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Four Leap Year babies and one "oh, so close" gather in Orinda to celebrate. The cards they hold show their age in Leap Years. Back row, from left: Leanne Parsons, Jim Wiltshire, Bronwyn Hutchison; front row: Olivia Morris and Isabella Friedli. Photo Andy Scheck

Leap Year Birthdays: Uncommonly Good!

By Cathy Dausman

Isabella Friedli has just two candles on her cake. Olivia Morris turns three today and is in 6th grade. Bronwyn Hutchison is four, but stands 5'11" and is learning to drive. Jim Wiltshire graduated college before he turned 6.

Each of these Lamorindans is unique, because they share a

February 29th Leap Year birthday. Leap Year babies are the result of corrections designed to sync the calendar with the Earth's revolution around the sun, which takes 365 1/4 days to complete. Every fourth year, the Gregorian calendar adds that special day.

Wiltshire points out there are also Leap Centuries, such as

the year 2000, which explains how Olivia Morris can correctly call herself three. Her mom, Kathryn Morris, says although the family usually tries "to make a bigger fuss on her 'actual' birthday once every four years," she (Kathryn) has discovered it's not all fun and games:

... continued on page A12

Quote of the Week:

"Happiness is not achieved with possessions or wealth, but by what you do with what you are blessed with."

Read "Enlightening Jan Term for SMC Students" on page B3.

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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The Fabric of Our Community

"It is threads," said Simone Signoret, "hundreds of tiny threads which sew people together through the years."

By Laurie Snyder

Ten years ago, the nation received a wake-up call with the release of, "A Quiet Crisis in America," a 2002 report to the U.S. Congress by the Commission on Affordable Housing and Health Facility Needs for Seniors in the 21st Century. The "aging of America" was underway. By 2030, it was estimated that 70 million Americans would be 65 or older – a jump of nearly 35 million new seniors (from 12.4 to 20 percent of the U.S. population).

The report stated, "In a Nation characterized by care and compassion for the least fortunate of its citizens, the stark reality is that many seniors, after years of contributing to their country's defense and prosperity, find themselves seriously at risk of being ignored, forgotten, or destined for a room in a skilled care facility."

What do a teacher of MSNBC political analyst Rachel Maddow, two polio researchers from China, and a former Del Rey Elementary assistant teacher have in common? They are four of the vibrant threads in our community tapestry who now call the Orinda Senior Village home.

... continued on page A7

Campo Hosts Miramonte in NCS Semifinal Tonight

By Conrad Bassett



Kiran Shastri, who scored 40 points against Analay, looks to lead Mats to win over Campo. Photo Kevin Nguyen

Lamorinda plays host to a key rivalry game tonight. Campolindo hosts Miramonte in the semifinals of the North Coast Section basketball tournament. Having split their first two meetings, the game promises to be an exciting match-up.

Acalanes also qualified for the NCS tournament. The Dons played in the first round against Piner (Santa Rosa). Campolindo and Miramonte received first round byes.

To start the Lamorinda postseason run, the #5 Dons defeated Piner, 44-29.

... continued on page C2

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

Printmakers Exhibit at Town Hall Theatre

Andrea Firth meets a printmaking group connecting life, art, and the element of surprise. B5



Sports C1-C6



Saint Mary's Wins WCC

SMC's off to Vegas; Senior Rob Jones: "We want to win it all!" Alex Kozela reports. C1

Our Homes D1-D12



MCC Builds a New Clubhouse

Years in the planning, the Moraga Country Club recently opened the doors of its grand new clubhouse. Sophie Braccini has the details. D4

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Lafayette

Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, March 12, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Monday, March 5, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, March 12, 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, March 7, 7:30 pm
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

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

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

Please submit

Letters and Opinions:

letters@lamorinda
weekly.com

Planning Commission Weighs Balloons vs. Poles

By Cathy Tyson



Photomontage courtesy of KB Home for proposed Town Center III project.

How best to erect story poles on a constrained lot? Just behind Panda Express is a one and a half acre gravel BART overflow parking lot. Although it doesn't look like much

now, after a long, complicated history current developer KB Home has proposed a five story, eighty-one unit apartment complex for the site. Back in August of 2010, story poles were

determined to be required when an official application for this project was submitted.

"The problem is the guy wires, that's why they are proposing this al-

ternative," said Lafayette Senior Planner Christine Sinnette at a recent Planning Commission meeting explaining the rationale behind balloons. While it's not unusual to have story poles for neighbors and city staff to get a sense of how tall a second story home addition will be, because the proposed building is approximately seventy feet tall – the poles, either wood or metal, would need a substantial amount of support and anchoring to keep them steady. In researching the project, KB Home found only one construction company, Swinerton, that has ever erected story poles that tall using wood. After reviewing the plans a Swinerton representative commented, "I do not see how we can do it with conventional wood story poles."

Job Bennett, Project Manager for KB Homes, outlined his firm's preference for using large helium balloons and anchoring them with ropes to keep them in place on a non-windy day. ... continued on page A11

Lafayette's Police Officer of the Year



Officer Jacqueline Dennison

Photo Cathy Tyson

At a recent City Council meeting, Chief Mike Hubbard recognized Officer Jacqueline Dennison as Lafayette's Officer of the Year, "We couldn't be more proud of her."

She's been working in Lafayette for the past five and a half years, and has gone above and beyond the call of duty on more than once occasion. Residents may remember a dramatic car crash into a house on South Silver Springs Road a while ago. The driver had a medical emergency and there was a child in the back strapped into a car seat. Officer Dennison and her partner Officer Ryan Sullivan, rescued both individuals while gasoline was leaking all around. She selflessly volunteered to get the toddler out of the back seat, knowing that a single spark could cause a dramatic explosion.

A second incident occurred at 6:30 in the morning - the first call of the day, there was a medical emergency. "I responded with a Code 3 – sirens and lights." A 63-year-old woman had a heart attack. Dennison used her defibrillator and performed CPR for seven minutes until paramedics arrived. She saw the woman's son later at the Art and Wine Festival; he thanked her again for saving his mom's life.

"It's all part of the job," said Dennison. Look for her patrolling the streets of Lafayette in a four door Dodge Charger. With a wry smile, she notes, "it's very maneuverable." C. Tyson
(A letter of commendation for Officer Dennison appears in Letters to the Editor, page A8)

Police Report



Prescription for trouble, 2/10/12 Someone tried to unlawfully fill a prescription by phone. The doctor's office was called to

verify, and quickly put the kibosh on that.

Precursor for trouble, 2/8/2012 Police took a report regarding theft of narcotic prescriptions pad. Hmm...

Hit and run, 2/10/12 Police received a report of an accident causing property damage. The culprit fled the scene without notifying the property owner or police.

The good and not so good news, 2/7/12 The good news: it appears a burglar was stopped in his tracks. The not so good: some window screens at the residence involved were cut and on the ground. Fortunately, that was the only damage.

Double Smash and Grab, 2/9 and 2/12/12 Two separate auto burglaries in the space of three days, with a similar M/O. Each car's owner had a front passenger window

broken and a purse stolen. \$70 missing and \$100 damages in the first case; \$200 missing and \$200 damages in the second. Must have been a bigger purse.

Surf and Turf, 2/15/12 Two street bikes and a surfboard were taken from an Acalanes Road residence, just ahead of a long weekend. Someone had vacation plans...

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Sidewalk Facelift Inching Down the Boulevard

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

Here a brick, there a brick. Although the project can't march along fast enough for Mt. Diablo merchants, Lafayette pedestrians can actually walk on the new and vastly improved sidewalk in front of the Round Up Saloon down to Amarin Thai and a bit beyond. The progress continues westward as the contractor, McGuire Hester, deals with a few delays in the process.

As expected there have been some slight bumps in the road, or rather sidewalk, rather like finding unanticipated dry rot in a home remodel. Unbeknownst to everyone, the PG & E and AT & T lines were not buried deep enough when the original sidewalks were installed in the 1950's and 1960's. Fixing that set the timeline back a bit. Just last Thursday, an abandoned natural gas line that was not marked on the contractors plans was bent, causing a leak in the 3500 block of Mt. Diablo Boulevard that closed the road. Finally, although the weather has been cooperating lately, there had been a few delays for rain, said Senior Engineer Farzaneh Sanders. "We've been fairly lucky, just a couple of weeks behind at this point," she said.

Who's paying for all this, and what about spending the money on pothole repair instead? Federal Grant funds that are managed by CalTrans are paying for 80% of the \$1.69 million dollar upgrade. The City is required to contribute a 20% match. Originally money was set

aside from the Downtown Street-light Replacement Reserve to spruce up just one block on Mt. Diablo Boulevard; by obtaining the grant, they were able to leverage municipal funds substantially. The grant, however, comes with strings attached – it can only be used on the sidewalk beautification project, not for road maintenance.

Kind of like the pyramids of Egypt, only shorter and much less triangular, a low stone wall in front of Diablo Foods is in the preliminary stages of being erected. The idea was to visually separate the parking lot from drivers on the Boulevard and make it more attractive with the addition of greenery. Vines will ultimately cover the parking lot side of the wall. In front of Trader Joe's, because existing trees have very shallow roots, the stone wall was nixed in favor of a substantial metal fence with decorative panels.

Landscaping is the final component of the job, estimated to be complete in June. Look for the yellow caution tape around areas where future shrubs will go. City staff wish to remind drivers to slow down and have a little extra patience, especially around workers, equipment and traffic. For the latest news on the Downtown Pedestrian, Bicycle and Streetscape Improvements Project, go to the city website at www.lovelafayette.com and scroll down to "Road and Street Work Updates."

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MORAGA Moraga Center (925) 376-7252

WALNUT CREEK Countrywood Center (925) 935-9300

CONCORD Vineyard Center (925) 827-0330

SONOMA Marketplace Center (707) 996-4465

NAPA Napa Town Center (707) 255-9375

McCaulou's



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, March 14, 7:00pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 5, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, March 12, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District

Tuesday, March 13, 7:30 pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate
School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us
Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Moraga to Poll Residents

Lafayette and Orinda did it...now it's Moraga's turn for a Roads Poll

By Sophie Braccini

Faced with the task of finding twenty four million dollars to fix its roads, the Town of Moraga has decided it has no choice but to ask its residents to pitch in.

The condition of Moraga's roads has been ranked in the lower 15% of the entire Bay Area, and to postpone repairs means the cost will grow exponentially. The Town's objective is to put a revenue measure on the ballot this November. The question is, what measure and for how much? After a discussion on February 22, the Town

Council narrowed the possibilities to three and will have a consultant poll residents to find the sweet spot that will garner enough support.

In her report to the Council, Town Manager Jill Keimach presented the result of over a year's worth of effort to study neighborhood streets, the reasons for their failure, the different ways to fix the problems, and how much it will cost to remedy them in the long term. "Town staff researched alternative treatments being used by many other cities to reduce the overall

costs of the program while retaining effectiveness," she said. "Based on this, as well as a peer review by the City Engineer from the City of El Cerrito, the total needed to repair the neighborhood roads is estimated to be \$25 million."

El Cerrito was often cited as an example of a city that was able to restore its infrastructure from a failed level to good within a few years. Jerry Bradshaw, the City of El Cerrito's Engineer, has been retained by the Town of Moraga on a part time contract to

help out, since Moraga's former Town Engineer resigned last month. Bradshaw was at the meeting and explained that El Cerrito was able to secure enough financing from its residents through the approval of a half of one percent increase in sales tax.

In Moraga, such a measure would generate about \$300,000 a year, enough to help to maintain good roads, but not enough to erase the backlog of deferred maintenance.

... continued on page A12

More Uncertainty at Rancho Laguna Park

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga Town Staff announced on February 23 that the Council will consider rescinding a December 14 decision to create a physical separation, at Rancho Laguna Park, between off-leash canines and other park users.

The decision is being challenged in a Petition by Moraga resident Steven Smith, who asks the court to issue an order to rescind the decision.

Town Staff indicated that the motivation to consider rescinding the decision was the Council's priority to spend its limited resources wisely.

In a written statement sent to us February 26 on behalf of the directors of Lamorinda Dogs, Bill Carman said, "Our position is that it is wise for the

Moraga Town Council to revisit their December 14th resolution. We agree with the Council's apparent re-prioritization of much-needed playground safety compliance and road repair."

The basis for the petition to the court is Moraga's alleged failure to follow California's Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). "It seeks to void the 'Notice of Exemption' the Town had filed in an apparent effort to bypass CEQA environmental review of the project," says Seth Freeman, a Moraga resident and member of the Lamorinda Dogs group.

In his petition, Smith indicates that the Rancho Laguna ecosystem includes species such as the dusky

footed wood rat, a species of special concern according to the California Department of Fish and Game; as well as other wildlife, fish and plants. He explains that the spatial separation plan proposed by the Town would irreparably damage the habitat along the tributary of the San Leandro Reservoir, and that the increased use by people and domestic animals will directly impact the ecosystem.

Planning staff will provide options for the Council's consideration regarding off-leash dog hours at the park. If the Town recognizes the existence of a sensitive habitat in the northern part of the park, the new options will have to provide for its protection.

At this time, the park is open to off-leash dogs in the morning and evening.

"We see this as a double-edged sword," the Lamorinda Dogs' statement continued, "Council has the opportunity to improve the outcome for park users, which we hope they will do. However, if the Council elects a punitive path to curtail our 30 year off-leash tradition, they will further split the entire community. Donations and civic fundraising have already suffered as a result. . . We wish the Council the wisdom they will need to serve all constituents."

The Council is scheduled to consider the matter on March 14.

Police Report



Cell phone a goner, 2/23/12 Petty theft at Campo, a cell phone was snatched sometime between 3:20 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. from the Girls Locker Room at Campolindo High

School. It was left unattended. Loss of approximately \$200.

Missing a bike? 2/12/12 Moraga Police Department received three mountain bicycles and one Razor scooter from the Moraga Country Club. If perhaps you rode to the Club and ended up walking home – maybe you should pop into Moraga P.D.

Ex-girlfriend claims harassment, 2/18/12 Cops investigated a Saint Mary's College couple and found that, "the actions and statements made by the male subject did not appear criminal in nature." The fellow decided, after talking with police, that he will no longer contact his former girlfriend. Smart move.

Domestic dispute, 2/21/12 A Rimer Drive father and son got into an ar-

gument. Dad asked son to leave the house, son wisely decided to stay at his girlfriend's place for the night.

Girl assaults boy, 2/20/12 Two co-habiting St. Mary's College students had a bit of a dust up. Upon arrival Moraga officers determined that the female had assaulted a male subject she had been dating. The young lady was arrested on domestic violence charges and taken to Martinez

Detention Facility for booking.

D.U.I. 2/19/12 A Toyota Camry was observed crossing over the solid white line on Moraga Road four times by police around 6:00 p.m. – barely happy hour. The 53-year-old driver showed signs of intoxication. After flunking field sobriety tests, he was taken into custody and submitted to a breath test.



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Pending ~ Moraga
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Pending ~ Lafayette
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\$515,000



SOLD ~ Moraga
Moraga Country Club. Ideal corner lot location. Enjoy golf, tennis, pool, and new club house! Former model home, gorgeous views, large windows, 4 bd., 2 1/2 ba., large, private courtyard.
\$830,000



SOLD ~ Moraga
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\$1,090,000



SOLD ~ Orinda
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SOLD ~ Orinda
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Over-the-Counter Business Permit Among Possible Code Changes

By Sophie Braccini

Making Moraga more business-friendly is at the top of Planning Director Shawna Brekke-Read's priority list. On February 21st she brought to the Planning Commission some proposals that could have an important impact on Moraga's future development, encouraging some and restricting others—a step forward in a process designated a priority by the Town Council, which could change Moraga's reputation of business unfriendliness.

Only four individuals (including yours truly) showed up to hear what Brekke-Read had to say to the Commission. Ellen Beans, of Moraga Citizens Network, Renee Zeimer who was member of the now sunset Economic Development Directors Team, and Tony Inzerillo, board member of the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association (LWGA) and owner of Vincenza Ranch on Rheem Boulevard.

Inzerillo knew that the Brekke-Read was going to include a discussion of options to regulate winemaking in Moraga, an activity that is not restricted in the Municipal Code. "I don't see how it could be possible to have crush pads in a residential area," said Planning Commissioner Bruce Whitley, "People should be able to make their own wine in their own house, but not for commercial use."

Inzerillo responded by inviting the Commissioners to visit the existing winemakers of Moraga, explaining that these operations are not industrial in nature; they are more like 'Boutique-wineries.'

Brekke-Read said that such activities are regulated in other communities—that a minimum size for the property, or a maximum output, could be set and she noted concerns Commissioners had about noise and smell.

She is set to meet with LWGA in early March.

The other big topic of discussion was the possible creation of over-the-counter business permits for certain types of use. "During the EDAC (Economic Development Action Committee) meeting, property owners and commercial agents said that Moraga had the reputation of being a difficult town to do business in," said the Director, "even 'permitted uses' are subject to findings which mean that even by looking at our code, a business cannot be sure to get an approval. There is an element of discretion which means that the results are not completely predictable."

"It's been my experience that when there is a business that the people of Moraga don't like, they want to be able to say no, and the only way they're going to have an opportunity to say no is under the current

process," said Whitley.

"It gives them the illusion that there is discretion," responded Brekke-Read, retelling the tale of the Dollar Tree, which ended with the Council having no choice but to approve the project.

Commissioner Dick Socolich cited the example of the new gift shop, which had to go before the Planning Commission under the current process, and the Commission approved the application within 10 or 15 minutes.

"It was 10 minutes at the meeting, but it was a month before the meeting and another 10 days after the meeting," said the Director, "is this an investment they want to make up front? It's quite a drawn out process for a small retail store."

"This is part of something we wanted to get at as a way to streamline the process," commented Zeimer

about the over-the-counter permits, "we've heard from the Chamber (of Commerce), from the businesses already here and from commercial agents that Moraga has a time-consuming and expensive process. It's just too easy for businesses to say 'I'll go somewhere else'." She added that over the past years numerous community input sessions and studies have been conducted that defined what type of retail is sought after. "The sooner the better," she said regarding simplification.

The commissioners agreed that the process should be simplified and asked the Director to come back with possible criteria and definitions of what could define over-the-counter permits. Brekke-Read will bring her proposal to the Planning Commission in March.

ABAG Denies Moraga's Application

No Priority Development Status for Rheem

By Sophie Braccini

At the February 22 Town Council Meeting, Moraga Planning Director Shawna Brekke-Read announced that the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) denied the Rheem Center Area the status of Priority Development Area (PDA). Because new rules require that in order to qualify for a Federal or Regional grant a project needs to have 70% of its impact in a PDA, this is not good news for Rheem.

"We had to submit the General Plan for that area as part of our application," said the Director, "ABAG noticed that at this time the Rheem neighborhood is not zoned for high density and therefore we don't meet that criterion. They also said that the district was located in close proximity to two BART stations, but that since we do not have a bus system with 20-minute headway, the PDA designation could not

be granted."

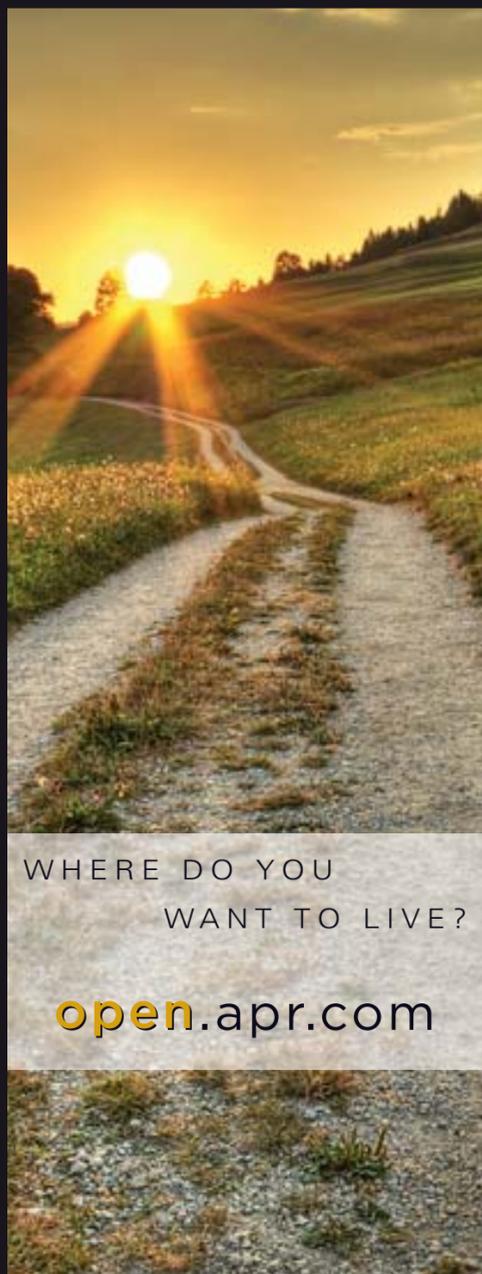
The Contra Costa Transportation Agency (CCTA) is not likely to increase bus rates in Moraga while service is being cut back all over the County. Brekke-Read believes that other options can be studied, such as a shuttle system between Moraga and the two BART stations. She has also been asked by CCTA to sit on a committee that is studying a smart phone application

geared at organizing real time ride-sharing using individual cars.

The rezoning of the Rheem area is part of a General Plan amendment that Brekke-Read is working on with the Town Council and Planning Commission.

The only part of Moraga that is an approved PDA is the Moraga Center, which encompasses Safeway and the surrounding area.

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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, March 6, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 13, at 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way
Tuesday, February 14 canceled

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, March 14, at 6:30 pm
Community Room, City Hall
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, March 12, 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
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

ORINDA POLICE

Police Report

Here we blow again, 2/20/12 Orinda police found a fifty-something woman drunk in public. If this sounds vaguely familiar, hang on-- because it is. This time the woman was found lying under a picnic table, singing. When she crawled out, the arresting officer noticed her gait was unsteady, her speech was slurred and her eyes looked bloodshot and watery. She admitted she'd been drinking: "a lot." "I'm probably a 3.0 [blood alcohol content]" she said. The poor woman is already on misdemeanor probation. She was transported to Martinez Detention Facility, where she was booked.

Keeping these fellows from their appointed rounds, 2/13/12 Just before Valentine's Day two men were found in possession of mail from an Orinda address. Problem is, the mail and the mailbox weren't theirs. The owner of the mailbox confirmed the theft and the pair were arrested on charges of petty theft and outstanding warrants.



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The Fabric of Our Community

... continued from page A1



Orinda Senior Village residents enjoyed food, fellowship, and opera at the Orinda Rotary's annual Valentine's luncheon. Front row: Marilyn Sherwin (seated) and Roshan Vallabh; back row, from left: Josephine Cao, Manojeh Rahmanian, Manijeh Zarifzadeh, Eartha Newsong, Shugar Bassett, Lupe Jimeno, Maryam Mojaver, Hazel Salessi, Masoumeh Gholamrezaee, Delafrooz Mostaghimi, and Ali Jahangiri. Photo Laurie Snyder

The Orinda Senior Village (OSV) is a rent-supported independent living community serving very low income seniors, tucked among the trees atop Irwin Way. It was built in 1983 with a loan from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on 3.5 acres of land donated by the Orinda Community Church, which continues to sponsor the program.

Take Lupe Jimeno. Before her Del Rey days, she studied the Anasazi, ventured into the Amazon, and hiked Machu-Picchu and Tikal. When meeting her at a California Independent Film Festival event, one would never guess that she's 80 years old.

"I have seen things. I have lived a very good life. I have been very lucky," says Lupe.

Born in Santiago and educated at the Villa Maria Academy there, which was operated by the nuns of Philadelphia's Immaculata order, Lupe later earned a degree in bilingual stenography and worked at Esso Standard Oil.

She first arrived in Miami on an immigrant visa in 1957, working there and living with cousins before returning to Chile where she married and gave birth to her first child. A second daughter was born in Miami in 1962.

As nationalized Americans in 1969, she and her husband were transferred to Guatemala, staying there until 1973 as part of his work with Ford International. Interested in

the Mayan and Aztec cultures, Lupe studied archaeology and anthropology at San Carlos University and became knowledgeable about local textile artisans.

Next came Michigan -- and then Puerto Rico. Two years in, Lupe and her husband divorced. She returned to Chile, where her daughters attended her alma mater before completing college in California. Her eldest is a degreed horticulturist; her youngest holds a Ph.D. in Psychology from Cal. They have given Lupe five beautiful grandchildren.

An OSV resident since 2004, she edits the newsletter, heads the Garden Club, paints beautiful watercolors, is called friend by area birds, and cheers on her grandson at area soccer games.

"This was, for me, heaven," says Lupe of her acceptance into the OSV community. "It was the big break of my life."

Dexiang Dong and Yiyun Cao

Yiyun Cao (Josephine) met her husband, Dong, at Shanghai Medical College. Working side by side to bring polio under control in lengthy careers many would call distinguished, they modestly tell friends they just did the jobs for which they were trained.

Born and raised in Shanghai, Josephine attended the American Missionary High School there en route to medical school. Dong was born in the province of Zhejiang, earning his M.D. at Peking Medical

College before becoming a leader in basic virology research.

Assigned to Beijing's Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences at a time when Chinese healthcare providers were confronted with 30,000 to 40,000 cases of polio per year, they received critical research funding from America's Rotary Clubs to develop a modern laboratory in Kunming. China's supply of polio vaccine has been produced there since the 1960s.

"We spent a whole life for that vaccine," says Josephine.

Josephine came to America on scholarship, conducting research at a lab in Berkeley from 1981 to 1984. Invited to return by her Berkeley supervisor, she coordinated additional studies from 1985 through 1988.

Four of her siblings became American citizens. One lives here in Orinda. Their daughter also lives nearby.

While in Berkeley, Josephine developed a special place in her heart for Orinda. The climate is not unlike that of Kunming where "all seasons are like spring." She and Dong may often be seen walking around Orinda Village. An on-call resident, she assists staff, visitors, and residents with translation while Dong serves as a frequent listening ear. They are the friends who arrive when needed to make things better.

Antoinette "Nanette" Weber

Oakland-born Nanette Weber is of the generation of educators who began their careers before America awakened to the disparity in earnings between our greatest entrepreneurs, healers, and artists and those who gave them the skills to make their dreams reality. Back then, salaries were low and retirement plans were not designed to ensure the security of a population that would live longer and longer thanks to scientific advancements.

Weber, 83, taught full-time for 43

years and part-time for another six. An educator at heart, she continued substitute teaching until she was 80. Helping to shape the minds of five current ABC-7 reporters, she also taught the future Rhodes Scholar and Oxford graduate we know as MSNBC political analyst Rachel Maddow.

And yet, Weber also thinks of herself as merely ordinary -- a Language Arts and History teacher who went to work each weekday and just did her job -- not unlike what many Orinda moms and dads do today.

Her father, a co-owner of Peterbilt Motors, was an Orinda Country Club golf champion. One of her daughters lives in Castro Valley, another in Santa Rosa. For a time, Nanette lived on Moraga Road and then in Lafayette until, finally, after more than two years on the waiting list, she was able to call OSV home.

She is still teaching all who will listen. "You don't know what life has in store for you," she points out. Many senior housing residents are simply hardworking adults who never made much money; others were forced to draw down savings in a difficult economy or because of catastrophic illness. They are grandparents, fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, and friends. Some are married couples; many are widowed or divorced. Others are single men and women who never had the legal opportunity to marry or just simply never found that special someone. OSV is also seeing the impact of people losing their homes due to the economic downturn, adds Manager Diane Browning.

"There's a treasure here -- part of the treasure of Orinda. It speaks well for the community," says Weber, that Orindans have shown the courage to care about those who have given so much to society and remain vital contributing members of society.

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Affordable Senior Housing Takes Major Step Forward

By Laurie Snyder

At its February 21 meeting, the Orinda City Council completed two of the final discretionary actions required to enable Eden Housing, Inc. to begin construction of affordable senior housing on the old Orinda Library site when it has secured the financing necessary to do so.

The Council authorized execution of a Community Parking Lot Lease that will enable construction of a 10-space lot on current Orinda Community Church property “to offset the loss of public parking caused by the senior housing development.”

The Council also executed a detailed Development, Disposition and Loan Agreement (DDLA) with Eden, spelling out the responsibilities of the City and Eden Housing, Inc. regarding construction and management of 66 restricted units that “must be rented at affordable rents (30% of monthly income including utility allowance) and must be available to seniors – with all residents aged 62 or older.” Spe-

cific provisions give the City the power to terminate the DDLA should Eden fail to meet various terms.

Saying this was “a significant milestone in a project that the City embarked on over a decade ago,” Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu turned the floor over to Woody Karp, Senior Project Developer for Eden, and Lynn Hutchins, an attorney with Goldfarb & Lipman LLP hired to represent the City in its negotiation of the DDLA with Eden.

Hutchins, an affordable senior housing legal expert, responded to questions raised by Council members and attendees regarding potential risks to the City, including whether or not the DDLA was typical of affordable housing agreements used elsewhere. She assured the Council that the DDLA was “very standardized” and added that, in discussions she has had with banking personnel experienced with senior housing, she has been advised that the loan default rate on these types of projects is less than

one percent (<1%).

According to the staff report, Eden will “operate the entire development at low income and very-low income occupancy due to restrictions” that “financing sources for the Development will impose.... By way of comparison, the nearby Orinda Senior Village housing project is 100% very-low income development.”

Very low income for a one-person household is defined as \$32,750 per year.

Karp then updated the Council on the program’s financing, and announced that Contra Costa County staff will ask the Board of Supervisors March 12 to approve an additional \$1.9 million in funding over and above the \$2,150,000 already committed by the County “to enhance the likelihood that the project will be successful in securing 9% tax credit financing” from the State of California. That financing, if granted, would be made in June 2012 with groundbreaking to “occur no later than six months

after the funds are awarded,” according to the staff report.

Two individuals urged the Council to reject the DDLA, including Owen Murphy who wrote, “It is a shame that such a noble idea (affordable housing for Orinda seniors) ... has incrementally morphed into something that is hardly recog-

nizable versus the original city intention.” One of three attendees expressing support described Eden Housing as “the gold standard when it comes to affordable housing.”

The Council unanimously approved the DDLA and the parking lot lease.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

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Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community!

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

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

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com;

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

Editor:

On Saturday, February 4, 2012 at 3:15pm, I was held up by a gunman, who forcibly took my purse and drove off. My sister and I were in a parking lot in a busy Lafayette parking lot. As unnerving as the experience was, I must relate my deep appreciation to the two women who stepped up as witnesses, taking their busy Saturday afternoon to give me support, waiting for the police to respond, and giving accounts to the officers. The officers who responded are to be commended for their diligence and respect for my well being. Officer Jacqueline Dennison arranged to have a colleague follow me home. We met an officer from my community, and the two of them searched my house before allowing me to enter. I was also fortunate to experience outstanding police work from BART Police, who recovered much of my stolen property and returned it to me Tuesday morning. Officer Dennison maintained contact with BART Police and me, furnishing updates on the robbery. Rather than feeling victimized, I feel lucky to have been assisted by two citizens and supported by the coordinated efforts of three police departments. I wish that every community could afford its members such positive service.

Thank you,

Rosemary Jenckes
Pleasant Hill

Editor:

The miserable roads in Orinda do need repair. The big question is: How should the repair work be financed?

Before asking voters for a tax increase, the Orinda City Council should look carefully at cutting costs. The city could reduce expenditures by eliminating city departments that Orinda voters hold in low esteem.

In a city-sponsored survey of Orinda voters taken between January 22 and 25, 2012, respondents gave low ratings to the city's Planning Department and Department of Public Works. Regarding these two departments, only 8 percent and 16 percent of voters respectively gave these departments "strong approval." By contrast, the Orinda Library received a "strong approval" rating of 76 percent. The survey was conducted by the FM3 company in Oakland.

The Orinda City Council should also examine the costs associated with Orinda's participation in the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. Setting up an Orinda-only fire district could, according to some estimates, generate \$2 million a year extra for Orinda.

If Orinda finds that it really does need to raise taxes, the city should consider a parcel (property) tax. The January survey showed that 72 percent of Orinda's voters would be "very willing" or "somewhat willing" to pay between \$80 and \$100 per year to fix the roads. The figure of 72 percent is significant because passing a parcel tax requires a two-thirds (67 percent) vote.

At its January 31 meeting, the Orinda City Council indicated a preference for raising the city's sales tax, which is currently 8.25 percent.

Increasing the sales tax would be a huge mistake because Orindans might decide to abandon the city's stores for lower-tax venues like Walnut Creek. If shoppers went elsewhere, jobs in Orinda could be lost. Killing jobs during a hard economic times would be cruel.

If Orinda does need to raise taxes, the city should consider a \$59 annual parcel tax for a period of two years. A tax of \$59 should be acceptable to two-thirds of the city's voters. If Orinda did a good job repairing its roads, the city could ask for another \$59 tax at a later time.

Richard S. Colman
Orinda

Editor:

Non Profit for Road

The people of Orinda express concern about the deteriorating roads but do not want to pay extra property taxes or sales taxes. My suggestion is to start a 501C3 charitable non profit organization for road maintenance that would solicit funds all of which would go directly to the repair of deteriorating Orinda roads.

Each donation would be tax deductible. What this does is it allows us to give freely and not be forced to do so. The people who are so very upset can give as generously as their hearts desire.

With this approach the people of Orinda have a direct hand in the road repair. If we do not freely contribute our roads deteriorate and we can blame ourselves. I believe the people of Orinda are generous. If 10,000 people gave \$100 each that would be 1 million, \$200, 2 million, \$500, 5 million. Do that every year and our roads would be repaired. The main point is that people are very leary about the City, County, and State stealing money earmarked for roads. This approach eliminates these fears. What do you say Orinda?

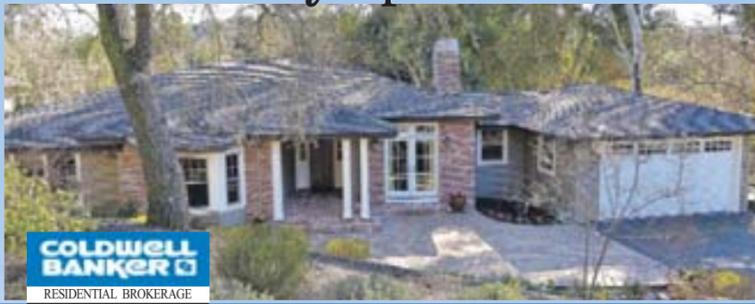
Gerhard Perry
Orinda

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Public Forum JOIN IT

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Finances: Fictions versus Facts

Recently, elaborate fictions have circulated about the District's finances. The facts are different. Here are some examples.

Fiction: \$68,000,000 of unfunded MOFD liabilities have built up since the District was formed in 1997.

Fact: The District has serious long term unfunded liabilities, but these include significant liabilities that arose before the District was formed. About 44% of all retirees now drawing medical and/or pension benefits retired from the old Moraga and Orinda districts. Further, another portion of the unfunded liabilities is traceable to vested benefits of active employees who came over in the merger, and later retired.

Fiction: The pension liability was fully funded in 2005 when the pension bonds were issued in order to pay off the liability.

Fact: The bonds were sold to pay to zero the unfunded liability to the pension fund because the fund charged 7.75% on the liability, but bond interest is only 5.22%, saving the District about \$8,000,000 over the 20 year life of the bonds. However, the \$28,000,000 bond liability, traceable to prior and then current employees, remained.

Fiction: The current board is responsible for additional pension liabilities accruing since 2005.

Fact: The worst recession since the Great Depression began in 2008, causing increased unfunded pension liabilities in nearly every district in California.

Fiction: The District has no plan to address unfunded liabilities.

Fact: The pension bonds themselves are part of a plan. The District will have fully paid the \$28,000,000 bond liability from committed tax revenues by 2024. After 2024, more than \$3,000,000 of annual property tax revenues will be available to address other long term liabilities. The Board's consultant advised at a public meeting on ways to reduce the District's pension liabilities--some recommendations are now in place. Long term unfunded medical benefit and pension liabilities are the subject of current negotiations with our unions.

Fiction: Nothing has been done to address the District's financial issues.

Fact: Two years ago, the Board instructed the current Chief to bring back a balanced operating budget, even though the District's financial forecast indicated large future operating deficits. In the last 2 years, operating costs were contained, the District had an aggregate operating surplus of about \$220,000. We also restructured Fire Chief and battalion chief compensation to reduce or eliminate future pension "spiking" possibilities. Significant cost cutting was achieved without adversely affecting service--actually, we increased the number of firefighters with paramedic training.

Fiction: The current board members are responsible for a 20% hike in former Fire Chief Nowicki's pension.

Fact: The Nowicki situation is complex. Before becoming Fire Chief, he was a battalion chief with vested pension rights, including the right under County pension board rules to sell back vacation time to "spike" his pension. He was induced to leave that position for the harder job as Fire Chief by a promise by the negotiators that he would do better financially as Chief. Had we not amended his contract, his pension at retirement would have been about 10% less than a battalion chief's. The Board's choice was to break that promise or honor it to some degree. The Board honored the promise by improving his pension to about 6-9% more than a battalion chief's. In hindsight, perhaps the Board should have broken the promise, or granted less, but decisions are made in the moment, not in hindsight.

Fiction (really a paradox): The District is overburdened with debt BUT there are millions of dollars of surplus funds to fix Orinda's roads.

Fact: Both extreme claims are wrong, as a fair examination of the facts would reveal.

To remain viable, the District must run its programs within its general operating budget so that long term liabilities are managed and equipment and other capital needs, including the replacement and repair of fire stations, are not neglected. Achieving these goals will not be easy, but we have taken, and will continue to take, significant steps to do so.

The foregoing opinions are my own. The facts speak for themselves.

Fred Weil
(Fred Weil is the President of the MOFD Board of Directors)

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Community Service

Julie Foudy Sports Leadership Academy Choose to Matter Contest

Submitted by Ann Kletz

Mariah Brown is not your typical 13-year-old girl from Lafayette. In addition to going to school and hanging out with friends, Mariah is "choosing to matter" and doing something positive to help Bay Area children less fortunate than her.

Last year, Mariah attended the Julie Foudy Sports Leadership Academy (JFSLA) and learned



Mariah "Molly" Brown

Photo provided

what it means to be a leader not just on the soccer field, but in life as well. She's taken her new found passion and determination and applied it to helping others in need. Mariah, whose nickname is Molly, started a project she calls "Molly's Dollies" to help the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, an organization that provides shelter and supplies for children whose families are in upheaval.

Molly makes dolls to donate to kids supported by the Bay Area Crisis Nursery. Molly explains, "Choosing to matter made me glad to know that I was helping a lot of people out by doing this project. In some small way, I hope when they receive one of our dolls, their lives can be a bit better."

Molly has entered her project in Julie Foudy's "Choose to Matter" contest for a chance to win a trip to the 2012 London Summer Olympic Games.

Daisy Scouts Focus on Giving Back

Submitted by Krista Benson



Daisy Scouts visit with Moraga's Officer Bob Ortiz

Photo provided

Daisy Girl Scout Troop #30694 is made up of 16 first graders from Rheem Elementary School. This year we are focusing on giving back to the community and making our world a better place. Last November we toured the Moraga Library and learned about being responsible for what we do and say. In January we visited with Officer Bob Ortiz from the Moraga Police Department and learned about respecting authority and being a good citizen. Recently we supported a Moraga Girl Scout Cadet with her

Gold Award project by making fleece blankets for sick children at Oakland Children's hospital. This month we sent cards to a US Navy EOD Platoon deployed to the Middle East, this was very touching and personal as one of our girls' father is in this unit. It's important in Girl Scouting to learn many of these fundamental values and essential life skills and we would like to thank the Moraga community for donating their time and resources to further enrich the lives of these girls.

Lion's Club Speech Winner

Submitted by Fred George



Photo provided

On Thursday, February 9 at the Moraga Library, the Moraga Lions Club sponsored its annual Student Speakers' Contest. The winner was Alexandra Glazer of Miramonte High School, speaking on "What could the America of yesterday teach the America of tomorrow?" She is pictured with Moraga Student Speaker Chairman, Fred George, of Lafayette. Alexandra competed against three speakers from Acalanes High School, and another from Miramonte High School. She now moves on to the Zone competition to be held March 8 at the Contra Costa Water District Board Room at 7:00 p.m.

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.

Orinda Woman's Club Awards Grants

Submitted by Whitney Valentine



From left: Susan Domingos, Barbara Rogan, Don Graves (of Contra Costa County Children and Family Services), Allison King, Kathleen Kerr-Schochet
Photo Ohlen Alexander

The Orinda Woman's Club presented the Child Abuse Prevention Council and the Independent Living Skills Program each with a \$15,000 check. The Club recognizes these programs for their service to our population who are hungry, need education and require living skills training. The proceeds from the Festival of Trees in November yielded income of just over \$45,000.00. This was then divided three ways – between the two major beneficiaries and the Woman's Club scholarship program that is designed to assist young women in need to better themselves in education or apprenticeship.

The Club general membership also votes to provide smaller grants to local and county programs that serve community need in our area.

Last year ten programs in the area benefitted in some way from these smaller grants. The Club membership works throughout the year to acquire funds for worthy causes and also provides manpower to assist Programs like A Friendly Place in Oakland where hunger and hygiene are addressed for street people.

The Woman's Club is committed to serving women and children in need locally, regionally and internationally. We welcome new members. Applications for major beneficiary awards 2012 are actively being accepted and processed from eligible agencies in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The deadline for consideration of application is March 5, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

DAR Honors Good Citizens Contest Winners for 2012



From left: DAR Chapter Regent, Brenna Shafizadeh; Sarah Gidre, Acalanes High; Elizabeth Ivy, Las Lomas High; Gail Wilson, Chapter Essay Winner, Campolindo High; Peter Santoro, Contra Costa Christian High; Barbara Snyder, DAR Essay Contest Chairperson; not pictured: Courtney Tran, Miramonte High
Photo provided

On February 4, The Daughters of the American Revolution, Acalanes Chapter, honored the 2012 winners of their annual DAR Good Citizens Program and Scholarship Contest. The Scholarship Contest began in 1934 and is open to senior high school girls. Contestants must be able to demonstrate the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. The student is asked to describe how she demonstrates these qualities in her day to day life and to submit two letters of recommendation along with an official grade transcript. Further, she must complete a timed essay, which is later read aloud at the chapter's award ceremony.

This year's chapter winner was **Gail Wilson**, of Campolindo High School. At school Gail enjoys choir, drama, and track team. Other activities include participation in Chamber Singers Elite Ensemble and Rotary Interact Club. Gail has helped raise funds for Children's Hospital, the Polar Bear Plunge, which raises money for those of special needs, and has been a volunteer at soup kitchens through her church.

Other contestants included **Elizabeth Ivy** of

Las Lomas High School who has participated four years in volleyball, is a recognized scholar-athlete and is president of Peace in Progress Club. **Peter Santoro**, Contra Costa Christian High, the first ever male to be recognized by the chapter, is a soccer player who has volunteered in crisis centers and schools in the Tenderloin in San Francisco. **Sarah Gidre**, Acalanes High School, is the founder of Best Buddies, a weekly lunch for socializing with developmentally disabled students and volunteers at Animal Rescue Foundation. **Courtney Tran**, Miramonte High, participates in both Jazz and Symphonic bands and is a Youth Council member for the Oakland Public Library.

These exceptional students attended a luncheon with the members of Acalanes Chapter of DAR, where each winner was asked to read their essay aloud for the members. Each winner was given a DAR Good Citizen Pin, a scholarship check and an American flag that has previously been flown over the US Capital Building. After the presentation, the participants and their families joined the DAR chapter for lunch and socializing.

Surprise Resignations from MOFD Board

By Lucy Amaral

At the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Director's meeting on February 15, two members unexpectedly resigned their positions on the Board. In separate actions, Brook Mancinelli and Richard Olsen tendered their resignation, both effective February 29, 2012.

Olsen represents Division 3, which encompasses portions of Moraga, Orinda and Canyon, and has been on the MOFD Board since March of 2010. Olsen was appointed by the Board to replace Pete Wilson, who resigned due to health reasons, then ran and was reelected to the Board for a four-year term in November, 2010. Mancinelli was elected in November, 2008 and represents Division 5 in Orinda. His term was set to end in November of 2012.

"This is one of the hardest things I have ever done," Mancinelli told the Board. "This will be my last meeting. I am tendering my resignation effective February 29, 2012." Mancinelli gave no comments during the meeting as to why he resigned, nor gave any specific reason when asked later.

After requesting to speak last, Olsen told the Board that he had sadly come to a similar conclusion; however he was more vocal about the reasoning behind his resignation. Olsen said he felt the Board has become dysfunctional. "We have been working at cross purposes," Olsen said in a prepared statement. "As a result, little of significance has been accom-

plished." Olsen added that he felt he could better serve the interests of the community and taxpayers by speaking out publicly, without constraints.

Olsen went on to say that he had hoped that before joining the Board he could affect change by being on the inside. "After two years on this Board," he said. "I am totally frustrated – as I have not been able to effect any significant, positive changes."

Fred Weil complemented both outgoing members for their ability to bring useful perspective to the board and said he was unhappy about this turn of events. "I'm disappointed. They are both intelligent people and mean well for the District," Weil said later. "I am sorry they are not going to participate. I like them both and I respect them both." Weil added that he did receive a pre-meeting call from Mancinelli regarding the resignation.

Board members Frank Sperling and John Wyro echoed Weil's comments regarding the loss of different perspectives, however Wyro also emphasized that while the perspectives might have been different, everyone (on the Board) has worked hard on behalf of the community.

MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley later admitted to being caught off guard. "Although I had a sense that they were not always pleased with some of the actions by the Board, I was surprised that they resigned," said Bradley.

The meeting ended with the

Board instructing MOFD's legal counsel and Chief Bradley to provide information on how to fill these positions. The Board meets again on Wednesday, March 7 and the subject will be placed on the agenda.

Weil said he is hopeful that whoever takes their place will have the best interest of the District and community. "What we provide is so important," he said. "We run a fire and emergency service and whoever joins the Board will focus on helping to set policy that will preserve and enhance our services. That is our (the Board's) job."



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 March 7, 2012 7:00 pm at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road (go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

MOFD Board Renews Chief's Contract, Receives Two FEMA Grants

By Lucy Amaral



Mobile Training Tower

Photo provided

At the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors meeting held February 15, the Board voted to extend Fire Chief Randy Bradley's Contract and accepted two FEMA grants for training, EMS, safety and communications equipment.

Chief Bradley was hired in November 2009 and his original contract extended through November of 2012. This contract extension, approved by a vote of 3 to 2, will be for 19 months. Dissenting votes came from Richard Olsen and Brook Mancinelli. When questioned later as to the reason for the negative vote, both declined to comment.

According to Board President Fred Weil, the unusual length of his contract is to align the Chief's next contract discussion with the standard

budgeting process. The new contract is set to end on June 30, 2014.

"In my opinion, the Chief earned the extension," said Weil. (With regards to MOFD's budget.) There were tough decisions to make and he made them. Although he found ways to cut operating costs, he did so without reducing services." Weil went on to say Bradley is not afraid to explore new ideas and feels he communicates well with community members.

The Fire District has also been awarded two grants through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. The first grant presented was for the purchase of equipment including a Mobile Training Tower, two CPR compression devices and seven Rad 57 Co-Oximeters, a non-invasive unit that can assess a firefighter's condition, including car-

bon dioxide levels in the blood system. In his staff report, Bradley stated that the total cost for this equipment would be \$292,500. MOFD's matching fund requirement would be ten percent or \$29,250.

The Fire District was also awarded a FEMA AFG for the purchase of portable and mobile radios to help transition into the new East Bay Regional Communication System (EBRCS). According to Bradley, many emergency service providers were using dissimilar devices and varying signals, often making it difficult to communicate between agencies. The EBRCS system, developed by the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority, features an interoperable radio communications system. The FEMA award grant will go toward the purchase of 51 portable radios and 35 mobile radios, including installation. The total cost of the radios is \$464,700. MOFD's matching grant portion would equal 20 percent or \$92,940, with the remainder being funded by the FEMA grant.

The Board had previously approved \$244,000 to go toward the purchase of the portable and mobile radios for the EBRCS system. Now that the grants have been awarded, Bradley requested that the total matching funds required by MOFD for these two grants, \$122,190, be taken from the previously budgeted funds, and the remainder be returned to the Capital Reserve fund.

Planning Commission Weighs Balloons vs. Poles

... continued from page A2

KB proposes using commercial grade balloons, three to five feet in diameter with pennant tape to illustrate roof lines, along with staking the building perimeter. The big wildcard is the weather—if it's too windy, it's not going to work.

"After researching how to erect story poles, KB Home has determined that traditional methods are both unsafe and impractical for Town Center Phase III," said Bennett in a letter to the Planning Department. The site is surrounded by buildings and the poles could fall over, possibly causing injury or damage. The balloons, coupled with sophisticated photo simulations, KB feels, will adequately illustrate the height, bulk and mass of the proposed project.

While the Planning Commission will still have design input into the project, the City Council has substantially vetted the project through a number of hearings and generally agreed upon the bulk and mass, said Sinnette. Heller Manus, the architect of the project, has already made some substantial changes after receiving feedback. The proposed project will be approximately as tall as the adjacent shingled apartments.

This proposed development is the remaining third of a deal the City made with Lafayette Town Center Associates to redevelop almost five acres downtown more than a dozen years ago. Phases I and II were built, but there was a conflict about Town Center III. The City entered into a

Settlement Agreement to resolve a dispute in May of 2006 about the Development Agreement signed years earlier.

Public hearings are slated to begin soon and the required California Environmental Quality Act review, better known as CEQA is almost complete – an analysis of environmental impacts and mitigation plans.

Planning Commissioners weren't completely sold on the duration of the balloon concept, especially KB's proposal to have the balloons up for only one day for viewing. No decision was made on balloons versus poles at the meeting. Instead a decision was continued until a future Planning Commission meeting, probably March 19, 2012.

Civic News Lafayette

Going, Going, Gone

Abandoned home on Condit Road demolished

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

A property on the corner of Condit Road and Pleasant Hill Road that had long been an eyesore has been razed. A crew with heavy equipment and dumpsters demolished and filled in the pool and completely removed the structure. The property that once housed the troublesome residence and potentially dangerous backyard pool will be listed for sale as vacant land with Coldwell Banker. A representative with the Walnut Creek Coldwell Banker office said they are anxious to get it on the market and get it sold.

Having been foreclosed upon some time ago, the partially remodeled home continued to deteriorate as first the owner of record, then Countrywide Mortgage, then Bank of America disputed ownership. Neighbors were concerned as area teens used the empty home as a hang out spot. The City of Lafayette slapped a lien on the property to pay for abatement fees and fines for the continual repair of the fence and removal of dead bushes. In limbo since 2007, neighbors were surely pleased to see the wrecking crew work their magic.

Jazz Pianists Rock the House



Senior concert at the Library

Photo Cathy Tyson

The best place in town on a recent glorious Friday afternoon was the Lafayette Library and Learning Center for fantastic performances by pianists from the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society.

The expansive Community Hall was packed with mostly older residents who enjoyed beautiful music from eight pianists playing a variety of jazz pieces on the Library's Steinway Grand Piano. Sponsored by the Lafayette Senior Services Center, this

musical outing is a terrific opportunity to be a part of the community, visit with friends and neighbors, and nibble at the substantial "light" refreshments compliments of The Chateaus Independent and Assisted Living facilities.

Attendees thoroughly enjoyed the concert, and just like the promotional piece said, left with a song in their hearts. Look for the next program at the Library on Friday, April 20, at 1:30 p.m. C. Tyson

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Civic News Moraga

Moraga to Poll Residents

... continued from page A4

"We have to also talk about the maintenance (after the roads have been repaired)," said Mayor Mike Metcalf. Staff worked on different scenarios (see graph) charted out over a 20-year period for the upkeep of the renovated infrastructure. "We need \$25 million now, then various amounts of money to preserve these roads for

the next 20 years, that can range up to a total of \$42 million" said Council Member Dave Trotter. "We need a measure that would bond for a larger amount upfront than something else that would provide for continuing maintenance." The poll will be conducted in late spring or early summer. The

Lew Edwards Group will design the survey to test the response of the community to three potential revenue measures at different levels. Residents interested in hosting informational sessions in their homes for their friends and neighbors should contact Town Clerk Marty McInturf at 888-7022.

Here are the three revenue measures under consideration:

Mello-Roos Community Facilities District (a "CFD") is a Special Tax. Once approved, a Special Tax Lien is placed against each property in the CFD. Property owners then pay a Special Tax each year. If the project cost is high, municipal bonds will be sold by the CFD to provide the large amount of money initially needed to build the improvements or fund the services. By law (Prop. 13), the Special Tax cannot be directly based on the value of the property. Special Taxes instead are based on mathematical formulas that take into account property characteristics such as use of the property, square footage of the structure and lot size. The formula is defined at the time of formation, and would include a maximum special tax amount and a percentage maximum annual increase. Staff believes that the flexibility in designing the formula permits fairness (such as taking into account residents who live on private roads). Needs a two-thirds majority approval to pass.

Ad Valorem Property Tax is a tax calculated by allocating bond debt service to all taxable parcels in proportion to their assessed value determined by the County. The annual amount is deductible on individual income tax returns under current law. Needs a two-thirds majority approval to pass.

General Purpose Sales Tax would be a half percent or one percent added sales tax on any purchase within the Town's borders. According to Jerry Bradshaw the passage of such a measure in El Cerrito did not result in any sales loss. Only 60% of the revenue may be used to service the debt of a bond. It captures non-Moraga drivers coming to the discount stores, and would generate road repair funds in an amount ranging from \$300,000 to \$600,000 (1% increase) a year. Needs only a simple majority approval to pass.

...from Front Page

Leap Year Birthdays: Uncommonly Good!

... continued from page A1

"Some computer programs refuse to accept that February 29th exists!"

Bronwyn's mother Kate Hutchison said her daughter was the only baby born that day at Alta Bates Hospital's usually busy maternity ward. "Over the years it has been a lot of fun watching people's reactions to Bronwyn's birth date," she said. Families tend to make that special birthday celebration memorable: Bronwyn recalls a Princess party on her "first" birthday, and a Hawaiian theme party on her "second". "I do have the best birthday in the world," she said.

Isabella went to Florida when she turned "one" and says her parents have a "special surprised planned" this year. With a sister born near Thanksgiving and a brother born between Christmas and New Year's, Wiltshire's birth date was less unique in his family. And this year, "although it's taken me 80 years to become an adult," he says his daughters are throwing him a dinner party.

Expectant mothers sometimes anguish over delivering a Leap Year baby. Kate Hutchison said she was "even willing to share my [late February] birthday," rather than have Bronwyn on February 29th. Kathryn Morris agreed, "When I was pregnant, [Olivia] was overdue and I was desperate to have the baby...the one day I don't want to give birth is the 29th [of February]."

To put that special birthday in perspective, just talk to Leanne Parsons. She missed being a Leap Year baby by one hour. Parsons, who was born by cesarean section, said her dad wanted her to have a February 29th birthdate, but her mother did not. "Since my mom was the one pregnant with me for nine months she won, and at 11:00 p.m. February 28th I was born," she

said. "I have always wished that my dad had gotten his way."

Wiltshire recalls crossing the International Date Line while at sea on one birthday. He had a friend in the maritime industry whose birthday was also February 29. For years, the two competed to see who could telephone the other first with birthday greetings.

In contrast, Bronwyn had not met

anyone sharing her special day until *Lamorinda Weekly* put out the call for Leap Year babies. She now knows three others, and one near-miss. Although younger Leap Year folk may be anxious for their special birthday to come around, Wiltshire has learned to be patient, and philosophical. "A few of us are just a bit slow regarding the aging process, and I guess that can't be all that bad."

Leap Year Traditions

Years divisible by four are Leap Years in the Gregorian calendar. Centuries not divisible by 400 are not Leap Years. Thus, 2000 and 2400 are leap years, while 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200, 2300 and 2500 are not. Under early English law, February 29th was ignored and had no legal status.

Leap Years are considered unlucky for marriage. Scotland supposedly passed a law in 1288 allowing women to propose marriage during Leap Years. By tradition any man who declined a Leap Year proposal had to pay a fine, often a pair of gloves (to hide the woman's hands, bare of any engagement ring).

Guinness Book of Records verifies one family who produced three consecutive generations born on February 29:

- Peter Anthony Keogh was born in Ireland on February 29, 1940;
- Son Peter Eric was born on the Leap Day in the United Kingdom (UK) in 1964.
- Peter's daughter, Bethany Wealth, was born in the UK on February 29, 1996.

A Norwegian family named Henriksen holds the official record for number of children born on February 29: three. Karin Henriksen had daughter Heidi in 1960 and sons Olav in 1964 and Leif-Martin in 1968. Leap years also appear with varying rules in the Julian, Chinese, Jewish, Persian, Islamic, Bahai, Hindu and Ethiopian calendars

2012 is also a leap second year.

A leap second is measured by an atomic clock, and added to or subtracted from Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) to make it agree with astronomical time.

A leap second compensates for slowing in the Earth's rotation. The first leap second was added to atomic clocks in 1972.

A positive leap second will be introduced the end of June, but that's probably another story...

(online sources: Time and Date, Leap Year Day)
C. Dausman

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Gentle Warrior Brings Maasai Culture to Burton Valley



By Cathy Dausman



Lila Chatterton, 5th grade, listens closely to her Maasai "rafiki", or friend, Salaton Ole Ntutu. Photos Cathy Dausman

With a hearty "Jambo!" (hello) Salaton Ole Ntutu strode into two Burton Valley Elementary classrooms on a visit February 21. The Maasai tribesman had travelled halfway across the world to share stories of life in East Africa's Republic of Kenya, fundraise for widows and education within his village and promote eco-tourism.

Dressed in red robes (which he called "a powerful color") and adorned with a sheepskin and jewelry made by villagers, Ntutu carried a staff and buffalo tail, and quickly made "rafiki" (friends) with the students.

In Meredith Dolley's first grade class he spoke of the Maasai's coexistence amid legendary big game animals like the lion,

rhino, elephant and buffalo. In answer to one student's question, Ntutu said he has killed seven lions, but only in self-defense. "[Maasai] Warriors don't fight," he said simply.

Ntutu taught students how to count in Swahili, how to imitate the "generous" hyena's call, showed them a Maasai dance and reminded each to "listen to your elders". He told them village children their age (6 or 7) are expected to tend their family's cattle or sheep during the day.

Fifth graders in Claudia Norton's class inquired about Ntutu's siblings - he is the youngest of six, in a family of three boys, three girls - his two children, and asked him how old he is. "I don't know," he said honestly, explaining that the

Maasai tie age to events in nature, like floods or droughts. Ntutu's passport lists his birth date as Dec 24, 1971. But Ntutu knows that is incorrect, because it would make him older than the birth dates his siblings have listed on their government IDs.

The Maasai classify themselves simply, as a child, a warrior or an elder. Ntutu is an elder. Villagers carry their "bedding" (a blanket) with them; it is wrapped around their shoulders and worn as clothing during the day. They bring their cattle inside huts to sleep at night. A typical morning for Ntutu might include a breakfast of maize paste, some work as a medicine man, and some time spent overseeing village affairs.

Before leaving the classroom, Salaton Ole Ntutu laid his

hands atop each student's head and bestowed a "sopa" or blessing. Lastly, he questioned his audience: "Do you know what color a zebra is?" The answers, both black and white, brought a smile to his face. After interlacing his fingers with those of a fair skinned student, Ntutu proclaimed: "Then we are zebras too!"

Ntutu was hosted in the Bay area by Susan Olofson (<http://www.susanolofson.com/index.htm>)

He was invited to speak at Burton Valley Elementary through his connection with Gail McCormick, a board chairman of the nonprofit Jamii Moja (www.jamii moja.org). McCormick has two grandchildren attending Burton Valley Elementary.



Fifth grade students in Claudia Norton's class listen attentively to Salaton Ole Ntutu's stories. The Maasai tribesman from Kenya spent most of February in the U.S. on a goodwill/fundraising mission.

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Jazz Festival Coming Soon



Last year's performance

Photo Doug Kohen

Now in its twelfth year, the Lafayette Jazz Festival will kick off the magic on Friday, March 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the Acalanes Performing Arts Center. Sponsored by Generations in Jazz Foundation, both nights and the Sunday matinee show of the Festival have unique themes with top performers and soon-to-be famous student musicians from the area.

play a unique blend of modern electronic influenced grooves and improvisation. They will be joined by the award-winning Acalanes Jazz Ensemble led by Norm Dea.

Closing the Festival on Sunday, March 11, at 3:00 p.m. is "Honor That Jazz," featuring the Contra Costa County Middle School Honor Jazz Band, followed by the Contra Costa County High School Honor Jazz Band.

"An International Connection" is the Friday evening opener for the Festival, featuring International Artist J. Kyle Gregory and his quartet, along with Bob Athayde and the Stanley Jazz Messengers - promising students from sixth through eighth grade.

Tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce, (925) 284-7404 or by visiting their website at www.lafayettechamber.org. All shows will be at the Acalanes Performing Arts Center, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road—\$10 for adults and \$5 for students for the evening performances. The Sunday "Honor That Jazz" matinee is only \$5 general admission. *C. Tyson*

The fun continues on Saturday, March 10, also at 7:30 p.m., with "Jazz for the Ages" featuring the Realistic Orchestra, comprised of some of the Bay Area's finest Big Band musicians that



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Town Hall Meeting Almost Not Illuminating



Photo Cathy Dausman

Over three dozen Lamorindans attended an overview presentation of the California budget by Senator Mark DeSaulnier February 23 at Lafayette Community Center. Asked if he'd oppose a sales tax increase, DeSaulnier replied "No. It's weakening the education system." He offered to meet with parents to discuss their school district's financial concerns. DeSaulnier will hold another local meeting at Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda, March 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. To contact his office directly, call (925) 942-6082. *C. Dausman*

During the second hour, he took questions, which centered on tax and education concerns. Asked if he'd oppose a sales tax increase, DeSaulnier replied "No. It's weakening the education system." He offered to meet with parents to discuss their school district's financial concerns. DeSaulnier will hold another local meeting at Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda, March 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. To contact his office directly, call (925) 942-6082. *C. Dausman*

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Enlightening Jan Term for SMC Students

By Sophie Braccini



Photos provided

Traveling to a poor country can be both sobering and humbling. A Jan Term trip to Cambodia left some Saint Mary's College students reevaluating the meaning of happiness, and how it is achieved. Sophomore Chelsea DeVries describes the trip as a learning experience that has changed her life.

Jan(uary) Term is a unique Saint Mary's academic session in which, during the month of January, students are required to take a single course and encouraged to choose one that is outside their major. Offerings include on- and off- campus classes, and independent study projects.

DeVries, an Orinda resident, was among the 18 SMC students who chose to travel to the developing nation that is both struggling and determined to transform itself. The course was developed, under the leadership of Susie Miller-Reid, SMC's Director of the Center for International Programs, and Orinda's Ksenija Olmer, an experienced traveler and philanthropist, to teach, build wells and broaden the life experience of the young adult participants.

The trip was organized partially around Cambodian Panha Ou's Child's Dream Organization, which raises money to build wells for villagers who do not have access to reliable sources of water. "This project creates job for local labor and gives a reliable and long term source of water to families," says Olmer, who became acquainted with Ou while visiting Cambodia herself.

Before leaving on their adventure, the students learned about the country and raised money to build wells. In the Cambodian villages, they taught English and dental hygiene to chil-

dren. They were able to collect enough money to build 13 wells. The last part of the trip was dedicated to travel and cultural discovery.

"Working with the kids in the schools was my favorite part," said DeVries, "their happiness surprised me most. They are living in homes with holes in the floor, they have no water, they have to work in the field. They draw their happiness from the small things in their lives. I realized that happiness can be found where ever you want, you just have to be willing to find it."

Fellow Jan Term traveler Paul Nnaoji agreed, "What surprised me most was the gracefulness with which the people of Cambodia live their lives. They are a nation that has endured many hardships, yet when you look around, you can't help but notice the warmth and kindness that beams from the streets."

"Cambodia opened my eyes to unconditional happiness," added SMC student Tara Bhatnagar, "the individuals I encountered had nothing in comparison to the average American, yet they were glowing and so positive. Dwelling on meaningless problems and allowing those issues to overtake a perfectly good day is something I will not allow myself to do. Happiness is not achieved with possessions or wealth, but by what you do with what you are blessed with. This is something that will resonate with me forever."

The students also reflect on SMC's Lassalian tradition of philanthropy. "There is no greater gift to yourself than helping those in need," acknowledges Bhatnagar.

"Never underestimate the size of your contribution, because even one

dollar can make a difference in someone else's life," says Nnaoji, "and you're never too young to start making a positive difference in the world. I learned that from seeing my peers do amazing things throughout the whole trip."

Now back on campus, the participants continue to feel the impact of the trip. DeVries says that she measures everything in wells, "A designer bag is half a well," she says, "you really reevaluate the value of things." She says that in the long term, she hopes to return to Cambodia and apply the economics she is studying at SMC.

Olmer will make a presentation about the trip and the non-profit work in Cambodia to the American Association of University Women on March 20th, 10:00 a.m., at the Serbian Orthodox Church in Moraga. Guests are welcome.

To learn more go to www.friendsofcd.org.



Spring Musicals Underway at Local High Schools

By Cathy Dausman



Nathaniel Pergamit (Benny South Street), Andy Grubbs (Nathan Detroit), Matt Patera (Nicely Nicely), Benjamin Thomas (Sky Masterson)

Photo Cathy Dausman

The Lamorinda hills will soon be alive with the sound of music as three local high schools present their spring musical theater performances. This year's offerings are *Once Upon a Mattress*, at Acalanes High School, *Guys & Dolls* at Campolindo High School and *Once Upon a Mattress* at

Miramonte High School. Both musicals are lighthearted works designed for a large cast, making them great opportunities to showcase talented high school singers, dancers and comic actors. Costumes and sets are pure eye candy.

Once Upon a Mattress is a twist on the Hans Christian Anderson fairy

tale *The Princess and the Pea*. In a small medieval kingdom, Prince Dauntless searches for a suitable bride. A pea placed under twenty mattresses is designed to test suitable candidates, but with a cunning queen on the throne, it's not easy.

... continued on page B4



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The Steps to Success for the College Transfer Student

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

A student recently wrote to me, “My family can’t afford to send me straight to a four-year college. My dream is to attend a community college and transfer to UC San Diego. I’m adopted and have loving parents. My goal is to earn a degree in social work and work as an adoption case-worker. What are my chances of filling all the requirements, and holding down a part-time job and still transfer in two years? I am willing to live at home. The state budget cuts to public education have hit harder in some areas than others, but I hear many stories about students not being able to get core classes. I know getting the right advice at the right time is very important.”

Unfortunately, this student’s predicament is not unique. A slice of historical context helps. The Master Plan for Higher Education, ratified in 1960, created the community college system and its accompanying transfer option to a four-year state university. As designed in 1960 the system rested heavily on a healthy transfer function between the California Community Colleges (CCCs) (112 state-wide accredited two-year colleges) and California’s public four-year institutions. The role of the CCCs remains critical to a healthy transfer path to California’s public four-year institutions (nine University of California campuses, UCs, and 23 California State Universities, hereafter, CSUs). However, the demographics and fiscal realities of the state have changed dramatically. Students who plan to attend a community college and utilize the transfer path bravely confront a new world.

The following recommendations can help high school students plan how to use the transfer path successfully.

1. Don’t make community college an afterthought: The community college option should not be a late addition to your college admissions plan. You should create a written game plan for the full two years. Although the plan will likely change based on the availability of classes, schedule conflicts or a change in a student’s academic goals, having a plan ensures you get and stay on track.

2. Go beyond your high school’s requirements for graduation: Earning a grade of ‘C’ or preferably ‘B’ or better in UC/CSU required coursework

in high school increases your chances of passing the required assessment exams that place you in college English and math coursework in a community college environment. That could mean skipping over remedial classes which have no transfer credits.

3. Participate in the Early Assessment Program: The EAP is offered to juniors at their high schools. Through EAP California juniors have the opportunity to measure their English and math skills towards the end of 11th grade. Juniors can assess their college ‘readiness’ and plan their final year in high school to take coursework which will strengthen their ability to be successful in the CCC system. EAP was made mandatory in March 2010 for students who plan to attend a CSU, some CCCs are participating and it may become mandatory for all CCCs. Learn more at www.calstate.edu/acadaff/EarlyStart/docs/ES_FAQs.pdf.

4. Identify your transfer path in high school: At the end of your junior year or early in your senior year begin to research both the CCCs as well as the 4-year public or private universities you are interested in attending to complete your degree. Visit the campuses and make appointments with the counseling departments. Then really zero in on the schools that make it to your final list.

5. Discover articulation agreements: Most CCCs have what are called “articulation agreements” often with both private and public 4-year schools. These matriculation agreements specify the required general education courses and prerequisites for your intended major. Select classes with your articulation plan clearly in mind. Since universities, especially state schools, can and do change their transfer requirements, staying current on the changes is your responsibility. The state’s budgetary challenges can make the transfer path a moving target. Your best bet is to check your articulation agreement criteria at www.assist.org and identify a counselor you can work with at the CCC. Then stay in touch by meeting early and often.

6. Be prepared to enroll in classes at more than one CCC: Despite the inconvenience, you may have to take required, transferrable coursework at more than one CCC in order to get the classes you need to move forward

along the transfer path.

7. Take a College Success class: Learning how to balance academics with the other obligations in your life is critical. Taking a college student success course at a CCC which offers one during the summer before you start classes will focus your attention on the development of an academic plan with associated milestones. These classes are becoming more popular, and early research indicates students who take them are more likely to transfer successfully.

8. Your grade point average (GPA) is the best predictor of success: Just as in high school, your GPA (in classes that have transfer credits) is the single most important factor in the transfer admissions decision. Study hard and get tutoring help early. Don’t wait to fail or drop a class. That only delays your transfer plans.

9. Don’t let life get in the way: Students who can attend CCC full-time are more likely to earn a degree. Try to build the rest of your life around your academic priorities. Living at home for the first year or even two years helps to ensure that earning money will not get in the way of earning your degree.

Visit www.assist.org for detailed information to guide your transfer path; this website, and the CCC counselors, are indispensable tools as you navigate the process.



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

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Spring Musicals Underway at Local High Schools

... continued from page B3

The show made its Broadway stage appearance in 1959, with Carole Burnett in the starring role; she reprised the role on television. The Acalanes version is a production of the school’s Concert Choir, and is largely student-run, from costumes to makeup to choreography. Miramonte’s version takes the Princess Winifred challenge seriously, layering mattress upon mattress on stage to make a bed high enough for nosebleeds.

Guys & Dolls is set in New York City circa 1950. The Frank Loesser (he wrote the lyrics) website calls it “a fable about what happens to gambling men and the women who long to tame them.” It says “Guys & Dolls is populated with gangsters and gamblers, [Salvation Army-type] ministers and showgirls.”

Campolindo’s musical features two full casts rotating through eight performances.

But don’t choose just one show, or two; there are enough performances to enjoy all three! Here are details:

At Acalanes High School: Once Upon a Mattress

Venue: Performing Arts Center

Show dates: February 29, March 1-3

Show times: 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: adults, \$16; students and seniors (60+) \$14

Buy them online at www.acalaneschoral.org

At Campolindo High School: Guys & Dolls

Venue: Performing Arts Center

Show dates: March 15, 16, 17 and March 22, 23, 24

Show times: 7:30 p.m.; matinees March 17 and 24 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$18 and \$13, depending on show

Buy them: online at www.campochoir.com

or deliver form and payment to CHS choir room.

Unsold tickets sell at box office before the show.

At Miramonte High School: Once Upon a Mattress

Venue: Miramonte Theater

Show dates: March 15, 16, 22, 23; matinees March 17, 18 at 4 p.m.

Show times: 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$10-20; opening night special: \$5 for OIS and MHS students with ID.

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By Popular Demand—Printmakers Exhibit at Town Hall Theatre

By Andrea A. Firth



Homestead, a drypoint/collagraph etching, by Sherry Smith Bell on exhibit at Town Hall Theatre. Photo provided

“Printmaking is a process,” says artist Sherry Smith Bell, “And it’s always a surprise.”

“Yes, it’s like magic,” adds artist Dalia Alekna, “You do all the planning and preparation, but you never know quite what the work will look like until it comes through the press.”

Bell and Alekna are members of the Lafayette Printmaking Workshop—a devoted group of local artists whose media is printmaking. The artwork of these two artists and of their workshop colleagues, Lynn Curtis, Ruth Gendler, and Elizabeth Jameson, is currently on display at Town Hall Theatre. The 16 works that comprise the exhibit aptly titled *By Popular Demand* can be viewed in the lobby of the theater through March 24th.

Bell, a nationally recognized printmaker, has been mentoring artists in the methods of printmaking at her Lafayette-based studio for over twenty-five years. She started the workshop when she moved back to the area from the east coast as a way to create an artist community and to nurture other printmakers and her own art. “Plus I had this fabulous press to share,” says Bell. The Meeker McPhee, a good-size press that can accommodate up to 36-inch paper, is electric which makes it easy for anyone to use, according to Bell.

Conscious of the environmental impact of printmaking art even back

when the workshop launched in 1984, Bell steered the group away from the standard acid baths and chemicals, and they committed to take a more ecologically gentle approach to their art.

Over the years more than 50 artists have been part of the workshop, which meets twice a week for a full day of printmaking. “It takes time,” says Bell, “And then there is always a mandatory break for lunch.” An important part of the workshop is the artists sharing, both about their art and their lives. “Sherry [Bell] develops each individual artist and helps them to express who they are,” says Alekna.

“My art is a diary of my life. It’s my story,” says Bell, “I try to help other artists do the same.” Bell’s artwork reflects her Oklahoma roots and childhood memories of time spent on her grandparents’ farm. Her prints depict the brilliant blue skies and yellow and orange fields of grains as a backdrop to the clapboard barns she explored as a youth.

Another poignant example of the connection between an artist’s life and her art is the printmaking of workshop member Elizabeth Jameson. Formerly a lawyer who relied heavily on the spoken word to deliver her message, Jameson’s speech was compromised by a significant multiple sclerosis episode. She worked to regain her speech but continuing life as

a practicing lawyer was not realistic. Jameson joined Bell’s workshop about five years ago and soon began to combine the brain scans that documented her disease, the magnetic resonance images (MRIs), with printmaking. She saturates the computerized neurological images with vibrant colors providing a new insight into the brain. A selection of Jameson’s MRI-based printmaking portraits is on permanent display at Harvard University’s Center for Brain Science.

The exhibit was coordinated through the Lamorinda Arts Alliance, which has partnered with the Town Hall Theatre for almost two decades. “Our audiences love the fact that each time they visit the theater they get the opportunity to see a different display of fabulous art by local talent,” says THT Artistic Director Clive Worsley. “In fact our first meetings were held in the Town Hall lobby in 1994,” says JoAnn Lieberman, an Alliance member and the exhibit curator. “By graciously providing us with gallery space all year long, Town Hall Theatre enables us to promote both established and emerging artists.”

The *By Popular Demand* exhibiting artists are hosting a free reception in the Town Hall Theatre lobby on Saturday, March 3rd from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm just prior to the theater’s main stage production of *Disturbed*.

SMC’s March French Film Festival

By Sophie Braccini

The curtain has gone down on this year’s California Independent Film Festival, but Saint Mary’s College is ready with a new opportunity for the cinema enthusiast: the Tournées Festival. Five recent French films will be shown at the Soda Activity Center during the month of March. Most of the films have already screened locally, but if you missed them this is a great opportunity to brush up on your French—fear not, the films are subtitled—and see some truly excellent films for just a few dollars.

The Tournées Festival aims at bringing contemporary French cinema to American college and university campuses. Now in its 16th year, the program is offered by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French Ministry of Culture.

At SMC, the Festival is organized by the Department of Modern Languages and the French Club. Dr. Helga Lenart-Cheng put forward the application to bring the Festival to the campus. “I asked my students for recommendations. We chose a mix of films: some of them appeal to large audiences, others may take us outside our comfort zones,” she says, “but

they all are beautiful reflections on life that will surely inspire positive soul-searching.”

She hopes to reach out to the Bay Area’s Francophile community, “In particular our neighbors from the Lamorinda community,” she adds.

Middle and high school students

are also invited, but if an entire class wishes to come the organizers ask that the teacher get in touch with them in advance so that they can plan accordingly. For more information, contact Helga Lenart-Cheng, Department of Modern Languages, Saint Mary’s College: hl4@stmarys-ca.edu.

All shows start at 7:00 p.m. in the Soda Activity Center, Saint Mary’s College of California, 1928 St. Mary’s Rd., Moraga. Tickets are \$3 for non-students (free for students).

Thursday March 1st: “Coco Avant Chanel (Coco before Chanel)” explores the pre-fame life of the world’s greatest fashion designer focusing on Coco Chanel during the Belle Epoque, ending with World War I.

Thursday, March 8: “La Mome La Vie En Rose” features Marion Cotillard (Midnight in Paris) as Edith Piaf in her constant battle to sing and survive, to live and love.

Sunday, March 11: “Des Dieux Et Des Hommes (Of Gods and Men)” is a sublime tale of faith and doubt based on a real incident. The film chronicles the story of eight French Trappist monks living in an impoverished Algerian village.

Tuesday, March 20: Un Prophete (A Prophet) is the clear-eyed examination of the ambiguous figure Malik, a 19-year-old uneducated French-Arab entering prison, as he maneuvers the laws and loyalties of the violent prison world.

Monday, March 26: “Entre Les Murs (The Class)” is the winner of the 2008 Palme d’Or at Cannes. The film follows a class at a diverse Parisian public junior high school.

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TEEN SCENE

Consider This... Reliability?

By Steven Zhou

In the last edition of *Consider This* in *Teen Scene*, we talked about how teenagers are often faced with difficult decisions on what they do with their free time. The emphasis was on trying new activities and taking the time to pursue your passions. But what happens when you simply put too much on your already full plate?

Our Express Yourself! Teen Radio Show survives by the reliability of our guests and team members to be prepared, on time, and on topic. Without each reporter being responsible and accountable for a specific segment, the program could not be broadcast every week. It takes a substantial amount of coordinating, writing, editing, recording, and promoting to produce a successful show. Production takes time, and as overscheduled Lamorinda teens, our time is precious.

You may think that this leaves a lot of holes where items may "fall through the cracks" and you'd be right. We've had several last minute cancellations, many of them in this past month alone, that forced us to scramble to reorganize the show, find a backup guest, or fill in.

Unreliable and unpredictable people are the bane of a school system, society, or a radio program whose success is based on interdependency. Being an organized person, when presented with such situations, I've found myself frustrated at the complications that cancellations, delays, or postponements produce. But now, I'm starting to see these scenarios from the other side of the tunnel.

I write this as I fight off a fever, recover from a school weekend trip to Santa Cruz in which I had no sleep, and respond to the fifty plus emails and

calls I received while my phone was powered down. There are times when we put too much on our plates, and now seems to be that time for me. I could very easily have not written a *Consider This* article, and become one of the people I despise—the unreliable "flake."

While speaking with friends from our local schools, being over-extended seems to be part of the Lamorinda culture. We all have too many things to juggle—college applications, tournaments, sporting events, volunteer activities, homework, church, family obligations, not to mention social interactions and fun times. Christy H. from Acalanes commented that she prefers working on personal projects over team assignments as then she knows that she is 100% responsible to only herself. Many times one or more participants drop the ball when working on a group assignment. Either everyone suffers the consequences or one person steps up to rescue the rest.

I'm not sure what the solution is to a balanced schedule. But consider this: while it is wise not to overwhelm oneself, it is also essential to be reliable, responsible, and accountable for the obligations undertaken. It's simply wrong to drop duties without a second thought. The activities in which we engage in our teen years prepare us for the real world. We need to ask ourselves an important question. How much can I offer or do and still be dependable? If we can't be reliable, it's best to clean our plates.

A senior at Miramonte, Steven Zhou is the administrator and co-host of the international teen radio show *Express Yourself!* heard on the *Voice America Kids Network*, Tuesdays at noon.

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

THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

**White and Yellow Pages
Developer: Avantar, LLC
For: iPhones and Androids
Cost: FREE**

Have you ever needed a phone number or address quickly and couldn't find it fast enough? I have found the download to this dilemma. The White and Yellow Pages app is like a phone book in your pocket, minus the hassle and the weight! In fact, this app is better than a phone book, because when you head out of Lamorinda, it connects to your GPS.

Simple, easy to navigate, and loaded with a variety of search features, this is another one of those "must have" apps for all Android and iPhone users. When the app opens you can choose to search for a business, person, or phone number. A terrific added feature is the microphone that the developer thought to provide for use during the search. You may speak or type in the name of the person, number, or place you wish to locate. Tap the search button and receive your requested information immediately.

Another feature on this app is the search via the "popular" mode. This is broken down into various categories including food,

banks, lodging, gas, etc. If you are looking for a bank you will find 15 in Lamorinda. Simply tapping the haircut icon displayed over 45 hair salons in this area. Who knew there were so many local options to get your hair cut?

This app also lists searches by proximity. Not only can you find an address, you can immediately determine how long it will take you to get there. If you are not familiar with the location, no problem, because White and Yellow Pages provides a direct link to the directions page on Google maps. Calling is a snap because an icon pops up with the phone number. If those features are not enough, there is even a share feature via email, Facebook, or Twitter.

When you want a fast, reliable way to get numbers and addresses, forget about lugging around that old fashion phone book. Look no further than your smart phone to the White and Yellow Pages app.

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

Miramonte's Elective Fair

Submitted by Catherine Soso



Photo provided

Teachers and student representatives served up some fun to Orinda Intermediate School eighth graders on Thursday afternoon, February 9. Staged in the cafeteria, the Fair was created to inform next year's incoming freshman about their elective choices. Of course, it was also an opportunity for staff to promote their favorite subjects and for current MHS students to explain their love of a specific elective. Which classes give the dreaded "homework" yet why might it be worth it? Do I already need to know about the subject or have a specific skill to enjoy the course? What college admissions requirement does it fulfill? Will I get to hang out with cool students if I take this class?

While these questions and many

more were answered there seemed to be collateral benefits to the event. Some students attended with their parents (even though it was tough to be seen with them!) Others walked from OIS in clusters to campus, excited to get a preview of life as a Miramonte student. The quad was occupied by the cheerleaders for their regular practice, usually held in the cafeteria but ousted by the Fair. School spirit was a solid welcome for the impending freshmen.

Passports were issued listing all of the represented Electives. If students visited every table and had their passport "stamped" they were eligible to enter a drawing for choice Miramonte "swag" (logo hats and t-shirts.) There were seven diligent winners. Classrooms were open to

tour for the following 30 minutes. The Drama Department performed in the theater and public speakers (Oral Interpretation) were on hand to demonstrate their skills. The Choral Department was busy sorting through their Choir Gram orders (songs for sale delivered on Valentine's Day to unsuspecting fellow MHS students.) World Languages (French, Mandarin, Latin and Spanish) had a big impact with music, sombreros, shields and more. Art, Digital Photo, Foods and Engineering Drawing were engaged throughout the Fair. Copies of the Journalism student newspaper "Mirador" were flying off the table.

The trial year for the Fair became a reality with an extended effort by the Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Department Chair, Kristen Plant. Her energy is contagious and her vision to create a new tradition at Miramonte is commendable.

The Educational Foundation of Orinda funds most of these programs while state funding continues to diminish. A quote from Albert Einstein sort of sums it up: "Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will get you everywhere." Elective courses can be fun, challenging and lead students in new directions. As part of a well rounded student body, they are an essential educational component at Miramonte.

For more information:

Videos of Elective Courses offered at Miramonte
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/Page/839

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12th Annual Science Fair at St. Perpetua

Submitted by Monica Chappell



Photo Kerry Armistead

The excitement of science was brought to life at the 12th Annual St. Perpetua School Science Fair, which was held on February 2nd and was hosted by the Junior High students (grades 6-8). This hands-on exposition featured exhibits and experiments designed with the future scientist in mind. "New this year, Camp Galileo presented their earthquake table. Here, the students could build a structure to see if it could withstand an earth-

quake" explained Principal Karen Goodshaw. Three winners from each grade were awarded first, second and third place ribbons and were honored at a school luncheon hosted by science teacher Natalie Deininger. The top projects from 7th and 8th grade went on to compete in the Oakland Diocesan Science Fair held on February 25. For more information about St. Perpetua School's Science Fair results visit www.stperpetua.org.

Lafayette Eighth-Grader to Compete in State-wide Arts Competition

Submitted by Gen Topping



Photo Blanca Anderson

Stanley Middle School student Lucy Clearwater was recently

selected to represent the middle-school age group of the PTA District of Contra Costa County at the state-wide Reflections competition. Lucy's winning song, "Come Back Home" will go up against the work of other musicians in her age group from all counties state-wide, with the winner moving on to the National competition.

Reflections is a nation-wide competition sponsored by the National PTA encouraging students to create original works of art in six categories, both for fun and recognition. Lucy not only wrote the music and lyrics, but she performs all vocals and instrumentals as well.



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Generating Business Leads from Newspaper Articles

By Sophie Braccini



Ray Zegri at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Photo Barbara Gilmore

Ray Zegri, Audience Development Executive of the San Francisco Business Times, presented the talk, "Generating Business Leads from Newspaper Articles" to a packed house at the Lafayette Entrepreneur's Club on February 16. Armed with a copy of that publication, he walked the audience through its different sections, pointing out opportunities to generate business or add power to one's job search.

"I'll never look at the paper the same way again," said Chamber Member and Massage Therapist Alexandra De Avalon at the end of the meeting.

Zegri came to the Lafayette Chamber with a well-rehearsed message: people who regularly read the paper will find an infinite source of information that will allow them to proactively contact potential clients and grow their business.

Indicating an article about a

group that is buying up hundreds of apartments in the area, he suggested that this could be an amazing opportunity for someone in the air conditioning or door repair business, as certain members of the audience were, to generate business. News briefs about recent promotions or new hires can be useful, he said, because "this is a great time to contact these people—they are new in their jobs, they want to put their mark on their team; there won't be a better time to reach them."

The Entrepreneur's Club meets at 8:30 a.m. in the Lafayette Chamber Office on the 3rd Thursday of each month. It is open to all businesses, large or small, Chamber members or not. For more information go to <http://lafayettechamber.org/contact-us/entrepreneurs-club/>. For more information about SFBT go to <http://www.bizjournals.com/san-francisco/>.

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business briefs

New Bike Store Opens in Lafayette

Traction Bikes
3568 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
www.tractionbikes.com

In mid-February Mike Bran opened Traction Bikes in Lafayette. Bran opened his first shop in Pleasant Hill some 30 years ago. He felt that it was time for him to move to a more bicycle-friendly community and Lafayette was at the top of his list. "There are other bicycle shops in this city," says Bran, "but we believe that there is room for different styles here." Bran carries brands that he says are not to be found anywhere else in Lafayette. "We have more European brands here," he says, adding that people can also custom build their very own unique cycle in his store. "There are online operations that let you do that, but here you can test it," explains Bran, "you can pick whatever components you need and like." Bran believes that it does not cost that much more to have a custom bike assembled to order.

Coming Up in Moraga: Tangelo Frozen Yogurt

May Lo filed a conditional use permit request to operate a Frozen Yogurt retail store at 384 Park Street in the Rheem Shopping Center. The Planning Commission will consider the application at its March 6th meeting.

Changing of the Guard at Peacock Construction

Peacock Construction, Inc., a Lafayette-based construction firm specializing in commercial, institutional and industrial interiors, has elected Kyle W. Peacock as president and chief executive officer. Previously, Peacock served as a Vice President of the firm which serves San Francisco and the East Bay. Bill Peacock, who previously served as president and chief executive officer, will continue as chairman of the company's board of directors. A privately owned firm, Peacock Construction, Inc. was founded 30 years ago, and has extensive experience with office and retail construction, restaurants, retail show rooms, banks, brokerage offices, labs, medical office buildings and hospitals. The company employs an in-house crew able to construct complete build-outs or respond to simple service requests.

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Local insurance broker offers a way for families to support their schools without opening up their wallets: Henry Yang, Managing Broker at Total Integrity Insurance Services, is proposing a "Support Our Local Schools" program, supported by Total Integrity. "The company will donate 10% of net income, from every single policy issued, to the school, school district, or education foundation of the client's choice," said Wang. For more information: <http://www.SupportOurLocalSchools.com/> or contact henry@totalintegrityinsurance.com, (925) 247-4356.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette
Chamber Mixer at the Round Up Saloon, March 14, 5:30-7pm, 3553 Mt Diablo Blvd.
Ribbon Cutting for Pedder, Hesseltine, Walker & Toth LLP, March 8, 5pm, 3445 Golden Gate Way.

The Secrets of with High-Powered Email Marketing Campaigns, March 7, 8am at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Don Wexler will present the tools and ingredients

to create a dynamite email campaign. Attendees will learn about the entire process—from building a list to formatting the actual email. As a bonus, Don is offering to review existing promotional emails. Don Wexler is the founder of and chief strategist for Blast My Biz, an online marketing company and a partner in mobile text (sms) marketing platform.

Social Media Workshop on March 21 at 8am at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Improve your online image with by Social Media Coach Robin Fox. RSVP workshops@lafayettechamber.org.

Celebration Dinner for the 2012 Lafayette Citizen of the Year, Gayle Uilkema, on March 23 at the Lafayette Park Hotel. Contact the Chamber at 284-7404 for reservation details.



Tracy Hughes-Matson, owner of Soccer Post, celebrated with the Lafayette Chamber and guests at a ribbon cutting ceremony for her new location at 3400 Mount Diablo Boulevard, Ste. 2. Photo Barbara Gilmore



Benci Lavorini, owner of European Tile & Marble Co., celebrated with the Lafayette Chamber and guests at a ribbon cutting ceremony for the expansion of their location at 3400 Mount Diablo Boulevard, Ste. 5. Photo Andy Scheck

Moraga

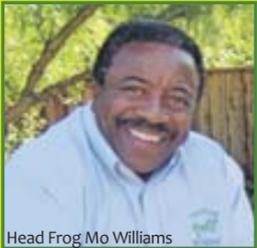
"Shred Fest" event, Saturday, March 3 at 455 Moraga Rd., 10am-1pm. Protect yourself from identity theft by safely destroying your unwanted documents containing personal data. The event is held in conjunction with 5A Rent-A-Space and the E-Waste Event. In addition, you will receive a free complimentary guide on record retention requirements, "How long do I have to keep what records?" Sponsored by Hall of Taxes. All net proceeds will go to Rescue One Moraga which supports the Moraga/Orinda Fire District. \$5 per bankers box. For more information call Peggy Hall at (925) 388-1040.

Orinda

Save the date for the 3rd Annual "Live at the Orinda" on Friday March 2nd from 6:45pm at the Orinda Theatre. Tickets: Advance Open Seating \$35; \$40 at event. Age: 17 and older. Online tickets and more information at orindachamber.com.

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

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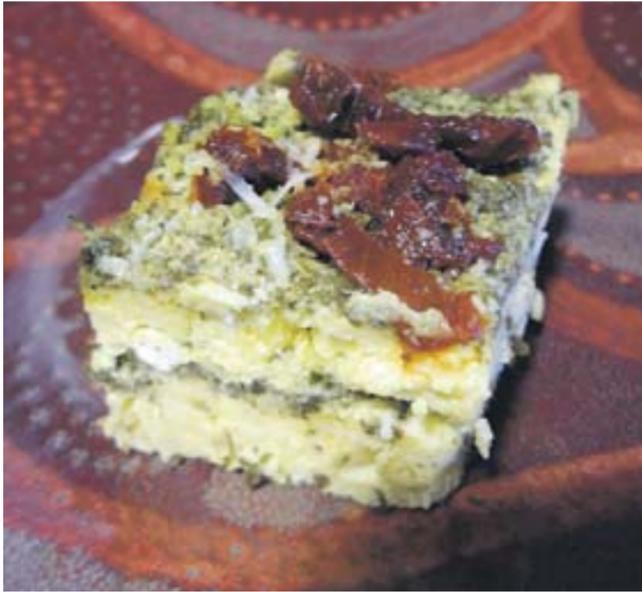
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Polenta Tortas – Nothing Corny About Them!

By Susie Iventosch



A slice of polenta torta

Photo Susie Iventosch

The term Italian term "torta" can refer to a dessert such as a cake, pie, tart or other elaborate dessert, but it also is the name given to a variety of savory dishes, often containing a creamy cheese, herbs or vegetables. Here, we will focus on the latter, as we make a beautiful and delicious polenta torta. This dish makes a pretty presentation and can be made in any serving dish with sides that are at least two inches high.

I ran out to HomeGoods to find this cute serving dish, but what I originally wanted was a glass dish to show off the layering effect. If you have a spring form pan, that would work as well. Also, you can make as many layers as you like. I only made two, but three would be very nice, in-

deed!

Though this recipe calls for pesto, sundried tomatoes and blue cheese, it can easily be made with goat cheese and a filling of caramelized onions with sautéed arugula or spinach. Some recipes call for roasted vegetables, while others use sausage, onion and tomato filling. It's kind of like pizza, in that you can be creative and make up fillings to satisfy your own tastes and desires!

The dish can be made ahead of time and reheated before serving, or can be served at room temperature. For this reason, it makes a nice party dish, and come to think of it, might be good fare for the Bunco, Book, and Bridge club gatherings in the neighborhood!

Polenta-Pesto Torta

(Serves 6-8 as a side dish, 4-5 as a main course)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ¼ cups water
- 1 ¼ cups chicken broth
- 1 ¼ cup half & half or milk
- 1 cup yellow cornmeal
- ½ cup crumbled blue cheese (can use Gorgonzola or goat cheese)
- ½ teaspoon hot sauce
- 1 cup prepared pesto (or make your own-even better!)
- ¾ cup sundried tomatoes, drained and cut into julienne strips
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

DIRECTIONS

In a large pot, heat all three liquids until boiling. Slowly, add cornmeal in a steady stream, all the while stirring with a wire whisk. When corn meal is absorbed and mixture is smooth, add blue cheese and hot sauce and stir just until cheese is melted. Remove from heat and immediately pour half of the polenta mixture into the bottom of your serving dish, casserole or spring form pan. Smooth out. Spread half of the pesto over the top and arrange half of the sundried tomatoes on top of pesto. As quickly as possible, spoon remaining polenta over the sundried tomatoes and smooth out with a rubber or offset spatula. Repeat process of spreading pesto and arranging sundried tomatoes on top. Sprinkle with freshly grated Parmesan cheese. Cool to room temperature and allow polenta to set up. When ready to serve, reheat in microwave or oven until hot and serve. Can make up to two days ahead, but cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until ready to use.



Polenta torta

Photo Susie Iventosch



Polenta, arugula, and goat cheese torta

Photo Susie Iventosch

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.



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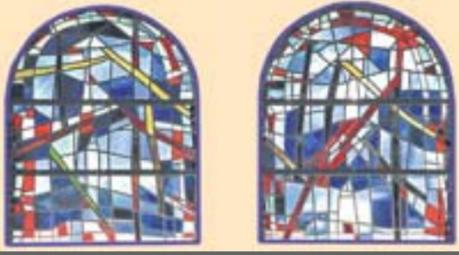
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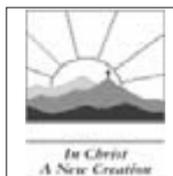
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SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP8:30 a.m. Classic Service
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Come find COMMUNITY here.**◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆****ART**

The Orinda Arts Council is pleased to announce its Ninth Annual Visual Arts Competition! Open to all high school students residing or attending schools in Orinda, Lafayette, or Moraga. Artist Reception & Awards March 7th from 4-6pm and Exhibit March 1-28th, Orinda Library Art Gallery. For more information, visit: OrindaArtsCouncil.org.

The NEW Saint Mary's College Museum of Art presents: The Veil: Visible and Invisible Spaces, through Mar. 25. For more information visit the museum website at stmarys-ca.edu/museum or call (925) 631-4379. Museum Hours: Wednesdays - Sundays, 11am-4:30pm. Admission: \$5 adults; K-12 graders and members free.

Moraga Art Gallery's show, "Kaleidoscope" features the work of Gallery Member & local artist Angelica Samame, painter, as well as guest artist, Karin Lechner, jewelry designer, through March 17. The Gallery is now located at #522 Center St in the Rheem Center, Moraga.

Lafayette Gallery's winter show "Heartfelt" will run through March 3. The exhibition features unique sculpture, ceramics, paintings, prints, glasswork, jewelry and photography, created by local artists. The Gallery is located at 50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette (across from Chow). Hours: Tues-Sat, 11am-5pm; www.lafayette-gallery.net; (925) 284-2788.

MUSIC

Winter Concert - Thursday, March 1, 7:30pm, Campolindo Performing Arts Center; includes Concert Band and Symphonic Band. The concert is free and open to the public, refreshments will be served after the concert in the cafeteria for guests and artists.

The annual Welsh American Society of Northern California 'hymn-sing' festival (Gymanfa Ganu in Welsh) is being held March 4, 2-4pm, at the Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Road, Lafayette. It is not a concert for listeners but rather a 'hymn-sing' with the congregation singing in parts. It is a unique experience followed by tea and Welsh cakes! For further information call Idris Evans (925) 283-0912.

The Virginia Glee Club will perform at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St Stephen's Drive, Orinda, on Tuesday March 6 at 8pm. The Glee Club, recognized as a leader among American men's choruses, will present a wide range of pieces, from sacred music, Glee Club classics, folk songs and spirituals, to songs of the University of Virginia. Featured composers include Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Franz Biebl, G. F. Handel, P.D.Q. Bach, Leonard Cohen and George Harrison. A freewill offering will be collected. For more information, contact Robert Adams at (925) 254-3770.

On March 8, 9, and 10 the Lafayette Jazz Festival will feature local jazz greats along with middle and high School Honor Bands. Tickets: \$10 for Adults and \$5 for Students. Matinee performance of the Honor Jazz Bands will be \$5 General Admission. Contact the Lafayette Chamber at (925) 284-7404 or visit their web site at www.lafayettechamber.org. See article page B2.

An evening concert of vocal and instrumental classical music with members of the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society, March 13, 8pm, Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. This free concert opens with a quintet by David Diamond featuring flute, violin, viola, cello and piano. Six songs by Schubert for the baritone voice will vary the program, which will conclude with compositions for two pianos by Debussy. www.ccpas.org.

Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, conducted by Jude Navari, presents,

"The River Has Many Voices: Voci's 20th Anniversary Retrospective," featuring contemporary musical gems from Voci's 20-year repertoire, many written especially for Voci, plus the world premiere of a new choral song cycle by Voci Conductor Navari. Also featuring works by Callaway, Clark, Frank, Knell, Larsen, Meckler, and Paulus. Tickets: \$25 General, \$22 Advance; \$20 for groups of 8 or more, free for children under 12. Available at the door or online at www.vocisings.com; Information: (510) 531-8714. Two performances: Saturday, March 24, 8pm, Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland and Sunday, March 25, 4 pm, All Souls Episcopal Parish, 2220 Cedar St., Berkeley.

THEATER

The French Film Festival at Saint Mary's College, a month long festival, opens on Thursday, March 1, 7pm with Coco Avant Chanel (Coco before Chanel). Anne Fontaine's thoughtful exploration of the pre-fame life of the world's greatest fashion designer focuses on Coco Chanel during the Belle Epoque. The film opens in 1893 with a powerfully grim scene of 10-year-old Coco and her sister unceremoniously dumped at an orphanage and ends around World War I, a few years before the Chanel empire is launched. Free admission for students, \$3 general public. All films subtitled in English. See article page B5.

Town Hall Theatre presents "Distracted" from February 25 to March 17; with previews on February 23 and 24. After the matinee performance of Distracted on March 4, Dr. Brian Blaisch, M.D. will lead a talk and Q&A regarding ADHD, autism, and other learning and behavioral problems. Contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office at (925) 283-1557, or purchase online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

Shakespeare's TEMPEST (Movie): Prospero uses his magical powers to control his Machievellian enemies, bringing them to his New World island with Ariel, Miranda, and Caliban. Showings at 7:30 pm on March 4, 5, 6. Soda Activity Center, Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Free and open to all.

With the words "See a Film, See the World," the East Bay International Jewish Film Festival comes to the Orinda Theatre for a three day-run beginning on March 16. For the complete line-up or to purchase tickets, go to www.eastbayjewishfilm.org or phone (510) 318- 6456.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Book Sale -Friends of the Orinda Library - Thurs. March 1 - 10am to 1pm, Sorting Room and Book Shop (Book Shop is open until 6 pm) Inexpensive good-quality books for all ages and interests. Orinda Library, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda (925)254-1358.

"Electric Cars are Here" is Leslie Baroody's subject for First Friday Forum on March 2, at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Baroody will discuss the history of electric vehicles, plus the new plug-in hybrid, and better electric vehicles now on the market and those soon to arrive in California. Refreshments will be served at 1pm in Fellowship Hall. For further information call (925) 283-8722 or go to www.lopc.org.

The Friends Corner Book Shop at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center is having a Half Price Sale on Saturday March 17, 9am-5 pm. The Book Shop is located at the corner of First Street and Golden Gate way in Lafayette.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Summer Camp Expo 2012, Saturday, March 3rd, 11am-2pm, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. Over 20 featured vendors will be at the Hacienda

de las Flores for a sneak preview of the best summer camps in Moraga. Meet the camp staff, participate in sports demos and activities, and receive an early registration discount on the day of the expo. Free hot dogs, chips and a drink (while supplies last).

Teens on the Spectrum: Self Sufficiency, Life Skills and Work, the 6th Annual Transitions Seminar presented by Orion Academy and John F. Kennedy University, Saturday, March 10, 8:30am check-in; seminar: 9am - 4pm. John F. Kennedy University, 100 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill. Cost: one hundred dollars in advance, one hundred fifteen dollars at the door; includes lunch and an excellent resource binder that summarizes all the presentations. Information: (510) 703-4733.

Mother-Daughter Afternoon Tea to benefit the mothers and children of Zimbabwe. Hosted by the JF Kapnek Trust. Saturday, March 10, 2-4pm at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Bring your mom, grandma, aunt, neighbor, or a friend and enjoy a scrumptious Afternoon Tea. Includes a wide selection of sandwiches (including PBJ), desserts, fruit, photo booth, and more. Suggested Donation of \$25 per person. Proceeds benefit the Kapnek Trust's programs supporting orphans and vulnerable children in Zimbabwe. To make a reservation or for more information, go to www.JFKapnekTrust.org or contact Kathi@JFKapnekTrust.org.

The Hunger Games: On Thursday, March 22, 6:30-8pm, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center will host an exciting series of Hunger Games to celebrate the movie release the following day. Suzanne Collins' trilogy of books, "The Hunger Games," "Catching Fire," and "Mockingjay," has been wildly popular with young and adult readers alike. Students fifth grade and up are invited to participate and "Tributes" are encouraged to come in costume. For more information, call (925) 385-2280 or visit the web site at ccclib.org. Free of charge.

Need Money for College? Contra Costa Association of Realtors Scholarship Foundation is offering scholarships to residents of Central Contra Costa County that have completed one year of full-time college, completed courses with emphasis on real estate, finance and/or business and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. If you qualify, scholarship awards can range from \$1,500 to \$2,500. Further information and applications may be found on line at www.ccarscholarship.com. Deadline is April 15th.

2012 Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, open to all students who reside and/or attend high school in Orinda. Entry categories are Science Fiction, Essay/Memoir, Poetry and Short Story. Students may submit one entry in any of the four categories for a total of not more than three entries. Submission deadline is Friday, April 20th at noon. Up to four winners will each be awarded \$250 prizes at the close of this school year, underwritten by the Friends of the Orinda Library.

OTHER

Lovers of laughter will have the opportunity to enjoy a champagne-filled night of comedy at the landmark Orinda Theatre on Friday, March 2nd. Reception begins at 6:45 featuring full no host bars. Performances will begin at 7:30pm. Master of Ceremonies, local favorite Michael Fender will sing, entertain and introduce each comedian. Discounted performance tickets at \$35.00 may be reserved in advance until March 1st using a major credit card at the Orinda Chamber of Commerce web site, www.orindachamber.org or at First Republic Bank, 224 Brookwood Road. Tickets at the door (if available) will be \$40.00 per person.

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorinda
weekly.com

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OTHER ...continued

Rebecca Martin, founder and CEO of California-based dear jane Inc., a career services company, will present four workshops at the Moraga Library to assist participants to navigate through career transitions and development. The first in the series, March 2, 11:30am, will be on the Fearless Resume and will cover resume writing process, resume do's and don'ts as well as a hiring manager's perspective on successful resumes. The rest of the Friday March workshops will cover Interviewing (March 9), Salary and Negotiations (March 16) and Insider Tips on finding a job in 2012 (March 23). The workshop series is free and open to the public. Participants do not have to attend all 4 workshops. Preregistration is not required. Contact the library for more information, (925) 376-6852, ext 200 or bgirshma@cc-club.org.

Women's Leadership Conference 2012 at Saint Mary's College. This year's conference will focus on women's leadership roles in both personal and public spaces, paying particular attention to the work of women in the political sphere in this presidential election year. The conference is Saturday, March 3. Registration now open. \$10/students, \$20/community members; www.stmarys-ca.edu/events/womens-conference-2012 or call (925) 631-4000.

The Jewish Mardi Gras on Monday, March 5, 7-9:30pm, at Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut Street, Berkeley. All those 21+ are welcome to celebrate this wild & crazy holiday. Cost: Free. For more info see http://www.jewishgateways.org/events/2012/mar/5/purim-jewish-mardi-gras or call (510) 410-0622 or email rabbibridget@jewishgateways.org.

Positive Living Forum ("Happiness Club") with Dr. Bob Nozik, MD, Prof. Emeritus UCSF. Brighten your day and take part in this interactive gathering which features speakers on a wide range of topics that encourage and guide participants towards a more ideal and positive life experience. Drop-ins welcome! Thursdays March 8, April 12, 10:30-noon, Elderberry Room, Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd., Lafayette. \$1 Members/\$3 Non-Members.

LAFCO Seeks Public Member: The Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is currently accepting applications for the Regular and Alternate Public Member seats. LAFCO is an independent agency created by the State of California charged with encouraging orderly governmental boundaries and efficient services, discouraging urban sprawl, and preserving agricultural and open space resources. The Commission regulates the boundaries of cities and special districts and conducts municipal service reviews and other special studies. The term of office for the open public member seats is four years expiring in May 2016. Applications are due by 5:00 pm, Friday, March 9, 2012. To download an application form, and for more information about Contra Costa LAFCO, please visit www.contracostalafco.org, or contact the LAFCO office at (925) 335-1094.

Rotary Club of Moraga is presenting its 10th annual "A Nite at the Races" on Saturday, March 10, at the Holy Trinity Hall in Moraga. Enjoy a catered dinner (not involving crab) and a no-host bar. Listen or dance to a Dixieland band. Wager on video horse races, and double your money if your sponsored horse wins. Bid on many wonderful auction items, and enter the raffle for a big screen TV. All proceeds from this event will fund Rotary's local youth, educational, and humanitarian causes. For information and reservations, contact Rotarian Frank May at (925) 376-8195 or mayfrl@comcast.net.

Casino Night Fundraiser at the Hacienda, 2100 Donald Dr.; Saturday, March 3; 6 to 10 pm.

St. Patrick's Day Sing-Along and Fiddle Concert. Fiddler and vocalist, Mark Shaw, will lead the party in rousing renditions of Molly Malone, When Irish Eyes are Smiling, My Wild Irish Rose, and of course, 'Danny Boy'. Light Refreshments will be served compliments of ResCare Home Care. Thursday, March 15, 1:30 - 2:30pm, Live Oak Room, Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd., Lafayette. \$3 Members of Senior Services / \$5 Non-Members Please call Lafayette Senior Services at 284-5050 to register.

Freecycle for Children's good quality apparel, Thursday, March 22nd from 9am-12:15pm. Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga (up the first staircase off of the parking lot).

Walk to benefit George Mark Children's House on Sunday March 25, 10:30am-3pm at the Lafayette Reservoir. The walk is in honor of Noah, who was 4 1/2 months old when he passed away from complications from a rare liver disease. The George Mark Children's House an amazing facility devoted to providing compassionate, comprehensive, and life-affirming care to children with life-limiting illnesses. Registration available online at: http://www.fiercelittlewarrior.com.

Area residents who own classic cars are invited to participate in the 4th annual Moraga Classic Car Show, which takes place May 12, 11am-4pm, as part of the Moraga Community Faire. \$25 registration fee includes lunch for two. Prizes will be awarded. The registration deadline is May 5. To register, go to www.moragachamber.org or call (925) 247-4629.

CLUBS

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St. Moraga. Social hour 11am, lunch at noon. The after lunch speaker on March 7 will be Colonel Robert Recker, USAF (Ret.) who spent 35 years in the Air Force, retiring from the USAF Space Missile Systems Center where he was involved with NASA and DOD's Missile and Space Launch Program. His topic will be "The US in Space." For membership information in Sirs, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

GARDEN

Lafayette Garden Club, 9:30am, second Thursdays monthly at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Program for March 8: Speaker Dr. Ellen Zagory, UC Davis Director of Horticulture, presents the U.C. Davis All-Stars; learn from the expert about the best, hardiest, most beautiful perennials, groundcovers, trees that are outstanding in our area.

On Friday, March 16, the Montelindo Garden Club will hear Jill Appenzeller, a landscape designer and member of numerous garden related organizations including the American Society of Landscape Gardeners and the Royal Horticulture Society. Her first book, "Postcards from the Hedge" was published in 2010. In addition, Appenzeller has been featured on HGTV's "Curb Appeal". The program is at 10:30am with a social hour beginning at 9am. The event is held at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda, and is free; the public is cordially welcome.

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LIVE AT THE ORINDA
March 2nd, 2012, Door Open 6:45PM

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce Presents: Live at the Orinda Comedy Show with Will Durst, Dan St. Paul, Michael Fender, Johnny Steele Kabir Singh



CAST ME IF YOU CAN

Sunday, March 4, 1:30PM
Orinda Theatre
Special Screening and Q&A With director Atsushi Ogata



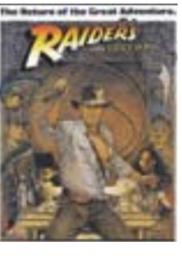
QUEEN'S SLUMBER PARTY

Friday, March 16, 10:00 PM
Rheem Theatre
Kingdom of Spiders
Starring William Shatner



CLASSIC FILM SERIES

Saturday, March 17, 7:00PM
Orinda Theatre
Raiders of the Lost Ark



Check www.lamorindatheatres.com for all movie listings

A Nite at the Races
Rotary Club of Moraga
Fundraiser

Enjoy a catered dinner with a no host bar: Listen to a Dixieland band, Wager on video horse races. Bid on wonderful auction items and enter our raffle.
All proceeds from the event will fund local youth educational and humanitarian causes.
Saturday, March 10, 2012
Holy Trinity Hall, 1700 School St., Moraga
Doors open 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 7:00 p.m. \$50 per person
See you in the Winner's Circle!
For information or to make reservations contact Frank May at 925-376-8195 Or mayfrl@comcast.net

LAFAYETTE PHYSICAL THERAPY

Free Community Lecture Schedule
Select Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00pm

- March 27 - **Preventing Injury & Managing Arthritis** with Lauren Masi, PT, Orthopedic Specialist, ATC
- April 24 - **The Athlete's Knee: Preventing Injury & Optimizing Performance** with Dr. Nirav K. Pandya, MD, Co-Director Pediatric Orthopedic Sports Medicine Program Children's Hospital and Research Center, Oakland
- May 22- **Hip Pain in Athletes** With Dr. Selina Shah, MD, FACP, Board Certified in Sports Medicine and Internal Medicine, Center for Sports Medicine S.F & Walnut Creek
- June 26 - **Off Balance: Gait and Balance Disturbances Affecting Your Daily Life** Valerie Watase, PT, and Esther Wetzel, Certified Pilates Instructor & Senior Fitness Specialist

Seating for lectures is limited: please call 925-284-6150 to RSVP & reserve your seat

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Light refreshments and mingling with the staff. Friends, family, and all members of the community are welcome!
March 3, 2012 from 11:00am to 2:00pm
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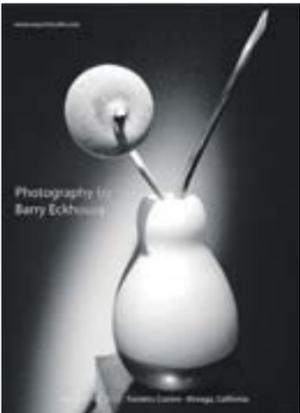
Please submit:
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Breakfast/Brunch Geppetto's of Orinda, 87 Orinda Way, Millie's Kitchen, 1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Table 24, Theatre Sq, Terzetto Cuisine, 1419 Moraga Way,	Orinda 253-9894 Lafayette 283-2397 Orinda 254-0124 Moraga 376-3832	Comfort Food Table 24, Theatre Sq, Orinda 254-0124
California Cuisine Shelby's, 2 Theatre Sq, Vino Restaurant, 3531 Plaza Way,	Orinda 254-9687 Lafayette 284-1330	Italian Ristorante Amoroma, 360 Park Street Moraga 377-7662
Chinese Chef Chao Restaurant, 343 Rheem Blvd, Szechwan Chinese Restaurant, 79 Orinda Way,	Moraga 376-1740 Orinda 254-2020	Japanese Tao, 960 Moraga Road, Lafayette 299-2882
		Mediterranean Shish Kabab Show, 376 Park Street, Moraga 388-0351
		Thai Siam Orchid, 23 Orinda Way # F, Orinda 253-1975

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Saint Mary's Wins WCC

By Alex Kozela



Saint Mary's seniors honored at Senior Night. From left: Kenton Walker II, Clint Steindl, Rob Jones and Randy Bennett
Photos Tod Fierner

Despite a couple of hiccups towards the end of the WCC regular season, the Saint Mary's men's basketball team is headed to Las Vegas with their first outright conference title in 23 years.

Road wins over Portland, 70-43, and San Francisco, 67-60, overshadowed recent losses to Gonzaga, Loyola Marymount, and Murray State and put the exclamation point to the Gaels' regular season. The Gaels earned the #1 seed for the WCC

Championship, which begins today.

Last Saturday's victory over San Francisco ended Gonzaga's 11-year hold on the WCC regular season title. The Gaels and Zags shared 2011's title.

"With three weeks to go I had doubts. I was concerned," said Saint Mary's head coach Randy Bennett, who has coached the team to a 25-5 overall record this season, going 14-2 in WCC play. "But we did something special."

After starting the WCC season 11-0, garnering a resounding 83-62 win over Gonzaga at McKeon Pavilion on January 12 and big road wins over Loyola Marymount, 71-64 on January 26 and Brigham Young, 80-66 on January 28, the Gaels lost their first conference game on February 9 at Gonzaga, falling 73-59.

After defeating local rivals Santa Clara two days later, the Gaels were upset by Loyola Marymount, who became the first team to defeat the Gaels in Moraga all season.

It didn't get any better three days later at Murray State for the 2012 Sears Bracketbusters. The Gaels lost two straight games for the first time this season, falling 65-51.

"This season's been a fun roller coaster ride," said senior forward Rob Jones. "There's been a lot of highs, we've had a couple of lows recently in the past couple of weeks, but we're back on track with where we need to be. It's been exciting."

Bennett attributes much of Saint Mary's success this year to the stellar play of the senior class, made up of forwards Jones (second on the team in points, averaging 14.8 and first on the team in rebounds with 10.7), Clint Steindl, and Kenton Walker.

"We don't win a championship like this in a league like this without great leadership from your seniors," Bennett said. "It takes a lot of unselfishness."

Although the WCC Championship begins today in Las Vegas with the opening round game, the Gaels have a bye until Saturday, when they play a to-be-determined opponent at 6:00 p.m. in the semifinal. If they win that game, they will play in the championship game on Monday, also at 6:00 p.m.

"Our expectations are high," said Jones. "We want to win it all."



Junior guard Matthew Dellavedova was recently selected to the Capital One Academic All-America® Division I Men's Basketball Team with a GPA of a 3.61.

Dons Join Gaels to Fight Cancer



The University of San Francisco may be the Gaels' bay area rival, but the soccer programs put their competitive spirits aside to team up to support fellow soccer player, Saint Mary's senior Emmanuel "Morro" Sarabia. Sarabia was diagnosed with Leukemia last month.

Saint Mary's was joined by the Dons at the War Memorial Gym prior to the last WCC men's basketball game of the season between SMC and USF on February 25. The teams asked for donations to raise funds for Sarabia's medical expenses.



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Campo Hosts Miramonte in NCS Semifinal Tonight

... continued from page A1

Acalanes only led by one point after the first quarter but extended their lead to 15 in the next three quarters. Senior James Griffin led the Dons with 13 points and sophomore Buster Souza added 11 points, 11 rebounds, and six blocks in the winning effort.

In the first period, sophomore Noah Orlik injured his neck and had to be taken out on a stretcher. Coach Darrell Hirashima, Jr. was pleased to report that Orlik was released from the hospital and feeling somewhat better the next day.

The Dons advanced to the second round. They traveled to play #4 seed El Cerrito on Friday night but lost, 51-49. They finished their season at 18-10.

Campolindo received the #2 seed and played their first game against #7 Sir Francis Drake from Marin County on Friday night, winning 50-44. Junior John Schmitz led the Cougars with 21 points while

senior Griffin Piatt had 16 rebounds.

Miramonte garnered the #3 seed and hosted Analy (Sebastopol) on Friday night.

Miramonte earned the #3 seed with help from a big win against Campo to end the regular season. The Mats came back from down 18 to beat the Cougars 80-72. Junior Kirin Shastri led all scorers with 26 and sophomore Joey Goodreault added 20 as the Mats outscored the Cougars by 59-24 in the middle of the game.

Miramonte carried the momentum from the rivalry win into their game against the Tigers.

The teams have a history of tight games. In the 2009 Division III final, Analy won 76-73 in overtime over and in the 2010 semi-final the Mats won 70-67 also in overtime.

Again, the Mats and Tigers battled it out in extra time. This time the Mats outlasted Analy 98-87 in double overtime.

Analy had the lead after one quarter but in the second period the Mats went on their own 8-0 run to tie the game and the teams headed into intermission at 27 each.

In the third period, senior Ross Anderson picked up one of his game high 16 rebounds and put Miramonte in the lead, 29-27. The team exchanged baskets much of the period before the Mats pulled out to a four point lead to end the third at 48-44.

With 4:19 to go in the fourth, Anderson hit a bank shot and Miramonte led 60-50. Two minutes later they led 62-54 before the Tigers rattled off nine unanswered points to take a 63-62 lead. Analy senior Nathan Benjamin hit the second of two free throws and Miramonte had the ball with 12.6 seconds left. Shastri hit a bank shot with 4.4 seconds left to send it to overtime.

The Tigers jumped off to a 68-66 lead before Goodreault hit a bank shot, Anderson a long three, and

Shastri four free throws. With 38.3 to go the Mats had a seven point lead.

The Tigers stormed back to get within three and Analy junior Mohannad Halaweh calmly buried a three point shot to tie it at 77 each.

In the second overtime, Miramonte was not to be denied. Shastri scored 11 of his game high 40 points in the period and the Mats built a 14 point lead—a lead that the Tigers could not overcome. Goodreault finished with 24 points to go with six assists.

Shastri played much of the second half on an injured ankle. "I was not able to really step back on shots, so I just stepped forward and shot," said Shastri. His free throw shooting was also important as he made 17 of 23 attempts, many coming at crucial times during the game.

"This game was ridiculous. I really knew we were going to win. It just took a lot longer than we had planned," Anderson said.

Coach Dave Brown was pleased that his team just kept coming back. "Ross was incredible. He found a way late in the game to position himself against the 6'7" Benjamin to snag rebounds without losing them to his reaching over the top. He made great adjustments."

The Matadors head over to Campolindo tonight for a rubber match, having split their Diablo Foothill Athletic League games with the Cougars. The game begins at 7:00 p.m.

Campo coach Matt Watson is looking forward to the game. "I am excited to play Miramonte and the atmosphere is going to be off the chart with great fan support from both schools!"

This time, the chance to move on to the NCS final will be on the line. The good news is that regardless of the outcome, each team has qualified to go on to the Northern California championships that begin next week.



Joey Goodreault had 24 points and six assists.



John Schmitz led Campo with 21 points over Sir Francis Drake.

Photos Kevin Nguyen



Senior Ross Anderson had a game-high 16 rebounds in the win over Analy.



James Griffin's Dons fell to El Cerrito, 51-49.

Mats, Dons play in NCS Semifinals; Qualify for NorCals

By Conrad Bassett



Senior Taylor Kizziee had 13 points on Senior Night.



Breanna Alford recorded 14 against Tamalpais.



Sophie Taylor had 24 points in the Dons' win. Photos Kevin Nguyen

The first two rounds of the North Coast Section playoffs were completed last week and the semifinals will be played tonight. Both Miramonte and Acalanes had byes in the first round. Miramonte blasted Tamalpais and Acalanes defeated Analy in the second round to move on to the semifinals.

After the initial seeding meeting on February 19, all three Lamorinda girls' teams were selected to play in the NCS playoffs.

Miramonte finished its regular season at a perfect 26-0, winning their final at home on Senior Night over Campolindo, 65-38. All of Miramonte's players contributed to the final win including senior Taylor Kizziee, who led the team with 13 points. The near-capacity crowd honored her by singing "Happy Birthday." The Mats undefeated season put them in the second seed position behind Bishop O'Dowd (Oakland) who was last year's champion.

Campo picked up the #4 seed and Acalanes the #5 seed and were placed with first round byes and scheduled to face each other. However, the day after the seeding meeting, Campolindo was dropped from the playoffs because they did not meet the qualification requirements.

"It is extremely disappointing, I thought we were deserving of a spot. We played a tough schedule with games against high seeds in divisions 2 and 3. I thought the number 4 seed was where we belonged, but rules are rules. We wish the other Lamorinda teams the best of luck," commented Cougar head coach Elgin Leslie on their changed post-season status.

With Campolindo out of the postseason, Acalanes

moved into the fourth seed. Acalanes edged Analy 47-42 on Friday, February 24.

The Lady Dons got behind early, trailing by seven after one period. They roared back to take a 26-22 lead at the half, but went into the final period tied at 37. Led by senior Sophie Taylor the Dons regained the lead and held on to win.

Taylor had a monster game with 24 points, ten points and seven rebounds.

Their reward is a visit to Chabot College tonight to face the #1 seed and perennial powerhouse Bishop O'Dowd. Regardless of the outcome, they will play in the Northern California Championships that begin next week.

Miramonte dominated Tamalpais in their Friday match-up. Other than a 2-2 tie in the first minute of the game, Miramonte had the lead. The Mats jumped off to a 29-4 lead after one period and led 50-18 at the half. Senior Devon McDonald had all 18 of her points in the half to lead the Lady Mats. Sophomore Breanna Alford added 14.

Coach Kelly Sopak was pleased with his team's intensity. "We struggled a bit in the early going just getting the ball in the hoop. However, our defensive rotations and ball pressure were spectacular. Tonight was another example of our defense picking up our offense."

With the win, Miramonte also qualified for the NorCals.

Miramonte's girls will host 24-5 San Marin (Novato) tonight at 7:00 p.m.



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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS



SMC Baseball Opens New Field with Win



Photos Tod Fierner



Saint Mary's baseball opened the 2012 season with a win in their new stadium. Louis Guisto Field was christened on February 17 with a 2-1 over Southern Utah.

The afternoon began with a pregame ceremony. Former baseball alums and donors were introduced by Board of Trustees member Russ Harrison. Father Sal Ragusa blessed the

field. Recent WCC Hall of Fame inductee, Tom Candiotti '79 threw the ceremonial first pitch. Since opening day, the Gaels are 5-2 (as of 2/25). The Gaels return to action in the new field on March 6 against Stanford.

C. Graveson

Gaels Earn the Four-Seed for WCC



From left: Alyssa Levesque #11, Amber Coatney #14, Paul Thomas (Head Coach), Alex Carbonel #5, Jasmine Smith #32

Photos Tod Fierner



Morgan Hatten #24

Photos Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's women's basketball completed regular season play with an 11-5 record. The Gaels secured the fourth seed and will play on Friday, March 2 at noon.

Saint Mary's enters the tournament having defeated every team in the WCC at least once except for USD. USD earned the third seed and so SMC will not have to face them

until the championship, should they both progress that far. During the regular season, Saint Mary's recorded huge wins over first-seeded Gonzaga and second-seeded BYU.

BYUtv will broadcast all games except for the championship game, which will be broadcast by ESPNU. C. Graveson

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

Another Strong Win for SMC Rugby

Submitted by Tony Samaniego



Photo Mike Geib

Saint Mary's rugby team took on the Olympic Club of San Francisco at SMC. The Gaels defeated the cross-bay team 54-10 on Saturday, February 18. The Gaels controlled the game and six different players reached the try zone at least once. The Gaels will be

tested the month of March with matches against UCLA and BYU on the road. Saint Mary's hosts Cal Poly on March 10 at 1:00 p.m. The team then leaves to Wales and Ireland for a three-match tour that will include games against University of Cardiff and Trinity College.

Campolindo Wrestling Post-Season Highlights

Submitted by Bob McLaughlin

Campolindo wrestling finished the regular season with a 12-2 record. The Cougars lost a close match to Las Lomas to finish second in the DFAL.

In the NCS Duals tournament, Campolindo beat Clayton Valley, but lost to Albany. In the consolation bracket, Campolindo beat Miramonte and Clayton Valley, for the second time, to earn third place.

Campo had four league cham-

pions: Jackson Hagglund at 108, Grant Smith at 115, Alex Mirante at 140 and Chris Wellbrook at 184.

The Cougars also sent 11 wrestlers to the NCS tournament.

Coach Bob McLaughlin, now in his 15th season at Campo said, "This is the hardest working and most fun group of kids I have ever had. We have had state champions here but never a complete team like this, no superstars, just hard work with a smile."

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Lamorinda Soccer Post-Season Recap

By Brandon Duran



Campolindo Sam Palano #25
Photo Andy Scheck

After a competitive regular season campaign in the Diablo Foothill Athletic League, the Acalanes boys' soccer team along with the Campolindo boys' and girls' teams secured spots in the North Coast Section 2012 Division II Playoffs. Last year, Campolindo and Acalanes faced off in the championship finishing first and second, respectively.

Acalanes finished first in the DFAL with an outstanding 8-1-3 league record, 12-2-8 overall. Both Campolindo teams finished the regular seasons at 6-3-3 and earned #4 seeds.

The Dons were stunned in the first round by visiting #16 St. Mary's College High on February 15. Acalanes fell 0-1 to end their season.

Acalanes head coach Paul Curtis looked past wins and losses and said that he felt his team had accomplished its goals. "Yes, it was a very good sea-

son for the boys, they learned a lot, grew a lot and were involved in supporting others who are less fortunate than themselves," he said.

The Campolindo boys hosted #13 El Cerrito in the first round. The Cougars played the Gauchos in December and came away with a 7-3 win. El Cerrito stepped up in the playoffs, but Campo held on to win 3-1.

Early in the first half, Campolindo dominated possession. The Gauchos did make a few solid counter attacks led by striker Mauricio Garcia.

The Cougars' persistent pressure paid off in the 29th minute. A long throw-in from senior Taylor Abbott fell to the feet of senior Sam Palano, who easily tapped it in past the El Cerrito keeper. Following the goal the Cougars got more aggressive offensively. Palano scored again about ten minutes later, making it 2-0 right before halftime.

El Cerrito came out of the break with a more tactical offense and high-volume, precision passing. Still, the Gauchos couldn't break through the staunch Campo back line.

On a counter attack by the Cougars eleven minutes in, Palano took it himself and blasted a shot along the ground from about 15 yards out past the slow reacting keeper. Co-captain Palano secured his first hat-trick of the season and Campo took a 3-0 lead.

With the lead, head coach Shane Carney made mass substitutions, getting his younger players some critical postseason experience. El Cerrito tucked in a ball crossed into the box in the last minute of regulation to make the final score 3-1 Campolindo.

Carney said that he did not plan anything differently for the game. "We didn't game plan around any one player for El Cerrito. We just trusted our system of play and our players to get the job done."

Campolindo moved onto the NCS Quarterfinals, but fell in penalty kicks 2-2 (3-2) to Concord High on

Saturday, February 18.

The Campolindo girls (8-4-5 overall) stepped up their game in the

playoffs, making it all the way to the semifinals where they lost to eventual champions Bishop O'Dowd, 2-0.



Campolindo Julia Reschke #23

Photo Kevin Nguyen



Acalanes Aidan Maguire #6

Photo Dr. Dave Weiland

Local Golfer Wins Tournament

Submitted by Glenn Gray



In mid-February a talented group of junior golfers competed in the 36-hole International Junior Golf Tour (IJGT) West Coast Series at Hiddenbrooke in Vallejo.

In the Boys 15-19 Division, Jim Coon of Orinda came out on top after an impressive final round score of 2-over-par 74 on Sunday, February 19. He combined that with a first round 79 to win by five strokes ahead of his nearest competitor.

The weather played a major factor in the outcome of the tournament. "Everyone has to play [those conditions] so just getting through each hole and getting the lowest score," said Coon.

Photo provided

Joaquin Moraga Undefeated

Submitted by Shelley Neustrom



Photo provided

The Joaquin Moraga sixth grade girls' basketball team completed an undefeated season.

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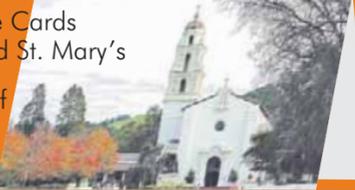
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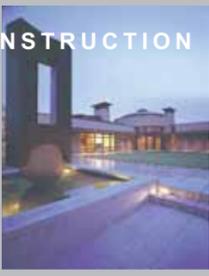
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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 26 Wednesday, February 29, 2012



New MCC Clubhouse

...read on page D4

Leap Up and March On! Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

"We cannot command nature except by obeying her." Francis Bacon

By Cynthia Brian

The buzz of the honeybees fills the morning air as I walk out my back door. The pollinators are busy savoring the sweetness of the flowering peach tree in full bloom. I love the sight, smell, and sound, however, these botanical gifts have arrived thirty-three days earlier than the normal March 17th blossom burst. It wasn't even Valentine's Day when spring sprung chez moi. Driving through Lamorinda over President's Day weekend, I stopped at three lemonade stands erected by entrepreneurial elementary school children. As much as I am a sun lover, without winter wetness our summer gardens may not yield.

I am amazed at how early my daffodils sprouted and bloomed. My jonquils flowered in early January and my first narcissus bloomed on February 6th. (Narcissus and daffodils are the same. Daffodil is the common name for

the genus narcissus while a jonquil is a specific species with several strong-scented yellow florets with rounded leaves.) Usually in March I am romping through the mustard fields, not tromping around the daffodils. Besides the ubiquitous yellow daffodil that decorates roadsides, my hillside bloomers delight me with their varied throat colorations, frills, ruffles, and petal markings. Depending on the expert, there are 40-200 different species, subspecies, and varieties of daffodils with thousands of hybrids. Unlike tulips, the deer, squirrels, and rodents won't eat the bulbs or the blooms as they are poisonous to them. Easy to grow and tolerant of numerous weather conditions, daffodils can be planted in the sun, shade, and drifts for naturalization. Daffodils are the true trumpets of the vernal equinox. ..continued on page D8



Daffodil-Innocence of pure white

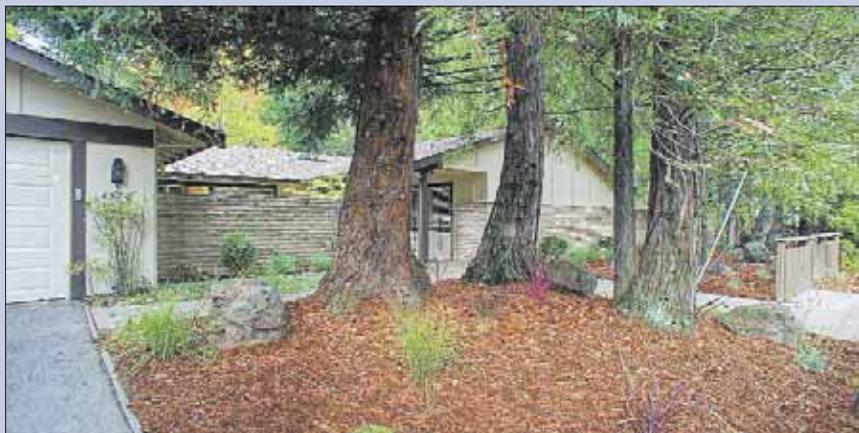
Photos Cynthia Brian



Daffodil-Peaches and Cream

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Don't miss this one level 4 bd/2ba home on 1.7 acre large lot with easy access to town, shopping and BART. With wonderful indoor and outdoor spaces, this home is a perfect 10!! **Offered at \$995,000**



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	2	\$415,000	\$645,500
MORAGA	4	\$168,000	\$825,000
ORINDA	4	\$415,000	\$950,000

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

911 Dewing Avenue #A2, \$415,000, 2 Bdrms, 1296 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 1-31-12;
 Previous Sale: \$535,000, 09-23-04
 3340 Helen Lane, \$645,500, 3 Bdrms, 1683 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 1-25-12

MORAGA

48 Corte De Rosas, \$825,000, 4 Bdrms, 2659 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 1-25-12;
 Previous Sale: \$700,000, 07-01-08
 2121 Donald Drive #18, \$168,000, 2 Bdrms, 896 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 1-30-12;
 Previous Sale: \$387,000, 06-03-05
 2145 Donald Drive #3, \$210,000, 2 Bdrms, 1162 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 1-31-12
 1509 Moraga Way, \$455,000, 2 Bdrms, 1522 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 1-23-12;
 Previous Sale: \$407,000, 05-29-09

ORINDA

134 Ardith Drive, \$415,000, 3 Bdrms, 1560 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 1-27-12;
 Previous Sale: \$555,000, 03-14-07
 21 Crestview Terrace, \$930,000, 3 Bdrms, 2638 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 1-30-12;
 Previous Sale: \$390,000, 11-01-91
 246 La Espiral, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2983 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 1-23-12;
 Previous Sale: \$430,000, 06-24-88
 21 North Lane, \$695,000, 4 Bdrms, 2120 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 1-26-12;
 Previous Sale: \$87,000, 09-30-77

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

none recorded

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Located on one of the most prized streets in all of Lafayette, this single level Traditional boasts the enduring architectural legacy of a classic Marchant home. Superbly and tastefully renovated throughout, it features approximately 3000 square feet (per owner), 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths and 1 half-bath. Nestled on a flat .52 acre parcel, this home's impactful curb appeal makes an inviting impression that promises to delight visitors with its easy-going elegance. On MLS March 9th with first Open House Sunday, March 11th. *Please call for details.*



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Wonderful Indoor/Outdoor Access, Great Entertainer

Walking Path up street to Happy Valley School

Offered at \$1,499,000



*per Public Records

Virtual Tour:



MCC Builds a New Clubhouse

By Sophie Braccini



The new dining room can seat 210 people

Photos Ohlen Alexander

Even from a distance the new Moraga Country Club's clubhouse, which opened its doors to its members at the beginning of the month, presents itself as a completely different animal than the old one. The magnitude of the improvements can be better appreciated from close up, as one approaches the new construction and enters the majestic lobby.

What used to be a utilitarian and somewhat run down construction is now an elegant resort, both functional and impressive. While Frank Melon, the Club's General Manager, took this reporter on a tour, he answered questions about the economics of his new home away from home.

"Our old clubhouse was clearly out-dated and it made more sense to build a new structure that would be emblematic of what we have become, than to try to fix the old one," said Melon.

The two story building was not ADA compliant, the seismic retrofit was not up to par, the lockers were too small, especially the ladies', the restaurant was in dire need of updates. It had some family-friendly characteristics, but the circa 1973, 9,000 square foot building was not reflect-

ing of a club that now boasts 1100 family members. According to Board of Directors' President Don Maddison, it would have cost five million dollars to bring the old building up to code and only twice as much to build a brand new one.

The new 22,000 square foot building was design by Karl Danielson, of the Dahlin Group, with the goal of being functional while maximizing the use of ambient light and creating an energy efficient structure.

According to Melon, the bid from Overaa Construction came in at a great price and the Club was able to secure a loan at an incredible rate. "We got a lot of bang for our buck," said Maddison.

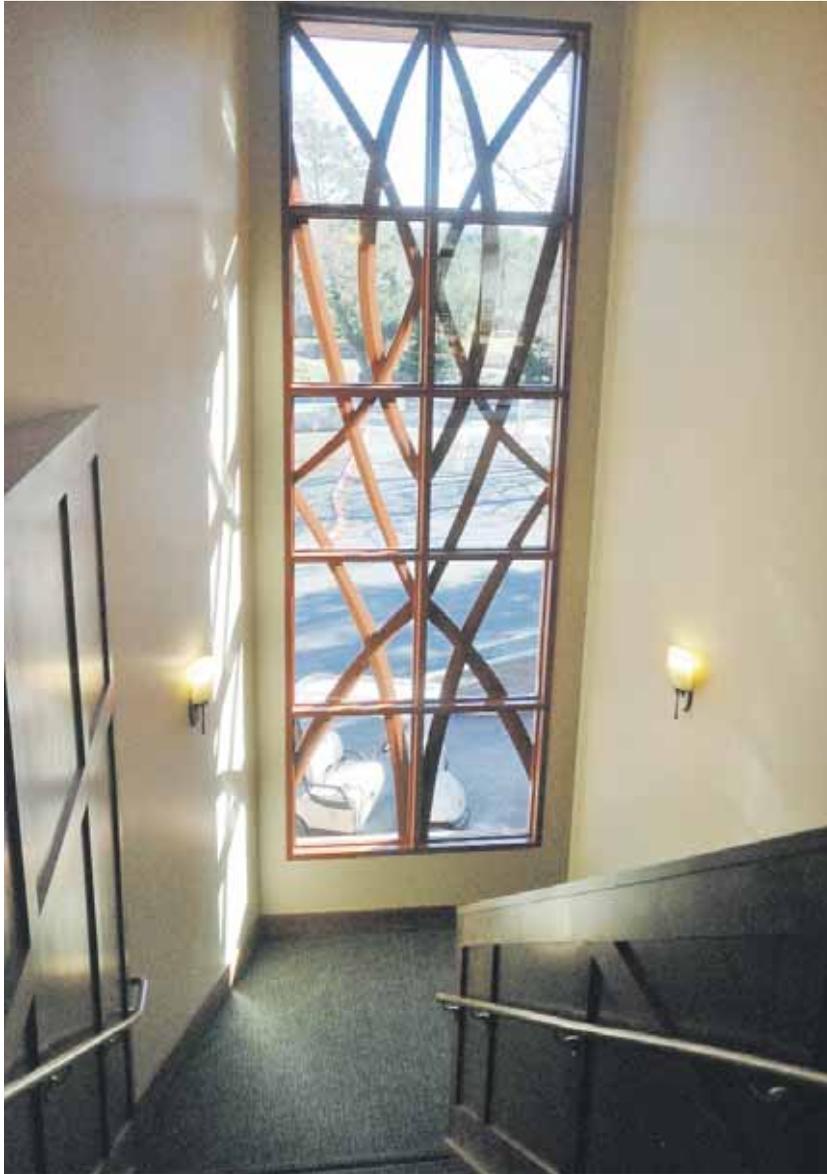
The project was a long time in the making, involving membership approval and saving over many years. "The homeowners and golf associates voted on the project six years ago and we got more positive votes than the two-thirds required," recalled Maddison. Members were assessed \$2,500 in 2009 and an additional \$200 last year. "We also slightly increased our monthly dues," added Maddison, who will step down in March with a feeling of a mission accomplished. "When I was elected President six years ago it was with the goal of getting a new clubhouse done," he said with pride. ... continued on page D7



Teal and alder wood throughout the building



Upstairs hallway with window gallery for natural light



A stairway is lit by a large window.



Members gather at the bar.

Kurt Piper's Update

Kurt Piper's Lamorinda Listings

Address	Beds	Baths	SqFt	Acres	List Price	Status
960 Hawthorne Dr.	3	2	1400	.25	\$719,000	Available
3376 Ridge Rd.	4	2	1728	.18	\$649,000	Pending
663 Glenside Dr.	4	2	2150	.48	\$895,000	Coming Soon
15 Candlelight Ln.	5	3.5	3417	.72	\$1,495,000	Coming Soon
Burton Valley	4	3	3000	.25	TBD	In The Works

Kurt Piper's Active Buyers

Moving From	Beds	Baths	Neighborhoods	Price Range
Southern California	2+	2	Moraga	\$300-\$450
Pleasant Hill	3	2	Orinda/Lafayette	\$650-\$750
Lafayette	3	2	Lafayette	\$700-\$850
Lafayette	3	2	Lafayette	\$650-\$750
San Francisco	4	2+	Orinda/Lafayette	\$900-\$1.1M
Moraga	4+	3	Orinda/Lafayette	\$1M-\$1.7M
Marin	4+	3+	Orinda/Lafayette	\$2M-\$2.5M

The 2012 Lamorinda real estate market has started off with a bang! This could be a very active year in home sales as there have been multiple offers on some listings.

I'm working with qualified buyers who are looking for homes in the above Lamorinda communities. If you are thinking of selling or have a friend or neighbor who may sell please call or email me. This could be a great year for Lamorinda home sales!

Kurt Piper

kurt@kurtpiper.com (925) 818-8000

KURT PIPER

BROKER ASSOCIATE



DRE#01130308

Connect with Kurt @



(925) 818-8000
www.kurtpiper.com



CO Detectors: Noisy Help for a Silent Killer

By Cathy Dausman

Smoke detectors have been required in California homes since 1987. But highly visible smoke and fire comprise only part of the deadly threat when something burns. It's time to install a second detector—this one for carbon monoxide. A new state law, Senate Bill 183, now requires single family homes with a fossil fuel burning appliance (think gas stove or water heater) or an attached garage or fireplace to install a working carbon monoxide detector. The bill took effect July 1, 2011. Apartments and hotels have until Jan 1, 2013 to comply.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is the result of incomplete combustion. Carbon monoxide is produced when something burns without sufficient oxygen to make carbon dioxide (CO₂). Unlike carbon dioxide, which occurs in nature and is tolerated by humans and animals at low levels, carbon monoxide binds to the body's red blood cells, prevents them from carrying oxygen, and eventually causes suffocation. Carbon monoxide, smoke and fire's evil twin, is invisible, odorless and tasteless. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lists carbon monoxide symptoms as headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. High levels of CO inhalation can cause loss of consciousness and death.

CO detectors are similar in cost and operation to the now-familiar smoke detectors, and are readily available at hardware and home improvement stores as well as online. Combination smoke/CO detector units are also available.

Moraga Orinda Fire District's (MOFD) Fire Marshall Michael Mentink says carbon monoxide detectors are "a good thing." Unit installation varies widely depending on the type of detector you buy, so Mentink advises homeowners to carefully read and follow the directions. Mentink says the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and most fire departments recommend replacing detector batteries every six months.

Once a law is passed, the challenge becomes its enforcement. "Inspection of single family dwelling is somewhat restricted by law," says Mentink. Although fire departments support the installation of carbon

monoxide detectors, regulation falls under building codes. For example, the presence of smoke detectors can only be verified by one of two "triggers": sale of a home, or issuance of a building permit of \$1,000 or more. If an inspection shows a home to be without a working carbon monoxide detector the homeowner has 30 days to correct the violation before a fine (\$200) can be levied. But Mentink says fire departments, including MOFD, are now including carbon monoxide detectors into their existing smoke detector public education campaigns.

The California Air Resources Board says 30 to 40 people die each year from CO poisoning.

These resources will familiarize you with the state law, CO symptoms and CO detectors:

- Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010 <http://sb183.com/>
- Carbon Monoxide: What You Need to Know is available as a brochure from MOFD
- From the California State Fire Marshall website: <http://tinyurl.com/6hnupl7>
- Carbon Monoxide poisoning info is online at the CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/co/faqs.htm>
- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has a Q&A page available online at <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/466.html>



Wide selection of detectors at a local hardware store

Photo Cathy Dausman

MCC Builds a New Clubhouse

... continued from page D4

Adequate financial planning also allowed the Country Club to address one of its members' major concerns: the kitchen. "We've built a large professional kitchen where new Executive Chef Kevin Ables is now preparing the contemporary-farm fresh cooking our members deserve," said Melon. The new dining room on the second floor (elevator accessible) can seat 210 guests or be partitioned into three separate spaces. All around the dining area, large terraces overlook the new pool, the club's grounds and the Moraga hills. But don't bother to call to make a reservation for dinner if you're not a member, this is a private venue.

Some of the other beautiful assets of the new building include a new, all-wood pro-shop, large locker rooms with personal lockers, a magnificent granite bar in the lounge, teak and alder wood accents all around the Clubhouse, an abundance of natural lighting, light fixtures designed by a Club member, and natural stones.

"We are very much a part of this community and will host some Town events on our grounds," said Melon, "for example, we'll have Saint Mary's College Alumni functions here, and we will host a golf tournament with the Chamber of Commerce. But as a rule, the receptions, such as weddings, are member-sponsored events only."

Non-members can have the pleasure of seeing the building from afar.

There are five golf associate memberships available at this time. "With the Clubhouse now finished, the prices are going up," warned Maddison.



Cathy Carter and Frank Melon

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34 Campolindo Court, Moraga

This 4 bedroom, 2 bath, single-story home in the Camplindo neighborhood is located on a cul-de-sac with a level yard. Through the foyer are formal living and dining rooms. Beyond is the kitchen that looks onto the yard and opens to the dinette and family room with vaulted ceiling. The private yard features a pool, patio, and grassy area. The home has 2 fireplaces, indoor laundry room, plentiful storage, and new paint and carpet. It's located close to top-rated Campolindo High School and the Cabana Club, and in a great commute location. Come take a look at this wonderful home.

Offered at \$799,950



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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...continued from page D1

Spring is about looking forward and this year, we are leaping. We have bypassed the dark days of dormancy and are marching straight into the season of spring. We don't have to wait for the emergence of our favorite flowering fruit trees or Easter hellebore as they are already parading their newest wardrobes. Our weather is changing and our garden zones are also evolving. Updating the 1990 Plant Hardiness Zone Map, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has just released the newest version of this handy garden tool. The new map was jointly developed by the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (the chief intramural scientific research agency of the USDA) and Oregon State University's PRISM Climate Group. This new 2012 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map is the standard in gardening to determine which plants will

thrive in which locations. It's based on the average annual minimum winter temperature, divided into ten degree Fahrenheit zones. Interestingly, most areas across the country are now rated at least a half a degree warmer. Lamorinda is rated in the 9B zone. The map is not yet available in printed form, but you can download it at the web site of <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov>.

With a possible drought in the works, as we contemplate our plantings, we must work with water-wise sensibilities. If you are considering installing a lawn or sod in March, you may want to plant a clover field or dicandra grass instead. The following drought-tolerant perennials are beautiful even in the hottest seasons and many have the added appeal of attracting butterflies, hummingbirds, and honeybees.

Drought Tolerant Suggestions

In addition to cacti and succulents, these beauties provide a bounty of blooms throughout the growing season.

- Agastache
- Allium
- Blanket Flower
- Columbine
- Coneflower
- Daylilies
- Echinacea
- Globe Thistle
- Lamb's Ears
- Lavender
- Penstemon
- Sage
- Salvias
- Sedum
- Sundrops
- Yarrow



Several varieties of early blooming daffodils along the picket fence.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Daffodil-Yellow with deep orange throats

Of course, put daffodil bulbs on your fall want list as they are drought resistant and flourish in Lamorinda without disappointment. With so many colors available, there will be something for every gardener's penchant. I am including a variety of photos of my different daffodils for your enjoyment. This St. Patrick's Day, the flowering peach will have already finished its spectacular show, but the daffodils and shamrocks will continue to enchant. Savor the sunshine, leap up, and march on. Aram Go Braugh!



Daffodil-Lemon and Lace

Photos Cynthia Brian



Daffodil-Triple Threat



Daffodil-Ruffled yellow and orange



Daffodil-White Ruffles



Daffodil-White petals, Deep Orange frilly trumpet

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

"Wheat and corn are important crops, no question about that. But daffodils provide nourishment too—for the soul." Charles Kuralt

When I think of daffodils, I visualize trumpets of singing sunshine and it makes me happy. Although this winter hasn't been too dreary, the sight of daffodils stretching their necks skyward is always a welcoming messenger of the bright days ahead.

Inspiration strikes this month as our gardens wake up. Every day we find some new specimen to admire. Get up, get out, and celebrate the Ides of March with a hoe, spade, and shovel.

- **REPEL** insects by planting nasturtium, marigold, calendula, wormwood, and pennyroyal.
- **ATTRACT** hummingbirds and butterflies with the red and pink wildflowers of penstemon, columbine, scarlet gilia, and Shirley poppy.
- **GIVE** an Easter or Passover gift that inspires health and happiness by filling baskets with a collection of herb seeds for an indoor or outdoor garden.
- **PLANT** a never-fail kid loving veggie garden with peas, lettuce, radishes, spinach, dill, and carrots.
- **GO** to the Bouquets to Art at the de Young Museum March 13-17 for the glorious annual floral exhibitions matched to the art collection. Visit www.bouquetstoart.org.
- **BUY** azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons now so you can choose colors that compliment your landscape.
- **PREVENT** compaction by not tramping on wet soil. Before planting seeds or seedlings, allow the dirt to dry to a cake mixture consistency.
- **COLLECT** fallen camellia florets. Rotting flowers left on the ground encourage petal blight.
- **CUT** a few branches from budding trees such as cherry or peach to enjoy the slow release of the sweet smelling, beautiful blooms.
- **MARCH** around your garden and finish the winter clean-up in preparation for our fast approaching spring.
- **BUILD** fruitful fences by trellising grapes or kiwis. You'll get privacy, autumn color, and nutritious food.
- **TEACH** kids patience and healthy eating by helping them plant an edible patch of strawberries, carrots, radishes, and peas. They'll get exercise, sunshine, and feel proud of their culinary accomplishments.
- **GET** a tetanus shot if you haven't had one recently. Digging in the dirt has its hazards.
- **MIX** nutrient based organic fertilizer into your beds. Till and dig well for eight inches to improve the soil and feed the roots.
- **NEED** a gardening based fundraiser? Renee's Garden Seeds offers a fundraiser program. Check out <http://www.reneesgarden.com/fundraiser.html>. Seed donations are also available for non profit organizations planting community gardens.
- **FERTILIZE** lawns now with an organic high nitrogen mixture specifically for spring growth.
- **NET** your seeded area to protect from hungry birds and rabbits.
- **DIG** in your summer bulbs this month. Discover the colors and types you want at your local garden center. Gladioli come in a kaleidoscope of colors but are a favorite food for deer.
- **PLANT** sweet peas as soon as the soil is warm enough and once they start blooming, cut huge bouquets for indoor beauty.
- **ADD** life and movement to your garden with a water feature for the benefit of all.
- **CHECK** out the 2012 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map at <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov>
- **FIND** out the worth of your special tree with a new free APP by Davey Trees. Go to value.m.davey.com from your mobile device.
- **OOPS!** My apologies for omitting the beautiful gardens at Heather Farms from my list of public and botanical gardens to visit locally. March is a great time to visit.

The Gardens at Heather Farm
1540 Marchbanks Drive
Walnut Creek, Ca 94596
www.gardenshf.org
(925) 947-1678
Open Year Round. Free

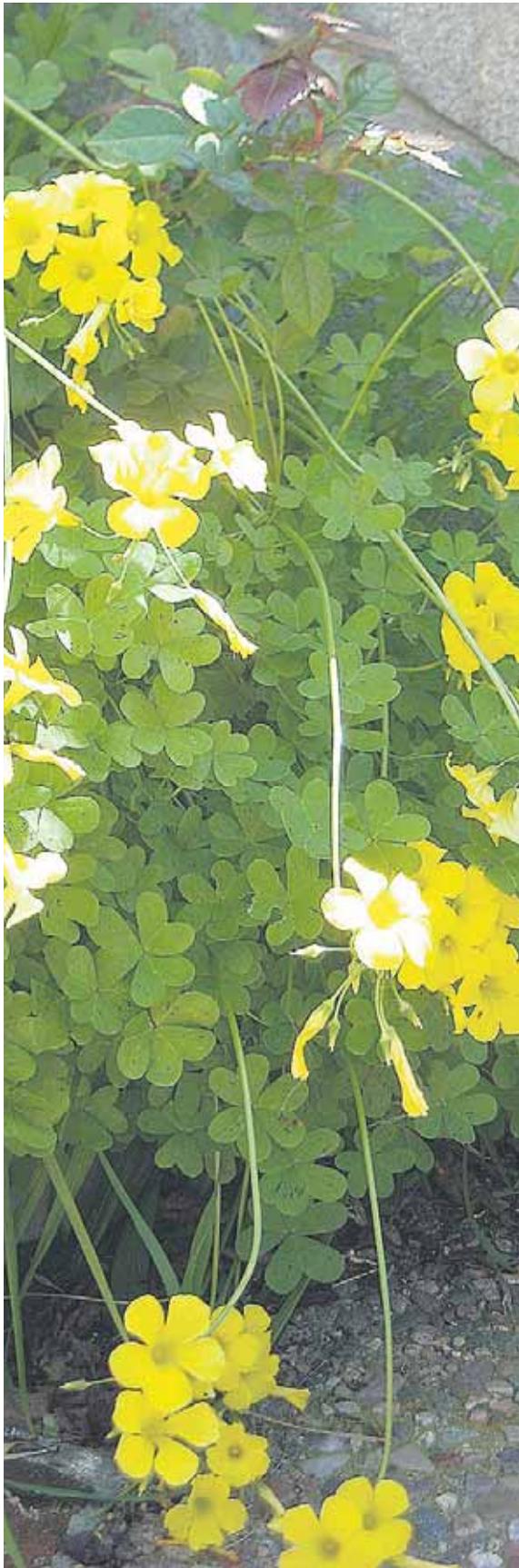
Thank you to everyone for your emails with compliments, questions, and suggestions. Digging Deep is for you and I am honored to be your garden guide.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a container of oxalis on your table. Another name for oxalis is shamrock! Wishing you the luck of the Irish.

Happy Gardening to You!



Cynthia Brian



Oxalis, also known as the Shamrock plant, is perfect for St. Patrick's Day on March 17.

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ORINDA 
106 Scenic Drive
 Special ranch w/charming appeal for comfortable living. Hdwd flrs, beamed LR ceiling, big windows & sliders to outdoors. 3bd/2ba main house w/bonus inlaw w/kit, bath & privacy.

Offered at \$859,000



ORINDA 
3 Orchard Road
 Stunning 3000 sf Old Orinda charmer exquisitely maintained & renovated by longtime owners. Gorgeous mstr suite, dream kitchen, 3+bd/2.5ba on pvt oak-studded acre.

Offered at \$1,195,000



ORINDA 
5 La Noria
 Wonderful 4bd/3.5ba mid-century modern on .70 ac in OCC. Floor to ceiling windows, hdwd in LR & DR. Sep 200+ sf ofc. Fab setting, privacy, views of golf course.

Offered at \$1,295,000



ORINDA 
8 Lost Valley Drive
 1st time on market! Beaut updated sgl lvl 4bd/3b + 2 half-baths in 3265 sf on serene 1.1 ac. Vaulted ceilings, gourmet kit, hdwd flrs. Custom pool/spa, wonderful gardens.

Offered at \$1,375,000



MORAGA 
136 Greenbriar
 Spacious 3bd/2ba home w/hardwood floors, nice light & vaulted ceilings. Private cul-de-sac location, backs to open space. Come see why people love living in Moraga Country Club!

Offered at \$659,000



MORAGA 
1753 Spyglass Lane
 Big views from this 4bd/2.5ba home in MCC. Updates thruout incl new kitchen applis, master bath, new carpet/ paint/lighting. Open floorplan, plenty of storage, cul de sac.

Offered at \$869,000



MORAGA 
10 Dickenson Drive
 4bd/2.5ba completely renovated 1-lvl 2711 sf home, designer touches, many special custom amenities. Fr doors, granite, slate, hardwood, Andersen windows. Walk to top-rated schls.

Offered at \$1,139,000



MORAGA 
1251 Rimer Drive
 Very special turnkey 5bd/3.5ba "Moraga Home Tour" beauty. Lvl lot w/pool, patio, lawn & raised beds. High end designer finish work. Amazing touches throughout. Easy biking to K-8.

Offered at \$1,249,000



LAFAYETTE 
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, nr downtown & Bart.

Offered at \$549,000



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

Offered at \$875,000



LAFAYETTE 
3819 Palo Alto Drive
 Beautifully updated Happy Valley sgl lvl 3bd/4ba hm w/lg living suite w/frplc & bath (2nd fam rm/ofc/in-law/4th bd) on .75 ac. Lovely pvt yd w/pool & views.

Offered at \$1,499,000



WALNUT CREEK 
104 Richard Lane
 Lovely 3bd/2ba trad hm in great neighborhood - perfect cul-de-sac location. Close to school, transp, walking/ biking trails. Fam rm, hdwd flrs, beam ceiling, Fr doors to pvt yard.

Offered at \$670,000



WALNUT CREEK 
1520 Whitecliff Way
 Rudgear Estates 5bd/2.5ba, 2604 sf jewel in tranquil country setting yet downtown close! Updated kitchen & baths, ofc, plantation shutters, commun pool, lvl lawn, patio/play area.

Offered at \$799,000



WALNUT CREEK 
1230 Tulane
 Fabulous 2-story trad 5+ bdrm hm beaut maintained & updated. Gorgeous pvt parklike bckyd w/expansive lawn & lovely gardens. Prime loc on quiet cul de sac. Top Alamo schools.

Offered at \$829,000



WALNUT CREEK 
687 La Vista Road
 Estate home of 4bd/3+ baths in heart of Lakewood area, dramatic interior, .48 acre pvt park-like grounds backing to open space, vineyard too! Walk to swim & tennis club.

Offered at \$1,185,000

THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

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