ed Stevenson, former Marine and now Building Manager, said Lafayette War Veterans, Inc., a non-profit organization that manages the Veterans Memorial Building determined veterans "grossly underestimated" the costs associated with the sleek award-winning facility. "We needed to learn some lessons," said Stevenson, who gleaned life skills serving in Vietnam, but had no experience as an event planner.

... continued on next page

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Rez Run Fun



Lafayette resident Tosha Schore and friend Mathiew Planquette from Paris just past the Reservoir Run finish line. Schore was a foreign exchange student back in 1990 and stayed in touch with her hosts in France – the Planquette family. Mathiew Planquette had existing travel plans to visit the states and participated in the run because, "I want to be involved in the culture." Mission accomplished: lots of kids and dogs, a jogging Gummy, balloons, and pancakes. Doesn't get more American than that. C. Tyson



Vet's Building Re-Branding Itself as Events Center

... continued from page A2

About two years ago Lafayette War Veterans decided that they needed experienced marketing professionals and event planners to maximize usage and income. They went through a selection process, interviewing potential candidates and eventually found a winner in Fraiche Catering – pronounced Fresh. Although Fraiche is now permanently renting the kitchen at the Veterans Memorial Building, outside vendors are an option for clients who would like to use the facility. "We wanted to be flexible and available to the community," said Stevenson.

Veterans groups like the American Legion, the VFW and Marine Corps League still regularly hold meetings and dinners there. They all still get first dibs on booking events.

Locals may be more familiar with Fraiche's previous incarnation, Patrick David's restaurant. The restaurant is still open in Danville, but not associated with former head chef Patrick David Schoolcraft.

"There was a big misconception," said Laura Schoolcraft, Fraiche Catering Director of Busi-

ness Development. "You don't have to be a veteran to use the veterans building." That's the theme behind the re-branding effort. Since they have come on board, "The business has changed drastically," said Schoolcraft, "My goal is to help keep the building solvent and support the Veterans." Her husband, Patrick David Schoolcraft, is the Executive Chef; he's owned and operated a variety of restaurants over the past thirty years.

So far Stevenson says the Fraiche team is doing a terrific job, the quality of events has greatly improved and the food is absolutely delicious.

Right now Fraiche is working on developing a logo for the Events Center; they already have a website, lafayetteeventscenter.com. Fraiche Catering can be reached via their website www.fraichecater.com. The original Veteran's Memorial Building still has a website at www.lafayetteveterans.org. For engaged couples looking to tie the knot, all the highlights and services of the Lafayette Events Center can be found at www.herecomestheguide.com



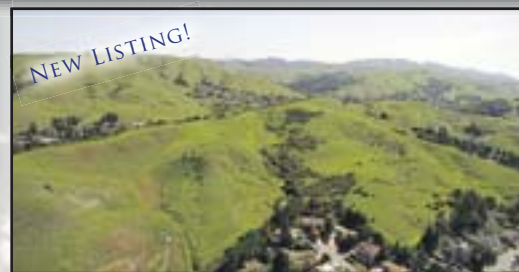
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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, November 9, 7:00 pm
Wednesday, November 23, 7:00 pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, November 21, 7:30 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, November 14, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District

Tuesday, December 13, 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

Moving phone, 10/25/11 At approximately 9:00 p.m. a St. Mary's student was playing indoor soccer at the school gymnasium when he placed his phone outside the gym's back door – apparently to keep it from getting injured by an errant ball. When he checked on it a couple of hours later the phone had disappeared. Being a smart phone – it conveyed that at 11:15 p.m. it was in Oakland, shortly thereafter, the phone was unable to be located. The thief must be smarter than the phone.

Hit and run, 10/26/11 Cops came to Home Goods on a report of a hit and run collision. While the driver was shopping, an unknown car hit her parked grey Toyota van causing damage to the passenger side. No note was left and no witnesses could be found. Damage is estimated at \$2,500 – must have been more than just a tap.

Rings vanish, 10/15/11 A Walford Drive resident reported that sometime between January and mid-October and unknown person removed three gold rings from a jewelry box on top of her dresser in the master bedroom. Estimated value \$5,500.

Missing her appointment, 10/28/11 An elderly Warfield Drive woman failed to show up at a hairdressing appointment in Lafayette. The caregiver who made the call to alert cops that she was missing also stated that she had accidentally taken a sleeping pill instead of her regular medication. The subject was later found slightly disoriented in Orinda behind the post office.

Mail order drugs, 10/30/11 A concerned father called police to inform them his juvenile son had received anti-anxiety medicine in the mail. The dad suspected his son had used his credit card without permission, but had no proof. The young man was counseled about the dangers of mail-order drugs and using a credit card without permission. No one was arrested and the drugs were disposed of.

Stealing booze, 10/31/11 Rather, attempting to steal booze from CVS pharmacy. Store staff said the subject entered the store, took two bottles of alcohol and left without paying. The underage suspect was detained and \$27 worth of booze was returned to the store. The suspect was placed under citizen's arrest, then released to a parent. Not much of a trick or treat for would-be thief.

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Division over Dividing Rancho Laguna Park

By Sophie Braccini

A record number of residents attended the Moraga Town Council meeting on October 26 hoping to influence what they thought would be a final decision on the off-leash dog policy at Rancho Laguna Park. But after the clock struck midnight the Council, unable to reach a majority vote to approve the plan proposed by the Parks and Recreation Department, decided to continue the discussion at a meeting set for December 14.

During 30 months of debate some progress has been made and several common elements have emerged: a dedicated dog area, physically separated from other users, will be created within the existing park, the dogs will have access to some turf, and the tot lot will be located on the south side of the park.

Whether some of the existing

lawn will be included in the dog park is still undecided, but it is likely that the dog area will be located on the northeast part of the property. On December 14, no public comment will be allowed because the process will start exactly where it stopped, at the Council's final deliberation.

Moraga resident Bill Carman, representing the organization Lamorinda Dogs, presented a map for the park that offered an alternative to the sketch proposed by Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram. Where Ingram proposed a fenced dog area under trees and only on dirt, Carman's vision included a large portion of the grassy area to the east of the park. His map, with a path in the shape of a Mickey Mouse head, rallied much support among dog owners, and he was asked by the Council to prepare a more detailed presentation.

Many park users asked for the park to be left alone. "Rancho Laguna is not a dog park, it is a people park," said Alex Popov, "just leave it alone." Brad and Suellen Winegar, who live across from the park and love it the way it is, proposed to experiment by tweaking the off-leash hours before spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to fix the park: "Maybe longer off-leash hours in the morning, and alternate nights in the summer evenings," suggested Suellen Winegar.

An unusually large number of people who reported feeling excluded from the park due to the dogs also came to the meeting. "Having the park with free dogs is a hazard," said Virginia Falconer, "I want to use the park and should have the right to do it safely." "All dog parks have something in common, they are fenced,"

said Tina Chambers.

After the public comment, the Council began its discussion. Some animosity was apparent, particularly between Mayor Karen Mendonca and Council Member Dave Trotter. Council Member Chew, supported by Mendonca, wanted to approve Ingram's plan. Trotter wanted to avoid haste and review the different possibilities in detail at a later date, to make sure that dog users who have been enjoying the grassy area for decades would not be unfairly deprived of what many consider to be an important part of their lives.

A vote to continue the debate on December 14 was finally snatched by Trotter with the support of Vice Mayor Mike Metcalf and Council Member Howard Harpham, despite the opposition of Mendonca and Chew.

Clean Water

By Sophie Braccini



New Zealand Mudsnail

Photo provided

Moraga is a one-outlet town when it comes to storm water; all of it flows to the San Leandro reservoir – the main source of our drinking water. The Town of Moraga, in order to keep its storm

water permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, has the obligation to keep the creek banks clean and develop a trash reduction plan. But most of Moraga's creeks are bordering private proper-

ties, and all that the Town's staff can do is educate residents to do their part to keep Moraga waters pristine.

"When a group of teen volunteers cleaned up the Town-owned banks of the creeks in the Commons Park all they collected, besides the obvious lost balls and Frisbees, was four Safeway plastic bags," says Moraga Staff Engineer John Sherbert, "It's the same thing when we monitored storm drains for trash; we

found very little waste." Other towns find loads of plastic bags, tires, even appliances, and when they are close to a freeway they collect wind-born debris. "Our good results are an indication of the pride our residents have in their town," says Sherbert. The Town has nonetheless an obligation to engage in a trash reduction program per State mandate.

... continued on page A8

Veterans Day Ceremony
11/11/11 at 11:00
Moraga Commons Park

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Police Reserve Officers Honored

By Sophie Braccini



Photo Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council recently paid tribute to four volunteers, Greg Haskell, Ben Ho, Darrell Lee, and Jack Lucas for their combined 100 years of service to the town. The four men are Police Reserves who work eight to ten hours every month for the Moraga Police Department. On October 26, the Council signed a proclamation in their honor as they received a standing ovation from the audience. The four come from very different avenues in life, they serve Moraga with a sense of duty and take pride in making the town a safer place.

There were no incidents reported

in Moraga on Halloween night, due in part to the reserve officers who volunteered alongside Moraga's regular officers. "Our first goal is to protect the children," said Ho, "Early on that night we kept an eye on the little ones who are so excited that they pay no attention to cars; between 6:30 and 9:00 p.m. we looked out for the kids in dark costume wandering right in the middle of street; and we checked on the teens and pre-teens. Most of the time, our presence is enough to keep everybody safe."

The Reserves' task does not stop at supplementing the Police Department for big events.

In Moraga, Reserves wear the same uniform as the full time paid officers and can perform the same police duties. Level 1 Reserves, such as Lee, can be out by themselves in a police car. Level 2 Reserves go out in tandem with a regular officer.

Greg Haskell is a business man who wanted to be a police officer since he was in the 4th grade. Unfortunately, less than perfect eye sight stopped him from pursuing that career. Serving as a Reserve allows him to live his dream, to share with acting officers and to be trained on an ongoing basis.

... continued on page A8

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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council Special Meeting

Tuesday, December 6, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way
**Next regular Council Meeting
Nov. 15 cancelled**

Planning Commission

Tuesday, November 22 no meeting
scheduled

Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 pm

Regular Meeting Library Auditorium

Tuesday, December 13, at 6:00 pm

Workshop Garden Room, 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

Table for no one 10/20/11 A 22-year old female was arrested by police on an outstanding warrant. Her vehicle was towed, her purse went to Orinda P.D. for safekeeping, and she was booked into Martinez Detention Facility. No word on who was covering her shift at a local restaurant.

Face the Music 10/20/11 Police investigating a loud music complaint found two 18 year old males in a white Buick cranking up the tunes about 11pm. The passenger voluntarily shared the contents of his backpack with police, who were the recipients of two small baggies of marijuana and a glass pipe/bong. The passenger was cited and released.

You, again? 10/21/11 A 68-year old male transient encountered on Camino Pablo had red, bloodshot eyes, an unsteady gait, slurred speech and smelling of alcohol. Apparently, this model citizen was a "frequent flyer" well known to police. BAC test results yielded .22; the gentleman was arrested and transported to Martinez.

Zero MPG 11/02/11 A 60-year old male found staggering at a Chevron station was obviously "gassed." His BAC was thrice the legal limit. Police cleaned his windshield, arrested the man and moved him to Martinez.

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MARKET ACTION REPORT October 2011 City: Orinda

Price Range:ALL | Properties:Single Family Home

Market Profile & Trends Overview	Month	Trending Versus*:				YTD	Trending Versus*:	
		LM	L3M	PYM	LY		PriorYTD	PriorYear
Median List Price of all Current Listings	\$995,000							
Average List Price of all Current Listings	\$1,428,803	↓	↓	↓	↓			
October Median Sales Price	\$920,000	↑	↑	↑	↑	\$919,000	↑	↑
October Average Sales Price	\$1,148,889	↑	↑	↑	↑	\$1,019,336	↑	↑
Total Properties Currently for Sale (Inventory)	59	↓	↓	↓	↓			
October Number of Properties Sold	9	↓	↓	↓	↓	140	↓	↓
October Average Days on Market (Solds)	41	↑	↑	↑	↑	53	↑	↑
Asking Price per Square Foot (based on New Listings)	\$414	↓	↓	↓	↓	\$423	↓	↓
October Sold Price per Square Foot	\$420	↑	↑	↑	↑	\$393	↑	↑
October Month's Supply of Inventory	6.6	↑	↑	↑	↑	4.4	↑	↑
October Sale Price vs List Price Ratio	99.2%	↑	↑	↑	↑	96.0%	↑	↑

* LM=Last Month / L3M=Last 3 Months / PYM=Same Month Prior Year / LY=Last Year / YTD = Year-to-date

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Grand Plans for Orinda's Mini Park

... continued from page A1



Photo from How to Kill a Golden State provided by Katie Creighton

Deb Barnell, president of Montelindo Garden Club in 1975-76, remembers planting the redwoods with help from her sons. Barnell says the trees were inexpensive and were planted to hide the work yard that existed at the time.

The park was restored in 1992 with the installation of a fountain honoring Anne Pollaczek, Orinda's "Man" of the Year in 1959.

The Montelindo Garden Club began regular maintenance of the site in 1998, says past president and park co-chair Katie Creighton. Last spring the club earned the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award in part for their work at the site. Three other Orinda garden clubs also earned the Mott award for their work in beautifying the city. By Creighton's estimate the club has contributed 2000 hours of monthly maintenance (last 15 years) to the mini park, plus 350 hours of professional design time (includes city meetings) and spent "conservatively \$8000 in plants, mulch, bulbs, occasional outside labor."

In 1998, there were no native grasses in the park, the plants needed regular watering and some were not properly pruned. Care for the park consisted largely of planting annuals for color around the fountain base. Creighton says the club decided to "go beyond color" in 2004 by removing plants past their prime and introducing drought tolerant California and Mediterranean climate natives. Grasses, formiums, ceanothus and lavender were included. Roses surrounded the fountain.

The goal is to make the park a Bay

Friendly demonstration site for the city. Bay Friendly gardening teaches gardeners to reduce debris, conserve water and prevent pollution (see <http://www.bayfriendlycoalition.org>). Mike Stallings, interim Parks and Recreation Director, says the city will also remove an old driveway on the property edge and re-install electrical and fountain equipment under the grade.

The city approved the two-step plan in September. The target date for its implementation is this December, but PG&E also needs approval from the Public Utilities Commission; that process could delay the start until late next year. A copy of the staff report can be found online under item I-2 from the October 4 City Council minutes at <http://tinyurl.com/44s9t2j>. Montelindo Garden Club (<http://www.montelindogarden.com/>) members volunteer regularly at the mini park every 4th Thursday of the month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (10:00 a.m. to noon, winter hours).

Eden Senior Housing Project Dominates Council Meeting

By Laurie Snyder

Eden Housing, the non-profit chosen by the City of Orinda to develop affordable senior housing for the community, was the focus of the Orinda City Council's most recent meeting.

Eden's Senior Project Developer, Woody Karp, briefed Council members in advance of their upcoming review of Eden's request to extend its Exclusive Right to Negotiate Agreement (ERNA) with the City. Comments were also presented by two Orinda residents who spoke against the project and one urging Council members to proceed.

Last summer, Orinda's Planning Commission approved entitlements for Eden to use land from Orinda's former library to create a 67-unit affordable housing development. Sixty-six units in the four-story building would be one-bedroom rentals; one would be a two-bedroom manager's unit. Rents are projected to be affordable for residents earning between 30 to 50 percent of the area's median income. The project would also include a garage with 37 parking stalls and a surface lot with seven guest spaces. The Orinda Community Church gave conditional approval to Eden to use part of its property for an additional 10-space community parking lot.

To date, Eden Housing has obtained \$2.6 million in commitments via federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and the HOME Investments Partnerships Program (HOME).

The City, according to the staff report presented to the Council on November 1, will fulfill its part of the project's development, disposition and loan agreement (DDLA) by "making the project site available to the developer at no cost and through a grant to make up the difference between the value of the site (most recently appraised at \$2.3 million) and the \$2.5 million payment" it received from the developers of the Wilder project.

Council members discussed with staff the circumstances of this \$2.5

million payment, and clarified for the record that the contribution was made by Wilder's developers as part of the development agreement for its Gateway Valley project. The funding can only be used by the City for the development of affordable senior housing on the library site.

The City Council created a senior housing overlay district in December 2010, comprised of Orinda Senior Village and the old library site. Land use designation and zoning of the library site was changed from Public Semi-Public and Utility to Medium Density Multi-Family via amendments to the General Plan Land Use and Zoning maps. Senior housing development standards addressing the unique housing needs of seniors were also defined.

In spite of its successes to date, however, Karp advised Council members that Eden will be unable to fulfill its requirements under the DDLA before expiration of the ERNA authorized by the City in December 2009 for a two-year term.

Eden needs more funding; therefore, Karp offered two financing options to the Council. Option 1 would combine Section 8 vouchers with California's nine percent tax credit program. Rental revenues collected via the Section 8 vouchers, said Karp, would service a second mortgage on the project.

Eden believes this option can succeed, despite frequent oversubscriptions to California's nine percent tax credit program, because Eden is applying for funding next spring when there will likely be less competition for the credits.

With Option 2, HUD would finance supportive housing development for the elderly by combining four percent tax credits with interest-free capital advances that would not need to be repaid as long as the program continues to serve very low-income elderly for 40 years.

Negotiations will continue on financing and the DDLA. The Council will consider extending Eden's ERNA at a future meeting.

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- Maggie VandenBerghe (Aliens in the Attic)
- Shorty Rossi (Pit Boss)
- Kathy Garver (Family Affair)
- Anthony Robinson (Hercules Saves Christmas)
- Mackenzie Phillips (One Day at a Time)
- Ashley Brooks (Pit Boss)
- Danny Arroyo (Lethal Weapon)

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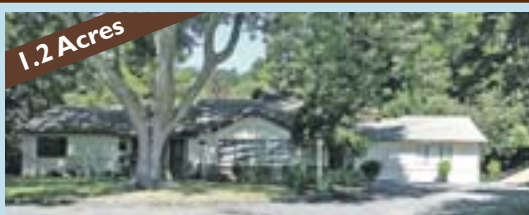
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Orindans Needed to Monitor School Parcel Tax Use

Applications are due tomorrow

By Laurie Snyder

The Orinda Union School District (OUSD) has issued a call to Orinda residents for help in implementing a critically important component of Measure B, the \$124 per year tax per parcel that was passed by voters in March 2009. Qualified and interested individuals are being asked to serve on an Oversight Committee to ensure that proceeds from this parcel tax are being used for their intended purpose, which is described in the following original ballot wording available from the League of Women Voters California web site (www.smartvoter.org/ca/cc/):

"To provide secure local funding for all Orinda K-8 students, reduce the impact of state budget cuts; maintain small class sizes and neighborhood schools; attract and retain skilled, qualified teachers with competitive compensation and training; and protect classroom programs and strong core academics ... with citizen oversight, no funds used for administrators' salaries, and every dollar staying in Orinda Union School District."

The \$124 tax is an additional levy

over and above the annual parcel tax of \$385. Anyone 65 years of age or older, who owns and occupies a parcel but whose income does not exceed 50 percent of the area's median income, may not be required to pay the Measure B tax, and should visit the OUSD web site for guidance on how to apply for an exemption. Parcels on which property taxes will not be levied in a specific tax year or that are otherwise not required to pay property taxes may also be exempt from the special Measure B tax.

According to Pat Rudebusch, Vice-President of OUSD's Board of Trustees, the district is seeking to build an Oversight Committee with the broadest representation of Orinda possible. It will be comprised of five to seven individuals who have children enrolled in the OUSD, as well as Orinda residents who are non-parents. The ideal candidates, said Rudebusch, are those with an interest in public education and who can "take information with an open mind and work collaboratively with other committee members."

Residents wishing to serve on the Oversight Committee must be able to meet twice annually during standard business hours, and must also each commit to completing two-year terms. In addition to reviewing parcel tax expenditures, the panel will also provide an annual report for the Board of

Trustees and general public recapping how Measure B funds were spent.

Anyone interested in performing this community service should visit the OUSD web site (www.orindaschools.org/) to obtain the required application form and submit no later than November 10, 2011

to: Superintendent's Office, Orinda Union School District, 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda, CA 94563. Applicants may also submit their materials to Kathy Frenklach, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, by fax or e-mail: (925) 254-5261; kfrenklach@orinda.k12.ca.us.



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ORINDA \$1,480,000
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Exclusive Screening of Wavy Gravy Movie at Town Hall

By Cathy Tyson

Town Hall Theatre is hosting a DVD release party for the film *The Wavy Gravy Movie: Saint Misbehavin'*, followed by questions and answers from the humble and hilarious do-gooder star Wavy Gravy with director Michelle Esrick and Jahana Romney – also known as Mrs. Gravy.

"People come out of the woodwork for the well-loved and highly respected Wavy," said Tom Stack, Town Hall Theatre Board Vice President and Coldwell Banker Realtor. "The film brought up a lot of emotion," he adds, "I hope that his positive energy will ripple through the universe."

The inspiring film is being shown as a fundraiser for Town Hall Theatre and also supports charities that Gravy founded – Camp Winnarainbow for kids and the Seva Foundation which provides sustainable global eye care programs, preventing blindness and providing cataract operations to restore eyesight.

Best known as the Master of Cer-

emonies at Woodstock, he attended the music and peace extravaganza as a member of the entertainment/activist commune known as Hog Farm. Wikipedia calls it "an organization considered to be America's longest running hippie commune." Hog Farm is still around and going strong, they have a headquarters in Berkeley and a large farm in Laytonville, California, known as Black Oak Ranch.

The self-described 'activist clown' has also been a Vietnam War protestor, B-movie actor and force for social change; *Saint Misbehavin'* chronicles his long, strange trip spreading a message of peace and charity. The fellow is such an iconoclast that Ben and Jerry, of the Ben & Jerry's, named an ice cream flavor after him. No actual gravy in the mix, just caramel, cashews and brazil nuts. Alas, the flavor has gone out of favor.

Director Michelle Esrick weaves together footage spanning decades with Jackson Brown, The Grateful Dead, Bonnie Raitt and many others

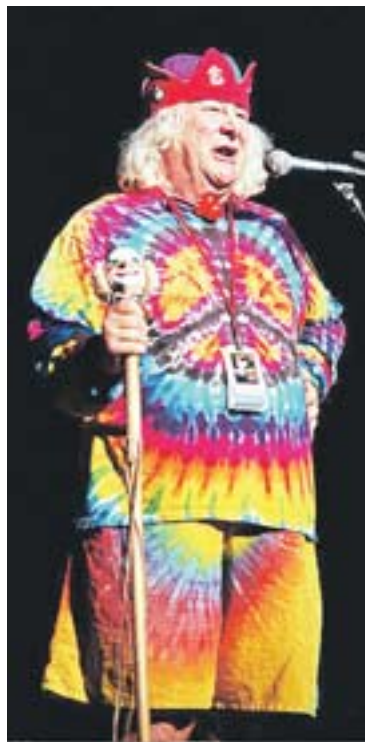


Photo courtesy Jay Blakesberg

to illustrate Wavy Gravy and his mission.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. A portly, bearded, 74-year-old hippie clown, born Hugh Nanton Romney (no relation to Mitt Romney) but better known as Wavy Gravy, he has been sending ripples of good will that have gently lapped around the fringes of American culture for more than 50 years," said Stephen Holden in a New York Times review of the film.

Wavy Gravy in the flesh and a screening of the film *The Wavy Gravy Movie: Saint Misbehavin'* come to the Town Hall Theatre on Saturday, November 19. Doors open at 7:00, the show starts at 8:00, tickets are \$35 – available via the Town Hall Theatre website www.thtc.org. As usual the bar will be open, and there will be a silent auction of all kinds of memorabilia. Tom Stack, in his younger days, was involved with licensing and merchandising for the Grateful Dead— he'll be digging deep into his personal archive for treasures. The event is family friendly.

Civic News Moraga

Clean Water

... continued from page A4

"It is more restrictive each year, although no base line has been set for the Town," says Sherbert, "Our trash reduction plan includes more frequent street sweeping and the installation of trash capture devices at the side inlets." Such devices are controversial—they require a lot of maintenance, and can cause risks or overflow when clogged.

The other element that can create clogging, though it may seem innocuous, is yard debris. "Some people have been disposing of their clipping in the creeks for years because they believe organic material will decompose," says Sherbert, "but this debris can accumulate downstream by someone else's property, create a dam and pose a risk of flooding."

The Town recommends that property owners make sure nothing will fall into the creek, keep the banks free of debris and make sure that nothing will obstruct the natural flow of water.

"Property owners who have a creek as part of their property boundary are obligated to maintain the creek bank," says Sherbert, "they can leave them natural. If nature has plants growing on creek banks it is for a reason, animals live

there and it holds the bank."

While the Town encourages all residents to help keep creek banks clean, it discourages actual entry into the creek itself. "In addition to the risk of disturbing the natural habitat and potentially protected species, there is a risk of spreading invasive plants and wildlife from one creek to the next," says Sherbert. "In particular, the New Zealand Mudsnail has recently been spreading among creeks in the East Bay. This snail has no natural predators, and can overwhelm the native species." Sherbert explains that when workers enter creek beds and streams they are required to disinfect their clothing and tools to prevent the spread of the mud snail.

The Town supports several educational efforts to inform the public of the impacts of littering and how it affects the creeks, and usually has a booth at the Pear and Wine Festival, the Community Fair, and other events to provide information and literature on how to keep the creeks and storm water clean. There is a wealth of additional information available at the Contra Costa Clean Water Program web site, www.cccleanwater.org.

Police Reserve Officers Honored

... continued from page A5

Ben Ho was in the Navy for 24 years, he is a firearm instructor, a former eye surgeon, a search-dog handler and has been involved in numerous rescue missions all over the world. He moved to Moraga 31 years ago to raise his family and has been a Reserve for 29 years.

Also known as Moraga Orinda Fire District Division Chief Darrell Lee, 21 years ago Lee added volunteering for the Moraga Police to his to-do list. He has received extensive training in law enforcement, as well as paramedic and search and rescue. Giving back is a way of life for Lee, who believes it makes him a better human being.

Jack Lucas, who is a banker in Orinda, became a reserve in 1985 after a tragedy hit his family. He too wanted to become a police officer as a kid, but went the business route instead. Like his fellow Reserves, he undergoes regular training for certification.

In most police departments, Reserves are young people on their way to the Police Academy, waiting to get a permanent assignment. It is rare that a municipality can keep such experienced Reserves for so many years. "These four men bring invaluable service to the Department," says Moraga Chief of Police Bob Priebe, "they are such high caliber individuals and offer their unique sets of skills, to make our community safer."

The four men all agree that being a reserve officer is not for everybody. "There is risk involved," says Ho, "we carry a firearm and conduct the same police operations as any other officer."

They also all agree that they get a lot of satisfaction from the time they give to the community. "My favorite time is working in support of regular officers," says Lucas, "we have a lot of respect for them and we feel a part of the Department family." They also have the satisfaction of really making a difference in Town.

"I love working the big events like the 4th of July or Halloween," says Haskell. He tells the story of one 4th of July at the Commons—late in the evening, a young couple came up to him in a panic as they had lost their parents who suffered from dementia. "That's where the bike patrol I started for the Town was very efficient to quickly search all the adjacent areas," he says. The elderly folks were located.

Ho thinks that one of the reasons residents believe the town is safe is because of the Reserves' presence. "Very dangerous areas where high levels of criminal activity occur on a daily basis are just 20 minutes away from here," says Ho, "having enough police here, visible on the streets, is a deterrent to the escalation of violence." Ho lives in Moraga and is always ready to slip in his uniform and report for duty when he hears of an incident on his police radio, like he did a few months ago when an officer was attacked in the hills off Rancho Laguna Park.

Lee, who also spends a lot of time in Moraga where his MOFD duty calls him, says he enjoys the added responsibility; like his fellow reserves, he is proud to serve the community.

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Q&A With MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley

By Lucy Amaral



Nearly two years ago, Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) hired Randy Bradley as its new Fire Chief. He faced pension issues, an economic downturn and a community concerned about the management of the District. Today, some of those challenges remain, some have improved and some new issues have surfaced. In this first of two parts, we recently posed questions regarding these and other topics to the Chief.

Q. How has the economy affected the District?

A. Unfortunately the District has experienced about a \$1.5 million decrease in spending power over the past two years. This is primarily due to a significant increase in retirement costs and a reduction in assessed property values, which reduces our property tax revenues. We have been able to maintain our primary service levels through renegotiating service contracts, leaving a Battalion Chief's position vacant, eliminating several staff positions, and, firefighters not receiving raises for the past three years. A small increase in ambulance revenues, cost recovery for vehicle accidents and the use of some of our reserves has allowed the District to maintain service levels.

Q. You came into the job knowing there were several hot-button is-

sues. What have you found yourself dealing with that wasn't expected?

A. After about a month in my new position, the Orinda City Council was presented with a proposal to detach from the Fire District and contract with Contra Costa County Consolidated Fire District and American Medical Response for fire and emergency medical services. The group predicted that revenues would increase during the next ten years and the excess would be available to address road and water issues in Orinda. I spent a lot of time evaluating their proposal, the District's fire protection/EMS Model, meeting with the public, LAFCO, City and Town Councils, Fire Districts and County Supervisors explaining the value of our model and their proposal's negative impact on service levels.

My conclusion was that while we live in a rural-like community we expect and even demand urban and suburban service levels. Having well trained, well-equipped, experienced firefighter paramedics arrive within five minutes of a 911 call is a high priority for a vast majority of the citizens within the District. Meeting the five-minute response goal requires five fire stations. Similar-sized communities with higher housing densities and less open space may only require two or three fire stations to meet response times.

The road and water pipe problems in Orinda exist for similar reasons and some in the community would argue that urban roads and water pipes are now a larger priority than suburban fire protection. We believe that the vast majority continue to place a higher priority on fire and medical response capabilities. However, the District has a vested interest in improving the roads and water systems in both communities and we will work with both communities to identify funding mechanisms without de-

creasing fire protection and EMS services.

With that said, the group that was proposing an alternative model no longer supports dissolving the District. I have met several times with the group's members and the meetings have been very respectful. They believe that their ideas are in the best interest of the community and we respectfully agree to disagree.

Q. How is the District addressing its unfunded pension liability?

A. We are currently evaluating several options. One being considered is to encumber future revenues realized from new development. While this has merit, we need to be careful due to our continued decrease in property values. We may need new development revenues to maintain service levels in the future. We are also negotiating with our labor union to potentially change the retiree health benefit, which would drastically reduce that retiree medical (GASB 45) unfunded liability. The union is evaluating and proposing other options to address unfunded liabilities, which will be considered through the collective bargaining process. They understand the importance of addressing our unfunded liabilities and they have worked collaboratively to identify options.

Q. The long-term forecast from the 9/1 MOFD finance committee meeting shows a sharp decrease in available funds as early as 2013/14, with a negative total balance showing for the first time. How will MOFD address this issue, considering the increase in pension contributions and a still unfunded GASB 45?

A. In the next year, the District will be working on a new Strategic Business plan with a strong finance component. That process will help identify future finance options to ensure we maintain our service levels and begin to address our unfunded li-

abilities. We will continue to evaluate operations to improve efficiencies and keep an eye on assessed property values. We will also continue to meet and confer with our union to ensure we have a stable workforce with sustainable service levels. The unfunded liabilities will take some time to completely address. The District inherited the drivers of many of the unfunded liabilities prior to the requirement to evaluate retiree medical as an unfunded liability. We currently pay over \$3 million annually towards unfunded liabilities (pensions) and that is not enough.

Next: The Chief answers questions regarding perceived funding inequities, MOFD accomplishments and future goals.



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 November 16, 7:00pm, Station 41 (1280 Moraga Way, Moraga), (go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

MOFD Seeks Public Input on Station 43 Replacement

Submitted by Mike Mentink

The MoragaOrinda Fire District has started a planning process to replace Station 43 which is located at 20 Via Las Cruces in Orinda. The existing fire station, which is over sixty years old, needs to be rebuilt because it does not meet seismic standards, modern fire apparatus does not fit in the apparatus bays, and the living area does not adequately accommodate mixed gender staffing. The old station will be torn down and a new station will be built in its place.

"The District is interested in the public's input relating to this proj-

ect," said Fire Chief Randall Bradley, "We will be holding several public meetings during the course of the project to provide information and receive comments about the design of the station."

The first of these meetings will be held on November 17, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at 20 Via Las Cruces (Station 43) in Orinda. The purpose of the open house is to allow the neighborhood and the community to view the existing station, discuss the planning process, and meet the Fire Chief, his reconstruction team and the project architects.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.
Send a letter to the editor:
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Dad Left his Beret in France

Born and raised in Paris, he witnessed WWII through the eyes of his older brothers who fought in the French Resistance. After the war, this youngest son was sent to America by a mother who believed there was only one place left in the world with a future.

Dad's love of his new country came quick and ran deep. When the Korean War broke out, though not yet a US citizen, he joined the fight.

Over the years I learned so much from him, nothing fancy but what could be more valuable than: work hard, be honest, show respect.

Now I've watched over dad for years as he's needed help with daily tasks, like food prep, housework, and transportation. Lately, living by himself has got him down and I've grown too exhausted to care for my own household's needs.

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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.

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Editor:

The City of Orinda has continued its workshops this fall designed to invite comment on what we would like to see in the future of our downtown. The planning staff is commended for its efforts to solicit our thoughts as the community formulates its vision.

The issue with respect to downtown is, unfortunately, that its commercial core is deteriorating before our eyes. Many of our commercial structures were built in the 1940s and 1950s to a relatively low design standard. Many are not well maintained. Many would not withstand the severe earthquake that is likely to occur in the next thirty years.

Orinda residents are disappointed by what we see - an environment which becomes more unattractive with each passing year. We see merchants leaving and not being replaced. We shop and dine elsewhere. We ask ourselves how to restore vitality. The answers, unfortunately, do not lie in promotional programs by the City, in creating associations of merchants or in volunteer beautification efforts. These efforts would be helpful, but they are insufficient.

We now face a choice in Orinda. The choice is not between growth and no-growth. Simply maintaining what we have in downtown is no longer an option. The decline is accelerating to the point that significant change is bound to occur over the next 10-20 years. The real choice we face is between unplanned growth, as we see in much of suburban America, and planned growth which is shaped by a community vision and guided by independent professional planning talent. Some of the nation's best and brightest urban planners are available nearby.

We can do a lot better than the status quo. We can fashion a plan for downtown Orinda that preserves its village character, but which also updates its environment to state of the art in the 21st century. Downtown should be a place where Orindans want to be.

Those of us who were not able to attend a City-sponsored workshop this fall can still respond to the City's survey on its website. We should let the Planning Department know we favor professional planning for the future of downtown.

Tom Trowbridge
Orinda

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 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.

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TassaTags: Reclaim Children's Lives While Claiming Your Luggage

By Sophie Braccini



Brenda Hepler with a TassaTag on her bag Photo Sophie Braccini

Brenda Hepler is not someone who gets distressed learning about a global issue but then forgets about it and continues to live unchanged. When the Lamorinda resident learned about the sexual exploitation of children around the world, she was shocked by the magnitude of the issue and decided she would do something to help.

Hepler had no special connections or access to unlimited resources, just her good heart and ingenuity. She created TassaTags – large, handmade luggage identification labels that people attach to their luggage proclaiming their opposition to such abuse.

So far, she has sold 8,500 of them and all proceeds have gone to the non-profit ECPAT-USA (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes). For her, this is just the beginning of the fight.

"It all started in Vienna in 1993 when a friend invited me to attend a United Nation's conference about human rights and I joined the children's right group," remembers Hepler, "it was the first time I realized the magnitude of the problem."

She learned that an estimated one to two million children are enslaved in the sex trade around the world, thousands of children are trafficked into the United States each year, and 25% of 'child sex tourists' around the world are from the US and Canada. "This 'business' is growing more rapidly than

drug trafficking," says Hepler.

Hepler believes that if tourists were more aware of what is happening it could make a difference. "I was in an airport seeing all of these black suitcases, and I wanted to see flowers representing the children," she said. "I started to talk about it with all my friends and anyone I encountered. The idea of a luggage tag came up during these conversations – a symbol against child slavery, a visible voice, with the added benefit that you can spot your luggage more easily."

She created the simple drawing herself, "it represents a flower, for all children, with a fallen petal for those who suffer, and the fallen petal also looks like a tear." The tags come in many colors.

Hepler says she didn't have a clue how to produce the tags. "I found The Regina Self-Help Center in Nongkhai, Thailand, where women do weaving and pottery for a living," she explains, "all the tags are made there and the women are paid a decent wage so the tags are part of the fair trade movement."

She also needed to learn about accounting, legal issues, importing and distributing. "I found great local resources with the Small Business Administration," she said, "I went to all the classes I could."

She then contacted non-profits that are working against the exploitation of children, seeking a group to benefit from sales of the tags. When she queried ECPAT-

USA, she says, they replied, "Can you start yesterday?"

"I decided to work with ECPAT because they have a long history of action against children's sex exploitation in the world," she said. For example, in touristy areas, they convince hotels to sign 'the code', and not turn a blind eye to what is going on in their premises. They also work in the United States so minors who are prostituted are considered victims, not criminals.

She gave ECPAT-USA the trademark on the TassaTags. "I work pro-bono," she says, "this is a mission for me. They help with the distribution and I trust their work in the field."

Hepler continues to spread the word about TassaTags using her knowledge in social media marketing. "I believe that anyone traveling internationally should have such tags on their luggage," she says, "they also make great, thoughtful gifts."

For more information, go to www.tassatag.org or www.ecpatusa.org.



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A Peek at June in a Box

By Lou Fancher

If cooking up a delicious piece of theater is dependent on the innovation of the “chefs,” then the Saint Mary’s College production of *June in a Box*, opening November 10th, is sure to be palate pleasing.

With nationally recognized playwright Octavio Solis pairing up with the college’s Theatre Program Director, Rebecca Engle, the combined forces of a gifted Latino playwright and a diverse, broad-thinking director will come to the LeFevre stage.

The play, originally developed with Campo Santo and Intersection for the Arts in 2008, is based on the real-life kidnapping of June Robles, the daughter of a wealthy immigrant family from Tucson. She was discovered, 19 days after the abduction, chained in a metal box and buried in the Arizona desert. No ransom was every paid and no criminals ever apprehended.

June in a Box introduces the elder June, reliving the experience years later and grappling with her memories as she searches for resolution.

For the SMC production, Solis has created a new version.



From left: Liam Callister, Haley Leitman and David Silavin

Photos courtesy of Michael Cook

“I cleaned it up,” he explained, in an interview two weeks before opening night. “I needed to do some housekeeping: rewrite a scene, make judicious cuts and add actors.”

The cast more than doubled, from four to nine, which relieved Solis of the constraints of having actors with multiple roles perform quick changes and allowed for more actors onstage at one time.

“Octavio’s plays are a canvas for collaborators,” Engle said, suggesting one of the reasons she approached Solis about remounting the work. “Between the drafts, he actually *took out* the stage directions.”

Engle has conducted movement and gesture studies with the student actors, exploring the mischievous, scavenger physicality of two coyote characters in the play.

She has coached 18-year old sophomore Haley Leitman, who plays the young June Robles, to trust simplicity and be emotionally honest.

“What I have found is that everybody has, inside of them, the memory of how they saw the world when they were six,” she said.

Engle praised Solis for the raw, unadorned “poetry” he employs in telling the story of a family in the



Haley Leitman and Tatiana Ray

Photo by Michael Cook

middle of an emergency. The language is loaded, especially that of the main character, who speaks with a distinct urgency.

“With June, the tack I took is that she’s never really been able to get out of that box. Her innocence was somehow still locked up in that box. I’m interested in her [making] peace with it as she is confronting her own death, when she will be going back into a box,” Solis explained.

A *corrido*, a poetic or musical narrative form of Mexico, alerted the playwright to the story, and SMC’s production features live music by Beth Custer.

“We are taking a step back with the music,” Engle said. “Instead of being performed by the composer, she has created a score that will allow it to be available to other people. We started with leaf sheets and an audio recording. Now, there is an orchestration.”

Engle finds the play’s greatest value is the process. She said it’s a boots on the ground view of how a play emerges during revision and an experience most college students

don’t get.

“We’re in the cauldron at the moment, so there’s not a lot of space for reflection,” she apologized. “The playwright is discovering the play as we are discovering it!”

Solis will participate in a pre-show talk on November 11th and a talk-back following the November 18th show. But don’t expect a lecture from the visiting playwright, who thinks the play is meant to serve the students and the community, not the other way around.

“I’d rather have a dialogue with the students and audience,” he said. “With a Q&A, I can be caught more off the cuff.”

June in a Box performs Thursday, Friday and Saturday Nov. 10-12 at 8 PM, Friday and Saturday Nov 18-19 at 8 PM, and Sunday Nov. 20 at 2 PM. Tickets are \$15 general; \$12 seniors and non-SMC students; \$8 SMC students, faculty and staff. Tickets available online, by phone (925-631-4670) or at the door.

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Local "Hams" Take Their Job Seriously

By Cathy Dausman



Local amateur radio operators Leasa Raya and Gene Gottfried
Photo Cathy Dausman

Imagine a world without internet service, cell phones or land lines. It could be a temporary disruption, or one from a wind storm, earthquake or terrorist act. It could happen in Boston, or Seattle, or Miami. It *did* happen in New York, Washington D.C., Louisiana and Oklahoma City. It could even happen in Lamorinda. Now imagine communicating through technology that's more than a century old. You are imagining the wireless communication possible through amateur radio. Many local amateur radio operators, or "hams," act as volunteer emergency communicators. Here are some of their stories.

Gene Gottfried is amateur KQ6OL. KQ6OL is his call sign. The FCC issues every licensed radio amateur a unique call sign that identifies the amateur and his/her location of license. Call signs have both a prefix (KQ6) and suffix (OL). The call sign number generally refers to an area of the country. And just as there are vanity license plates for cars, an amateur may request a vanity call sign.

Gottfried has been an Orinda resident for 30 years. His neighborhood formed a watch group after a nearby home burglary in 1987, and Gottfried became a block captain. He recalls

residents watching the ridgeline to assist the Tilden Fire Department during the 1991 Oakland hills fire. In the early 1990's his neighbors used CB radios to communicate.

The turning point for Gottfried came in 1996 when he attended Orinda's 4th of July parade. The Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Communications Van was there, and Gottfried was hooked. He says it is important for people to have some amount of preparation so they don't feel helpless in emergencies. Gottfried sees amateur radio as "a backup system for any disaster of any magnitude," whose membership cuts across age and gender. These days Gottfried carries a handy talkie or portable radio, keeps a mobile unit in his car and has a base station at home.

Patrick Rigney, N6UPS, of Lafayette took his first license exam at Pacifcon (an annual area amateur radio convention) in 2008. Rigney got involved with emergency communications with the K6ORI group, an MOFD support team. He says he is "fairly active" on the radio, "but not as much as I'd like to be." Rigney also has multiple communication stations: several handy-talkies, a base station at his home and vacation

home, and a unit in his car. He says "simple, basic amateur radio is time-tested, and gets tested again and again every year, in dozens of disasters all over the US, and all over the world." Although Rigney originally became licensed for emergency communications, he is branching out to the hobby side of amateur radio, including distance communications and contests. "One of these days I hope to catch the International Space Station on a pass," he says.

Moraga resident Cindy Petrini, KI6OUO, earned her license three years ago. Petrini took Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and was told about an amateur radio license class. "I tried to get each of my five boys interested in ham radio when they were going through the Boy Scout program," she says. None was interested, but that didn't stop Petrini. She took a course, purchased her first amateur radio and "began communicating in a fun and sort of old techie way." Petrini has worked communications for a few community service events, and volunteered in the MOFD support and Rehab vans.

Jim Boucher, KI6OUM in Orinda, received his license in early 2008. He participates in the weekly on-air "nets" (meetings) in Canyon and Orinda and has worked as a communicator for a local children's triathlon and the Lafayette Reservoir run. A reserve police officer, Boucher views ham radio "as a tool to help citizens with special events and for emergencies."

Ham radio easily connects across civic boundaries. Sveinn "Erik" Olafsson, KI6RSR, lives just outside Moraga in unincorporated Contra Costa County in Canyon. He and nine other Canyon residents earned their licenses as a group in 2008. Later that year they installed a 50 watt emergency radio at Canyon School. He is active in their weekly on-air meetings: "it keeps us all in practice and lets us know the limitations and capabilities of our radios," he says.

ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio, says hams can communicate "when all else fails." Perhaps Lamorinda resident Patti Young says it best: hams are "special people able to communicate over the airways...for fun or in times of an emergency."



Members of the Canyon group installs its radio antenna on Canyon School for emergency use.
Photos Sveinn Erik Olafsson

To Learn More about Amateur Radio:

Wireless communications also includes Citizen's Band (CB) radio and the readily available Family Radio Service (FRS) walkie-talkies. Unlike CB and FRS, however, all amateur radio operators must earn one of three license levels or "classes" granted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC): Technician, General or Extra Class. Knowledge of Morse code is no longer required for the entry-level Technician class license. Instructions are given locally in classroom settings, and are also available online.

Gordon West's book Technician Class 2010-2014 offers beginners full instruction in amateur radio communications.

The National Association for Amateur Radio:
<http://www.arrl.org/home>

Practice exams are available online at <http://www.eham.net/> Pacifcon, the West Coast Ham Radio Convention, is October 12-14, 2012, Marriott Hotel, Santa Clara. Details: <http://www.pacifcon.org/> An entry level Technician class is available this month in Orinda on Wednesday evenings, from 7 to 9 p.m. Contact K6KWR@arrl.net for details and location, or call (925) 376-3269.

Local on-air nets:

Canyon Net meets on-air Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. on 146.460 outside Canyon, CA and 446.460 inside Canyon.

Moraga Orinda Fire District Net (K6ORI) meets on-air Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. on 146.850 and 147.540 simplex

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (<http://www.mdarc.org/nets.html>) meets on-air Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. on 147.060/(+100PL)

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Hercules Saves Christmas in Orinda

By Cathy Dausman



Mackenzie Phillips, Hercules and Max dog, a boy, and Christmas—what's not to like? The mighty combination is working well for producers Derek Zemrak and Leonard Pirkle as they prepare to unleash the red carpet World Premier of *Hercules Saves Christmas* November 17 at the Orinda Theatre.

The movie was shot last winter in Lamorinda (<http://tinyurl.com/3w6pcju>) with a local supporting cast and film crew. It features Animal Planet's *Pit Boss* dog star Hercules. Human actors include Mackenzie Phillips, Danny Arroyo, Kathy Garver, Maggie Vandenberghe and Richard Van Vleet. Hercules' film voice belongs to owner Shorty Rossi, who has a cameo role as a priest in the film. Zemrak says the most difficult part of production was accommodating Rossi's schedule.

The story idea came about while the two were attending another premier in Hawaii. The script: orphan Max (played by South Bay local An-

thony Robinson) meets a talking dog (Hercules) who works for Santa. Max and Hercules go to San Francisco, where they encounter a pack of toy-stealing dogs and evil humans. Only Max can see Hercules, and Hercules can only speak when wearing his magic collar. Add some elves to the magic, stir in comedy and suspense, and you've got a movie Animal Planet has already snapped up (it airs December 3).

Celebrities arrive at 6:30 p.m.; the movie premier at 7:00 p.m., with a Q&A to follow. *Hercules* then moves to Moraga's New Rheem Theatre, where it will play for a week. The movie's trailer is available online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leqDNpmfYdU>. Dog, elf and Christmas lovers will be delighted to know Zemrak's already thinking ahead to a sequel.



Dana Michael Woods (background: Anthony Robinson as "Max")

Charismatic Author Impresses Audience

By Cathy Tyson



Author Glen David Gold at Lamorinda Reads event with pooch, Cocoa Photo Cathy Tyson

Glen David Gold charmed an audience of fans of his book, *Carter Beats the Devil* at the finale of this year's Lamorinda Reads season at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. The engaging, likeable author couldn't have been more down to earth, illustrating his journey toward completing the book with lots of colorful, juicy details.

"They said make yourself at home, so I brought my dog," said Gold as he first reached the podium. The well behaved, rather large Cocoa just hung out on his leash, napping at times.

Right off the bat he confessed to plagiarizing a story about a goldfish when he was three. Continuing the

brutally honest trend were four self-described "very bad" novels in a row starting at twenty-three. "I had been mistaking clever for genius," said Gold. *Carter Beats the Devil* was born at the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program at UC Irvine when he was in his early thirties. He got off to an encouraging start sharing the first paragraph and early chapters with a very supportive Graduate Writer's Workshop at the MFA program. It wasn't all smooth sailing for the lengthy historical fiction novel however, at one point he took an eighteen month hiatus. He followed that with a job as a receptionist, from which he was fired. Once finally complete, his publication date was September 11, 2001.

The film rights for the story have also had a slightly bumpy ride: first optioned by Tom Cruise, then AMC –The American Movie Channel, then Warner Brothers. Gold reported he just had a phone call the other day that Warner had renewed their option. Since *Carter*, Gold has published a novel, *Sunnyside*, numerous short stories, and screenplays. He'll be teaching at the MFA program at UC Irvine in the spring.

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Local Libraries in the Digital Age—it's About the Experience

By Sophie Braccini



Lamorinda's Senior Community Library Managers: Beth Girshman (left), Caroline Gick, and Susan Weaver

A September survey by Harris Interactive confirmed that digital readers are a hot commodity, and that they get people to read more books. The trend does not surprise or worry Lamorinda's librarians, who are constantly reinventing the role of local public libraries in the digital age.

Contra Costa County Library (CCCL) recently announced that the Amazon Kindle will join other digital reading devices, including the Barnes & Noble Nook, the Android, iPhone and iPad, that can access the library's free eBook collection.

(<http://guides.ccclib.org/ebooks>)

Could this mean that people will stop going to the library? "Our first mission is to get people to read," says Susan Weaver, of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, "it is important that we offer different media so people with different needs have equal access."

Weaver and her colleagues have already embraced the new tools for themselves. "I'm a librarian and I use my Kindle in bed," says the Orinda Library's Caroline Gick, "the angle is right, and it has a light." "I use my Nook while traveling or camping," adds Moraga's librarian, Beth Girshman, raising Gick's bid with a friendly smile.

"iPads are turning out to be the number one gift for seniors because the screen is bigger," says Weaver, "but so far, people are using these devices mostly for purchasing books rather than renting them."

Is the library ahead of the technology curve?

"The CCCL has a team of about four people, led by Cathy Sanford, in charge of the technology-watch," says

Gick, "they anticipate and respond to the demands of our patrons."

Other unique online services are provided by CCCL, such as the use of QR codes (the two-dimensional bar codes that can be read with a mobile phone) to provide additional information about a book or related topics, and the pioneering free museum-pass system.

As the use of mobile technology grows, so does the attendance at public libraries. "We are more than books," says Gick, "we offer all kinds of informational and educational services. We are as much about place and community as about content."

In Moraga and Orinda, the 'new library effect' of Lafayette has impacted the growth trend, but attendance numbers are still up. "We are a place for the community to meet," confirms Girshman, "Every time I enter in the library I check out the people who are there, working with their computers or reading printed material. They want a place out of the home or the office where they can be and feel close to other human beings." The diverse activities that are offered in the three Lamorinda libraries also bring people in.

"Futurist Thomas Frey explains that libraries have been reinventing themselves constantly over the past 2000 years," says Weaver, "we are transitioning from a product-based economy to an experience-based economy. Libraries will develop more experiences for our patrons, such as studios to create music or movies."

"We will be places where people will not only find content, but can also create it," adds Gick.

"We are a part of people's day," concludes Girshman, "the way we do it will continue to change. We do not know where it will take us, but it is an exciting time to be a librarian."

Photo Sophie Braccini

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Community Service

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

100th Anniversary of Girl Scouts

Submitted by Thama Brentano



Photo Katie Coates

On Sunday, October 23rd, under a bright blue sky and gentle breeze at Kennedy Grove, the Orinda Moraga Girl Scouts celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouts in the USA. Although the real date of the 100th anniversary is March 12, 2012, Orinda Moraga decided to celebrate early and in honor of founder Juliette Gordon Lowe's October birthday.

Over 200 scouts ranging in age from Daisy (kindergarten and first grade) through Senior and Ambassador (high school age) participated in the celebration. Part carnival, part educational, and totally fun, the scouts enjoyed face painting, a bounce

house, learning about Girl Scout traditions, a vintage Girl Scout uniform fashion show, and an old-fashioned cake decorating contest and cake walk. Other popular booths run by scouts included making s'mores, SWAPS (Special Watchamacallit Affectionately Pinned Somewhere), henna and green "tatoos", and a very special "Pin the Badge on the Girl Scout" game. There was also a booth teaching scouts about the five Girl Scout World Centers in Savannah, Georgia (home of Juliette Gordon Lowe), Mexico, England, Switzerland, and India.

In keeping with the Girl Scout's theme for the 100th Anniversary, For-

ever Green, the Creative Re-Use Depot, REI, and the Marine Mammal Center were also on hand running activities. Girl Scouts of Northern California also ran a "Girls Go Tech" program.

Two community service activities demonstrated that Girl Scouts "Do a Good Turn Daily" by collecting over 400 books to donate to the Children's Literacy Project in Oakland, and by making cards that will be distributed with meals delivered by Meals on Wheels. The afternoon ended with the singing of songs, and the traditional Girl Scout friendship circle. Happy Birthday Girl Scouts! We wish you a very happy second 100 years!

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5500 Quilts for Babies at Risk

Submitted by Joyanne Elkinton-Walker



Peggy Moe, Rudi Thomas and Beverley Finlayson carry the quilts from the sewing room to the sanctuary. Photo provided

Early in October, 50 handmade quilts were displayed in the sanctuary of Orinda Community Church for dedication to at-risk babies in the Bay Area. These are in addition to 5500 previous quilts that have been created by the Sewing Circle of the church and sent to various groups caring for babies in crisis.

The Sewing Circle began in 1989 and the first recipient of quilts was the Children's Quilt Project for babies born with crack and Aids symptoms. They went to Children's Hospital, Highland Hospital and Alta Bates Neo-natal unit. The quilts were placed over incubators so babies could see colors and shapes.

Subsequent quilts have been provided to Contra Costa Foster Parents, The Solid Foundation of Oakland, Foster Moms of Alameda County and Project Open Hand.

As disasters struck, quilts were sent for Hurricane Relief in Haiti and New Orleans.

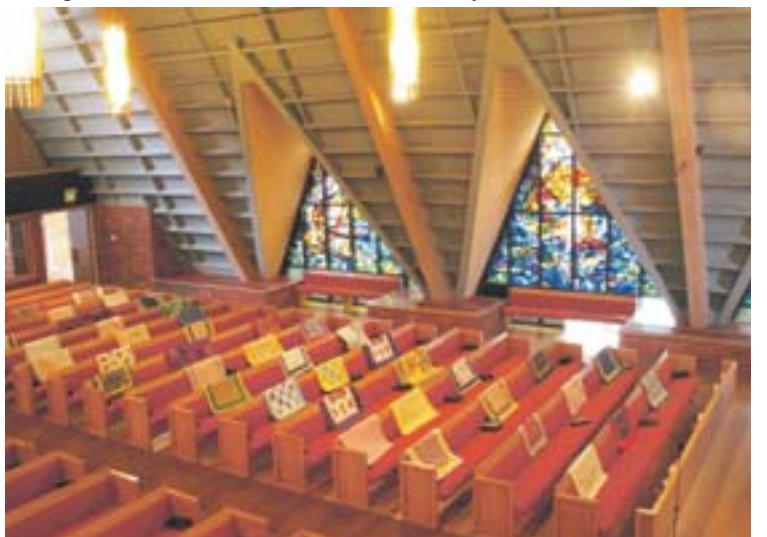
Recently they have been given to Interfaith Housing in Contra Costa, the Banana Respite Program and to the Center for Intervention in Deaf-

ness. The dedicated women sewers include Melody Ferreira, Beverley Finlayson, Peggy Moe, and Liz Thompson under the leadership of Rudi Thomas, who has been the inspiration from the beginning. Many other women have been part of the group through the years.

These ladies have also made banners, stuffed animals, and stoles for all of the pastors and associates at Orinda

Community Church, and created the large quilt of Mt. Diablo that hangs in the dining room of the Orinda Senior Village.

Women in the community who would like to participate in this project and have basic knowledge in the use of a sewing machine are invited to join this friendly group on Monday mornings. Call the Orinda Community Church Office at (925) 254-4906 to leave your name and contact.



The quilts displayed on the pews show the variety and numbers of quilts ready for shipping. Photo provided

Community Service

Need Donations?

During the holiday season, *Lamorinda Weekly* will accept and publish opportunities for local giving. Please send 100 words or less describing the cause, type of donation needed, and where to bring/send it. The organization collecting the donations, or receiving the donations, should be within our extended community. Submissions must be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com by Nov. 16 for inclusion in our Nov. 23 issue, by Nov. 30 for inclusion in our Dec 7 issue, and by Dec. 14 for inclusion in our Dec. 21 issue.

Lafayette Rotary Hosts Russian Realtors

Submitted by Bob Shusta



Lamorinda Realtor Elena Hood speaks to the Russian delegation

Photo provided

As part of its international service project, members of the Lafayette Rotary Club recently hosted Russian realtors during their educational visit to the Bay Area. Local firms Coldwell Banker and J. Rock-cliff offered seminars for the visiting Russians.

citizens are just getting used to buying and selling property over the last 20 years. We are happy to be in the United States to learn how to do real estate and how it works, and we are very appreciative for being here," said Ilya Slotnikov, who managed the trip for the 11 realtors.

Elena Hood of Coldwell Banker in Orinda, a Russian-born American citizen, explained home-buying in the USA and how to market a real estate business.

In addition to the business seminars the delegation toured the Bay Area.

As a sign of their appreciation, the visitors donated \$700 to the Rotary Club which will be used to support local projects.

"The average age of a real estate agent in Russian now is 29 and Rus-

sians are just getting used to buying and selling property over the last 20 years. We are happy to be in the United States to learn how to do real estate and how it works, and we are very appreciative for being here," said Ilya Slotnikov, who managed the trip for the 11 realtors.

Brownies Help Food Bank

Submitted by S. DeCarlo



Members of Troop 32851

Photo provided

Lafayette Elementary 3rd grade Brownie Troop 32851 collected over 200 pounds of food for the Contra Costa Food Bank. They delivered the food on Saturday, October 23rd and were promptly put to

work bagging potatoes and preparing boxes for donated eyewear. They also received a tour of the facilities and learned how important it is to care for your neighbors in times of need.

Kiwanis Installs Officers for 2011/12

Submitted by Stan Holcenberg



Past Kiwanis Lt. Governor Ray Horton presents gavel to 2011/12 Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley President Karen Reed

Photo provided

The Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley held its annual Installation Dinner at the Orinda Country Club on October 6. The Club was formed in 1974, and the first President, Lafayette resident Charlie Toll, attended the event.

library books to the elementary schools, and is very involved in the Club's holiday season See's Candy fundraising campaign. In addition, Bob has been VP of the Moraga Park Foundation and a Board Member of the Contra Costa Food Bank.

The Master of Ceremonies for the event was early Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley member, and 1999 Moraga Citizen of the Year, Dan Rego. Past Kiwanis Lt. Governor, Ray Horton, conducted the installation of the officers and board members.

Mike Metcalf presented outgoing 2010-11 Kiwanis President John Haffner with the very prestigious William Dunlap Award, awarded by the Kiwanis California-Nevada-Hawaii District Foundation.

Karen Reed, 2011 Moraga Park Foundation Board Member, was installed as President. Other officers include 1st Vice President Graig Crossly, 2nd Vice President Jason Evens, Secretary Mike Metcalf (Moraga's Vice Mayor), and Treasurer Barbara Van Sickle.

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley recently installed a new irrigation system at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, restored the U.S.A. mural at Camino Pablo Elementary School, and cleared the brush on Mulholland Ridge. Many members are very involved in Town activities, and the local Kiwanis Club contributes a significant amount of money each year for scholarships and with local agencies that focus on improving the lives of children.

Bob Reynolds was awarded the 2010-11 Kiwanian of the Year award from 2009-10 winner Dick Ayres. The award is presented to an individual that is very active in the Club's fundraising and service projects, and fosters the efforts of Kiwanis in the community. Bob chairs the contributions committee for the Club, leads the effort for the Club's donation of

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. To learn more about Kiwanis, visit the local website - www.moragavalleykiwanis.org.

As Seen in Lafayette...



Well known Lafayette Rotarians dressed up for the Halloween costume contest at their weekly luncheon. Standing, from left: Tom Henry, Jesse Wellen, Bob Shusta, Tom Courtright, Chuck Vogel, Bob Aguilar, Alicia Cragholm, Bill Eames (bear), Anna Stevenson, Jay Lifson, Mike Henn, Tom Sullivan, Don Anderson; sitting: Troy Feddersen, Greg Vaisnor

Photo John Sherry

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◆ 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 thru December 18. 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.

Join the Hacienda Foundation of Moraga on Thursday, November 10 from 4-7pm for a Local Wine Tasting and Art Exhibit at the Hacienda de las Flores. Parkmon Vineyards and Vincenza Ranch Vineyard will pour their wines, and Moraga artists will exhibit their work. \$8 entry buys 2 tickets. Additional tickets are \$3. 1 ticket = half glass of wine; 2 tickets = full glass of wine. Appetizers are provided courtesy of Terzetto Cuisine.

Moraga Art Gallery will feature the work of guest artist Susan Heller thru Dec. 24. The public is invited to view Heller's fabric art along with gallery members' work at the show's opening reception, Nov 12, 3-5pm. Heller's work falls outside the traditional function of quilts as each piece is intended to hang as a work of art. She enjoys using applique for its added dimension and embellishes with hand-embroidery, beading or both. Moraga Art Gallery is open Tues.-Sun from noon-5pm. MAG is tucked in a corner north of CVS in the Rheem Center in Moraga (until the end of this show).

The walls of Lafayette's Town Hall Theater are filled with colorful abstract canvases painted by internationally acclaimed painter and teacher Tesia Blackburn and ten of her students from Lafayette Studio and Walnut Creek Civic Arts. Please celebrate with the artists on Thursday, November 17 from 6-8 pm at Town Hall Theater, 3535 School Street, Lafayette.

"Oh,Wow! Watercolors" by Moraga artist George Ehrenhaft will grace the Moraga Library's art corner throughout November. Fully half of Ehrenhaft's fresh landscapes lovingly portray sites familiar to Lamorinda residents: the trail to Valle Vista, the Lafayette Reservoir, Briones Regional Park, an EBMUD barn on watershed property. Open during library hours. For details, call 376-6852.

MUSIC

SMC Jazz Band: Thursday November 17 at 8pm and Friday, November 18 at 5pm. Up-tempo numbers, tender ballads, blues, swing and salsa - they all create the energy of the jazz band concert experience. John Maltester, recently inducted into the California Alliance for Jazz Hall of Fame, directs the ensemble. Where: Soda Center, Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Admission: \$5 SMC Community, \$10 General Admission, \$8 Seniors and non-SMC Students.

Music in the Life of William Keith: Piano, Organ, Pipes, Japanese Gong, and Voices song recital performed by faculty, students and staff at Saint Mary's College. Free admission; Wednesday, November 9, 1 pm at the Saint Mary's College Chapel.

The public is invited to "A Harvest Festival of Music" on a new Rodgers Digital Organ, November 13 at 3:30pm, St. Monica Church, Moraga. Organist William Vaughan will play both religious and secular selections from Handel, Bach and Andrew Lloyd Webber, including Arrival of the Queen of Sheba, Sleepers Awake and Pie Jesu. The organ was a gift to the church from the Tom Murray estate. Vaughan is organist at St Paschal Church in Oakland and assistant organist at Oakland's Cathedral of Christ the Light. St. Monica is located at 1001 Camino Pablo, Moraga, between Larch and Camino Pablo. The concert is free.

Celloist Eric Sung, heard by millions in movie theaters around the world, joins the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra in a performance of Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rocooco Theme. If you've seen Pirates of the Caribbean, King Kong, or Inside Man, you've already heard the sound of his rare 200-year-old cello. Also on the program: prime selections from Bizet's voluptuous Carmen, including the unforgettable classic, "Les Toreadors." Sunday, 11/20, 2pm Leshler Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek. Tickets: \$10 - \$30 at the door, by phone (925) 943-SHOW, or online at www.LeshlerArtsCenter.org.

A community sing of Handel's Messiah will be held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St Stephens Drive, Orinda, on Friday, December 2 at 7:30pm. The Messiah Sing will be directed by Minister of Music Robert Train Adams, with Festival Choir, professional soloists and chamber orchestra with harpsichord and organ. This event is an annual fundraiser for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties. Childcare is available by reservation. A free-will offering will be taken. For more information contact Brenda Free, office@ststephensorinda.org or (925) 254-3770 x10.

THEATER

Saint Mary's College Performing Arts Department presents June in a Box at LeFevre Theatre, Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga on Nov. 10, 11, 12, & 18 at 8pm. Sunday, Nov 20 at 2pm. Meet Octavio Solis at 7pm Friday, Nov. 11 before the show. Admission: General: \$15, Seniors and Non-SMC Students: \$12. Tickets available by phone (925) 631-4670 or at the door. See article page B2

Red Carpet World Premiere of "Hercules Saves Christmas", November 17th at the Orinda Theatre. Red Carpet arrivals start at 6:30. Movie and Q & A at 7pm. See article page B4

Mills College Repertory Dance Company presents State of Change on Nov 18, 1pm & 8pm; Nov 19, 8pm, at Mills College - Lisser Theater, 5000 Mac Arthur Blvd., Oakland. Mills Repertory Dance Company presents State of Change, a night of work by faculty and guest artists is an invitation to examine and celebrate change. Cost: \$15 General, \$12 Students and Seniors w/ ID, Free for Mills Community w/ ID - Tickets Available at the Door. For more info see <http://www.mills.edu/dance> or call (510) 430-2175 or email dance@mills.edu.

Town Hall Theatre presents "Scrooge!" directed by Jessica Richards, December 1-18. Tickets: (925) 283 1557 or www.townhalltheatre.com.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District is hosting a FREE Child Safety Seat Inspection event on Thursday, November 10, from 10am-1pm, at Station 41, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.

Get crafty and create a special Thanksgiving keepsake for your family. Tree of Thanks Craft, Saturday, Nov. 19 2-3pm in the Children's Room, Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. (925) 385-2280.

Nutcracker Storytime with Diablo Ballet, Saturday, Dec. 3, 1-2pm in the Community Hall. Enjoy a sweet holiday treat with this special retelling of the classic fairytale featuring dancers from the Diablo Ballet. Don't forget to wear your favorite dancing finery! Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. (925) 385-2280.

HOLIDAY

Saint Mary's College Guild's Annual Harvest Luncheon and Faire will take place on Thursday, November 10th, 10am-3pm in the Soda Center. It's a great time to browse and purchase true treasures at nominal prices. A Traditional Thanksgiving Menu will be served on Thursday at noon. \$25 per person. Mail your check to Dolores McConigle, 828 Crossbrook Cir., Moraga, CA 94556 by Nov. 7. A preview of the "treasures" on Wed, Nov. 9, 4-7pm. Questions? Call Dolores at (925) 376-4339.

Hospice of the East Bay invites the public to participate in its 25th annual Tree of Lights ceremonies to be held in 14 locations throughout Contra Costa in November and December. Each light on every tree is symbolic of a life and will shine in honor or memory of a beloved friend or family member. Please join any of the commemorative ceremonies to enjoy music, poetry, remembrances by family members and friends of Hospice, and the special moment when the tree lights up: MORAGA, Sunday, November 13, 5:30pm, Moraga Commons. ORINDA, Saturday, December 3, 4:30pm, Orinda Village by Bank of America. LAFAYETTE, Sunday, December 4, 5:30pm, Corner of Mt. Diablo & Lafayette Circle East.

Lafayette Gallery Trunk Show, December 10 & 11; featuring unique gifts handcrafted by local artisans. The Gallery is located at 50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette (across from Chow). Free event. www.lafayettegallery.net. (925) 284-2788.

OTHER

There are now \$11,000 in rebates available for Contra Costa homeowners to make your home more comfortable and energy efficient through the Energy Upgrade CA (EUC) Program. Find out how to take advantage of the program, and meet the local contractors who are certified to do this work at a free workshop on Thursday, November 10, at the Moraga Public Library, Community Room, 1500 St. Mary's Road Moraga. Doors open at 6pm, event at 6:30pm. To register, go to <http://moraga-euc.eventbrite.com>. Also, find out about the 3% 15-year loan and additional \$1250 grant available from CHF. Sponsored by Ecology Action & Sustainable Moraga.

Cycle Recycle, 'til the end of November. Every year, Bobbie and Tom Preston collect repairable bikes for refurbishing by Trips for Kids, the Bicycle Hut, and by the inmates at Marsh Canyon Detention Facility. The repaired bikes are given at Christmas to under-privileged children. Most needed are tricycles and junior bikes; please no skateboards. The Prestons have been doing the Cycle Recycle for 14 years, and over 1500 bikes have been gifted to kids. New and/or used, repairable bikes may be delivered to the side driveway of the Preston's home, only through the month of November, at 1307 Larch Avenue, Moraga.

Muir Heritage Land Trust Autumn Celebration 2011-Thursday, November 10, 7-9 pm at the Walnut Creek Library, Oak View Room, 1666 North Main Street, Walnut Creek. This event is free and open to the public. RSVP to Gunther@muirheritagelandtrust.org or call (925) 228-5460. For more info visit www.muirheritagelandtrust.org.

Join us at sewnow! studio on Friday November 11th from 9-11am. We are hosting a free morning of sewing to sew and embellish school totes for Japanese kids impacted by last year's earthquake and tsunami. sewnow! will provide all the supplies and set-up, a hand embroidery lesson, as well as refreshments and a take home gift for all participants. Basic sewing machine skills are required - ages 8 to 100 are welcome. RSVP to: sewnow! on facebook or info@sewnow.com.

Fundraiser for New Day for Children. On November 11 at 7pm, Willow Spring Church of Moraga will present a benefit concert for "New Day For Children", a non-profit facility that houses and rehabilitates young girls escaping the sex slave industry in the Bay Area. Please come out to listen to the music of some wonderful local musicians, learn more about this real issue of modern-day slave trade from law enforcement and representatives from New Day, and help support this cause. Tickets are \$20 if purchased online, \$30 at the door. Go to: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/203484>. Willow Spring Church is located at 1689 School Street, Moraga; phone (925) 376-3550.

Celebrate Veterans Day on Friday, Nov 11, 11am-noon at the Moraga Commons Park next to the Veterans Memorial. The ceremony will begin with the Advancement of the Color Guard followed by speakers and refreshments. Please come and show your support for our local veterans. Hosted by the Town of Moraga and Moraga Boy Scout Troops 212, 234, and 246.

The community is invited to celebrate the 100th birthday of Lafayette's oldest community service organization, the Lafayette Improvement Association on November 11 at 7pm at the Town Hall, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. We'll have cake and cider, learn a bit about the LIA and the history of Lafayette, then we'll all blow out the birthday candles together. Parking at the Lafayette School playground.

Grief and the Holidays is a special meeting of Widowed Persons Support on Saturday, November 12, from 10am to noon. We will meet at Saint Stephens Church at 66 Saint Stephens Drive, Orinda. This workshop is designed for newly, and not-so-newly bereaved persons, although it is open to other interested adults. Holidays can still have their joy if we plan for them. We help show you how to take charge of your holiday experience. For more information, please call Jan at (925) 210-0333.

Clothes Swap For A Cause: Miramonte High School Environmental Club will hold a Clothes Swap on Saturday, Nov. 12, 11am-3pm on the lower field of Glorietta Elementary School in Orinda. Families are encouraged to bring and exchange gently-used children's clothing. \$5 donation fee at the entrance; proceeds will go towards a hydration station - a water fountain that dispenses chilled, filtered water - to reduce the use of bottled water among students.

Arab Spring Teach-in presents Building Solidarity with the Arab Spring on Saturday November 12th, 10am-6pm, at UC Berkeley - Dwinelle Hall and Multicultural Center, UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley. Join us for a full-day teach-in on the popular rebellions across the Middle East and North Africa, and discuss how we can provide real solidarity! Cost: Free; donations requested. For more info see <http://arabspringteachin.org> or call 415-320-7476 or email info@arabspringteachin.org.

Come and experience the Many Faces of Ovarian Cancer, an event focusing on one of the most commonly misdiagnosed cancers in women. Join an engaging panel of medical experts, as they offer insight

into the latest information on treatment options, family history, early detection, and explore the unique needs and issues of ovarian cancer survivors. Cancer specific nutrition will be discussed with an emphasis on holiday cooking. November 15, 2011 from 6-8pm. Lafayette Library and Learning Center - Art and Science Room. No charge, refreshments and healthy snacks will be served. To register, please call (925) 677-5041. Co-sponsored by Clocks Etc, Oakwood Athletic Club and Diablo Valley Oncology.

Hospice of the East Bay is offering a workshop for people who have experienced the death of a loved one, and find the holiday season to be a sad and stressful time of the year. It will be offered at Hospice's administrative offices: 3470 Buskirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill on Tuesday, November 15, 6- 8pm. For further information and/or to register, please call Bereavement Services at Hospice of the East Bay: (925) 887-5681. Pre-registration is required.

Berkeley Center for New Media/Art Technology & Culture Colloquium [ATC] presents ATC Lecture: Marc Horowitz, Performance and Humor in New Media on Monday, Nov 21, 7:30-9pm, at Banatao Auditorium, Sutardja Dai Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. Marc Horowitz will discuss how contemporary technologies, i.e. youtube, social media, are changing the way we make and consume art and entertainment. Cost: Admission is free and open to the public. For more info see <http://bcnm.berkeley.edu> or call (510) 495-3505 or email info.bcnm@berkeley.edu.

Moraga Women's Society is sponsoring a fundraiser for the Moraga schools on Wednesday, November 30. Treat yourself to a fun-filled day before the holiday rush. Join us for "Brunch, Bridge and Bunco" at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street in Moraga, at 10:30am. Tickets are \$25. Please call Jean @376-7961 for ticket information

MEETINGS

Meeting to Discuss Images of Women Used in Advertising. The public is invited to the Tuesday, November 15 meeting of the American Association of University Women, Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette Branch (AAUW, OML). Diane Bell-Rettger, AAUW member, will present Jean Kilbourne's 50 minute film, Killing Us Softly 4, and lead a timely discussion about how advertising images affect girls and women today. Meetings start with a social get-together at 9am, followed by the film, discussion, and adjournment at 11:30am. The meeting will be at the Serbian Orthodox Cultural Center, 1700 School Street in Moraga. Email questions to dianebell@rettger.com.

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society's next meeting will take place on November 15 from 10am-noon at the library of the LOS Church, 2949 Stone Valley Road, Alamo. The program will be of interest to both beginner and the more advanced genealogist. For information call Ed O'Donnell (925) 299-0881, or visit <http://srvgensoc.org>.

Lafayette Garden Club meeting, Thursday November 10, 9:30am; Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Program: "Reuse and Recycle in the Garden" with Matthew Levesque teaching garden design with re-cycled materials. Contact: annward@annward.com.

Moraga Garden Club November Meeting: Susan Morrison and Rebecca Sweet, authors of "Garden Up!": vertical gardening for small and large spaces," will offer members and guests "how to" information for enhancing any outdoor space. Rebecca is a designer and owner of Harmony in the Garden and a contributor Horticulture magazine and Susan is also a landscape designer and garden magazine writer. The meeting will be held on November 17 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center on School St. in Moraga. The meeting starts at 10am preceded by social hour at 9:30am. Interested parties are cordially invited to attend.

The Montelindo Garden Club meeting, Friday, November 18; plant sale and refreshments are at 9am, lecture is at 10:30am. The event is free and the public is cordially invited to attend. The event is held at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Ria Sim, who is the founder of Twigs Studio and owner of Ria Sim Designs in Danville will speak on planning events that coordinate floral decorations which are planned down to the last leaf giving focused attention to each project from food, table linens and to party favors.

Please submit:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

THE MONSTERS FROM DARK DREAMS HAUNTED HOUSE...



...want to thank all the ghouls and boys from all over. You made our fifth year so fun, safe and successful. It was spooktacular! Until next year "Nighty Nighty". Oh yeah, we'll be back. Will you???

HAHAHAHAHA

November Special Events at:



Orinda Theatre

Immortals	Nov. 13th 2 PM 3 PM	Q & A with Screenwriters Vlas & Charley Parlapanides VIP reception (Free to CAIFF Members) Movie - Q & A with Screenwriters following the movie (Free to CAIFF Members)
Hercules Saves Christmas	Nov. 17th 6:30 PM 7 PM	World Premiere Red Carpet Arrivals Movie - Q & A with cast & crew following the movie
"The Godfather"	Nov. 19th, 7 PM	CAIFF and Diablo Magazine Classic Film Series

Rheem Theatre

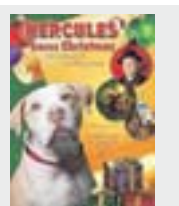
"Best Comedy"	Nov. 14th 7 PM	Short Films - California Independent Film Festival Members only Free event
To Have and Have Not	Nov. 16th 4 PM	Classic Movie Wednesday Sponsored by Morgan Stanley
World of the Wars	Nov. 18th 10 PM	Friday Night of Fright

Starting at Orinda Theatre on November 11th

- J. Edgar (R)
- Immortals (R)

Starting at Rheem Theatre on November 18th

- Happy Feet Two (PG)
- Hercules Saves Christmas (G)



California Independent Film Festival February 10th - 16th

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Check www.lamorindatheatres.com for all movie listings

TEEN SCENE

Orinda Teen Advisory Council WANTS YOU!

By Natasha Morsey

Did you know there is a group of young student leaders in Orinda who meet to create community events, plan service projects, and advise the City Council about issues important to teens? Known as OTAC, the Orinda Teen Advisory Council is organized by Orinda youth in grades six through twelve.

Co-Chair of OTAC, Alex Glaser, a senior at Miramonte High School, commented that the council decides “what teens can do for Orinda and what Orinda can do for teens.” The official youth-written mission statement states: “This city-sponsored teen committee provides input to the city council about teens and focuses on the involvement of teens in the community through community service, programs, and fundraising.”

The OTAC wants more input from junior high students and is involving Orinda Intermediate School. Members of the council have already visited OIS to make a leadership presentation. The Principal of OIS, Michael Randall, advertises the importance of the council on his weekly podcast.

“The OIS students are the future of OTAC,” says Haley Cassriel, a senior at Miramonte and co-chair of OTAC. Council member and Treasurer, Devin Stein, was drawn to help on the council while he was in middle school. “I was at OIS in 8th grade when I attended a council meeting with a friend,” says Devin, now a high school junior.

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

Glaser said that many of the events are created for OIS students. OIS students are important on the council because they have suggestions and perspectives that older students may not consider. For example, kids in junior high do not have drivers’ licenses. Transportation options must be discussed and they may have earlier curfews or different restrictions than older teens.

OTAC hosted a fun Harry Potter themed movie night featuring a unique dish served by Loard’s Ice Cream. Thinking ahead to next April, OTAC is collaborating with the Lafayette and Moraga councils in the hope of presenting a “Battle of the Bands” with profits targeted at supporting local high school sports teams.

Volunteering at OTAC has influenced members’ possible career choices. Cassriel says she is interested in public health administration because of OTAC. Glaser is also considering a major in which she can use the skills she learned working with the council.

Orinda Teen Advisory Council invites students from junior high and high school to join them. Monthly meetings take place on the first Monday of each month at 4:00 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center. Participation also fulfills community service requirements. For more information, go to <http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us>. Join the fun and help plan the future events of Orinda youth.

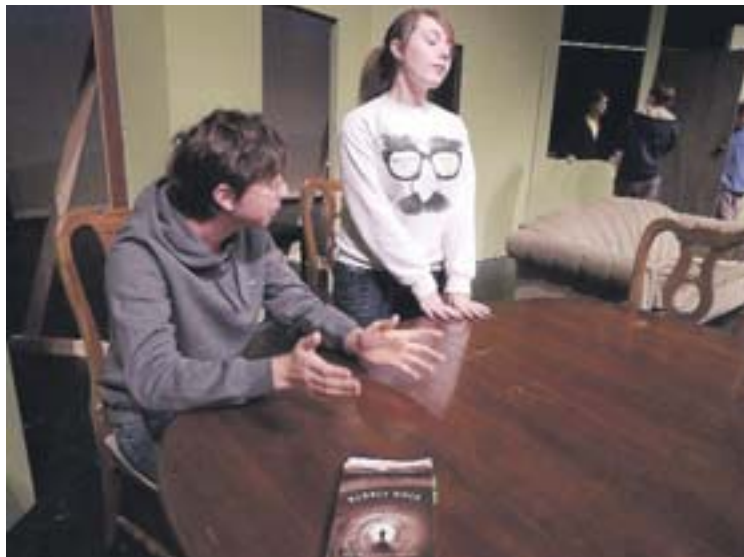
The Play’s the Thing

Miramonte High School drama department presents two contemporary plays: *Rabbit Hole*, by David Lindsay-Abaire, and *Marvin’s Room*, by Scott McPherson. Both plays focus on family relationships as they cope with sudden tragedy. *Rabbit Hole* performances are November 15 and 17 at 7:30 pm. *Marvin’s Room*: November 16 and 18 at 7:30 pm. Show venue is the MHS theater, 750 Moraga Way, Orinda. Tickets are \$7 per show, or \$10 for both and can be purchased at the door (or online at www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte)

The Campolindo High School production of Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing* runs Dec 2nd and Dec 3rd at 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm). Tickets can be purchased online at the Campolindo Web Store (<http://campolindo.revtrak.net/tek9.asp>) starting November 8th or at the door before each show. Suggested donation is \$5 per student and \$10 per adult. The play is a comedic tale of sassy characters who fall into love despite their bravest attempts to escape Cupid’s arrows. Campo’s modern adaptation sets the play in LEO’S, a chic 1960’s-style club.

The Acalanes Drama Dons’ performance of Sarah Ruhl’s *Eurydice* was held November 2nd to 5th.

C.Dausman



Rehearsal at Miramonte High School

Photo Cathy Dausman



Rehearsal at Campolindo High School

Photo Cathy Dausman

Successful Debate for JM Students

Submitted by Don Read



The JMIS Debate Team

Photo Fei Lin

The Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School (JM) Debate team recently competed in the JM Fall Invitational Debate Tournament. JM hosted eight teams comprising more than 150 debaters. Participants included Orinda Intermediate, North Creek Academy and Dorris-Eaton from Walnut Creek, and Piedmont Middle; one school came all the way from Eugene, Oregon to compete in the event.

The JM debaters, who spent about five weeks preparing for the tournament, did extremely well. The mostly rookie team took 2nd place in total wins and 3rd place in win percentage. Earning individual trophies were Ming E. in 5th place, Ivan G.-S. in 7th place, and Patrick H. in 8th place.

The team has recently tackled topics such as school uniforms, a new national anthem, food trucks, and drilling in the Arctic.

The debate season began in September with a Kick-Off Jam-boree. There are five league tournaments, and a national championship held at Claremont-McKenna College in April.

Students Get an Earful From Celebrated Musician

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

As part of San Francisco Performances’ outreach program, Dr. Vijay Iyer, renowned musician, dropped in on two Stanley Band classes last week. The students were on their best behavior to meet Dr. Iyer— he’s a famous Jazz Pianist with undergraduate degrees in Math and Physics from Yale, a Master of Science degree in Physics from UC Berkeley and a Doctorate in Technology and the Arts, also from UC Berkeley. He started playing the violin at age three.

All grown up now, he’s currently a New York based jazz pianist, composer and producer and is also a faculty member at the Manhattan School of Music, New York University and The New School.

The Stanley students were just happy he was in their classroom. Dr. Iyer’s advice: “Play rhythmically, don’t worry about the notes, they’ll come.” When asked by teacher Bob Athayde about his unique combination of a background in math and science and the messiness of jazz, Iyer replied, “There’s uncertainty in science – there’s always a degree of flexibility and noise – so I embrace that as part of the musical process.” Students also got the scoop on im-

provising, “look for what’s close at hand and put it to use.”

Although clearly academically gifted, and one of the top jazz pianists of a generation, mastering electronic music and acoustic jazz, Iyer was very plainspoken with the students, suggesting that improvisation is all about, “Putting it together in small chunks that sound good.”

He’s released fifteen albums; the latest, in 2011 is “Tirtha,” the debut of a trio with guitarist –composer who goes by a single name, Prasanna and tabla player Nitin Mitta. A tabla is an Indian percussion instrument used in Hindustani classical music.

The visit was sponsored by San Francisco Performances Arts Education Program that is supported by foundations, corporations and individual donors. They work with artists and schools to bring internationally acclaimed artists to audiences of all ages throughout the Bay Area. While the kids were packing up as class ended, they were giddy, exclaiming it was “so fun,” “a ‘ten’” and “awesome.” It’s fair to say the program’s goal of opening student’s minds to the beauty and power of music was exceeded.

NUTCRACKER CARES!



Campolindo Performing Arts Center

CAPA is donating proceeds from 2011 weekday student performances to fight child hunger in Contra Costa. Additional donations gratefully accepted: [contact capa@capadance.net](mailto:capa@capadance.net) (Please bring a jar of peanut butter to any show. Donation barrels & envelopes available at all shows)

Fri Dec 9th 7pm w/Concerto
Sat Dec 10th 2pm
Sat Dec 10th 7pm w/ Concerto
Sun Dec 11 2pm

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Campo '76 Mini-Reunion

Submitted by Kim Fielding



Campolindo High School's Class of 1976 held a mini-reunion on October 1st at Kim Hall Fielding's home. The evening included a Tuscan feast, music from the '70s, and lots of laughter. The event was so successful that a follow-up evening will be forthcoming. If you are a member of the Class of '76 and wish to make sure you are receiving class information via the distribution list, contact Kim at (650) 948-6601.

Photo provided

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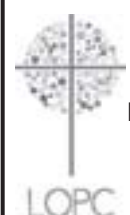
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Value of Diagnostic Tests

Mona Miller, DVM

Frequently I am asked what purpose is served by performing diagnostic tests on a patient with symptoms of illness. It surprises me because it seems so clear to me that, like human diseases, some veterinary diseases can be easy to diagnose and some can be difficult. It also surprises me when the comment comes up "But my dog/cat has never been sick a day in his life" as if that is insurance that he never will be sick. Similarly, comments about how old a pet is and why bother running "all these expensive tests since he'll only live a couple more years" catch me off-guard.

I encourage my clients to not make assumptions, especially when it comes to matters of diagnostic possibilities, treatment plans and cost, just as I should not make assumptions about my clients. There is huge variation among people as to what is affordable and reasonable. It is the vet's job to provide information, options and guidance to their clients. It is the client's responsibility to inform their vet of their limitations. Thus, from the partnership of vet-client, good health decisions can be made for pets. These decisions should fit within a framework of the client's lifestyle, philosophical ideals and morals, and budget.

Generally, veterinarians take a step-wise approach to diagnostics, starting with a wide view to gain as much broad information as possible and narrowing the tests as results in-

dicade. This often correlates with a financial step-wise approach, starting with relatively less expensive blood, urine, fecal tests and radiographs. It also pairs with a less invasive physiological approach to the pet. The majority of pets can have blood, urine and radiographs taken without sedation or anesthesia. More specific tests can often also be performed while the pet is awake, such as culture of an abscess or ultrasound; although occasionally sedation is recommended for these. Tests that require sedation or anesthesia are often put higher on the diagnostic ladder, such as biopsy procedures, advanced imaging such as CT or MRI scans, or exploratory surgery.

The broad overview approach allows for the veterinarian to uncover abnormalities that might provide a quick diagnosis. Just as importantly, this allows for normal findings to be uncovered. For example, for a cat who is drinking and urinating in larger volumes, a simple and fairly comprehensive blood and urine test can reveal whether diabetes mellitus is present while eliminating thyroid, liver and kidney disease all in one step.

On occasion, just as in human medicine, broad-based diagnostics do not provide the diagnosis, and the test field narrows. More specific tests might be indicated - for example, checking for tick-borne disease, or bacterial presence with a culture/sensitivity, or looking into the interior structure of the liver with ultrasound.

Sometimes clients wonder "why were all those tests run when they didn't show anything?" As I tell my clients, if I had the crystal ball and knew what their pet's disease was, I'd know what test to run to diagnose it! It is important to go through the process of screening for the more common, more easily diagnosed diseases so that nothing is missed, before jumping into too narrow of a test. Additionally, information gathered regarding normal organ function in that patient will affect an overall treatment plan and prognosis.



Dr. Mona Miller lives in Lafayette with her young son, two cats and Luka a new puppy. She has worked at Four Seasons Animal Hospital in Lafayette since moving here in 2001. She attended Cal as an undergrad, and received her DVM from U.C. Davis. She can be reached at Four Seasons, 938-7700, or by email to Mona5DVM@aol.com.

Step-Parenting Pitfalls

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

These days many children have a step-parent, and there are important considerations in making the new family unit work well. Some parents expect their children to make an easy adjustment to a new person in their household and do not provide much help for them. Their thinking may go somewhat like this: "I'm happier in my life now so my children will naturally benefit from my new contentment." Or, "My children are lucky to have such a wonderful new (step-mom or step-dad). Or, perhaps, "Thank goodness, now I'll have some help getting Ryan to behave better and do well in school."

One family I worked with had an exceptionally difficult time managing the introduction of a stepfather. Howard married May when her son was ten and daughter was fourteen. The children's father lived in a different state and had only occasional contact with them. May had trouble controlling her headstrong daughter, Dorian, even before she married Howard. Dorian cut class, didn't study, and experimented with drugs. When Howard came along, he decided the problem was that May was too lenient, so he compensated by being extremely firm. In response, Dorian acted out even more; she was caught shoplifting twice and began sneaking out of the house. Howard was constantly angry at Dorian. May resented Howard's interference, while Howard resented not being appreciated and respected. And John, the ten

year-old, was adversely affected too since everyone around him at home was unhappy and frustrated.

Our work together included couples and family sessions. May needed to be the one to discipline Dorian. She could accept and request input from Howard behind the scenes, very discreetly, and never in front of the children. Obviously this couple needed to work together. Dorian naturally was not going to respond to Howard's attempts to discipline her when they hadn't even established a bond or much of a relationship. It helps to put yourself in your child's shoes and realize that you, too, would resent interference in your life from someone whom you consider to be an outsider.

Howard's job was to build a good relationship with both children however he could, and to realize that this would take time. He needed to stifle his negative reactions as much as possible and provide only positive, reassuring messages to the children. In other words, he could ignore their misbehavior, let May deal with it, and instead catch them in the act of doing anything positive. He needed to spend time with each child, having fun and sharing experiences, before he could be accepted by them as a full-fledged parent. Basically, Howard had to first become an adult friend to them. I have had many people tell me that it took until they were grown, with families of their own, to really appreciate their step-parent (and sometimes this is true for natural parents too!)

Being a patient and non-reactive step-parent can be hard to put into practice. Sometimes the biological parent will lean on the step-parent for discipline back-up, thereby placing him in a precarious position. Or the step-parent will find it impossible to practice restraint in the face of blatant disregard or defiance from the children. It is natural to feel hurt and resentful if your efforts and good intentions are being scorned. But it helps to put your own feelings aside and to have a specific plan in mind for developing a solid relationship with your step-children. You may not feel that you have enough control at first, but ultimately you have the ability to be a very significant person in their lives.



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

Savory Caramelized Pear Tartlets with Chèvre

Elaine Cable

First Place, 2011 Moraga Pear and Wine Festival



Pear caramelized onion tartlet

Photo Susie Iventosch

INGREDIENTS

1 tablespoon olive oil
 1 tablespoon butter
 4 Bartlett pears, cored and sliced
 ½ medium sweet onion, thinly sliced
 Kosher salt and pepper, to taste
 Your favorite pie crust recipe (can use frozen, thawed pie dough also)
 4 ounces chèvre (cheese) ... Elaine uses Trader Joe's goat cheese with honey, but says you could probably use Brie**
 1 teaspoon cider vinegar
 1 teaspoon minced rosemary (or other herb from your garden, i.e. thyme, sage, etc.)

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Melt butter and olive oil together in sauté pan, over medium heat (careful not to let burn). Add sliced onion and gently "sweat" them out until translucent, about 7 minutes. Then add pear slices. Let the pear/onion mixture become soft, again, the pears will also begin to become translucent. Add salt and pepper to taste.

*Meanwhile, roll out pie dough and use round cookie cutter to cut 12 circles for the crust. Then place each one into each of the 12 muffin cups. Crumble the chèvre cheese and put aside. Turn up heat to medium high/high (depending on your stove) and begin to caramelize the mixture, stirring occasionally to prevent burning. After approximately 7-10 minutes, may add cider vinegar, then after the mixture thickens again, add rosemary. Place an even amount of pear mixture (1-2 tablespoon) into each pie dough cup in the muffin tin. Place small amount of crumbled cheese on each tartlet. Bake in preheated 375 °oven for 12-14 minutes or until crusts are browned and cheese is softened. Serve warm or room temp.

* Use a muffin tin or round cookie cutter, approximately 4 inches in diameter, to cut the pastry. Elaine uses a wine glass. I used small, fluted tart tins, so I used a smaller diameter biscuit cutter, which made at least 24 tartlets.

** I used a bit of blue cheese on top, too which worked well!

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and I wanted to share this unusual and delicious recipe for cranberry sauce that my good friend gave to me. She and her family love spicy food and this sauce is no exception. I've used just a small amount of jalapeno in the recipe, but you can add as much as your taste buds (and dinner guests) will allow. Just be sure to seed the jalapeno before adding to the sauce.

Jalapeno-Lime Cranberry Sauce



Jalapeno-lime cranberry sauce

Photo Susie Iventosch

INGREDIENTS

1 bag or 7-8 cups fresh (or frozen) cranberries
 1 cup dried cranberries
 1 teaspoon finely minced fresh, seeded jalapeno pepper
 1 cup light brown sugar
 1 cup orange juice (or water)
 Juice of two limes

DIRECTIONS

Place all ingredients, except dried cranberries, in a medium-sized pot. Bring to boil over medium-high heat and continue to cook until sauce begins to thicken, about 4-5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat. Stir in dried cranberries and cool completely. Store in airtight container until ready to use for Thanksgiving!

Perfect Pears

By Susie Iventosch



Elaine Cable cooks with her boys, Will (7) and Alex (3)

Photo provided

Elaine Cable of Moraga won first place in the recipe contest at the 13th annual Moraga Pear and Wine Festival in September, and ... was she ever surprised!

"I'm not really a cooking contest type," she said. "But, the contest piqued my interest and when I saw that we had two pears left on our backyard pear tree, I said, why not? There are only a few things I can do well, and one of them is cooking!"

Elaine remembered tasting a wonderful savory apple tartlet at a wedding over the summer, and thought that whatever could be done with an apple, could surely be done with a pear.

And, I discovered that Elaine's award-winning recipe for Savory Caramelized Pear Tartlets with Chèvre is delicious!

Though Elaine is a Bay Area native hailing from the Peninsula, she

and her husband relocated to Moraga from Virginia in April. She thought that participating in the recipe contest would be a great way to immerse herself in her new community. As an occupational therapist on leave to raise her two boys, Will, 7, and Alex, 3, who also love to cook with her, she welcomed the opportunity to venture out of the family kitchen to participate in the contest.

"Coming from Virginia most recently, I am amazed by the amount of fresh 'anything' you can get in Moraga at the local stores, the farmers' markets, and even our own backyard," Elaine said. "You can get whatever you want! So much of this great produce would be 'special-order only' where we come from. We lived in a very transitory area in Virginia due to all of the government jobs, and there was just not this kind of awesome environment, where everyone is

so upbeat and happy."

Because Elaine loves food, and has been cooking ever since she was a wee child, she really enjoys the bounty the local market affords. Her grandmother, who came from Poland, did a lot of canning, and her own mom taught her how to "punt" in the kitchen.

"I can't remember a time when I wasn't in the kitchen with my mom," she said. "Now that I'm out here and she is in Charleston, I really miss cooking with her. My younger brother, Zach, is a phenomenal cook, and come holiday time, we are all in the kitchen together."

Elaine has enjoyed the taste of success, and, in fact, she says she already has an idea for her contest recipe for next year's Pear and Wine Festival!

2011 Moraga Pear and Wine Festival Pear Recipe Contest Winners' Recipes

Other Pear and Wine Festival recipe contest winners are listed below, and their recipes can be found on our website.

- Sharon Metcalf**, 2nd Place, for her Fresh Pear Upside-down Cake
- Robin Valentine**, 3rd Place for her Pear Red-White Sorbet (using both wine and pears!)
- Brian Pergamit**, 4th Place for his Cinnamon Pear Pockets
- Kim Burrows**, 5th Place for her Fresh Pear Pie with Dried Cherries and Brown Sugar Streusel



Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com.
These recipe is available on our web site www.lamorindaweekly.com
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When Buying Your Office Space Makes Sense

By Sophie Braccini



From left, standing: Caroline McCormick, Harvey Tilkin, Maria Aguayo, Licia Hofmann, Kerri Sayles, Stacey Salsedo, Robyn Hetland; kneeling: Stefanie Nightingale, Besy Bohulano
Photo Sophie Braccini

When Caroline McCormick stands on the 600-square-foot terrace of her new office, she enjoys unobstructed views of the hills of Moraga and large expanses of sky. She has plans to embellish it with plants, create a vegetable garden for her staff to share fresh food at lunchtime, and add a compost pile. What is nice about this vision is that she has all the time she wants to make it happen and she knows it will

be there to stay.

McCormick purchased the 1700-square-foot (plus terrace) suite 200 at 533 Moraga Rd. "Every morning, it's like going from home, to my second home," says a very satisfied McCormick, "and with the price of real estate going down, it does not cost more to buy a brand new custom space than it was to rent."

Her company, ACI, manages homeowner associations. "The

number of homeowner associations is growing," says McCormick, "they are a good deal for cities that don't want to have to maintain more roads. Homeowner associations maintain their own infrastructure and cities look favorably on developments that include this type of organization." McCormick boasts doubling the size of her company twice in the last six years. This growth explains why she had to move from her Lafayette of-

fice. "I was raised in Moraga and am now living with my family in Orinda," says McCormick, "coming back here was easy for me, and it is a lovely building."

She admits that it took some convincing for some of her employees who live in the East Bay. "But after a while, they realized that driving up the hill to Moraga was not worse than driving along Mount Diablo Boulevard," she said, "as long as they avoid the high school commute hours."

When she looked for a larger office space, she hoped to purchase rather than rent. "I was tired of wasting the rent money every month," she said. But business condos are not easy to come by, especially new, custom condos. "I had to put down 10% of the total amount and got an SBA loan with a 20-year term," says McCormick, "if the price of real estate had not come down I probably would not have been able to do it."

The deal included the complete customization of the interior space. "Allen Sayles (architect and co-developer of the building) designed our layout," said McCormick, "everyone has their own office, almost every one of them with natural light, and we have lunch together on the terrace every day."

ACI also got the contract to man-

age the building's business owner association. "This is my first commercial client," says McCormick, "we will apply the same strategic planning rules we do with our other clients." According to McCormick, every homeowner association has different sets of rules that are the constitution of the organization, but all have to budget and create a long term financial plan to sustain the property. "Our clients vary greatly in size, but they all have to abide by the same laws."

McCormick's only real worry at the moment is that if her company continues to grow and she has to make room for new employees, she will have to set her own office out on the terrace. "As long as it does not rain, it will be perfect," says an optimistic McCormick, "but I have another strategy: the office next to ours is leased, so I have the option to buy it when it becomes vacant; like that, ACI can continue to grow."

The property located at 533 Moraga Road was developed by Dan Minkoff and Architect J. Allen Sayles as a business condominium with eight suites – three suites are still available.

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

business briefs

Mathnesium

3435 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, 283-4200,
<http://www.mathnasium.com/lafayetteca>

The Mathnesium method is true to the life research of math teacher and writer Larry Martinek who developed, over 20 years, a method of teaching math that combines oral, visual, mental and written modalities to help children develop Number Sense, a grasp of mathematical fundamentals. More than 200 Mathnesium centers have flourished in the United States and Ara Chakrabarti recently opened a center in Lafayette. Mathnesium claims to teach kids math the way that makes sense to them. In Lafayette, Mathnesium's Power Math Workout program is for students in grades 1-12 and is available year round. Students' time is spent working on foundational skills as well as one on one tutoring with their school math work. The program is drop in, no appointment required. Chakrabarti is an Engineering Graduate from the University of Michigan. His professional career encompasses developing mathematical and geometric modeling software to managing Information Technology organization for large global corporations.

A Makeover for Chef Chao

343 Rheem Boulevard, Moraga, 376-1740



Chef Chao, the Chinese restaurant next to 24-HourFitness in Moraga, celebrated its 30th anniversary last year and just got

a brand new look. Chef Chao and his son, Henry Chao, continue to prepare and serve the food that has made this restaurant a Moraga staple.

Smart Cookie Learning

3182 Old Tunnel Road Lafayette, Phone: 297-5304

Smart Cookie Learning is a new academic tutoring center in Lafayette that offers, according to its owners, a "non cookie cutter" approach to academics. The center offers one-on-one or semi-private tutoring for subject mastery, or small, interactive and collaborative classes. Smart Cookie Learning offers personalized programs in Math, Writing, Study Skills, and SAT/ACT Test Prep. The team is formed of Maggie Jacobberger, Alycia McAlister, and Donovan Messier. Jacobberger was born and raised in Lafayette. She graduated from Harvard College after receiving a public school education in Lafayette. She has been tutoring and mentoring students in Lamorinda for over 16 years. McAlister holds degrees in Teaching, Psychology, and Child Development and has taught students and teachers at Stanley Middle School in Lafayette and Monterra Middle School in Oakland. After leaving the classroom proper, she was both a Director of Education and a Center Director for Sylvan Learning Center in San Ramon and Walnut Creek. Donovan Messier began tutoring students as a freshman at Saint Mary's College and has been teaching math to students for over 12 years.

Memory Screening

Senior Helpers of Moraga is sponsoring the Alzheimer's Foundation of America's 9th Annual National Memory Screening Day on November 15 at Aegis. "We are sponsoring this free, confidential memory screening that afternoon as a community service," says Senior Helpers' Director Kevin Reneau. The screening will take place at Aegis in Moraga, 950 Country Club Drive, on Tuesday November 15, 1:30-4:00 p.m. The five to ten minute test will provide seniors or their families some indication of one's memory and whether one should have a follow-up evaluation by a family doctor or neurologist. Call 376-8000 for more information.

Innovative Real Estate Agent Posts Videos To 'Sell' Lafayette

Lafayette real estate agent Dana Green conceived of, and had professionally videotaped, a series of five videos focusing on why people love to live in Lafayette and presenting different neighborhoods. "Each of Lafayette's many neighborhoods has its own personality," says Green, "The best way to begin to learn Lafayette is to start by dividing the community into four quadrants that can be easily identified by our four Lafayette elementary schools." The short movies (about 2 minutes) are very well done, concisely edited and featuring lively narration by Green. The films are posted on Youtube and can be accessed on Green's new web site: <http://dana-greenteam.com/neighborhoods>.

News from the Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

Tonight! Monthly Mixer at Mosaic Financial Partners, Wednesday, November 9, Mosaic Financial Partners at 3620 Happy Valley Rd., Suite 100, 5:30pm.

Local Business Marketing & Low Cost Video in a Youtube World Workshop - Wednesday, November 16, 8:00am at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center. Free for Lafayette Chamber members, \$15 for non-Lafayette Chamber members. Limited seating. RSVP at workshops@lafayettechamber.org.

Orinda

Chamber ribbon-cutting event at the Christian Science Reading Room & Bookstore on Wednesday November 16th, 3:00pm at 24 Orinda Way (next to the library). The Christian Science Reading Room & Bookstore, recently relocated from next to Morrison Jewelers to the Christian Science Church just down from Orinda City Hall offices.

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

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lamorinda Prep Basketball Will Fight for DFAL Title

By Conrad Bassett



Griffin Piatt (3) will return for the Cougars. Photo Doug Kohen



Miramonte's Joey Goodreault (24) dribbles up-court against Campolindo's Jack Evans (21) of Campolindo. Photo Jordan Fong

High school basketball season kicked off on Monday, November 7 with the first day of practice. For the first time in several years, the defending league champion is not Acalanes, Campolindo or Miramonte. Las Lomas won the Diablo Foothill Athletic League title last season with a 27-6 record and the Lamorinda programs look to take it back this year.

Campolindo's head coach Matt Watson expects the DFAL to be just as competitive as last year.

"Dublin is loaded just like Las Lomas and Dougherty Valley. Acalanes and Miramonte are also going to compete for the league title. The DFAL will be an extremely difficult league this year and unfortunately we are one of the smaller teams in the league," he said.

Last year's DFAL runner-up, Campolindo lost some key players but also will return several players from a team that went 19-9 overall and 8-4 in DFAL play.

This year's team will lack the height of recent Cougar teams. Garrett Franklin, 6'8", and point guard Carl King, another leader, graduated.

However, Campo does have some strong returners including Jordan Krumrei, Rob Wirth and Griffin Piatt, who was second team All-DFAL last season.

With an undefeated football team, Watson will likely have to go without several players while they finish up their playoff run. Piatt and Jack Davis play for both teams.

"There are several football players that play basketball, most schools must deal with missing football guys for a month so we just deal with it," said Watson.

The Cougars will have a tough preseason schedule including Castlemont (Oakland), St. Mary's (Stockton) and Christian Brothers (Sacramento). They will also travel to Santa Rosa for a tournament and will be leaving the state to play in Las Vegas over the holidays.

Over in Orinda, the Miramonte Matadors will be looking to improve on last year's 12-14 overall record and 5-7 DFAL record.

Coach Dave Brown returns for another year at the helm of the Mats and is excited about the upcoming season. Like Campolindo, the Matadors will do without some football players during the NCS playoffs. Seniors Ross Anderson, second team all-DFAL, and Jack Pietrykowski both play football.

"We have pushed our early season games back as far as possible. We only have three games before winter break but two four-game tourneys during the vacation. This is something we've never done before and three non-league games after January 1 while we usually have two," said Brown.

There is a positive to having to go without key players for so long, Brown said. It allows younger players to get experience early in the season.

While Miramonte lost Anthony Piganelli to graduation, they return juniors Kiran Shastri, Derek Lin, Matt Lim and sophomore Joey Goodreault. Five-of-the-six returners started at least five games last year.

Miramonte will play a strong pre-DFAL schedule. They open with a Foundation game hosting Alameda on November 22 before traveling to Hercules on December 2. The Mats will participate in two tournaments—traveling to San Luis Obispo for the Mission Prep Christmas and to Marin County for the Bambauer Classic right before New Year's.

In Lafayette, Coach Darrell Hirashima, Jr. is presented with similar challenges. Acalanes finished fourth out of the seven teams in the DFAL last year,



Stephen Collins (21) drives to the basket in heavy Miramonte pressure. Photo Jordan Fong

only notching 13 wins overall.

He loses starters Brett Renner, Stephen Collins, and Michael Jackson, Jr. but returns several veterans. Senior forwards James Griffin, second team all DFAL, Trevor Masland, and Jon Coleman are back along with senior guard Kevin Huber and sophomore Noah Orlik. Newcomers include juniors Craig Anderson and Wesley Greason.

Hirashima noted that there is a transition time when bringing in football players. "Coming into practice a couple of weeks late, the football players also need some time to recover from the battering they take on the field, get into basketball shape, learn the system, and dust off their fundamentals."

The Dons open their season hosting Berean Christian on November 22 and will be tested early when they visit perennial powers El Cerrito and St. Mary's (Berkeley) in early December.

The DFAL season starts right after the first of the year. All of the coaches agreed that the league should be very competitive. Las Lomas has graduated its two leading scorers and league co-MVPs, Treaven Duffy and Kevin Stafford, but will still remain strong and Dougherty Valley, Dublin, and Alhambra should all be improved.

"Dublin has had their key guys in prominent roles for multiple seasons. I would look for them to be playing with a renewed confidence this year. Las Lomas has a good talent base despite losing the co-mvp's to graduation. Dougherty Valley has been steadily improving since entering the league and will have very solid guard play," said Hirashima, Jr.

First Home Games of the Season:

- Acalanes** versus Berean Christian on Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. (foundation game)
- Miramonte** versus Alameda on Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. (foundation game)
- Campolindo** versus Hercules (Oakley) on Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. (foundation game)

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- Register on-line from **November 1 through November 30, 2011**. Please click on the Registration link on our website at <http://www.moragabaseball.org>. Late fees apply to those who do not register by November 30, 2011.
- Join us for an informational meeting at the JM Library on **November 14, 2011, at 7:30 PM**. New and returning families are encouraged to attend. Board members will be there to answer your questions.
- Please see our flyer on the Moraga School District website at <http://www.moraga.k12.ca.us>. Click on the Community tab and then the Local Student Activities tab.
- Questions? Please contact Pam Bishop at (925) 377-5311.

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS



Dons Freshman Take First

Submitted by Lucy Amaral



Back row, from left: Coach Bryan Mall, Ying Stroebe, Taylor Odom, Janine Jaber, Holly Fleischmann, Lily Bauer, Alta Paladino, Sarah Moore, Katie McCarty, Dory Grobeck, and assistant coach Jen Lincoln; front row: Holly Gillar, Claire Amaral, Jillian Wickline, and Dana Piercy. Photo provided

The Acalanes freshman girls' volleyball team took first place at the St. Patrick-St. Vincent High School volleyball tournament. Dons opposite hitter Taylor Odom was named to the All-Tournament team and libero Ying Stroebe was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

Lafayette Aces Win State Tournament

Submitted by Mark Vicencio



Front row, from left: Matt Burns, Ty Whelehan, Dexter Varrelmann, John Torchio, Michael Bone, Matty Vicencio. Back row: Coach John Whelehan, Adam Low, Gavin Shipp, Ryan Regan, Ty Ewing, Kyle Mizell, Nicky Henderson, Coach Mark Vicencio. Not pictured: Robby Rowell, Seppi Ortman, Coach Buddy Rowell. Photo Shannon Vicencio

The Lafayette Aces 12U baseball team won the USSSA Fall State Championships in San Jose October 8-9. The Aces played four solid games to reach the Championship outscoring their opponents 37-4 in the four wins. The Aces were powered by solid pitching from Matt Burns, Ty Ewing, Matty Vicencio and Ty Whelehan over the two day tournament combining for just two earned runs while allowing just 10 hits and striking out 17 batters. The Aces were just as good defensively making just two errors total in the tournament. The Championship game against Palo Alto was a tight one to start but the hits started falling for the Aces in the 5th inning when they notched eight runs and coasted to a 9-1 win. Dexter Varrelmann, Ewing and Vicencio had multi-hit games in the final while Kyle Mizell, Adam Low, Whelehan and Burns all added big hits. The Championship propelled the Aces to #1 in the state and fifth in the nation for USSSA 12U teams.

LBA Finishes First

Submitted by Daniel Baldwin



Top row, from left: Brody Cooper, Cole Gallagher, Kevin McConnell, Christopher Schwarcz, Coach Wayne Franklin, Jacob Westphal; bottom row: Alex Baldwin, Adam Low, Antonio Triest, Tyler Ewing, Joshua Candau. Photo provided

The Lamorinda Baseball Academy's 13U Bucks won the championship game at the September 15th Twin Creeks Hardball Challenge in Sunnyvale. The Bucks went 4-0 for the tournament allowing only 11 runs the entire weekend.

Orinda Aquatics Swimmers Excel in the Classroom and in the Pool

Submitted by Wendy Jacobs



From left: Jenna Haufler, Megan Howard, Megan Liang, Emily Giambastini, and Megan Freeman. Not pictured: Jonathan Ratchford, Chris Leon, Courtney Whyte, and Allison Light. Photo provided

USA Swimming announced the 2010-11 Scholastic All-American Team and nine members of Orinda Aquatics are on the roster. The team is comprised of high school student athletes who have completed 10th, 11th, or 12th grade and attained a grade point average of 3.5 or higher and achieved the required time standard in a single event.

Christopher Leon, a freshman swimming at UC Santa Barbara, and Courtney Whyte, a freshman swimming at Notre Dame, were members of the Scholastic All-American Team for a second year. First year members for Orinda Aquatics include Acalanes High School student Emily Giambastini, Campolindo High School's Jonathan Ratchford and Megan Liang, and Miramonte High School students Megan Freeman, Jenna Haufler, Megan Howard, and Allison Light.

Orinda Aquatics is a nationally recognized year-round USA Swimming program. The motto of the team, "Character First" applies not only to swimming, but also all aspects of the swimmers lives, including academics.

Cougars Cheer Achievements

Submitted by Sherry Henderson



Campo Cheerleaders, front row: Katie Chickering, Emma Helser, Mariette Ebarle, Maddie Martin, Kendall Henderson, Arianna Gledhill; back row: Kendall Rolfe, Meredith Stone, Cristina Del Valle, Ali Snider, Rachel Davis, Haley Fahrner, Sabrina Sergott. Not pictured: Sam Reneau, Kana Sumiyoshi, Leah Kehoe, Ann Fritsky, Aja Adair. Photo by the Oakland Raiders

The Campolindo Cheer Team has been busy cheering on an undefeated football team, in addition to the following accomplishments this year: winning a trophy for best home dance routine at cheer camp this summer; dancing with other local cheer teams at the Raiders' October 2 game as part of High School Explosion; hosting a cheer clinic for local elementary school kids. The team is also proud of their two All-American cheerleaders, Madeline Martin and Emma Helser.

St. P's 6th Grade Wins

Submitted by Monica Chappell



The St. Perpetua 6th grade boys' National Basketball team won the Pre-Season MVP Basketball Tournament of Champions. Teams from around Contra Costa competed in the tournament held at Tice Valley and DVC from October 15-23.

Front row, from left: Cameron Sanders, Connor Ogro, Enzo Sereno, Evan Bosshart. Back row: Mitchell Smith, Jeff Dible, Coach Mike Sereno, Michael Williams, Ryan Nall and Ethan Fox. Photo provided

Lamorinda Weekly

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

Oakland Strokes' Women Win Major East Coast Regatta

Submitted by Diane Moe



From left: Coach Derek Byrnes, Sara Cratsenburg, Alia Shafi, Alex Ohman, Krissy Lukins, Amanda Rutherford, Corinne Bozzini, Lauren Dahlberg-Seeth, Brittany Presten, Michelle Popelka, Coach Cass Cunningham Photo provided

The Oakland Strokes Rowing Club women's varsity eight took first place out of 75 boats Sunday, October 23 in the youth eights women high school category at the nation's largest rowing race, the Head of the Charles Regatta on the Charles River.

The Oakland team powered through the three-mile course in 17 minutes, 12 seconds – nine seconds ahead of its closest competitor, the Marin Rowing Club. In a sport long dominated by East Coast rowing teams, the one-two finish by Oakland and Marin was a major surprise.

In the Strokes' boat were Sara Cratsenburg (Miramonte High School); Alia Shafi, Lafayette (Acalanes); Alexandria Ohman (Bishop O'Dowd); Kristen Lukins (Campolindo); Corinne Bozzini (Campolindo); Lauren Dahlberg-Seeth (Miramonte); Brittany Presten, Orinda (College Prep);

Michelle Popelka (Moreau Catholic), and coxswain Amanda Rutherford (Piedmont).

Five of the girls have committed to Division I universities: Preston (Stanford), Dahlberg-Seeth (Dartmouth), Bozzini (Harvard), Lukens (Princeton), Ohman (University of Michigan).

"We thought we were second or third," Rutherford said. "We didn't know we had won until we got back to our dock and the coach (Derek Byrnes) said, 'You guys know you won, right?' At first we didn't believe him. Then we all started screaming and crying. We got our medals around 4:30 p.m. They're really big and gold and round."

The win was the first ever in the women's portion of the regatta for a West Coast rowing team.

More recently, the women's eight team placed third at the American Regatta on Saturday on Lake Natoma.

Oakland Strokes Finish Strong at Lake Natoma

Submitted by Diane Moe

The Oakland Strokes Rowing Club's men's varsity was fourth in the Head of the American Regatta on Saturday, October 29 on Lake Natoma.

The event, sponsored by the Sacramento State Aquatic Center, had nearly 500 entries from 61 clubs in five states. The course was five kilometers; just over three miles.

In the men's boat were Bryan

Wharton (Acalanes); Alec Petty (Piedmont); Cameron Baker (Miramonte); Felix Tripiet (Las Lomas); Ryan Sandy (Miramonte); Sam McDonald (Piedmont); Olven Yu (Bishop O'Dowd); Leslie Earl-Gould (Oakland Tech); and coxswain Mathison Young (Miramonte).

The Strokes' women's novice boat finished fifth, and the men's novice boat eighth.

SMC Men's Basketball Wants to "Change the Face of Men's Health"



Photo Doug Kohen

The Saint Mary's men's basketball team will start the season with a unique fundraising campaign. Every member of the Gaels organization from head coach Randy Bennett to players, like junior guard Matthew Dellavedova (pictured), shaved their faces clean on October 31 in preparation for the mustaches they will grow in an effort to support the Movember Foundation. The Gaels will keep the mustaches for the month of November to raise awareness about prostate cancer and other cancers that affect men. For more information about the Movember campaign, visit <http://mobro.co/SMCGaels>. C.Graveson

SMC Basketball Season Starts Friday Gaels Picked to Finish Second in WCC

By Alex Kozela



#3 Mitchell Young Photo Tod Fierner

Despite losing reigning WCC Player of the Year, Mickey McConnell, the Saint Mary's men's basketball team starts the new season with a healthy team brimming with confidence.

"There's a reason he's Player of the Year. We're going to miss him in a lot of ways," said Gaels' head coach Randy Bennett of McConnell.

The Gaels tied for the regular season WCC title last year despite sustaining a number of injuries and playing with only eight healthy bodies for the better part of the season, and will look to use this year's depth to help the team build off of last season's first round NIT loss.

"Practices are a lot more competitive now, we can go longer, we can go harder," said Bennett. "We didn't have enough players to go five-on-

five [before]."

Sophomore guard Jordan Page and forward Beau Levesque, who were both injured for most of last season, are now practicing regularly.

"With not having guys healthy last year, you can't go as hard, you can't put your body on the line as much as you can now," said junior forward Mitchell Young. "Now we can go 100 percent with all the plays."

The team, picked to finish second in the WCC just after perennial favorites Gonzaga, will miss McConnell's leadership and organization, but can look to returnees Matthew Dellavedova and Rob Jones, who received All-WCC preseason honors.

"It's been a bit different the first couple of weeks not having Mickey around," said Dellavedova, a junior guard who can expect to get more playing time at the point guard this season. He'll also see an increased leadership role, partly due to the experience he gained playing with the Australian national team over the summer.

"He's been around the block for two years and this summer played against the pros," Bennett said of Dellavedova. "His confidence level is very high. He'll be better because the ball is in his hands more, and he's really good in that situation."

Other changes this year for the Gaels include new additions Kyle Rowley, a 70" center transfer from Northwestern who sat out last season due to NCAA transfer rules, and junior transfer Paul McCoy, who also sat out last year but will most likely be sidelined by a knee injury the entire year.

Despite the unfortunate news

concerning McCoy, the team is content with the players available and has begun to adjust to playing as a collective unit.

"Coming in we had a lot of guys that hadn't played last year so it was a bit up and down early with gelling as a team, but we've made a lot of progress and we're starting to gain an identity," said Young.

The Gaels are confident that they can win the WCC title and progress into the NCAA Tournament, which they missed out on last year. Winning the WCC title will be just a little more difficult this year, however, due to the addition of BYU, who is ranked third in the WCC preseason poll, as well as the presence of improved Gonzaga and USF teams, ranked first and fourth, respectively. Santa Clara rounds out the top five. Last year, USF and Santa Clara both had winning records for the first time since 2004 and are expected to continue to improve over the course of the upcoming season.

"We have a great conference, one of the better ones in the west, and I just think that bringing in BYU just elevated it," said Bennett. "I think we made a move on some other conferences as far as we're up there at the top, along with the Pac-12 and the Mountain West."

The team begins non-conference play Friday at home against Fresno Pacific and WCC play December 29 against BYU. Non-conference highlights include the Las Vegas Classic games against Baylor, who defeated the Gaels 72-49 in the Sweet 16 two seasons ago and Missouri State on December 22 and 23, respectively.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 18 Wednesday, November 9, 2011



Rainfall Update

...read on page D3

What So Proudly We Hail

By Laurie Snyder



The flagpole in front of Randy Trudeau's home sports yardarms in addition to a properly-displayed American flag.

Photo Doug Kohen

"And yet, though silent, it speaks to us – speaks to us of the past, of the men and women who went before us, and of the records they wrote upon it." - President Woodrow Wilson

Just over the rise of a hill and around the bend of one of Orinda's many winding roads, Old Glory flutters, lifting and resettling with each breeze, drawing the eyes of passers by up and away from the neighborhood's natural brown and green tones.

The flag, which flew previously over the U.S. Capitol and now streams from a nautical-style pole, is part of a quiet tribute to America installed by Randy Trudeau and his family more than twenty years ago at the start of Desert Storm. An anchor that previously graced Lafayette's former Cape Cod Restaurant completes the picture.

Why does Trudeau fly the American flag daily? "It's what I was raised with as a child – and my wife, too. It's just what we do," he says.

Like many Lamorindans, Trudeau has family in the military. His nephew is stationed aboard a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier, the USS Harry S. Truman.

Trudeau has also served the nation himself. A past commodore of his yacht club with 45 years of seamanship under his belt, he was appointed to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Northern California Maritime Security Committee. In the aftermath of 9/11, he helped to draft guidelines still used today by recreational boaters as they approach sensitive targets.

Trudeau first came to understand the intricacies of flag etiquette via seamanship training as a child. "Flags are big on boats," he notes. The "boater's bible," Chapman's *Piloting, Seamanship and Small Boat Handling*, devotes an entire chapter to how and when to fly all manner of banners, including the U.S. Ensign – the sailors' term Trudeau uses for the flag.

American Flag Flying 101

Terry Murphy, liked Trudeau, is a devoted flag flyer. As the commander of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post for Lamorinda and Walnut Creek, Murphy hopes more area residents will hoist the Stars and Stripes high – "certainly on Flag Day, Veterans' Day, and Memorial Day." He offers these three tips:

- Never let the American flag touch the ground.

... continued on page D4

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	3	\$625,000	\$2,400,000
MORAGA	9	\$250,000	\$1,540,000
ORINDA	5	\$500,000	\$1,335,000

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

2745 Oak Canyon Road, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 3749 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 10-12-11
 720 South Pond Court, \$625,000, 4 Bdrms, 2483 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 10-12-11;
 Previous Sale: \$1,049,000, 05-11-06
 25 Springhill Manor, \$2,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 3796 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 9-29-11;
 Previous Sale: \$2,800,000, 11-17-05

MORAGA

1986 Ascot Drive #B, \$250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1472 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 10-7-11;
 Previous Sale: \$515,000, 02-02-06
 63 Ashbrook Place, \$885,000, 4 Bdrms, 2578 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 9-30-11;
 Previous Sale: \$240,000, 04-18-86
 24 Brandt Drive, \$1,090,000, 5 Bdrms, 2843 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 10-5-11;
 Previous Sale: \$830,000, 08-12-99
 1197 Cedarwood Drive, \$752,500, 3 Bdrms, 1924 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 9-30-11;
 Previous Sale: \$520,000, 12-17-99
 136 Hodges Drive, \$816,000, 4 Bdrms, 1893 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-30-11;
 Previous Sale: \$759,000, 08-14-02
 1204 Larch Avenue, \$699,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 9-30-11;
 Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 03-24-06
 6 Southard Court, \$1,540,000, 5 Bdrms, 3741 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 9-29-11;
 Previous Sale: \$2,175,000, 05-11-06
 3 Via Barcelona, \$615,000, 3 Bdrms, 2417 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 10-4-11;
 Previous Sale: \$355,000, 06-08-99
 68 Warfield Drive, \$868,500, 4 Bdrms, 2248 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 10-5-11;
 Previous Sale: \$290,000, 09-12-86

ORINDA

146 Canon Drive, \$500,000, 2 Bdrms, 1206 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 10-12-11
 2 Irving Lane, \$780,000, 3 Bdrms, 1601 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-30-11
 56 La Cresta Road, \$1,335,000, 3 Bdrms, 3326 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 10-4-11;
 Previous Sale: \$359,000, 12-30-97
 233 Village Gate Road, \$745,000, 4 Bdrms, 2313 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 10-6-11
 32 Zander Drive, \$740,000, 6 Bdrms, 2850 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 10-10-11;
 Previous Sale: \$950,000, 12-29-04

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

LAFAYETTE

Johnson Road, 94549, Wells Fargo Bank, 10-13-11, \$1,406,323, 4493 sf, 3 bd
 Springhill Road, 94549, Summit Bank, 10-14-11, \$424,663, 2743 sf, 3 bd

ORINDA

Tarry Lane, 94563, HSBC Bank, 10-14-11, \$1,544,340, 3326 sf, 4 bd

Rainfall Update—A Cloudy Picture

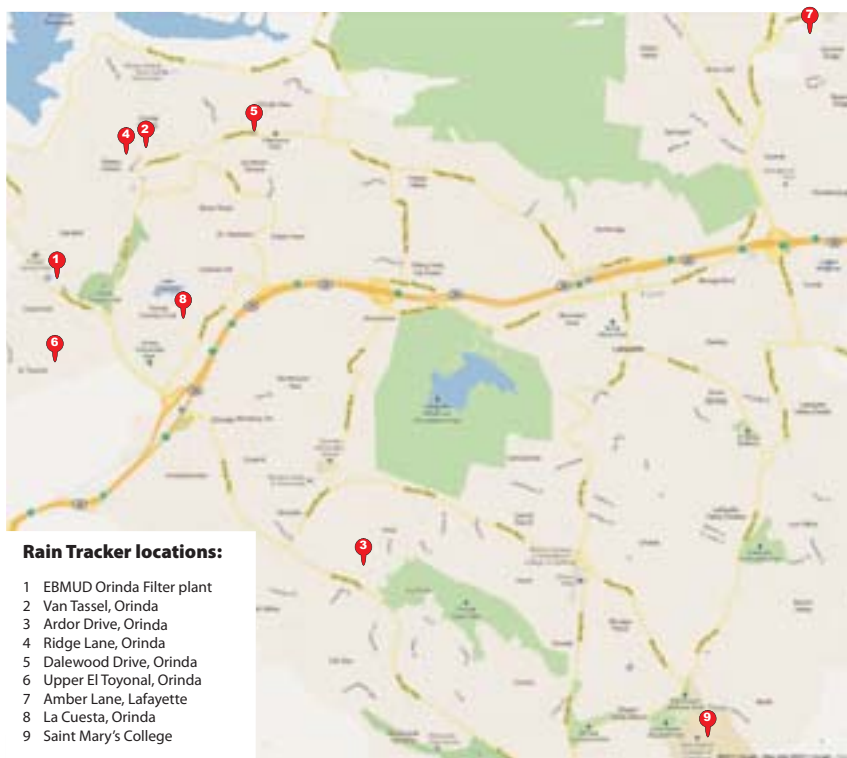
By Andrea A. Firth

When the *Lamorinda Weekly* ran a story about three Orinda residents who have been meticulously tracking the area rainfall patterns over the past thirty years, we knew there were more local rain trackers out there—and we were thrilled to hear from some of you. So we have updated the annual rainfall chart with a few more lines of data and expanded it to reflect locations throughout Lamorinda. [see chart] We received rainfall data from two additional locations in Orinda, one in the Orinda Downs neighborhood on Dalewood Drive and one on Upper Toyonal, plus a location in Lafayette on Amber Drive. And so Moraga was not left unrepresented, we added the data from a gauge that Contra Costa County maintains at Saint Mary's College.

Looks like a jumble of lines, right? That's what we thought. The rainfall data from the various sites tend to track similarly, but there is definitely some variability. One might conclude that these data confirm that rainfall, even over a relatively small area, is quite uneven. [see map]

But Orinda resident Gene Gottfried, who has been tracking rainfall on upper El Toyonal since 1985, pointed out that it might be the gauge that's at play. Gottfried, a physician and formerly a clinical laboratory director, used a glass rain gauge until 2007—a gauge, he points out, that was uncalibrated.

... continued on page D6



Google maps www.maps.google.com



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Top 4 Opportunities in 2011

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

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379 Calle La Montana, Moraga



New Listing Gorgeous updated Campolindo home with private lot, views, and open floor plan perfect for entertaining. This single story 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home has more than 2500 square feet of living space and an over half acre lot. The kitchen has views to the level yard and distant hills and opens to the dinette and spacious family room with raised, wood-beamed ceiling, built-in cabinetry and fireplace. There is a large formal dining area and living room with high ceiling and fireplace. The master bedroom has 2 closets, including a roomy walk-in, and a luxurious master bath. The home also features hardwood flooring, designer paint colors, and indoor laundry. Close to the Campolindo Cabana Club and top-rated schools, and in an excellent commute location.

Offered at \$1,039,000



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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

What So Proudly We Hail

... continued from page D1



- Always remember, when you're putting it up, the stars are up and to the observer's left whether it's hung vertically or horizontally.
- Keep it in good condition; don't let it get tattered.

Other key points are presented in Section 6 of the U.S. Flag Code, which was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1942:

"It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness."

Additionally, "the flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed."

Flag Maintenance and Disposal

American flags displayed outdoors may be soiled by air pollutants and even damaged by mildew if stored away when wet. They also fade quickly from their constant exposure to the California sun, and fray frequently from being whipped about on windy days.

While some may be washed with mild detergent, many must be dry cleaned – a process which also appears to preserve Old Glory's deep reds and blues longer. Torn flags should be mended promptly by cutting off the damaged segment and re-hemming. Those that cannot be cleaned or fixed should be retired and replaced.

The correct way to do this, says Murphy, is through a formal ceremony that involves burning. While Lamorinda residents can technically do this on their own because the code stipulates only that worn or soiled flags "should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning," Murphy suggests that residents instead contact the VFW, which collects and stores flags in partnership with local Boy Scout troop 224 until a proper retirement service can be held.

MOFD firefighters Adam Thornton (left) and Jacob Airola take down the flag at Station 45 before sunset.

Photos Ohlen Alexander

Want to Buy and Fly American?

Residents who shop locally may rest assured they'll be able to fly American-made flags this Veterans' Day and beyond. Lafayette Ace Hardware and Moraga Hardware and Lumber sell various replacement options that are manufactured by the Valley Forge Flag Company and certified as 100 percent made in the U.S. by the Flag Manufacturers of America (FMAA).

Orinda Hardware also stocks FMAA-certified flags. These are manufactured by Annin & Co., which began making flags for ships in the 1820s. Annin made the flag that draped President Lincoln's casket.



Station 45's flag is carefully folded for overnight storage.

Resources:

Flag Maintenance – Orinda Cleaners: 37 Moraga Way

Flag Requests – Senator Dianne Feinstein:

www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/flag-purchase

Flag Retirement Help:

VFW Post 8063 (Lamorinda): (925) 285-1510

Moraga Hardware and Lumber: (925) 376-3600

Local Retailers of American-made Flags:

Lafayette Ace Hardware®: 3311 Mt. Diablo Boulevard

Moraga Hardware and Lumber: 1409 Moraga Way

Orinda TrueValue® Hardware: 56 Moraga Way

* U.S. Flag Code:

www.senate.gov/reference/resources/pdf/RL30243.pdf

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Winter is the best time to start pruning deciduous plants and trees, such as maples, shrubs, roses, most fruit trees and most of all your Monterey pines. They go dormant in the winter and some lose their leaves. Deciduous plants are best pruned in the winter because that's when they're dormant and less prone to disease.

Before you start hacking away at your yard, you may want to call in a professional Arborist from Advance Tree Service to give you their advice on what should be done, the proper handling during pruning is essential to ensure a healthy future for your trees and shrubs.

So don't wait until it's too late, call your local Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to help make your yard its very best.

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Rainfall Update—A Cloudy Picture

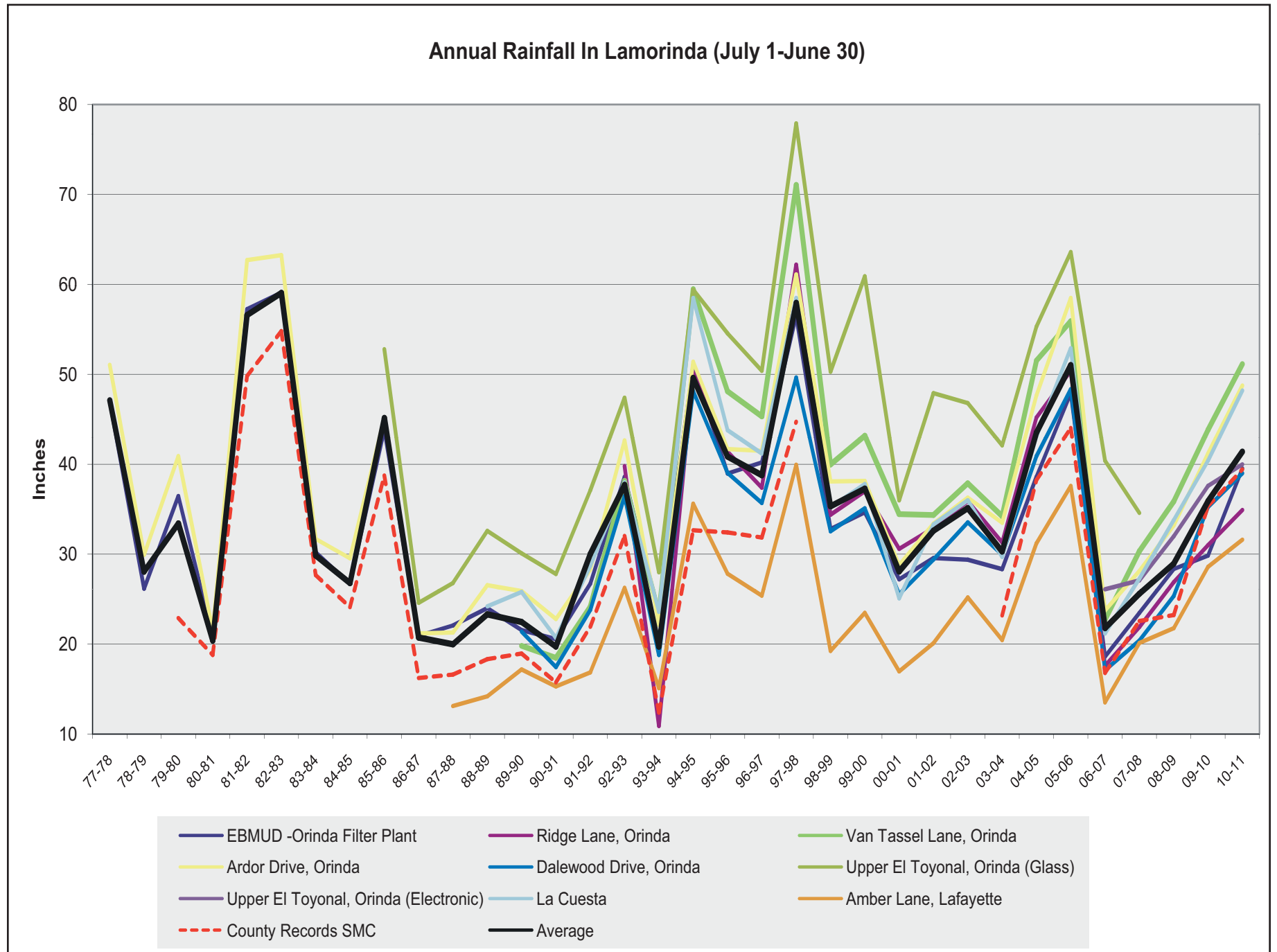
... continued from page D3

He then bought an electronic rain gauge and found the rainfall readings were about 20% lower than those of the glass tube. Like the good scientist that he is, he purchased a second electronic weather gauge to confirm his results, and it produced rain numbers almost identical to his first electronic gauge and much closer to

Orinda's official rainfall reports.

Gottfried's Conclusion: If your rainfall measurements are consistently much higher (or lower) than the official results, your rain gauge, not your location, may be responsible.

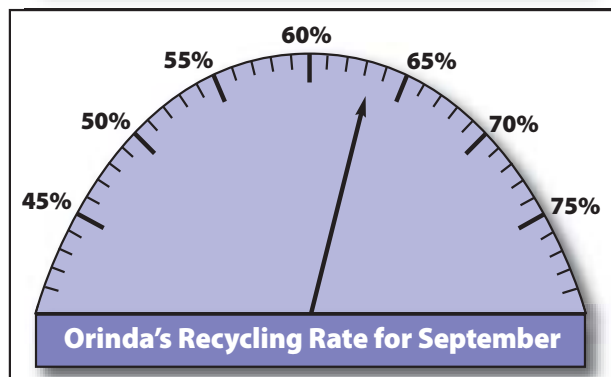
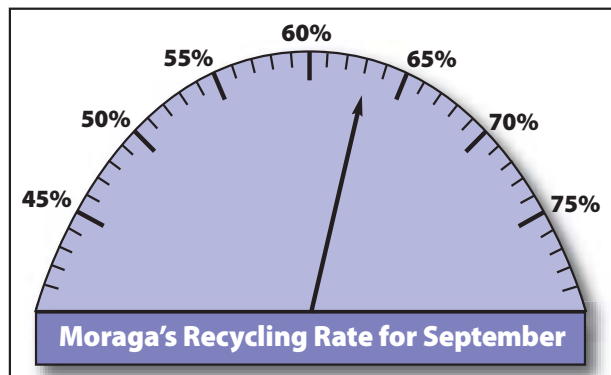
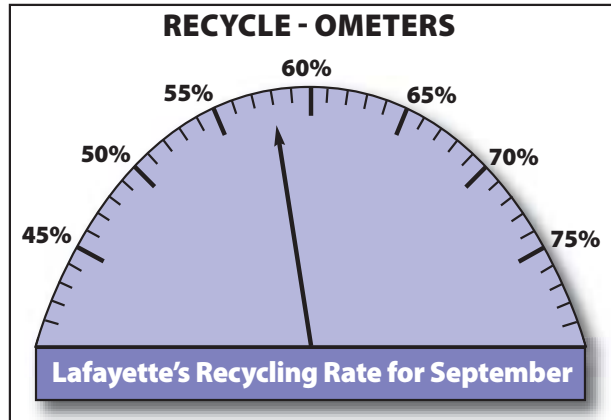
Updated Rainfall Tracker Data



Recycling in Lamorinda

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

September 2011



To register with Recycle Bank:

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

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ORINDA

106 Scenic Drive
Special rancher w/charming appeal. Hdwd flrs, beamed LR ceiling, big windows & sliders to outdoors. 3bd/2ba main house w/bonus inlaw w/kit, bath & privacy. Mature landscape, garden cottage. Mt Diablo views. **Offered at \$859,000**



ORINDA

11 El Verano
Sophistication & lots of character in this 1941 blt 3bd/2ba in OCC area. On cul de sac w/.25 level ac lot w/remod kitchen & bath, hdwd flrs, great light, pvt yd w/glorious patio. www.thekaufmans.com. **Offered at \$875,000**



ORINDA

24 Lavenida
Reduced!! Impeccably maintained & expanded 2410 sf custom hm. Gorgeous grounds w/ lvl lawns, gardens, deck overlooking creek. Stunning pvt mstr suite w/sitting room. Walk to 12 yrs school. Quiet cul de sac. **Offered at \$899,000**



ORINDA

255 La Espiral
Great value in the special OCC neighborhood. Classic "Old Orinda" hm completely renovated w/style & charm. 2870 sf, formal liv & din areas, chef's kitchen, 4bd/2.5ba. Ideal setting, privacy, views, vineyard. **Offered at \$975,000**



ORINDA

345 Camino Sobrante
Updated 4bd/3ba, 3301 sf contemp on .55 ac in primo country club loc w/spacious great rm, updated kitchen, hdwd flrs, lower lvl guest apt w/pvt entrance, ofc, lg master suite, lawn/play area, close to Bart & top schools. **Offered at \$998,000**



MORAGA

675 Carroll Drive
Walking distance to town/schools/trails/parks. Private .31 ac lot w/attractive landscaping, grass play area, veggie gardens. 3bd/2ba updated thruout - baths, kitchen, hdwd flrs, dual panes, crown moldings, lighting, more. **Offered at \$699,000**



MORAGA

1825 St. Andrews Drive
Updated Sequoyah in MCC with 4bds/2.5ba. Spacious kitchen/family room combo. French doors open to courtyard, plenty of storage, striking views. **Offered at \$979,000**



MORAGA

136 David Drive
4bd/3.5ba hm w/3763 sf w/oversized rms, an abundance of windows & qual. craftsmanship evident thruout. The end of a cul de sac loc on a 1.86 ac lot has trees, lvl lawn, decks in sought-after "Bluffs" neighborhood. **Offered at \$1,295,000**



LAFAYETTE

945 Mt. View Drive
The cutest home on the block! Charm abounds in this exceptionally cozy full of 1940's style bungalow w/ambiance & style. Enjoy incredible curb appeal. Lawn & garden all very private and ideal location near everything! **Offered at \$480,000**



LAFAYETTE

960 Hawthorne Drive
Trad 3bd/2ba hm in trail neighborhood. Hdwd flrs, Fr doors, wood windows, lovely deck for entertaining. Flat yard w/lawn & views. Nr K-8 schls, trail, shopping, restaurants and library. Sgl lvl, 1377 sf, .25 ac lot. **Offered at \$719,000**



LAFAYETTE

502 Silverado Drive
Remod 3bd/2ba Burton Valley rancher with "Pottery Barn" charm hdwd flrs, new bathrooms, new windows, new roof & much more. 1850 sf on .75 acre lot. **Offered at \$829,000**



LAFAYETTE

3286 Sweet Drive
Lovely 3150 sf home, flexible floor plan, updated throughout, granite kitchen. Sweeping views, 2 master bedrooms plus 2 more bedrooms & 4 baths in Burton Valley. Guest set-up w/separate entry. **Offered at \$890,000**



LAFAYETTE

1730 Toyon Road
Charming craftsman-styled 2100 sq. ft. hm on secluded 3/4 ac. Newer roof, skylights, furnace - gorgeous huge new decks. Maple flrs, Wolfe range, very private, very secluded. **Offered at \$925,000**



LAFAYETTE

3407 Shangri La
Fab Craftsman style blt in 2005. Stunning architecture, beaut craftsmanship, high end features. Serene country setting, 1.08 ac in Reliez Valley, lovely yd with lawn, play area. 4 br + ofc & computer area. Top Laf schools. **Offered at \$1,395,000**



LAFAYETTE

1089 Rahara Drive
Built in 1939, filled with character & style. Beautifully updated. Hi ceilings, tall Fr doors, Craftsman style windows. Gourmet kitchen w/carrera marble slabs. Lg living areas. Fab location & gorgeous setting. A must see! **Offered at \$1,745,000**



LAFAYETTE

3829 Happy Valley Road
Rare oppy to own 2.33 ac lvl estate in Happy Valley! Pvt gated property w/tennis ct, pool, lawn, down long driveway leading to ssecluded 4bd/4ba 4007 sf home filled w/marvelous detail. Incl Art Deco movie theater! **Offered at \$2,950,000**

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