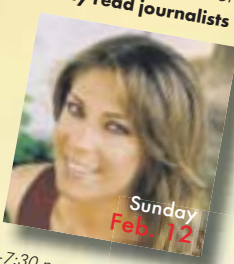


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Saint Mary's Still Undefeated after Tough Road Trip

By Alex Kozela and Caitlin Graveson

Upcoming Home Games

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 Sat, Feb 11, 8:00 PM vs Santa Clara, SMC McKeon Pavilion
 Wed, Feb 15, 7:30 PM vs Loyola Marymount, SMC McKeon Pavilion

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...read story on page C2

Quote of the Week:

"Pointing fingers and debating about who should have done what is not going to get our roads fixed."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A10

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Orinda City Council Initiates Eminent Domain Proceedings to Keep Glorietta Project on Track

By Laurie Snyder

The Orinda City Council recently authorized City staff to initiate legal proceedings against the owners of two private properties.

"None of us wants to take this action," said Mayor Steven Glazer. "We do this out of necessity." Glazer's remarks were made during a public hearing on January 17 at which Council members and staff discussed the City's success in acquiring easements from four private property owners free of charge in connection with the Glorietta Storm Drain Improvement Project. An easement was also obtained from the East Bay Municipal Water District.

However, the City has been unable to finalize agreements with two other private property owners – Sara Harkness of Glorietta

Boulevard and Jefferson and Seanna Allen of Glorietta Court. The City's "repeated good faith efforts over many months to acquire the necessary easements through negotiation" have, according to a staff report, included offers of compensation to the owners, even though such payments are not required of cities under Government Code section 7267.2.

Council member Victoria Smith, who led the City's effort to negotiate a separate agreement with property owner Diane Szucs, thanked Szucs for the record and noted that Szucs declined the City's offer of compensation and suggested that the Council put the savings toward repaving the City's roads.

"We're not seeking to own the lands," City attorney Osa Wolff clarified for the

record. "We're seeking to use it."

Project Overview

Council authorized the Glorietta project to prevent a recurrence of flooding near Glorietta Boulevard and Moraga Way, which was described in a 2000 incident report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): "A 6 foot wall of water and mud flowed through the yards and residences along Glorietta Court near Moraga Way. Widespread rain with twenty four hour accumulations of more than 5 inches occurred [sic] over the area on Feb 13 into February 14th."

A subsequent investigation found that a severely deformed corrugated metal pipe (CMP) in the neighborhood's 50-year-old CMP storm drain system was the most likely cause. The City was sued. ... continued on page A12

Life in Lamorinda B1-B14

Life - Wings on the Grounds

Cathy Dausman talks to a local veteran who took his preflight training at SMC in 1944. B1



Sports C1-C4

Miramonte Girls Steam Roll Rivals

The Lady Mats continue to dominate DFAL play. Conrad Bassett fills you in on girls' hoops. C1



Our Homes D1-D12

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Civic News

Public Meetings

Tri-City Meeting City Council

Thursday, February 9, 7:00 pm
Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda
next regular **City Council**
Monday, February 27, 7:00 pm

Planning Commission

Monday, February 6, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, February 13, 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, February 1, 7:30 pm
Wednesday, February 15, 7:30 pm
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, February 8, 7:00 pm
LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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www.ci.lafayette.ca.us

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

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Police Report



Sign standoff, 1/14/2012 Someone collecting signatures for political issues claimed he was being harassed by the employee of a nearby business. The employee returned the compliment, saying the signature gatherer was blocking the business handicap access.

Ouch! 1/17/2012 Police think an 88 year old man may have mistaken his car's gas pedal for the brakes when attempting to park along Mt. Diablo Blvd. His car struck the plate glass window of a business.

And more ouch! 1/10/2012 An 89 year old man drove his car over several curb lines, struck a retaining wall, two street signs and a fire hydrant before colliding with a fence. The driver was unhurt; the wall, signs, hydrant and fence were a little worse for wear.

Hello...Goodbye, 1/17/2012 If there's one thing worse than having your car burgled, its having the burglar run right by and taunt you. A woman said she heard a loud smash, followed by the presumed burglar running by with a "see ya later!" comment. Her wallet was gone - cash and checks in the amount of \$1400 total were missing. Damage to car window: \$200. Hearing that cheeky comment: priceless.

Out past curfew, 1/17/2012 A mother filed a missing persons report when her child was not home by 8pm. The missing "child" was 38 years old, and showed up at the house just before midnight. Once a mom...always a mom.

After Delays, Senior Housing Project Ready to Roll

By Cathy Tyson

In 2008 this paper reported on Eden Housing's bid for a low income senior apartment complex along Mt. Diablo Boulevard. It was described as well on its way at the time; but it was only recently, at a January 23, 2012 City Council meeting that Woody Karp, Senior Project Manager said, "I'm really happy to report we obtained the final piece of funding in order to move project forward. We should be ready to start construction in the beginning of August. Thank you for your patience and support."

Karp explained the hold-up was all about the financing, "Affordable housing relies on very limited public funding sources to make it work." He added, "It's very competitive. Funding sources have been cut back significantly or eliminated altogether."

The original funding source was a federal program with applications taken only once per year. Eden applied three different times and ultimately tied for first place. But there was only enough money for one project, and it went to the other applicant.

Undaunted, Karp was finally able to secure funds from a state multi-



Rendering of the Senior Housing Project

Provided

family program administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. "It was pretty miraculous," said Karp.

With a great downtown location between Brown Avenue and Blackwood Lane, next to Bo's Barbeque, the almost one-acre site is very pedestrian friendly. The forty-five rental units exclusively for low-income seniors, with one manager's unit, were

designed by architect Van Meter Williams Pollack. The 52,000 square foot structure is set back from the street and has two inner courtyards for residents to enjoy.

Seventeen of the units are designed specifically for disabled residents. The building will feature a large living room style community space with comfortable sofas, a television and music, a full service

kitchen for residents who would like to host parties, along with amenities like a gardening club to work on the raised beds on the property, a computer learning center, and modest exercise room. Thirty parking spaces will be available underneath the building. The design hasn't changed since going through the Design Review process and gaining approval back in 2008.

Popular Chamber Director Receives Business Award

By Cathy Tyson

Known for his good humor and boundless energy, Jay Lifson, Executive Director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, was awarded the Marquis Business Person of the Year award at a celebratory dinner event at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa. By all appearances, Lifson's the most popular man in Lafayette. Beyond the charm however, is a dedicated, successful leader of the Chamber since 2005, who has increased membership by 42 percent and increased revenue by 65 percent.

In years past Lifson would disqualify himself, but this time around his objections were overruled. Kicking off the tribute/roast

with "hip hip hurray for Jay," Mo Levich led a packed house to honor the man who brings residents together with the Chamber-sponsored Art and Wine Festival, the Reservoir Run, Rock the Plaza, as well as the "Shop Lafayette First" campaign, and efforts to save the twinkle lights.

Family, friends and a veritable who's who of Lafayette movers and shakers raised a glass to the man of the hour. His friend for over forty years, Mac Carey lauded him as having "the rare quality of making those around him better. Everybody loves Jay." A parade of speakers highlighted his finer points including his love of the Grateful Dead, enthusiasm, and civic pride. Even a group from the City's Planning Department joined the fray with a hilarious top ten list; they bestowed upon him the first ever Honorary City Planner award.

The star of the night that literally sang Lifson's praises was City Manager Steven Falk, who stripped off shirt and tie in favor of leather jacket, t-shirt and funky wig for his own version, with adjusted lyrics, of the Bob Dylan



Jay Lifson

Photo Andy Scheck

classic, "Like a Rolling Stone." Clapping and singing along, the audience chimed in on the chorus, "How does it feel? To be right at home, to be so well known, to sit on that throne, like a Jay Lif-son."

When asked for a comment, Lifson replied, "How about the 'Hippie-Jock' -as my dear friend Mac Carey put it -makes good! I was able to

share a very special evening with my father, mother, family, friends and the wonderful people in Lafayette. The kid whose parents were told every year at report card time, 'He has so much potential, if only he applied himself,' got a chance to make his family proud. I am one of the lucky people who enjoys what they do, every day."



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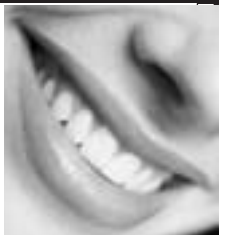
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Mayor Federighi Delivers State of the City Recap



Carol Federighi

Photo Andy Scheck

Addressing a full house at the Lafayette Park Hotel, Mayor Carol Federighi reflected on the past and looked ahead to the future for the City of Lafayette. She has served as mayor twice before, and has been on the City Council since 1999, so she confidently gave a brief fact-filled summary before the other event of the evening, the Business Person of the Year award.

Federighi discussed the City's finances, "Despite a sluggish economy, we finished the year with a \$2000 sur-

plus." With a balanced budget and a substantial monetary safety net in the reserve account, the city has a AAA bond rating.

Looking forward, she predicts that in 2012 the City Council will adopt the Downtown Specific Plan. This year will also bring improvement to the streetscapes - Pleasant Hill Road project is nearing completion and the face lift of the sidewalks along Mt. Diablo is well underway. C. Tyson

BART Fleet of the Future May Take a While

By Cathy Tyson

It's only natural to start noticing a few gray hairs and wrinkles around a milestone birthday. As BART turns 40, it's taking a hard look at the nation's oldest transportation fleet. Regular riders know that most of the cars in the system have seen better days and can definitely use a face lift.

On average a single car currently runs 110,000 miles per year; collectively the cars are nearing the end of their useful life. The BART Car Replacement Project will replace BART's existing 669 cars over time and is currently projected to cost approximately \$3.2 billion in year-of-expenditure dollars, according to Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) report in January. Approximately three-quarters of the overall funding will come from the MTC, with BART contributing 25%,

approximately \$800 million.

BART's Board of Directors is expected to award a contract in May selecting one of the three finalists; all are from outside of the U.S.; Alstom - France, Bombardier Transit - Canada, and Hyundai Rotem - South Korea. The lucky winner will be expected to manufacture ten test cars for Phase 1 of the massive project to be delivered in early 2015.

Phase 2 is slated to follow a similar formula, but voters may be asked to approve a tax to help defray costs.

Riders will see a payoff in modern, sleeker, more contemporary design made with more functional materials that can be wiped clean. Goodbye nasty carpet and seats. Three doors on each car will assist those getting in and out - especially during peak commute hours.

... continued on page A9

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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, February 8, 7:00pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Tri-City Meeting

Thursday, February 9, 7:00 pm
Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22
Orinda Way, Orinda

Planning Commission

Monday, February 6, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, February 13, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District

Tuesday, February 14, 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

Parked with pot, 1/18/2012 ...And no medical marijuana card. Two people were sitting in a car parked on Williams Drive after midnight, not a crime in Moraga, but unusual. An officer questioned the subjects, the driver admitted to possessing marijuana and gave the cop a package with 8.5 grams of the evil weed. A search netted an additional 3.11 grams. Driver was cited for possession of less than an ounce, the passenger ended up driving both of them home.

Hit and run, 1/18/2012 At approximately 2:00 p.m. a gray Chevy Tahoe ran a red light at the intersection of Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard and clipped a Ford truck pulling a trailer. Chevy didn't stop, although it was later located on Buckingham Drive after colliding with a parked car. The driver was arrested for misdemeanor hit and run and for being unlicensed.

Uncontrollable youth, 1/19/2012 A juvenile ransacked his residence and had become a danger to himself and others. The subject eventually agreed to cooperate with police and was taken to Contra Costa Regional Medical Center by the fire department.

D.U.I., 1/20/2012 A twenty-year-old drove his car approximately fifteen feet off the road into a ditch near the Valle Staging Area on Canyon Road. The car's airbags deployed and the young man was found in the back seat. His blood shot watery eyes and slurred speech indicated to police that an alcohol screening test was in order. His test came up just past the legal limit. He was cited then later released to sober driver to head home.

Car vs. sign, 1/20/2012 Both lost. A car travelling southbound on Moraga Road jumped the curb at the entrance to the Rheem shopping center and hit a stop sign and parking light. No injuries to the driver, but the car required towing from the scene.

Kids caught smoking, 1/21/2012 At the top of Ascot Drive, around 10:30 at night, six juveniles were sitting in a car. One young man in the back seat admitted he had been drinking earlier. He was later released to his dad. One of the two young ladies in the front seat was in possession of an open package of cigarettes, her friend in the driver's seat was caught lying to cops. Both agreed to participate in the Juvenile Diversion Program.

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Finance Committee Recommends Dipping into Palos Money

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Audit and Finance Committee was tasked with considering options to finance a \$450,000 note on the purchase of the Town's corporation yard at 331 Rheem Boulevard. The original plan called for selling two Town-owned properties to finance the purchase of the new building—the plan fell through when no buyer could be found for one property and the sale of the other met with overwhelming opposition from residents. Faced with the prospect of having to borrow nearly half of a million dollars to pay the note that's coming due in March, the Committee recommended that the Town use part of its reserve, either from the General Fund or from the \$2 million in developer fees for Palos Colorados, known as "Palos money" or "the Palos bank," that's been sitting for years and is earning less than half a percent interest.

The Town Council will decide next week whether or not to accept the recommendation. In the past, the Council has considered the Palos money to be untouchable until a long-term financial strategy is agreed upon.

The Audit and Finance Committee meets quarterly to review the state of the Town's finances. Its members are Administrative Services Director Stephanie Hom, Town Manager Jill Keimach, the Town's volunteer Treasurer, Bob Kennedy, resident Bradley Ward, Mayor Mike Metcalf, and Council Member Karen Mendonca.

At its January meeting, the Committee reviewed Hom's mid-year financial report that indicated that the earnings and expenses of the Town are on track, with a probable increase in the property tax revenue. That presentation was followed by a decision regarding the Town's surplus, now predicted to be slightly higher than expected.

"We have reached our goal of 50 percent of the General Fund set aside as a reserve by allocating our surplus to that fund," said the Director. "Now the question is how we allocate the rest of the surplus." The Committee agreed that it should be saved for road repairs. "We need to tell voters that we are trying to save money for the roads as fast as we can," said the Mayor.

The Palos money represents the \$2 million in developer fees the Town received as part of the agreement to develop 123 homes on the Palos Colorados property along Moraga Road next to the Lafayette border. The funds are in an account that bears a very minimal interest rate, less than 0.5 percent according to Hom. So far, the Council's position has always been to consider this money to be a "bank" for the Town, a sum that it could borrow against, but must repay, until a complete strategy is agreed upon.

The Committee also discussed a goal that's been articulated by both Hom and Mendonca: the necessity for the Town to have a five-year strategic financial plan. "This should include the Palos Colorados money," said Mendonca, "we need to have a strategy on how to invest that money for the best interest of the Town."

But necessity may push the Council to make decisions regarding this money before a five-year plan is approved. "We have the Palos money sitting," said Metcalf, "paying for 331 Rheem is a one-time purchase of a good

Town asset. Paying one-time money for a one-time expenditure is a good decision." Mendonca agreed, noting that the Town now has a healthy reserve.

Town Manager Jill Keimach said that she believes that the community expects that the Palos money would be used for Parks and Recreation purposes. No one on the Committee was sure of the exact wording of the agreement with the Developer. "If we pay off the loan for 331 Rheem with that money, we will complete the restoration of the Hacienda de las Flores to its original purpose," said Mendonca, "and that is a part of the Parks and Recreation master plan."

The Committee voted to recommend that the note be paid off now with the Town's money, using either the Palos bank or the General Fund reserve. The Council will discuss the issue at its February 8th meeting. If the Council does not support that decision, and some Council Members have been on record strongly opposing touching the reserves, the Town could create a bridge-loan for itself until it secures a bank loan.

Rancho Laguna Litigation Delays Playground Construction

By Sophie Braccini

No one wants to comment on it; pending litigation has a way of silencing even the Town's most vocal officials. But it is now

public knowledge that a law suit has been filed against the Town of Moraga over the plan the Town Council approved to partition the

space at Rancho Laguna Park and create a dedicated area for off-leash dogs. All projects for the park have now been put on hold,

including the replacement of the play structure that was removed from the park last spring due to decay.

Moraga Residents Request Clarification on Selection Process

By Sophie Braccini

"There is a risk of lack of faith," said David Shapiro, referring to the way Moraga's Vice Mayor was chosen by the Town Council last December. The issue was raised by resident Ellen Beans at the Town's Goal Setting session on January 28.

Beans said that she, and many residents, had been stunned when Howard Harpham was nominated and elected Vice Mayor. "This has nothing to do with that specific choice," clarified Beans, "but a 30-plus year tradition was broken with no discussion with the public

or among Council members." Other residents indicated that they were also surprised when they heard the news.

According to an unwritten rule, those who sit in the mayor and vice mayor seats are those who receive the majority of the

public votes in the election that sends them to the Council. Most agreed that changing a rule, even an unwritten one, is worth a public debate. The issue will be put on the agenda of an upcoming Council meeting and will then be discussed at length.

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Moraga Still Getting Baby Food?

Thoughts of a departing Town Engineer

By Sophie Braccini

Everybody agreed, at outgoing Public Works Director Jill Mercurio's farewell party, that when she leaves a part of the life of the party leaves with her. As Moraga Mayor Mike Metcalf put it, she brought an infectious high spiritedness that boosted the morale of Town staff. The Public Works Director and Town Engineer was described as being "one of the boys", respected for her competence and direct approach, and appreciated for her warmth and collaborative approach to management. As she leaves her office, she shared some thoughts about the past successes and the challenges Moraga faces.

Mercurio believes that Moraga's biggest impairment can be traced back to the passage of Prop. 13; the share that each municipality gets today from the property tax collected within its boundaries was set for perpetuity in 1978, when the town was only four years old. "Now the Town is and adult and it is still getting baby food," she says.

When the Town was incorporated in 1974, it was with the express mandate to keep the government and services to a

minimum. The needs then were limited, and no one had anticipated that serious amounts of money had to be set aside to maintain the infrastructure. Today, residents pay the same amount of property tax as any other Contra Costa resident, but the difference is that less comes back to feed the General Fund of their town.

"Moraga operates with, on average, half the number of staff per 1000 residents than anywhere else," says Mercurio, "and the pay and benefits are in the lower tier. So it was the understanding of previous Town Managers that Moraga was a training ground; a place to advance one's career, but not to retire." Mercurio says that when then Town Manager Phil Vince hired her, he asked her to stay five years. She's been in charge for six and a half years and is now taking a position with the City of Vallejo as Assistant Public Works Director and City Engineer.

In addition to chronic understaffing, the under-funding of the Town has had a dramatic impact on the maintenance backlog. "One of the reasons I was hired

was my experience with building cases for getting grants for infrastructure," says Mercurio, "we've been quite successful over the past six years and were able to get a lot done." Residents will remember the repaving of Camino Pablo, part of Rheem Boulevard, and Moraga Road. The Director was also able to get funding for improvements around school grounds such as sidewalks and crossroads.

But there is no Federal or State funding for residential streets and that's why the roads have been degrading to the point of getting Moraga a regional rating of 'poor', at the bottom of the ladder, among Contra Costa municipalities.

"We have a maintenance backlog of about \$25 million," says Mercurio, "that is what RECON (Revenue Enhancement Community Outreach to Neighborhoods Committee) has been working on: informing residents of the situation, and establishing a roadmap to get the repairs done, the best cost-effective way possible, and staged over a few years."

Mercurio departs before the plan is complete, although she

notes that it is almost finished.

"I am not especially concerned about the RECON work being interrupted with Jill's (Mercurio's) departure," says Metcalf. "Jill Keimach (the Town Manager) has arranged for the on-call services of the engineering manager in El Cerrito. Jerry Bradshaw will be joining the RECON team in the same capacity vacated by Jill Mercurio. Jerry brings experience as the engineer who formulated the El Cerrito street rehabilitation program." Metcalf points out that several years ago El Cerrito's neighborhood streets were in similar condition to Moraga's neighborhood streets today and credits Bradshaw with fashioning a pavement rehabilitation program which, once voters passed the bond measure that funded it, was executed. Now El Cerrito's neighborhood streets are mostly in "good" condition. "That's exactly the outcome we're shooting for in Moraga," says the Mayor, "I'm confident Jerry (Bradshaw) can give us a lot of help. We are fortunate that Contra Costa cities are always willing to help one another out."

Everyone was very emotional

at Mercurio's farewell party on January 19, including Staff Engineer John Sherbert who said that he will miss her problem solving, mentoring, and leadership skills. In Vallejo she will deal with similar issues: infrastructure to be maintained and budget restrictions. At least she will have some money to play with; the city recently very narrowly approved a 1% sales tax to be charged on purchases of goods and services made within the city limits, to finance local services including infrastructure maintenance.

Property Tax Allocations

Of the total property tax residents pay, only a fraction goes to municipalities. That percentage was set in stone by Prop. 13. Those percentages for Lamorinda and a couple of nearby communities are:

Moraga	5.3%
Lafayette	6.8%
Orinda	7.4%
Concord	10.4%
Pittsburg	15.8%

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\$799,000 Lori Legler

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



Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, February 7, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Tri-City Meeting City Council

Thursday, February 9, 7:00 pm
Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22
Orinda Way, Orinda

Planning Commission

Tuesday, February 28, at 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way
Tuesday, February 14 canceled

Historical Landmark Committee

Tuesday, February 28, 3:00 pm
Gallery Room, Library
26 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, February 13, 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

ORINDA POLICE

Police Report

In left field, 1/18/2012 An anonymous caller tipped Orinda police about a white car sitting in an empty field. Police found a man and woman milling around the car, and luggage strewn about. The suspects fled on foot, the woman was found. Police also found a controlled substance and burglary tools. She was transported to Martinez Detention Facility and booked.

This is why DUI is illegal, 1/15/2012 Investigation of an accident on Ivy Drive resulted in the arrest of the self-admitted drunk driver. His two passengers were injured, one required surgery. The driver was medically screened before he was booked into Martinez Detention Facility and charged with 2 felony counts and 1 misdemeanor.

Right, aid... 1/18/2012 Police following up on witness reports of a woman screaming and drinking wine in the Rite Aid bathroom found her on Orinda Way, clearly Drunk in Public. She was found to be in violation of her terms of probation requiring she consume no alcohol, transported and booked into Martinez Detention Facility.

Their lucky day, 1/13/2012 Two men who reportedly stole from Orinda Safeway fled the scene and led police on a merry chase in their 1986 Nissan all the way into Oakland, where OPD was instructed to terminate the pursuit.

Methinks thou dost protest too much! 1/10/2012 A protester protesting with a protest sign encountered a counter-protester when the party of the second part spray-painted the sign of the party of the first part. Original protester signed a citizen's arrest for the newbie; the counter-protester admitted vandalizing the protester's sign, and was arrested, cited and released at the scene of the protest crime.



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A New Thread in the Fabric of Orinda's Community

Michelle Lacy takes the field as Orinda's new Director of Parks and Recreation

By Laurie Snyder

"My role is to serve the community," says Michelle Lacy, the new Director of Parks and Recreation whose first day with the City of Orinda was January 3, 2012.

She's got a challenging task. With programs serving babies all the way up to seniors, and facili-

ties that range from open space areas to landscaped medians and groomed playfields, and a diverse array of arts and cultural happenings, Lacy oversees roughly ten full and part-time permanent staff and approximately 30 additional temporary and seasonal personnel ensuring smooth operations across

five major program areas – recreation, facility maintenance, facility management (rentals), parks and landscaping, and administration – while keeping an eye on the current fiscal year's projected budget expenditures of \$2,178,768.

Take the Orinda Community Center, for example. "This place

is busy all the time," says Lacy. Parks and Recreation staff work hard to tailor activities and educational offerings to the specific constituencies they serve. Programs for seniors give older men and women vital opportunities to remain active and socialize.

... continued on next page

Safe Routes to Schools – But How?

Proposed pedestrian path on Moraga Way sparks surprising debate

By Laurie Snyder



* Pedestrian Landing Area defined by constructing asphalt curb

Illustration provided

Orindans provided a primer for other communities on how to conduct civil, productive discourse at a recent community meeting at Miramonte High School. The January 24 public hearing offered residents the opportunity to weigh in on proposed construction plans for a new pedestrian pathway on Moraga Way, and was led by City Engineer Janice Carey.

The idea for the pathway was an

outgrowth of the City's larger Bicycle, Trails and Walkways Master Plan prepared by Alta Planning + Design and adopted by the City in January 2011.

Carey noted that residents have been concerned about bicycle and pedestrian safety in the neighborhood for quite some time. Attendees were nearly evenly divided in favor and against the project.

Planners propose to create a

roughly 3,355 linear foot pathway within the public right-of-way near Miramonte High School. It would be located on the western side of Moraga Way from El Camino Moraga to Ivy Drive south. The current paved roadway shoulder would be converted to a five-foot wide asphalt pathway, and separated from bicycle lanes by an asphalt dike with conformers created for residential driveways entering onto the west side of Moraga Way. The shoulder cross slope would also be flattened to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Additionally, two push-button Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons would be installed on opposite sides of a striped crosswalk on Moraga Way at Estabueno and Eastwood Drive. Described as state-of-the-art by the representatives of outside consultants, Harris & Associates, the solar-powered beacons are viewed as less expensive and greener than in-roadway enhanced crosswalk beacons.

One neighbor observed that, "The value of having a better crosswalk at Eastwood is huge," while another expressed his appreciation for the hard work done by City staff before stating

that the project might actually make Moraga Way more dangerous since it would take space from both traffic lanes to build the pathway.

Several suggested that there are not enough walkers to warrant the expense when the City is still struggling to get its roads paved, and advised planners that children and their parents actually prefer to take back ways through neighborhoods rather than walking along Moraga Way. Others expressed the belief that, "If we build it, they will come."

One advocated an even bolder approach, recommending that the pathway be lengthened further because it would make the City safer and encourage people to get out of their cars and walk.

When Orinda City Council considered the issue at its August 2011 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) review, Council members were advised that \$35,000 would be spent for planning, design, and administration plus \$181,930 for construction and \$14,000 for construction management for a total of \$230,930.

That construction figure has since been revised upward by \$100,000 for an estimated total project cost of \$330,930, as indicated on page II-21 of the final version of the CIP that was adopted by Council for 2011-2015.

Staff have already secured \$166,000 from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Safe Routes to Schools program, and anticipate making up the difference by using \$54,930 in City park dedication fees from fiscal years 2012 and 2013, \$10,000 from 2012 gas tax revenues, and \$100,000 in 2013 local traffic impact fees.

When asked about the increase in estimated expenditures, Carey explained that project costs change as the design becomes "more refined as the project design becomes more complete." Saying that there may be at least four budget phases "in estimating a project while it goes through the design stage: conceptual, schematic, design development, and working drawings," she also noted that, "We will not really know the true cost of the project until it is bid for construction."

One resident urged scaling the project back to simply create a safe crosswalk rather than building the entire pathway, stating that proposed plan was not a good solution for residents who live along the section of Moraga Way where the path would be located.

All agreed on one thing: There is an increasing need to inspire Orinda motorists to drive more safely on community roads – particularly so when driving near schools and other places where children are present.

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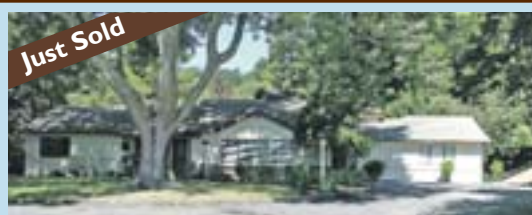
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Frank Woodward

A New Thread in the Fabric of Orinda's Community

... continued from page A6

Traditional gyms cater mostly to young customers, observes Lacy. So community physical recreation programs are critical because they help seniors keep up their mobility at a reasonable cost. Many older Orindans also fend off the demon of isolation by playing bridge and engaging in other weekly programs to stay connected with friends.

Teens are afforded a safe-structured environment where they're not pressured to do anything unhealthy or illegal.

Programs tailored to preschoolers and early elementary age children enable little ones to explore their world while finetuning their manners and learning how to get along with others in the wider world. While the kids are making friends, their moms are developing social and support networks.

"Parks and Rec just makes life better," says Lacy. "It brings neighborhoods together," enabling residents to play and

spend time together and maintaining "the fabric of the community."

Lacy is well positioned to help guide Orinda's harmonic convergence. With a degree in organizational management and nearly ten years of experience as the Town of Danville's Recreation Services Manager, she was responsible for ensuring the smooth operation of seven program areas, 30 sports fields, five public buildings, a dog park, and a \$3 million budget – a budget that grew significantly during her tenure.

One other strong point in her favor is that she knows what it's like in the trenches. Although she had thought about becoming a teacher, she decided that there was a better path for her. So, she embarked on a career in Parks and Recreation, starting out as a day camp director and working her way up.

"I wanted to help people – wanted to work with youth and

make a difference in their lives."

Orinda's Parks and Recreation budget has traditionally been a strong one with user fees playing a significant role in covering operational costs. To maintain the high standard of Orinda's programs and services, Lacy will evaluate existing programs to determine where improvements might be made and will also engage staff in long-range planning. She'll also be working to keep the development of the Wilder playfields on track for a June 2012 opening, a big project that has already occupied much of her first few weeks on the job.

One only needs to peruse the 234-page Bicycle, Trails and Walkways Master Plan to get a sense of just how busy Michelle Lacy will be managing Orinda's existing wealth of resources – resources that could expand even farther based on this ambitious and far-reaching plan which was developed under Lacy's predecessor, Todd Skinner, and adopted



Michelle Lacy, Orinda's new Director of Parks and Recreation, checks out the daytime activity near Orinda's tennis courts. "This place is busy all the time," she says of the Orinda Community Center and its neighboring park. Photo Laurie Snyder

by the City in January 2011.

"Well maintained public spaces are important to the identity of the community," states Lacy, who notes that she also likes "to make kids and families smile." With significant re-

sources at her disposal and support from a community that draws strength from its busy cultural and recreational scene, she'll have ample opportunity to do just that in the days and years ahead.



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Civic News Moraga

Moraga Police Choose Nixle for Emergency Messaging

By Sophie Braccini



courtesy of www.nixle.com/

The Moraga Town Council recently approved the usage of Nixle by its Police Department for emergency messaging to residents. The decision followed a recent road closure on Moraga Way that created considerable inconvenience for Lamorinda residents and served as a reminder that, according to the Police Department, the community should be doing a better job of preparing for minor emergencies, as well as for major emergencies. Nixle, a communication system used by some 5,000 public agencies, will disseminate important information to as many stakeholders as possible, as quickly as possible, either to their phones or via email.

In order for the system to be effective, residents have to register their information, email and/or mobile phone. Moraga Police Chief Bob Priebe encourages all residents to sign up for Nixle. "With no cost to the Department, taxpayers, or residents, the Nixle Connect is a cost-effective solution," said the Chief.

Following the meeting, the Police Department set up an account to communicate with the public via text/SMS, e-mail, and/or Internet posts depending on what residents choose for themselves. "The messages we will send will address issues such as a road closure, a law enforcement activity, a fire response," said Priebe, adding, "Nixle will also be part of the Town's Emergency Response Plan for communicating with residents."

You can register to receive messages from Moraga Police by sending a text message with your zip code to 888777, and online registration is also available at

www.nixle.com. Subscribing to Nixle is easy and free. Enter your name, address and telephone number. Adding the phone number is optional, but if you just enter your email you will not receive text messages. The system sends you alerts from official agencies located in your area that have signed onto Nixle. You will be automatically signed up to receive messages from the Moraga Police Department; other towns or agencies of interest can be added to and removed from your alarm system.

"We met today with Chief Priebe and our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein," said Moraga Orinda Fire Department Chief Randy Bradley, "We'll be working also with the cities of Lafayette and Orinda. This is an area where regionalization makes sense and will improve efficiency. We will identify ways for the Fire Department to use it through the Police Department and we are very supportive of it."

"We are excited to have the Moraga Police Department join over 4,600 agencies across the nation that use Nixle for their means of real-time communication," said Eric Liu, Nixle CEO. "With Nixle Connect, public notification is made easy. It assures that the Moraga community will quickly receive the information they need the most, such as traffic reports, crime alerts, and emergency notifications." Currently, Walnut Creek uses Nixle extensively and Lafayette recently joined. Nixle indicates that more than 700,000 citizens nationwide have signed up to take advantage of their service.

About Nixle

Founded in 2007, Nixle is a privately held company based in San Francisco. Nixle is a Community Information Service dedicated to helping people get access to the information they need, depending on their physical location. Only authenticated agencies and community organizations can securely publish information. There are four types of messages; Alerts (many would refer to this as an emergency type alert), Advisories (less urgent need-to-know information), Community Information (day-to-day neighborhood to community-level information), Traffic (very localized traffic information). Nixle is the only messaging service certified by the International Justice and Safety Networks (Nlets), which is owned by the 50 states, links together and supports every federal, state and local law enforcement, justice and public safety agency for the purpose of sharing and exchanging critical information. "Our goal will be to get every local, state and federal agency to link into the Nixle network and provide the public with every type of information, from emergency notification to day-to-day information on traffic, missing persons and local events. The more agencies and citizens you sign up, the better it will be for public safety," said CEO Eric Liu in an interview with Government Security News. In order to be able to continue to provide this free service, Nixle is now rolling out additional paid plans that incorporate added functionality plus upcoming new releases.

Meet the Mayor Continues



From left: Bill Snyder, Jill Keimach, Mike Metcalf and Susan Marconio Photo Andy Scheck

Moraga's new mayor, Mike Metcalf, continues the tradition started by Mayor Karen Mendonca last year. The third Friday of the month, the Mayor and the Town Manager meet informally in the morning with their constituency at Terzetto Cuisine. Residents are welcome to drop by and ask questions.

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Civic News Lafayette

BART Fleet of the Future May Take a While

... continued from page A2



Although a final design has not been chosen, this image shows the most favored selection. Illustration provided

BMW Designworks came up with a layout that allows for more room for bikes, wheelchairs and packages made possible with input from approximately 10,000 riders and concerned residents. "The public spoke loud and clear that maximizing seating was a top priority. Designing seat configurations is a delicate balancing act of comfort and capacity," noted a report from BART on their Fleet of the Future.

Once the final contract has been awarded to one of the three finalists, the supplier will provide an actual size mock-up that will be available to the public for inspection, tentatively scheduled for later this year. Comments about the sample car will be taken

into consideration for the final design. "We've had robust public feedback to the program," said BART spokesperson Luna Salaver. The first actual train car will arrive for testing in 2013. Deliveries of the road tested shiny new redesigned cars should commence in January, 2015. If all goes according to schedule, delivery of the 260 new and improved cars for Phase 1 should run from approximately September of 2016 to December 2018. Finding a reliable, comfortable fleet to handle a growing number of commuters obviously takes a while.

For Lafayette residents getting tired of the shrill screeching noise coming from the tracks, Salaver recommends contacting

BART Customer Service directly. Multiple comments and complaints will go to their maintenance department to encourage grinding the divots along the track that are to blame for the racket. Go to BART.gov, then click on "About BART" for the "Contact Us" page; phone numbers, along with e-mail and regular mail information can be found there. For your convenience, station agents also have postage paid comment cards. The squeaky wheel gets the grease.

Also in Lafayette, there were rumors of an Antique Faire in the BART parking lot starting this spring. Organizers withdrew their application and now plan on locating in downtown Concord.

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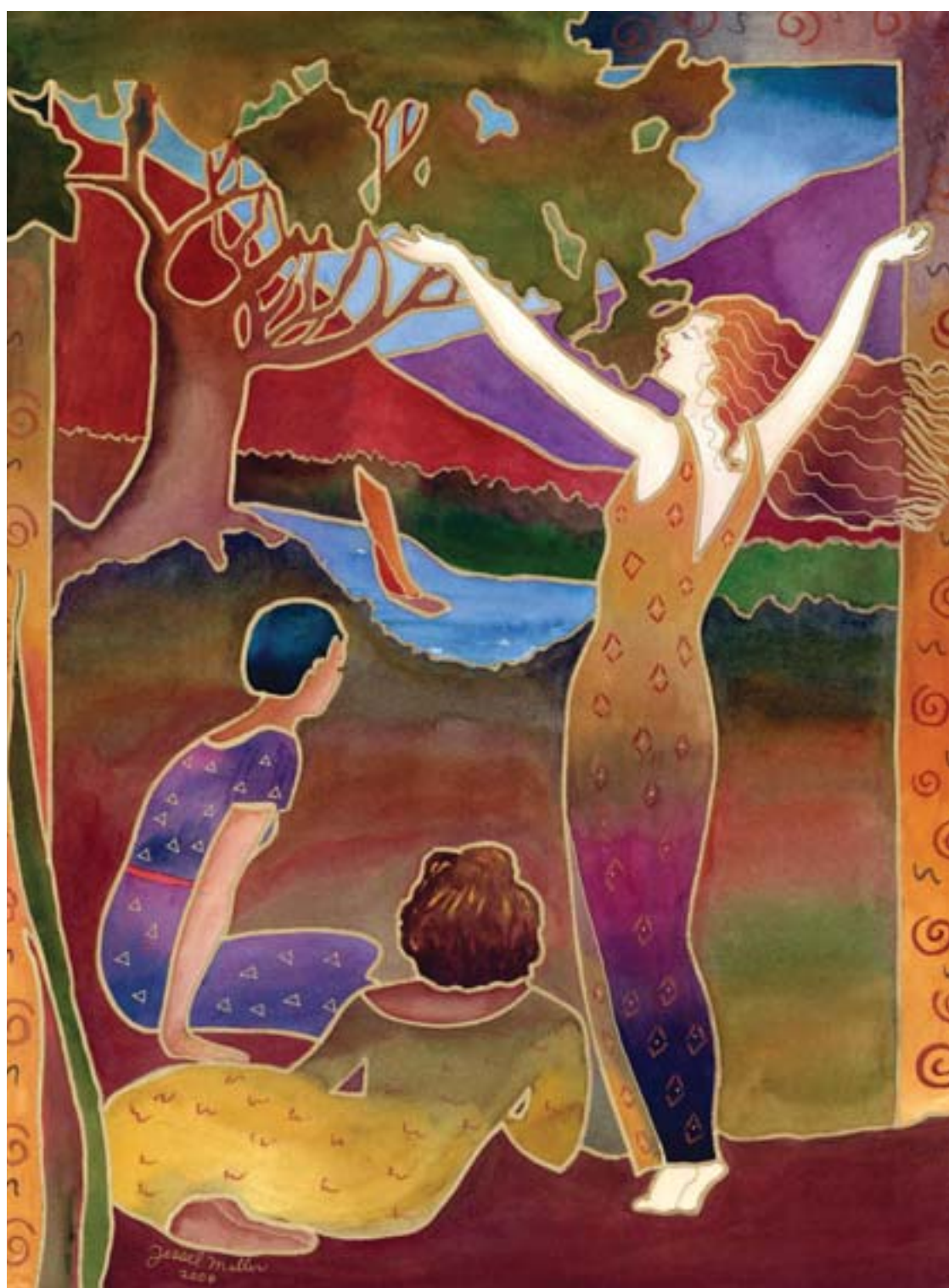
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Women's Heart Health



If you're like many women, you probably spend much of your time caring for others...and not enough time educating and caring for yourself. For example, do you know that the leading cause of death for women is heart disease? Many signs and signals that precede a cardiac event are different in women than in men. Cardiologist Earl Holloway, MD, will give an overview of symptoms that can be cause for concern at this free heart care discussion.



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**Moraga Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors Meetings**

Meetings of the MOFD Board of Directors are open to the public and take place on the third Wednesday of each month at the Moraga Library Community Room, 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga.

Next meeting:

Next regular MOFD Board meeting February 15, 2012

7:00 pm at the Moraga

Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road

Meeting Feb. 1, 2012 canceled

(go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

MOFD Board Reverses Course, Cancels Building Purchase Contract

By Lucy Amaral

In a surprising turn of events at its January 18 Board meeting, the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors cancelled the purchase of a potential administrative building, sacrificing a \$25,000 deposit, and putting the District back to square one with regards to where to house its staff. The sale of the building had been scheduled to close on January 26.

The Board approved the purchase of the building, located at 1150 Moraga Way, at its December 28, 2011 Board meeting. Relocating MOFD's administrative staff was determined to be the first step in the remodeling of Station 41 in Moraga. A facilities report had identified gender, space and ADA required upgrades were needed for that station. One option was to combine the administrative offices, currently split between Station 45 in Orinda and Station 41 in Moraga, into a single office and repurpose the space in Station 41.

In a prepared statement during the January meeting, Board President Fred Weil said that while he felt the Board had vetted the purchase decision, the negative public perception could put the future of the District in jeopardy and he therefore now opposed the purchase of the building. "The risk is not that we will not be able to continue to deliver services to the community if we buy 1150," said Weil. "But rather that the District may be irrationally torn apart and that our correct economic decision may be the trigger."

The purchase, which was approved by a three to two vote, was highly criticized by not only the dissenting board members but also many members of the community. Public comments against the purchase, both at the MOFD Board Meetings and through let-

ters to the editor in local publications, have been overwhelmingly negative. Weil noted that he felt these negative comments came from not having the complete information. "The failure of this Board is not that we have not come up with a good economic plan, but rather that we did not do a good job of educating the community," he said.

Board Member Frank Sperling, who had previously voted for the purchase of the building, echoed Weil's concerns and changed his vote as well. Sperling said while he felt the District had fully researched this option and he fully supported the purchase of the building before, he felt individuals in the District have created a perceived reality through purposeful inaccuracies and it was too difficult to try and change that reality.

Board Members Richard Olsen and Brook Mancinelli, who opposed the purchase of the building from the outset, admitted being caught off guard.

"That must not have been an easy decision for (Weil)," said Mancinelli later. "But my experiences on the Board with him have taught me that he arrived there after a considerable amount of thoughtful deliberation."

Mancinelli also said that, going forward from here, he hoped they would continue to make progress on their highest priorities: The reconstruction of station 43 in Orinda and upgrades to Station 41.

John Wyro, who attended via teleconferencing, had no comment. Weil charged MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley to add an item on an upcoming agenda to discuss their office space needs and options.

A special meeting was held Saturday, January 21, to formally cancel the contract.

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...from Front Page

Orinda City Council Initiates Eminent Domain Proceedings to Keep Glorietta Project on Track

... continued from page A1

Council Member Amy Worth noted that the City has been working since the 2000 flood to identify the best way to fix the problem. Those plans are detailed in numerous staff reports on the City's web site. In a nutshell, it's complex; it's going to be hugely expensive, and "the surrounding properties will be subject to a severe risk of flooding" if the project is not completed, according to the reports.

The easements will enable the workers to get in and do what they need to do in 2012 before a section of the culvert fails completely – and during the only time the weather will be suitable for the work – from June to October. Staff anticipate that the project can be completed in three months or less and "should only involve minor inconvenience for property owners." The City has also "committed to restoring the sur-

face of the affected properties to their condition before construction."

Because time is now running out, the Council concluded that the easements on the remaining properties are "compatible with the greatest public good and least private injury" and initiated eminent domain proceedings.

Seanna Allen, one of the owners of the Glorietta Court property facing eminent domain proceedings, disagrees with the City's statement that its personnel have been negotiating with the Allens for a year.

"We're not trying to stop the project. We just want time to get our appraisals done," said Allen as she explained that she and her husband have been waiting on a report from an independent surveyor who only just completed work on January 6.

In addition to the surveyor's

guidance, the Allens have been consulting with an arborist regarding the project's possible effect on their backyard, including the potential impact to a redwood tree estimated to be 75-feet tall. Removing the tree would totally change the backyard's landscaping, but leaving it in place could be problematic if the root system were to be weakened during the drainage system work.

A volunteer for community projects, Allen affirmed, "We love our community. We love our neighbors," and said that she and her husband look forward to working with the City.

"All of us still hope we'll still be able to work this out," said Glazer. Staff will continue their efforts to negotiate with the property owners while the eminent domain action moves forward in the hope that further legal action can be avoided.

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How Many Candles on Your Cake? February 29



Attention Leap Year babies: *Lamorinda Weekly* wants to speak with you!

If you were born February 29, we'd like to hear how you celebrate your special, once-every-four-year birthday! If you missed the magic date by mere hours, and have a late-in-the-day February 28 birthday or an early morning March 1 birthday, we want to listen to your story too! Please reply before February 22. Call our office at (925) 377-0977, or e-mail Cathy Dausman at cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com.
C.Dausman

Merrick Pleads Guilty

It was a case that shook Lamorinda to its very core. For some, it ended quietly in a court room on January 20th.

Just days before his trial was set to begin, Michael Merrick, a former Lafayette teacher, entered into a plea bargain and pleaded guilty to six felony charges of sex crimes against a minor for acts

that took place on the campus of Stanley Middle School in the summer of 2010. Merrick was sentenced to five years and eight months in prison.

Merrick was arrested in October of 2010 and arraigned on 25 felony counts after the 14-year-old victim, who he had been tutoring, came forward.

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Wings on the Grounds

Former St. Mary's Naval Cadet remembers the drills

By Cathy Dausman



T.B. "Teeb" Thomas and wife Rudi at the St. Mary's College Navy Memorial bench honoring Preflight school cadets. Photo Andy Scheck

In a quiet grove behind St. Mary's football field is a statue dedicated to Our Lady of the Oaks. Its inscription reads in part: "in honor of the 1427 [St. Mary's College] men...who answered their country's call...in World War II." Several hundred yards away, alongside the Brother Cornelius Art Center, the "Navy Bench" invites pedestrians to pause and rest: "Reflect upon those young men who passed through St. Mary's Navy Preflight School during World War II." What follows is one man's story.



T.B. "Teeb" Thomas of Orinda has long loved to fly. But before he got off the ground, he trained as a cadet in the US Naval Preflight School at St. Mary's College.

Thomas was born and raised in South Dakota, and moved to Salinas, California his senior year of high school. He signed up as a V-5 recruit to take the Navy's basic flight training program in January, 1943 and graduated high school at age 17 in February. After a short stint at a Salinas junior college, Thomas was sent to flight prep school in San Luis Obispo. Next stop: St. Mary's College.

When Thomas arrived in March 1944, the sleepy campus with its pre-war enrollment of barely 300 was gearing up into a boomtown of 2,000 khaki-clad Navy and Marine personnel.

Thomas became a member of the 1st Platoon, 47th Battalion. He said the campus held "a few [religious] brothers, no civilians, and it was all male." Underclassmen bunked in temporary housing, while upperclassmen occupied dorms still in use today. Cadets were confined to the campus during their first six weeks. There were "no cameras, no weddings and no marriages." Staying single didn't bother most cadets, says Thomas; they were still young.

Training and discipline were the program watchwords. The workload combined academics with physical training, or PT. Cadets studied meteorology, astronomy, and math, and played football, baseball, basketball and soccer. They swam, ran track, boxed and wrestled. Military training included practicing water escapes from a mock plane cockpit, recognizing and estimating numbers of friendly and enemy aircraft, and pistol and rifle practice. Thomas recalls that he and his fellow cadets "did a lot of drilling" and studied until 10:00 p.m. Once they hiked from the campus to the top of Mt. Diablo in survival gear carrying a backpack that held "too much."

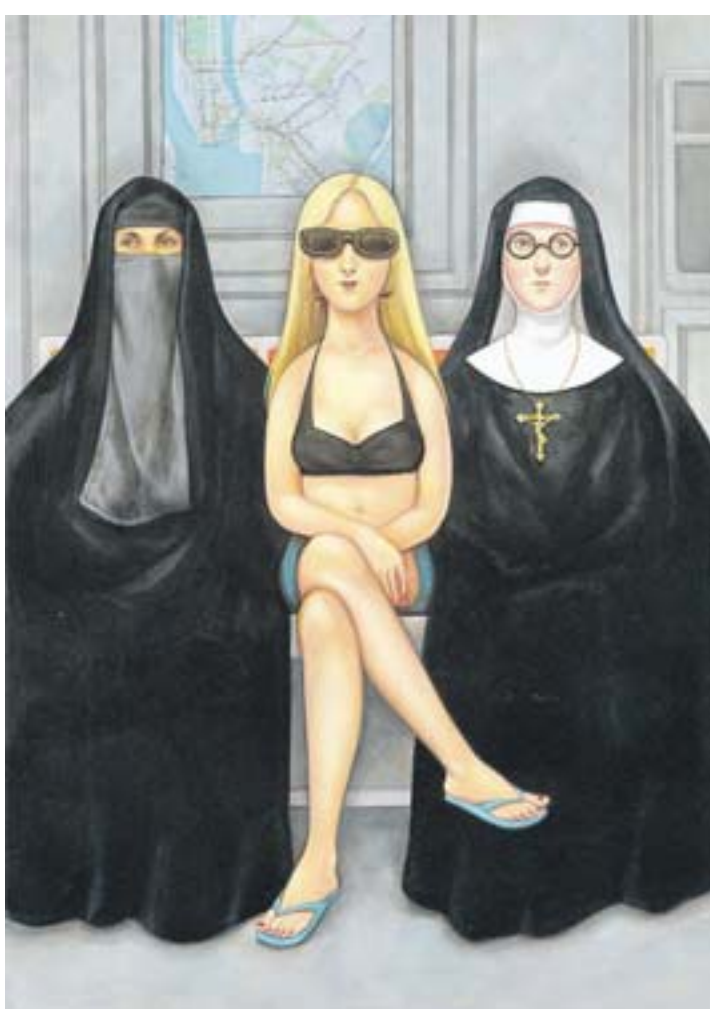
In June of 1944, with the war turning in favor of the Allied forces, officials decided to "wash out" (release) half the V-5 class. Cadets called it "the purge." "Luckily," says Thomas, "I made

it." Thomas earned his wings at Corpus Christi, Texas, after advanced flight training in a bi-wing Boeing Stearman 75 and an SBD Dauntless dive bomber. Ensign Thomas was then transferred to the Naval Air Station in Deland, Florida where he met his future wife, who was then a Navy WAVE. Thomas was discharged in December, 1945 and married in Monterey on Valentine's Day, 1946.

... continued on page B8

The NEW Saint Mary's College Museum of Art presents:

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Opening Night Reception and Movie:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH 5:30PM

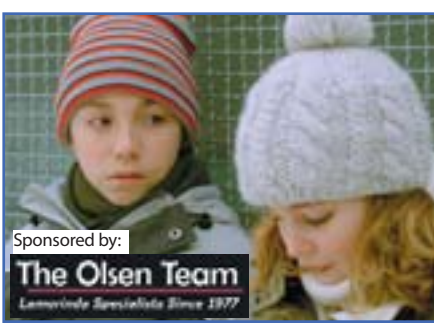
Opening Night Movie

Monsieur Lazhar

2012 Oscar Nominee
Best Foreign Language Film

This is the story of an Algerian immigrant substitute teacher who brings emotional stability to a Montreal middle school that has been shaken by the tragic death of their well-liked teacher. It is also an exploration of how adults speak to children about issues they'd rather not confront themselves.

Monsieur Lazhar, nominated in this year's 84th Oscar Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film, and The Opening Night Ceremony will be held at the Rheem Theatre, and will be hosted by NBC Bay Area News weekend anchor, Ms Diane Dwyer. *Monsieur Lazhar* will also screen at the Orinda Theatre on Feb 14th, 2012.



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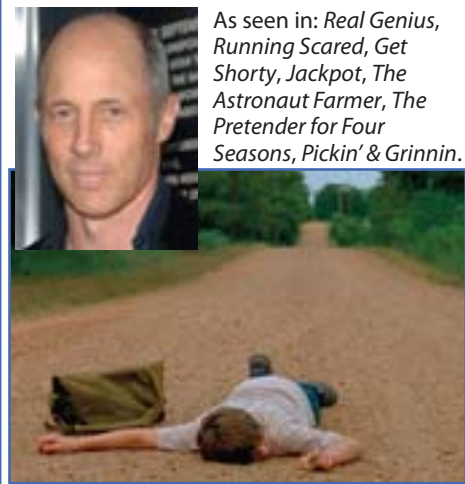
Meet Jon Gries for Q&A Special Screening

Five Time Champion

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH 9:30PM

While the young scientist, Julius, steadfastly researches the asexual reproduction of worms, his natural curiosity leads him to discover some inconvenient truths about those around him. He witnesses his mother's infidelity and suspects his grandfather for the same, all while he believes he is losing his best friend Shiley to a rival named Chase.

2012 Maverick Award Honoree
Jon Gries will be honored at the Five Time Champion screening on Feb. 10th



As seen in: *Real Genius*, *Running Scared*, *Get Shorty*, *Jackpot*, *The Astronaut Farmer*, *The Pretender for Four Seasons*, *Pickin' & Grinnin'*.

2012 Slate Awards

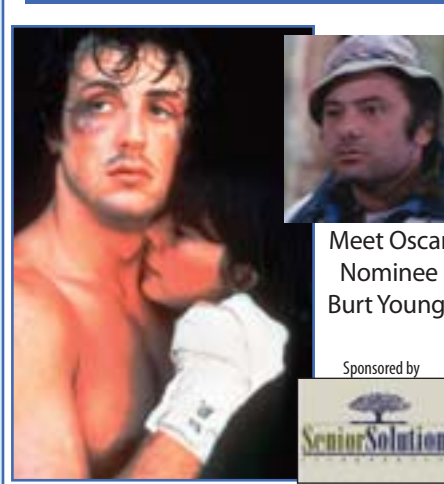
VIP Reception and Movie:

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Closing Night

Meet Margaret O'Brien Reception and Movie:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH 5:30PM

Meet Me in St. Louis

with Margaret O'Brien

The well-off Smith family has four beautiful daughters. Seventeen-year-old Esther has fallen in love with John, who has just moved in next door. He however, barely notices her at first. The family is shocked when Mr. Smith reveals that he has been transferred to a nice position in New York, which means that the family has to leave St. Louis and the 1903 St. Louis Fair.

2012 Diamond Award Honoree
Margaret O'Brien will be honored at the closing night Movie



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Date	Location	Films and Events Schedule*	* subject to change please check our web site www.caiff.org
Friday, February 10 th	Rheem Theatre - Main Theatre (350 seats)	5:30PM Opening Night Reception with Dianne Dwyer and food from fine Restaurants	7:00PM (94 min) Opening Night Film <i>Monsieur Lazhar</i>
			9:30PM (91 min) Five Time Champion Maverick Award presentation to Jon Gries
Saturday, February 11 th	Rheem Theatre - Main Theatre (350 seats)	10:00AM-Noon Children's Program A Oliver's Treasure (2 min) & Miss Minoes (92 min)	12:30PM-2:15PM Children's Program B Add & Subtract (4 min) & Somebody's Hero (81 min)
	Rheem Theatre - Theatre 3 (102 seats)	10:00AM-Noon Last First Comic (91 min)	12:30PM - 2:30PM Comedy Shorts Program (98 min)
	Rheem Theatre - Theatre 2	10:00AM - 12:30PM Acting Seminar Joie Landeaux	1:00PM - 2:00PM Filmmaker's Panel Filmmaking 101
Sunday, February 12 th	Rheem Theatre - Main Theatre (350 seats)	11:00AM - 1:00PM Iron Filmmaker	1:30PM - 3:30PM Jucy (90 min)
	Rheem Theatre - Theatre 3 (102 seats)	11:00AM - 1:00PM Umoja (32 min) & Mary and Bill (49 min)	1:30PM - 3:30PM Sapporo Showcase
Monday, February 13 th	Orinda Theatre - Theatre 2 (175 seats)	1:00PM - 3:00PM Tilt (97 min)	4:00PM - 6:00PM Umoja (32 min) & Mary and Bill (49 min)
	Rheem Theatre - Theatre 3 (102 seats)	1:00PM - 3:00PM Century of Light (47 min)	4:00PM - 6:00PM Sapporo Showcase
Tuesday, February 14 th	Rheem Theatre - Main Theatre (350 seats)	1:00PM - 3:00PM Drama Shorts Program (74 min)	4:00PM - 6:00PM The Power of Two (98 min)
	Orinda Theatre - Theatre 2 (175 seats)	1:00PM - 3:00PM Drama Shorts Program (99 min)	4:00PM - 6:00PM Hermano (97 min)
Wednesday, February 15 th	Orinda Theatre - Theatre 2 (175 seats)	1:00PM - 3:00PM Last First Comic (91 min)	4:00PM - 6:00PM Comedy Shorts Program (98 min)
			6:30PM - 8:30PM Little Women with Margaret O'Brien (122 min)
Thursday, February 16 th	Rheem Theatre - Main Theatre (350 seats)	1:00PM - 3:00PM Best Documentary 2012 Winner	4:00PM - 6:00PM Best Short Films 2012 Winners

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go to www.CAIFF.org for details, tickets and updates



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Community Service

Lamorinda NCL Celebrates with Service

Submitted by Mary Caprio



Photo provided

In December, members from the Lamorinda chapter of National Charity League (NCL) gathered together at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center with the hope of brightening the holidays of those less fortunate. Each year at this time, the Lamorinda NCL chapter works just a little bit harder to help those in need and this year was no different. Stockings were stuffed with treats and necessities and warm blankets were made for delivery to the Monument Crisis Center in Concord.

When the evening was over, hundreds of stockings had been filled and warm blankets had been assembled, all to be donated to the Crisis Center's many patrons in need. Lamorinda

NCL chapter president Mary Torchio commented on the evening's impact, "We dedicated our entire November meeting to working together and getting as much done as we could to help those in need at the Monument Crisis Center - one of our many philanthropy partners. I was so pleased that this year we were able to give the center an abundance of much needed support thanks to the help of our members."

NCL is a volunteer organization composed of mothers and daughters who join together in community involvement. The Lamorinda chapter has a membership of 260 mothers and daughters, in grades 7 through 12, all of whom actively participate in local philanthropic programs.

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.

Acalanes NCL Adopts a Family

Submitted by Carrie Dern



Photo provided

The Class of 2014 of the National Charity League Acalanes Area Chapter participated in an Adopt-A-Family through the Child Abuse Council of Contra Costa County. The girls applied their donated funds to shop together as a class to purchase and wrap a long list of much needed gifts for the families.

National Charity League, Inc. is a mother-daughter non-profit organization dedicated to serving local communities. Nationally, there are over 168 chapters committed to fostering the mother-daughter relationship through philanthropic, leadership and cultural activities. Participation be-

gins in 7th grade and continues through the senior year, culminating in celebrations at the Claremont Resort and Hotel in the spring. The girls are honored for their many hours of philanthropic work volunteering at The American Cancer Society, California Shakespeare, Juvenile Diabetes, Smiley Dog and Special Olympics among others.

For membership information, please visit www.nationalcharityleague.org. These volunteer activities initiate a lifelong commitment to community service and deepen the bond between mother and daughter through these shared activities.

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Beau/Derek on the California Independent Film Festival

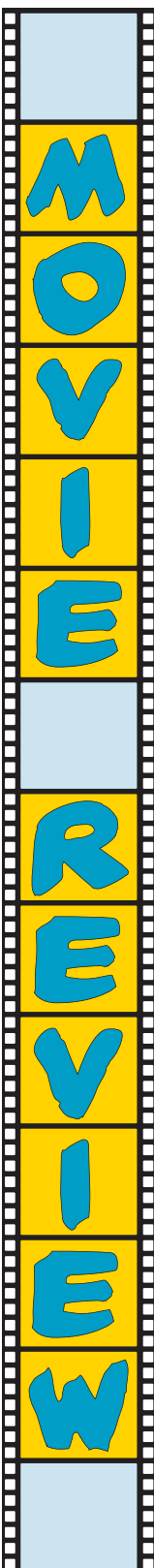
Derek's two must see films at the upcoming 14th California Independent Film Festival:

It will be a very momentous occasion and history in the making as our Opening Night movie, *Monsieur Lazhar*, is nominated for the 2012 Oscar Best Foreign Language Film. It will be the first time that Lamorinda area will be able to screen a film that is short listed by the Academy before its theatrical release and before the Oscars on Feb 26th, 2012. *Monsieur Lazhar* is screening on Feb 10, 2012 at the Rheem and Feb 14, 2012 at the Orinda Theatre.

My other choice is *Miss Monoes*. It is about children learning lifetime habits at a very young age. I encourage all parents to take their children to see this film and give them a gift of a lifetime by educating them on international cinema and the joys of being in film festivals. This fun-filled family film from Holland will be a treat for all ages. It is screening on Feb 11 at the Rheem, when CAIFF will have a Family Day event.

Beau's thoughts on the 14th Annual CAIFF:

I do not have one favorite film in our upcoming festival. The fibers of our rich fourteen-year history are interwoven in the lineup of our films this year. Everything is a must-see. Come and enjoy the filmic pursuits of our very talented filmmakers from around the globe (February 10-16, 2012). (*Derek Zemrak is a filmmaker and the president of the California Independent Film Festival Association (CAIFFA); Beau Behan is the CAIFFA program director and director of the Lamorinda Theatres.*)



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California Indie Fest—a Feast

By Andrea A. Firth



Opening night movie *Monsieur Lazhar*

Photo provided

The upcoming California Independent Film Festival will give filmgoers a smorgasbord of movie options (a veritable feast) including foreign language films, features, documentaries, and shorts, along with a chance to eat, drink, and party. The festival will be screening movies at both the New Rheem Theatre in Moraga and the Orinda Theatre from February 10th through the 16th. Here's a taste of what attendees can see.

And the winner is...

Monsieur Lazhar, an Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Language Film, will open the Festival on Friday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rheem Theatre. The sensitive and humorous Canadian film tells the story of an Algerian immigrant who is hired to replace a well-liked teacher who died tragically. While the students in the Montreal middle school heal under the new teacher's tutelage, he deals with the pain of his former life.

Keeping it Real—CAIFF's Documentaries

Screening throughout the six-day festival, the seven documentary films tackle a range of subjects, both weighty and lighter fare, and tell the stories of the last living burlesque comic, twin's triumphing over a genetic disease, a ninety year-old triathlete and her octogenarian high

jumping pal, an all-women's tribe in Kenya, California's single-speed cyclists, and the tragic tale of young woman's battle with an eating disorder.

A little more local is the documentary film entitled *Century of Light*. Filmmaker Chris Leps tells the story of the longest burning light bulb. Housed in a fire station in Livermore the bulb has been lit (with a few minor interruptions) since it was first installed in 1901, that's 111 years and counting. "Things were built to last back then," says Leps who wrote, produced, and directed the 42-minute film. A stuntman by day and filmmaker whenever he can make it happen, Leps explores the innovation, technology and local people behind this remarkable bulb.

Bite-Sized Portions—CAIFF's Shorts

Done well it does not take long to tell a good story. The short film selections in the 14th annual California Film Festival are between four and thirty minutes long, with most about a ten-minute watch. The quick pics are animated, funny and dramatic, with subject matter that ranges from the excitement of spring to loss and renewal and what can happen when you borrow a cup of sugar (see the short called *Sugar* to find out).

The Festival often showcases up-and-coming filmmakers. The short selection *Bandito* was written, directed and filmed by San Jose-based film student Ryan Wood who is currently studying at the Art Institute of California in Sunnyvale. Like any good western, the short has hairy-faced bad guys, a gravely-voiced sheriff, a beautiful cowgirl, and of course, a gun fight. Produced on a shoestring budget, Wood's cinematography is remarkable and covers a lot of land in Hollister where the seven-minute movie was shot. Light on dialogue and heavy on mood and scene, it's a surprising tale. Don't miss it.

The opening weekend of the Festival (February 10th and 11th) is the time to eat, drink, and play at the Rheem in Moraga. The Festival kicks off with a reception on Friday night starting at 5:30 p.m. with host Dianne Dwyer, the weekend anchor of NBC Bay Area news. The Saturday night social starts around 10:30 p.m. after the screening of *Rocky* and continues til...

For all you need to know about the California Independent Film Festival, including the full schedule and ticket information, go online to caiff.org.

Special Girls Night Out at the Library

By Cathy Tyson



Jamie G. Dougherty comes to the LLLC on February 7. Photo provided

is focused on eating well, self-care and getting in touch with what you want to accomplish in the New Year via nutrition and lifestyle advice.

Dougherty is a certified Holistic Health Coach and is accredited by the American Association of Drugless Practitioners. Her journey started with a diagnosis of ulcerative colitis – a chronic inflammation of the large intestine – at age 20. After trying a number of prescriptions, she found altering her diet made all the difference.

She started Jamie Living five years ago working with career women who were successful in business – but always managed to put themselves last. The self-described small girl with big hair, big feet and a big mouth has a knack for telling it like it is. Her business has evolved to include personal consultations, the "Fantastic Food Fix" – a day-long healthy food shopping and cooking extravaganza, cookbooks, a blog, and a snappy website - Jamieliving.com.

Look for a cooking demonstration featuring smoothies and snacks, along with advice about getting rid of emotional toxins and more at this first of its kind event. For those of us whose pants are a little tight post-holiday feasting and feeling less than stellar, this could be time very well spent.

Get inspired, Tuesday February 7, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, \$5 per person, payable at the door. The first twenty women to RSVP on the Whole Foods Facebook page will get a Detox goodie bag and everyone who registers will be entered to win a Detox gift basket.

Forget the chardonnay and uncomfortable shoes. "It's all about delicious ways to detox your mind and body – this will be a night of food, fun and digging deep," said Jamie Dougherty, Certified Health and Lifestyle Coach talking about her upcoming event, "Girls Night Delicious Detox" at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. She explains that the hour-long program, co-sponsored by Whole Foods,

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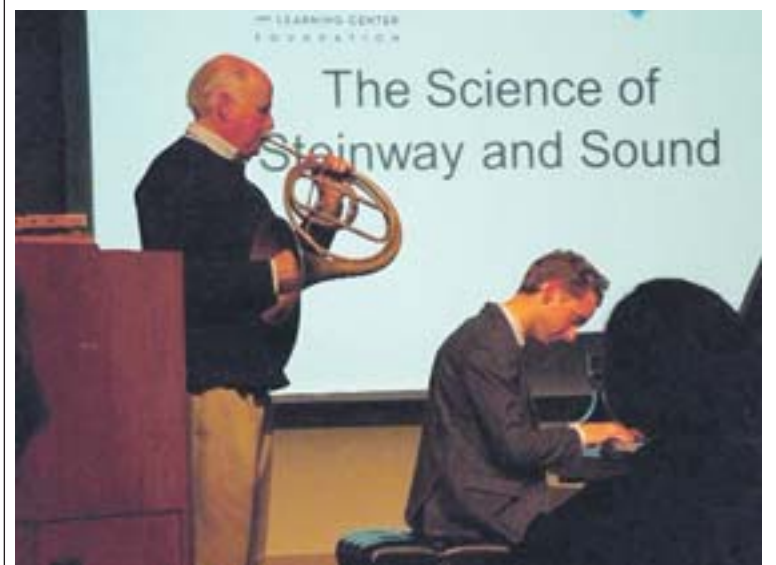
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Steinway and Sound Program Resonates with Audience

By Cathy Dausman



Holmes and Levitt in a musical duet

Photo Cathy Dausman

Justin Levitt exploded a Steinway grand piano and the audience, all 130 of them, ate it up. Then Brian Holmes assembled a working trumpet from a garden hose and plastic funnel. The two were featured speakers January 24 at a Lafayette Library and Learning Center (LLLC) Foundation Science Café.

The event, The Science of Steinway and Sound, was a sold-out success. Of course Levitt didn't literally explode a grand piano—he just detailed how some of its 12,000 parts are assembled. The Steinway on display was the library's own model B. Its seven foot frame is built up from 16 laminations of hard rock maple (each layer 3/16" thick) that are bent continuously by hand. When complete, the downward pressure pulling the 240-some strings to pitch amounts to the weight of a gorilla (or another grand piano), standing on the sound-board. Levitt, store manager for Sherman Clay in Walnut Creek, likened the musical sound which travels along the wood grain to cars on a highway. Essentially, the music goes 'round and round and comes out here, and that would be the perfect intro for Brian Holmes and his portion of the presentation.

Holmes is a guest lecturer, musician (brass), composer and Professor of Physics at San Jose State University whose interests in science and music merge in the science of musical

acoustics. Holmes began by shaking a 20-foot long slinky to demonstrate how sound waves form. Each wave travelled out, reached the end of the line and returned, inverted. Next Holmes enthusiastically assembled a trumpet, piece by piece, starting with a thin metal tube four and a half feet long. He added a mouthpiece, a bell, and presto! --- a modern day trumpet was born.

The program included solo and duet piano performances by Sue Hammond, David Glass and Levitt, and a piano and French Horn duet with Holmes on the horn. The program, scheduled to last an hour, ran 30 minutes over, but the audience sat enraptured. Foundation Executive Director Kathy Merchant was most pleased: "Little did we know when our trustee (Margaret Race) broached the idea of converting the Community Hall to a "science" cafe", we would be discussing everything from the science of art conservation to building Hoover Dam."

Science Café is a regularly scheduled presentation of the LLLC Foundation. Its next program, February 28th at 7 p.m., honors the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge. Science Café is held in the library's Community Hall. Cost is \$5 per person; reservations can be made at reserve@LLLCF.org or call (925) 283-6513, ext. 102, with questions.



From left, front: Kathy Merchant, Marinda Wu; back: Brian Holmes, Sue Hammond, David Glass and Justin Levitt Photo Cathy Dausman

Orinda Youth Ink 2012

Submitted by Molly Wilson

The Orinda Junior Women's Club (Orinda Juniors) is pleased to announce details for Youth Ink 2012, the annual creative writing contest open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students who live or attend school in Orinda. The Youth Ink 2012 theme, "There is a Knock at the Door," was chosen because it encourages highly personal writing and lends well to open style choice.

Organizers say the first rule is you can write about anything you like: Real or imaginary. There is no limit to your imagination. Whatever you write about, just remember to have fun!

"We can't wait to see how Orinda's talented youth writers will approach this year's intriguing theme," said Cathy Opdycke, president of Orinda Juniors.

Generous co-sponsors of Youth Ink 2012, including The Orinda Association and The Orinda Community Foundation, have made it possible to provide impressive prizes:

- \$250 for 1st place,
- \$125 for 2nd place,
- \$75 for 3rd place
- 10 honorable mentions who receive gift certificates from a local book store

A panel of several local professional writers, including reporters and best-selling novelists, will evaluate Youth Ink 2012 submissions and choose winners. The judges' names will be shared when the winners are announced at an awards ceremony at the Orinda Public Library on Thursday, April 26, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

Youth Ink 2012 submissions will be accepted on an ongoing basis but must be hand-delivered to a designated school representative or post-marked by Feb. 10, 2012 and mailed to Orinda Junior Women's Club, Post Office Box 40, Orinda, CA 94563 in order to be considered for an award. Go to www.orindajuniors.org for submission forms and more information.



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Wings on the Grounds

... continued from page B1



Teeb Thomas, on the left in the middle row, and his classmates.

Photo provided

Thomas attended U.C. Berkeley on the G.I. Bill, and became an industrial engineer. He and wife Rudi settled in Orinda in 1949 because Thomas knew and liked the area from his time at St. Mary's. They put four sons through local schools. Thomas says he owned and flew private planes, including a Piper super cub and a Cessna 172, into his 80's. Although he finally gave up the pilot's seat, he still flies --as a passenger --with his pilot son. He donated his flight suit to the Alameda Naval Air Museum.

Thomas helped organize and attended a 1995 reunion for preflight school cadets, held at St. Mary's College. The cadre of former cadets is aging; many have filed their final flight plan. Those who remain are close to their 90th birthdays. But in spite of that, and the urgency of a nation then at war, Thomas says his St. Mary's College days were "one of the better times in my life."

From Private College to Government Venue: St. Mary's Becomes a 1940's Wartime Aviation School



The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor left the U.S. military short of fighter pilots. In response, the Navy set up pre-flight training schools across the country. One of those was at St. Mary's College.

The Navy ran its school from 1942 to 1946.

A future U.S. President (Gerald Ford) coached football on campus in 1945.

1427 men with ties to St. Mary's College served in the military during WW II;

21 are known to have died in uniform.

On February 27, 1942 a telegram was sent to college President Brother Austin:

"St. Mary's College has been selected by the Navy Department as one of the four locations [across the U.S.] for pre-flight training. Your patriotic cooperation in this vital program is appreciated." Signed: Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy

To house and feed its 2,000 cadets, the Navy:

- Built temporary barracks, a field house (with an indoor swimming pool) and a rifle range.
- Leveled out the land from the Chapel to St. Mary's Road to make athletic fields, some of which are still in use today.
- Required East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) to construct a water pipeline to the campus: "to provide adequate water supply, both for drinking purposes and for fire protection." (Adm. L.E. Denfield, May 12, 1942).

The hills surrounding St. Mary's Moraga campus made a marvelous natural amphitheater, recalls former Marine Corps pilot Chuck Temple of Florence, Oregon. "The bugler would play taps from the [chapel] tower, once slowly, then he'd 'jazz it up,' and it would echo all around the hills!"

C. Dausman

Sources:

Pipe Dream Fulfilled: How the Navy helped bring water to St. Mary's
John Grennan, author

The History of U.S. Navy Pre-Flight School, St. Mary's California, U.S. Navy, 1946

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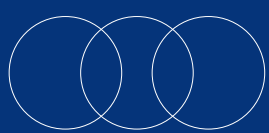
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Transitional Kindergarten on Hold

By Andrea A. Firth

Public school districts across Lamorinda have placed their plans for transitional kindergarten on hold following the release of Governor Jerry Brown's preliminary budget, which proposes to cut funding for the program.

The 2010 Kindergarten Readiness Act pushes the entry age for kindergarten, currently age five by December 2nd, back requiring children to turn five by September 1st. The new age requirements will be phased in over three years. For the 2012-2013 school year, stu-

dents must turn five by November 1st to be eligible for kindergarten. A change lauded by educators.

The Act also includes a provision for grade schools to provide kindergarteners whose birthdays fall in September, October, and November with the option to attend "transitional kindergarten." This new grade level would give these youngest students an extra kindergarten year. And, the grade school districts in Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda had plans to offer transitional kindergarten starting

in the fall.

Dr. Fred Brill, Superintendent of the Lafayette School District, says he is not 100% sure what the final status of transitional kindergarten is for the next school year. Communication about the program from different education resources has been vague and conflicting, says Brill. "It's extraordinarily frustrating, because I want to keep parents informed, especially the parents with incoming student who have November birthdays," he says. The Lafayette School District

planned to collect the names of students who age-qualify and are interested in attending transitional kindergarten during their registration in late January, but for now the program is on hold.

According to the Orinda Union School District website, registration and planning for transitional kindergarten will not take place until state funding for the program is reinstated.

The Moraga School District, likewise, will not offer the un-mandated program. However, Courtney

Guinn, the Director of Educational Services and Instructional Technology for the Moraga School District, says the district will "pre-register" children for transitional kindergarten at the district's upcoming February registration should the program's status change. Moraga School District will also hold a kindergarten informational meeting on February 2nd starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Joaquin Moraga Middle School Auditorium to further inform parents about these changes.

2012-2013 Kindergarten Registration

Lamorinda's public elementary schools will soon be registering next fall's Kindergarteners. To be eligible for Kindergarten, a child must have been born on or before November 1, 2007. You should register your Kindergartener at the school he or she will attend in the 2012-2013 school year.

Lafayette

Registration was held at the Lafayette School District's four elementary schools in January. For information on late registration, go to the district's website at: www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Moraga

Families new to the Moraga School District are invited to attend a Kindergarten Information meeting on February 2, 2012 at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 7:00-7:45 p.m.

Registration will take place at the Moraga School District's three elementary schools in February.

Thursday, February 9, and

Friday, February 10, 2012, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Los Perales Elementary, 22 Wakefield Drive (631-0105)

Donald Rheem Elementary, 90 Laird Drive (376-4441)

Camino Pablo Elementary, 1111 Camino Pablo (376-4435)

For more information about kindergarten registration, please go to the district's website at www.moraga.k12.ca.us.

Orinda

Registration will take place at the Orinda Union School District's four elementary schools in February.

February 6, 7, 8, 9 (Monday thru Thursday), 2012,

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Del Rey Elementary, 25 El Camino Moraga (258-3099)

Glorietta Elementary, 15 Martha Road (254-8770)

Sleepy Hollow Elementary, 20 Washington Lane (254-8711)

Wagner Ranch Elementary, 350 Camino Pablo (258-0016)

For more information go to the district's website at www.orindaschools.org.

THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

Map My Run

Developer: Map My Fitness
For: iPhones and Androids

One of the great things about living in California is the weather. With our mild climate we have the opportunity to spend ample time outside. With "exercising more" at the top of many people's New Year's resolution list, I've discovered a fantastic app that will not only help you enjoy the outdoors, but assist you in getting fit.

Map My Run by Map My Fitness is an easy-to-use app with a wide array of options. After downloading the app and picking a user name, you can immediately begin recording your daily workout via GPS, enabling you to track running pace, speed, calories burned and your exact route. A neat feature is the route map displaying the elevation, which can really vary in the Lamorinda area.

One of the fun options is the ability to add friends to your app. It is like having the support and input from a virtual running group. This mega fitness app also offers a nutrition tap with a calorie budget. If your goal is to lose weight you simply record your daily intake and Map My Fitness lets

you know what calories you have remaining for your daily intake.

Map My Run also suggests pre-determined runs mapped by other users. For instance in the Lamorinda area there are twenty-two pre-mapped runs in Orinda and Lafayette that range in distance from 3.4 miles to 10.6 miles. The routes are uploaded by local residents including routes in Sleepy Hollow, Orinda Downs, and the Lafayette Reservoir. The Lafayette/Moraga area has an enormous variety to choose from offering 208 uploaded maps with distances of three miles to a whopping 68 miles. If you are looking for a challenging run, an ascent feature is your guide.

Map My Run is a fun and easy app that motivates the user to get outside and get active. Just in case running is not your thing, Map My Fitness also offers, MapMyRide, MapMyWalk, MapMyHike, and MapMyTri.

Eric Pawlakos is a senior at Miramonte High School and on-air reporter for the teen radio program, *Express Yourself!*TM

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A Ruby-Red Pie for Your Valentine

By Susie Iventosch

When we were in the Chicago area last month to visit our sons, my husband and I were invited for dinner at the home of some friends back there. Naturally, since we all love to cook ... and eat, we began telling recipe tales and one recipe she mentioned really piqued my curiosity. She said that she had made a cranberry-raspberry pie and that it was absolutely delicious! Though I really enjoy cranberries, fresh, dried or sauced, I had never

really thought of cranberries as the focal point of a pie filling before.

"The recipe was published in the Daily Herald," Connie said. "They periodically interview local cooks, so this recipe is some local cook's own recipe."

I just loved hearing this, because it made me realize how much fun readers can have perusing recipes in their local newspapers! I proceeded to make the recipe with a few of our sons' friends, and instead of making

a top crust, we decided to make a pecan-crumb topping for the pie.

Well, Connie was right. The pie is delicious and makes a beautiful, ruby-red Valentine's dessert.

Happy Valentine's Day!



INGREDIENTS

- 1 pastry crust (see recipe below)
- 1 recipe pecan-crumb topping (recipe below)
- 2-10 oz. packages frozen raspberries, thawed and drained, reserving juices
- 1 cup water-raspberry juice mixture (from reserved juice above)
- 6 cups fresh or frozen cranberries
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons corn starch
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400° F. Thaw raspberries in bowl and drain. Reserve the liquid, and add enough water to make 1 cup. Combine cranberries with raspberry liquid in large saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium high heat. Reduce heat to low and simmer 5 minutes.

Combine sugar, cornstarch and salt in small bowl. Add to the hot cranberry mixture. Cook, stirring over medium-high heat until the mixture begins to thicken. Remove from heat. Stir in raspberries and cool for about 10 minutes.

Pour filling into prepared crust and pat crumb topping on top. Bake at 400° for 35 to 40 minutes, or until crust is slightly browned and filling is bubbling. Remove from oven and cool for at least 30 minutes before serving, to allow filling to set up. Serve with a scoop of your favorite ice cream or frozen yogurt.



Pie Crust

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter, cut into small cubes
- 2 teaspoons cider vinegar
- approximately 1/2 cup icy water

DIRECTIONS

Mix flour and salt in large bowl. With pastry cutter or finger tips, crumble butter into flour until well integrated. Sprinkle cider vinegar over mixture and stir in well with a fork. Add ice-cold water (strain out ice first), a little at a time, and blend with fork until dough is moist enough to roll into a ball, but not too wet. Roll into one large ball for the pie crust and a smaller ball to use for patching your crust or for cinnamon roll ups for snacking.



Pecan Crumb Topping

INGREDIENTS

- 1 stick butter cut into small pieces
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon cardamom
- 3/4 cup finely chopped, toasted pecans

DIRECTIONS

In a medium bowl, mix all dries, including nuts. With finger tips or a pastry cutter, cut butter into dries until crumbly and well integrated. Pat on top of fruit in unbaked pie shell.

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

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



www.lamorindaweekly.com

You can find most of the recipes published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website. Click Food tab

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- Letters to the Editor
- Consign of the Times: Furniture Consignment Stores Growing in Lamorinda
- Friends of the Library Get New Bins
- Bang the Drum Slowly...
- Every Home Needs a Heart
- Top Spot Up for Grabs in High School Soccer

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to www.lamorindaweekly.com and click the link below the story.

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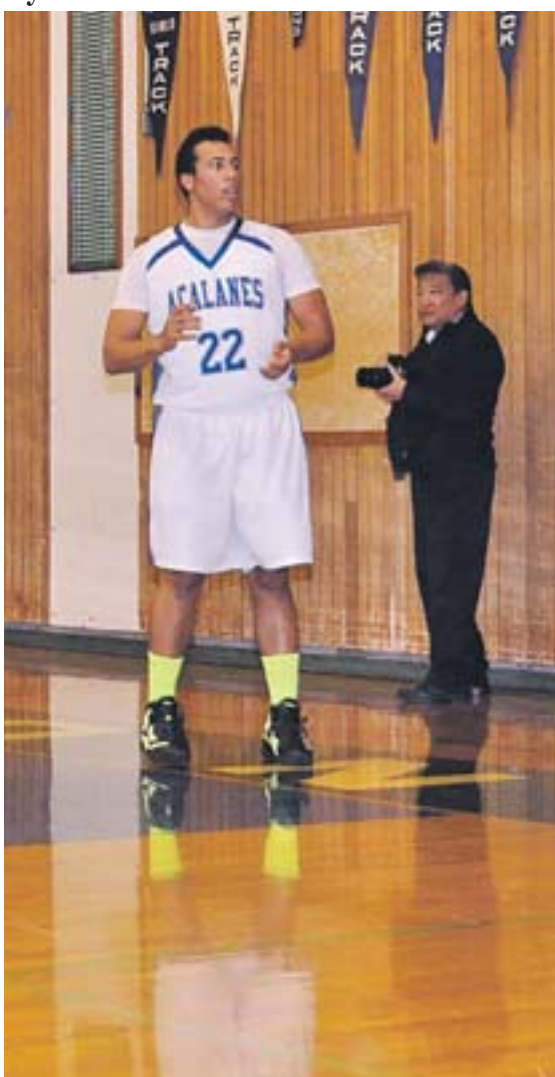
SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

Dons Upend Mats in Close Game

Campolindo stays perfect in DFAL

By Conrad Bassett



James Griffin (22) Photos Andy Scheck

Griffin led all scorers with 25 points. Souza paced the Dons with 10 points, 10 rebounds and three key blocks. Shastri led Miramonte with 19 points, while Goodreault added 18.

Just two days later, on Wednesday night, the action moved over to Moraga where Campolindo hosted Miramonte before a packed crowd. The Matadors struck first on a layup from junior Derek Lin, but that was Miramonte's only lead of the game.

On the next possession, Campo junior Jack Evans nailed a three to give the Cougars the lead. The teams exchanged baskets with Campo leading 12-9 at the end of the first period.

Campo started the second quarter on a 17-4 run on their way to a 39-20 halftime lead.

Campo added to its lead in the third period at one time leading by as many as 28 points. Senior Griffin Piatt added seven points.

In the fourth quarter, Miramonte closed the gap by outscoring Campo by 18-11, but could not overcome the third quarter deficit. The final was 66-46.

Evans led Campolindo with ten points. Shastri had 21 for Miramonte.

Campo coach Matt Watson was pleased with how his team played together. "So far we have had seven different kids get game high score, which goes to show how dedicated the kids are to the team concept."

"These kids work hard in practice to make each other better every day. They are very team-oriented kids and these young men are very good basketball players, but they are even better people," he continued.

The week was completed with some non-rivalry games. On Thursday, Miramonte dropped a close non-league game at Concord 72-65 and is now 13-7 overall and 3-3 in the DFAL.

Last Friday, Campolindo ran its record to 7-0 DFAL and 18-2 overall by beating Alhambra 80-53, and Acalanes fell to 13-8 (2-5 DFAL) losing 57-45 to Las Lomas.

Acalanes played Campolindo on Tuesday, January 31 after the press deadline. Miramonte travels to Acalanes on February 14 and hosts Campolindo on February 16.



Jack Evans (21) had ten points against Miramonte.

Last week all three of the Lamorinda boys' teams played a rivalry game. Miramonte hosted Acalanes on January 23 and the Mats traveled to Campolindo on January 25 to complete the first half of the Diablo Foothill Athletic League regular season. All teams brought winning overall records into the rivalry match-ups.

In a game that had 12 lead changes, the Dons (12-6 overall) managed to hold off the Matadors (13-4) to win, 58-56.

Before the game, Dons' coach Darrell Hirashima, Jr. noted that his team was prepared for the challenge. "The team looks ready tonight and our players are improving as a team. I am looking for a strong inside game from Buster Souza."

Miramonte's senior captain Ross Anderson opened the scoring on a short jump shot and a few moments later, Dons' senior James Griffin answered with a 3-point shot to take the lead.

The Mats held a 20-16 lead at the end of the first quarter behind sophomore Joey Goodreault's six points and junior Kiran Shastri's free throws. Shastri went five-of-six from the line.

In the second quarter, the Dons came out on fire. Acalanes outscored Miramonte 20-11 to take a 36-31 lead at the half.

To start the second half, Griffin scored Acalanes' first seven points to help build the Dons' biggest lead, 41-33. Following an exchange of baskets, the Mats rallied back. They went on a 12-0 run led by Shastri's seven points to regain the lead, 47-43.

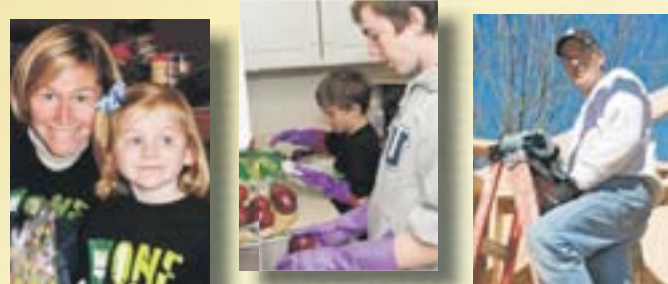
The fourth quarter was close and neither team led by more than four points. The Dons had a 53-52 lead with 1:47 to go.

The Mats fought back to within one with 7.9 seconds when Buster Souza came up with a big play inside. He blocked Shastri to give Acalanes the ball with seconds left in the game. Miramonte immediately fouled Dons' senior Trevor Masland who made one from the charity stripe, leaving Miramonte with seven seconds to tie or win. The Dons played tenacious defense and the Mats did not make their last shot.

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Lamorinda Swimmers Master "Go the Distance" Competition

Submitted by Richard Jacobberger



Don Tatzin and Susan Skilton

Photo provided

Lafayette City Council Member Don Tatzin, 59, and Susan Skilton, 53, placed first in their respective age groups for the 2011 United States Masters Swimming "Go the Distance" event. This was Tatzin's third straight year in first place.

Tatzin recorded 1731.5 miles this year. He is only one-of-two swimmers out of 2,800 participants to complete over 1,500 miles.

Skilton swam 944.20 miles in the year. She placed 26th overall (men and women).

Lamorinda Rugby Club Starts Season

Submitted by Tony McKenzie



Photo Karen Drinkwater

Rugby is alive and continues to grow in the Lamorinda area. The Lamorinda Rugby Club held its 2012 season opening day in January and over 250 players of all ages took to the field for a fun filled and action packed afternoon.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 24 Wednesday, February 1, 2012



A bright blue water lily floats amid reflections on the pond of the San Francisco Conservatory. Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D8

Miramonte Kitchen Tour – It Takes a Community

By Sophie Braccini



Orinda's Monique Jasper in her Glorietta kitchen. Photos Andy Scheck

The Miramonte Parents Club is aiming for the heart—for the heart of the home, with a kitchen tour; for the hearts of parents, as they visit the homes and give to the schools to support programs deprived by the State's repeated budgetary cuts. The six kitchens on this year's tour were selected to intrigue you: 6 very different settings, from a 70-year-old traditional adobe ranch house to a contemporary kitchen that has been featured in Pottery Barn. Here's a sneak peek at two of the Tour's kitchens:

The state-of-the-art, picture perfect kitchen at Wilder, where the tour begins, is located in a model home at the new development that lies just off Highway 24. The views and the incredible setting are worth the ticket price.

The kitchen is set in a 5,400-square-foot residence, conceived by Robert Hidey Architects with the intent of linking indoor and outdoor living: the central patio is accessible from different rooms and windows all around frame stunning, open views of the wilderness.

The kitchen itself has been designed as a family hub and entertainment center, full of light and peace thanks to the harmony of white and grey chosen by MEMA Design.

The kitchen nook is a bright sitting area where a large rectangular dining table can accommodate eight people. The distressed wood table fits well on one of the most interesting decorative features of the house: Black's Farmwood reclaimed hardwood floors.

At first glance it appears that there is not much in the way of storage space in the kitchen: no deep drawers near the large range in which to store pots and pans, no pantry closet, no counter space near the range, and the oversized honed marble island with its five stools seems to invite more a conversation than active cooking. But the mystery is soon explained: behind the range is another area—the "prep area", with a plethora of cabinets, a sink and a dishwasher. Because kitchens have become the center hub of many parties, it was important to create a prep/cleaning area that would be hidden from guests. The appliances are the Wolf/Sub-Zero combination and include a double-oven and warming drawer.

Interior designer Monique Jasper's kitchen is in the Glorietta neighborhood.

... continued on page D4

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City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	11	\$487,000	\$1,936,000
MORAGA	2	\$535,000	\$595,000
ORINDA	7	\$675,000	\$1,250,000

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

- 859 Acalanes Road, \$960,000, 3 Bdrms, 2495 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 12-30-11;
Previous Sale: \$543,000, 05-04-00
- 7 Arbor Way, \$745,000, 4 Bdrms, 1830 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 12-30-11;
Previous Sale: \$410,000, 04-29-99
- 10 Carolyn Court, \$487,000, 3 Bdrms, 1074 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 12-28-11;
Previous Sale: \$655,000, 06-17-04
- 615 Crofton Court, \$1,775,000, 3 Bdrms, 1883 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 12-29-11
- 3676 Hastings Court, \$1,025,000, 2 Bdrms, 1846 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 12-21-11
- 3641 Madrone Drive, \$520,000, 2 Bdrms, 1099 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 1-3-12;
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 07-12-07
- 855 Mountain View Drive, \$1,236,000, 4 Bdrms, 3093 SqFt, 2010 YrBlt, 12-23-11;
Previous Sale: \$560,000, 02-17-10
- 3171 Stanwood Lane, \$1,250,000, 6 Bdrms, 3167 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 12-22-11;
Previous Sale: \$954,500, 07-24-03
- 1055 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,280,000, 4 Bdrms, 3422 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 12-23-11;
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 09-14-01
- 831 Tanglewood Drive, \$1,936,000, 5 Bdrms, 6120 SqFt, 1925 YrBlt, 12-23-11;
Previous Sale: \$1,510,000, 10-27-11
- 1073 Via Roble, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2621 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 12-20-11

MORAGA

- 1936 St. Andrews Drive, \$595,000, 2 Bdrms, 2142 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 12-21-11;
Previous Sale: \$269,000, 06-11-90
- 1938 St. Andrews Drive, \$535,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 12-21-11;
Previous Sale: \$345,000, 05-12-89

ORINDA

- 40 Ardor Drive, \$880,000, 4 Bdrms, 2131 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 12-23-11;
Previous Sale: \$950,000, 09-29-06
- 20 El Patio, \$825,000, 6 Bdrms, 4042 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 12-29-11
- 11 Las Aromas, \$1,250,000, 2 Bdrms, 2178 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 12-21-11;
Previous Sale: \$630,000, 06-30-00
- 44 Loma Vista Drive, \$730,000, 4 Bdrms, 2159 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 12-23-11;
Previous Sale: \$765,000, 03-10-04
- 129 Meadow View Road, \$675,000, 3 Bdrms, 2265 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 12-28-11
- 605 Watchwood Road, \$1,095,500, 2 Bdrms, 2065 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 12-29-11;
Previous Sale: \$851,000, 04-19-00
- 6 Westwood Court, \$1,170,000, 4 Bdrms, 2986 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 12-29-11;
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 12-08-05

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

LAFAYETTE

Camino Vallecito, 94549, Mortgageit, 12-21-11, \$1,350,000, 3982 sf, 4 bd

MORAGA

Camino Pablo, 94556, GMAC Mortgage, 12-30-11, \$607,500, 1762 sf, 3 bd

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Miramonte Kitchen Tour – It Takes a Community

... continued from page D1



The large, open kitchen of the Wilder model home.



The Black's Farmwood reclaimed hardwood floor is a striking feature of the Wilder kitchen.



Behind the Wilder kitchen is a complete prep area.



The Wilder kitchen, with a marble island and sink, opens onto the family room.

The kitchen is the place where her family lives, cooks and entertains. Jasper's kitchen is a mix of functionality and timeless refinement.

The Jaspers built their Orinda home five years ago and Monique, as she worked with architect Doug McQuillan, had precise requirements for the whole house in general, and particularly the kitchen. "I was quite meticulous about how the kitchen had to be laid out," she says, "I cook and I wanted things to be practical when we entertain. I also wanted the space to be a place where my three sons would hang out or do their homework."

Jasper oversaw functional arrangements such as deep drawers directly under the Viking range, and two cutting boards for efficient prep.

... continued on page D6



The beverage corner, with a refrigerator below, in Jasper's kitchen.

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Miramonte Kitchen Tour – It Takes a Community

... continued from page D1



Jasper's kitchen opens onto the garden.



Timeless detail adds to the ambience of Jasper's kitchen.

For the layout, she asked for a large nook area where her young sons come and do their homework, and for entertaining, she had the architect create a 'butler's pantry', a space between the kitchen and the formal dining room where dishes, wine or plates can be set for convenient serving.

Jasper's designing style is apparent in the overall feel she gave to the kitchen, as well as in the details. "We chose honed black granite for the center isle," she says, "while the other counters are made of basalt, which is a lighter shade of deep grey." The kitchen cabinets are white, the walls a light grey, the floor a deep, dark cherry; and the whole space is filled with light as two walls mostly made of windows overlook the garden. The kitchen opens into a family room, which is full of light itself.

The classic and elegant feel of the space is enhanced by such details as the kitchen door knobs that are miniature shiny bolts, or the design of the faucet overlooking the farmyard sink that could have come from an east coast beach house.

"The Parents' Club (of Miramonte High School) was looking for a way to bring the community together at some sort of fundraising event. We felt that a Kitchen Tour was the perfect event to host," said Miramonte parent Victoria Bizieff. "Each class donated a lovely basket stuffed with goodies for the raffle. They will be on display at Wilder, the starting point of the tour. Dianna Condon Cuisine will provide morning goodies at Wilder. Table 24 will also present food from their new south-of-the-border restaurant, Barbacoa, at one of the homes."

The Tour takes place on Thursday, February 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$35.00 and can be purchased at McDonnell Nursery, Orinda Books, Lazy K House at Orchard Nursery, or online at www.miramonteparents.com (click on Web Store).



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Located in one of Happy Valley's most sought after neighborhoods, this stunning home has been beautifully remodeled, thoughtfully designed with great attention to detail, and shows incredible pride of ownership. In addition to a great kitchen/family room set up, it features a large living suite with fireplace and full bath. This flexible space is perfect as a second family room/office, fourth bedroom or in-law quarters.

With walls of glass and eleven skylights, every room is filled with natural light. The .75 acre lot is private and there is wonderful indoor/outdoor access to the patio and pool making this a great entertainer.

The location is premium. In addition to being in a favorite neighborhood with cul-de-sacs, there is a walking path up the street connects to Happy Valley Elementary.

Offered at \$1,499,000



Virtual Tour:



*per Public Records



Natural Attractions

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." Marcel Proust



The pink/purple blossoms of Heather brighten a winter landscape.

Photos Cynthia Brian

While many people are swooshing down the slopes or basking on balmy beaches, in February, gardeners are forecasting future flowering. We peruse seed catalogues hunting for those special heirlooms and old fashioned favorites while dreaming of trips to nurseries to fill our flourishing spring grounds. Although I admit to thoroughly enjoying the surf and the snow, whenever and wherever I travel, I make it a point to wander through public gardens, as well as any private ones that offer an invitation. With camera and notebook in hand, I have an exhilarating field day as I discover unusual displays, exotic rarities, and humorous descriptions. How can you top witnessing tree bark that looks like the top of a tortoise shell or shrieking at the sight of a snake plant slithering through the tropical forest? My photo folder has more shots of flora than of people. While rambling through the green-

ery, I fantasize about borrowing ideas that will find passage into my vegetative projects.

This year I've dedicated Digging Deep to getting you up, out, and moving. When the weather is dreary, blustery, and cold, a great way to combine nature with nature is to visit a botanical garden (see list on page D10). If you are planning a winter get away, include a side trip to a flower show or regional garden as part of your itinerary. If you are staying home, delightful public gardens, conservatories, arboretums, and plant destinations await your exploration in a relaxing day trip within a couple of hours driving distance from Lamorinda's landscapes. From tropical paradises to dry oasis, I've dug up delightful display playgrounds anticipating your arrival. Participate in guided tours, educational programs, hands-on workshops, propagation classes, horticulture seminars, green living demonstrations, or just

amble at your own pace. Many have activities for children and most have gift shops or nurseries where you can purchase rare specialty species. Some venues charge a nominal fee while others are free. All will inspire and ignite your love of Mother Nature while entertaining and informing. Grab your loved ones, hat, gloves, camera, picnic, sketchbook, and enjoy the splendor of distinctive backyards with fresh eyes.

This is by no means a complete list of all the remarkable offerings available. Wineries, bed and breakfasts, historic homes, regional or city parks boast meandering brooks, enchanting paths, potagers, rose gardens and countless opportunities for botanical entertainment. I've been delighted to be a speaker and autograph my books at many of these locations and have worked as an actor in several. Work and play, play and work.

This Valentine's give yourself and your loved ones the gift of natural attractions. Even for the timid traveler, it will be love at first sight.

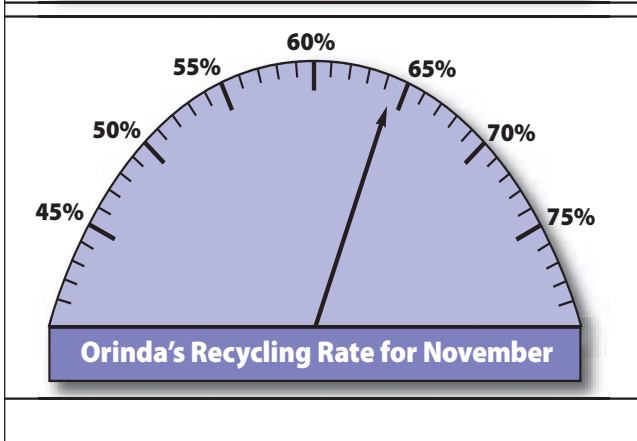
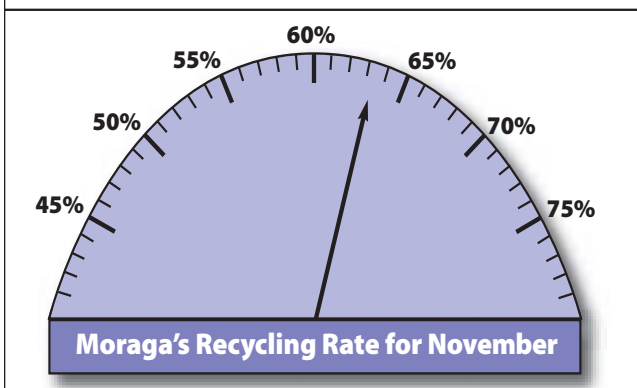
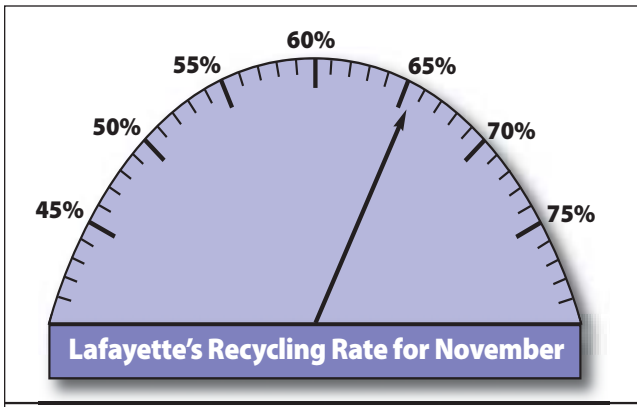


The pitcher plant drinks from its cup to satisfy its water needs.

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.

November 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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Public Gardens:

Arboretum at University of California, Santa Cruz

1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95064
831-427-2998
www.arboretum.ucsc.edu
Open Year Round. Fee.

Ruth Bancroft Gardens

1552 Bancroft Rd.
Walnut Creek, Ca. 94598
925-944-9352
www.ruthbancroftgarden.org
Open Year Round. Fee.

Berkeley Rose Garden Department of Parks and Recreation

2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, Ca. 94704
510-981-6700
www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/parks
Open Year Round. Free.

Cooper Molera Historic Garden

525 Polk Street
Monterey, Ca. 93940
831-649-7111
www.parks.ca.gov/mshp
Open Year Round. Free.

Elizabeth Gamble Garden

1431 Waverly Street
Palo Alto, Ca. 94301
650-329-1356
www.gamblegarden.org
Open Year Round. Free.

Filoli (*I shot the movie, Heaven Can Wait, here. Three months of exquisitely manicured horticultural perfection!*)

86 Canada Rd.
Woodside, Ca. 94062
650-364-8300
www.filoli.org
Seasonal. Fee.

Gardens at Lakeside Park

666 Bellevue Ave.
Oakland, Ca. 94610
510-339-2818
Open Year Round. Free.

Gerda Isenberg Native Plant Garden

Yerba Buena Nursery
119500 Skyline Blvd.
Woodside, Ca. 94062
650-851-1668
www.yerbabuenanursery.com
Open Year Round. Free.

Japanese Tea Gardens

75 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr.
San Francisco, Ca. 94118
415-752-1171
www.japaneseteagardensf.com
Open Year Round. Fee.

Luther Burbank Home & Gardens

Santa Rosa Ave. at
Sonoma Ave.
PO Box 1678
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95402
707-524-5445
www.lutherburbank.org
Open Year Round. Free.

Markham Regional Arboretum Society

1202 La Vista Ct.
Concord, Ca. 94521
925-681-2968
www.markhamarboretum.org
Open Year Round. Free.

Matanzas Creek Winery

6097 Bennett Valley Rd.
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95404
800-590-6464
www.matanzascreek.com
Open Year Round. Free.

Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens

18220 N. Hwy. 1
Fort Bragg, Ca. 95437
707-964-4352
www.gardenbythesea.org
Open Year Round. Fee.

Niles Rose Garden

36501 Niles Blvd.
Fremont, Ca. 94536
510-792-2923
Open Year Round. Free.

San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum

Golden Gate Park
9th Ave. & Lincoln Way
San Francisco, Ca. 94122
415-661-1316
www.sfbotanicalgarden.org
Open Year Round. Free

Shinn Historical Park & Arboretum

1251 Peralta Blvd.
Fremont, Ca. 95636
510-656-7702
Open Year Round. Free.

University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley

200 Centennial Dr. #5045
Berkeley, Ca. 94720
510-643-2755
www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu
Open Year Round. Free.

If you enjoy garden shows, these are the three upcoming major exhibitions in three states:

Northwest Flower & Garden Show, "A Floral Symphony", Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, Wash., February 8-12.
www.gardenshow.com

Portland Yard, Garden & Patio Show, Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Ore., February 17-19, 2012.
www.ygpshow.com

San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, "Gardens for a Green Earth", San Mateo Event Center, San Mateo, Calif., March 21-25, 2012.
www.sfgardenshow.com



Pink Lantern lights up a wintery day in the Strybing Arboretum.



Seaside succulents.



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for February

"I've had enough of gardening-I'm just about ready to throw in the trowel." Anonymous

If you think you are done with garden chores because it's winter, think again! Besides perusing the seed catalogues and reading home improvement magazines, pruning takes center stage this month in the "to do" list. Because of last month's warm weather, roses, fruit trees, and vines may have been given a short reprieve. Get out there now and take care of business. Save a rose stem or two for your Valentine and give the rest of the canes to friends. My rose canes will be available to you for free beginning February 6th.

Email me, Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com for details.

- BEAT the winter doldrums by forcing bulbs indoors. All you need is a sunny window, a jar, water, and bulbs.
Try Paperwhite Narcissus, Amaryllis, and Lily of the Valley
- RELIEVE sunburn by cutting a tomato in half and rubbing the tomato on the burn. Allow the juices to dry.
- STOP bleeding on your hands or arms after pruning those rose bushes by saving teabags. Place the cool teabags on the cuts and they'll heal swiftly.
- POWER up your palate by planting heart smart greens such as kale, collard, and mustard for super sources of fiber, phytonutrients, electrolytes, and antioxidants.
- RAISE your happiness quotient by placing a bouquet of blooms by your bed to boost your optimism and enthusiasm.
- MIX perennials into bulb beds for longer lasting splashes of color. Fern and hosta are excellent companions as filler foliage.
- PICK UP a Rainforest Ecological Sprinkler which breaks-up water droplets to improve delivery of water to the root zone, preventing pooling and running off. Lowers water consumption and covers up to 2000 feet with an adjustable spray.
- LEAVE moles alone. Although their runs may be unsightly for a short period, moles are meat eaters and not interested in your plants. They actually munch on snail larvae, harmful insects, and grubs so think of them as garden helpers.
- OCCUPY a green philosophy and plant a new cultivar, perhaps an impressively colored Echinacea "Solar Flair" or the Korean ground cover fern, "Sohuksan."
- REFRAIN from dressing broken limbs or injuries on trees. Wound wood will develop on trees to protect them.
By putting a commercial salve on the damaged tissue, you may be inviting infections and pests.
- TAKE a trip to a botanical garden, public garden, flower show, or arboretum for inspiration, entertainment, and family fun.
- MOVE your backside off the couch and into the backyard.
- DON'T depend on the groundhogs to determine an early spring. When male groundhogs awake from hibernation they are not looking for their shadows but for females. They are the original Romeos!
- TRANSPLANT deciduous shrubs before the buds swell.
- APPLY final application of dormant spray to fruit trees.
- TILL your vegetable garden now to break up clods and help eliminate weeds.
- FEED houseplants when you notice signs of new leaf growth.
- PLANT strawberries.
- ADD curled parsley and garlic chives to a bed near your kitchen for all year beauty and culinary flavoring.
- TURN your compost pile.
- FEED the birds to keep them attached to your garden. Remove old nests as most avian fellows prefer to build new houses each year.
- CLEAN and sharpen your tools in preparation for spring.
- SAY "I Love You" with a colorful bouquet, a potted orchid, or a spray of fragrant posies. Flowers and amour go together.

My daffodils began blooming on January 6th and the jonquils are at their peak right now. Spring is just around the corner. This month I salute groundhogs and Cupids. Happy Valentine's Day. Let your arrows fly.

Happy Gardening to You!

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



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105 Amber Valley Drive
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20 Monterey Terrace
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65 La Espiral
Villa Romantica! One of OCC's finest homes. 4349 sf, 4bd/4ba on .69 ac knoll setting w/lvl lawn, saltwater pool, patios/terraces. Incredible attn to detail, numerous upper-end amenities.
Offered at \$2,595,000



101 Brookline Street
Detached spacious 2bd/2bath + ofc in MCC. Wimbledon model, large bedrooms, vaulted ceilings. Great views from top of the hill. Flat yd in back, potential patio, dog run, etc.
Offered at \$695,000



1825 St. Andrews Drive
Stylishly updated Sequoyah detached 4bd/2.5 MCC home of 3424 sq. ft. Spacious kitchen/family rm combo. French drs open to courtyard, plenty of storage, striking views.
Offered at \$979,000



945 Mt. View Drive
Charm abounds in this 867 sf cutie on lvl lot nr Lafayette Village conveniences. 1bd/1ba w/exceptional curb appeal. Attn to detail thruout, Fr drs to gardens & decks. Sep artist studio.
Offered at \$450,000



3245 Judith Lane
Delightful 3bd/2ba 1204 sf hm at end of lane in beautiful oak tree setting. Updated kitchen & baths, spacious deck & patio, skylights, tranquil setting yet close to dwtwn & Bart.
Offered at \$549,000



3376 Ridge Road
Affordable 4bd detached home in the popular Trail neighborhood surrounded by heritage oaks - truly a beautiful, natural setting. Tons of recent improvements made to this charming home.
Offered at \$649,000



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 & library.
Offered at \$719,000



3398 Ridge Road
Special Lafayette Trail 4bd/3ba home nestled among oaks with views of hills on .29 acre. Easy walk to downtown, shopping, restaurants & 9 yrs. of schools. Backs to bike trail.
Offered at \$869,000



3286 Sweet Drive
Lovely 3150 sf home, flex flr plan, updated thruout, granite kitchen. Sweeping views, 2 mstr bedrooms plus 2 more bedrooms & 4 baths in Burton Valley. Guest set-up w/separate entry.
Offered at \$875,000



1847 Reliez Valley Road
Newly renovated w/high style & fully updated amenities & quality features. Lg new Chef's kitchen w/adj fam rm & formal living/dining rms + stylish master suite. Lots of bedrooms, new baths.
Offered at \$999,000



1258 Panorama Drive
Totally charming trad ranch hm on most coveted street in Lafayette! Quiet cul de sac 1 blk to Happy Valley Elem. Updated thruout w/vaulted ceiling, granite kitchen & baths.
Offered at \$1,189,000



3819 Palo Alto Drive
Beautifully updated sgl lvl 3bd/4ba home on .75 ac in great Happy Valley neighborhood. Walls of glass, 11 skylights, lovely pvt yard w/pool & spa. Views of surrounding hills & nr downtown Laf.
Offered at \$1,499,000



2600 Tice Creek Circle #2
Located right on the Golf Course, this 2bd/1.5ba home has a beautiful remodeled kitchen, plantation shutters, crown mouldings and inside laundry. Easy walk to new restaurant!
Offered at \$239,000

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