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**MORAGA COMMUNITY FAIRE**  
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These runners and hundreds more came from three counties to Acalanes High School to run, jump and throw at the Special Olympics' inaugural Bay Area Games. Acalanes coach in blue shirt with hat in the background. Photo Kevin Nguyen

## First-Ever Bay Area Games Competition a Winner at Acalanes

By Cathy Tyson

“Be sure to stay in your lane the whole way,” reminded the track starter as student-athletes giddy with excitement lined up on the Acalanes track to make a run for it.

Central casting could not have provided a better day. The brilliant blue sky and light breeze seemed to energize

the 330 student-athletes, roughly 65 Acalanes volunteers, cheerleaders, dignitaries and lots of law enforcement staff at the Special Olympics Bay Area Games held at Acalanes High School May 1. Supportive teammates and teachers lined the area to root them on. Nathan Roa, from the Bridge Transition Program, was “excited and nervous” at the same time.

The Special Olympics Schools Partnership Program enabled school districts and Special Olympics of Northern California to put together the day to celebrate accomplishments. It was funded through the generous support of Chevron.

... continued on page A12

### Quote of the Week:

*"Some people may think the roads will be fixed even if they don't pay any money, but they are wrong!"*

Read one Boy Scout's Letter to the Editor, page A9

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## New Police Chief Seeks a Community Partnership

By Cathy Tyson



Police Chief Eric Christensen Photo Cathy Tyson

In office for about a month so far, Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen recently sat down for a wide-ranging interview about his new job. The friendly and engaging Christensen has ambitious plans for the department and is excited about serving the citizens of Lafayette. ... continued on page A8

## First Place for Lamorinda Weekly Photographer Doug Kohen



Congratulations to Lamorinda Weekly photographer Doug Kohen, who was honored last weekend by the California Newspaper Publishers Association at the conclusion of the 2012 Press Summit in San Jose. Kohen took first place in the 2011 Better Newspapers Contest, in the Sports



## State Champions!

Photo category among similar publications. The winning photo was published on the front page of our December 8, 2010 issue: State Champions! Campolindo Volleyball Takes the Title.

### Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

## Meet Lamorinda Moms:

Celebrating life with babies since 1995. B3



### Sports C1-C5



## 50 Years of Baseball

Life-long ball player Rob Omo talks to Cathy Dausman. C1

### Our Homes D1-D8



## Life on the Creeks

Sophie Braccini explores why creeks are a special joy, and a special challenge, for homeowners. D1

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## Lafayette Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Monday, May 14, 7:00 pm  
Monday, May 21, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

#### Planning Commission

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

#### Design Review

Monday, May 14, 7:00 pm  
Tuesday, May 29, 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, May 16, 7:30 pm  
Board Room AUHSD Office  
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

##### Lafayette School District

Wednesday, May 9, 7:00 pm  
Thursday, June 21, 7:00 pm  
Regular Board Meeting  
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

### Police Report



Dear Readers: We are experiencing difficulty obtaining detailed crime reports from the Lafayette police departments, which is staffed by the Contra Costa County Sheriff. Please bear with us as we try to determine how to best serve the public given the limited information that is being made available to us.

please...



...thanks!

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

**Send a letter to the editor:**

letters@lamorinda  
weekly.com

## Downtown Plan Almost Ready to go to City Council

By Cathy Tyson

With unanimous dissent among the handful of residents still voicing concerns regarding the Downtown Specific Plan, Planning Commissioners continued to wrap up their final review of the lengthy draft document at their April 30 meeting.

Over the multi-year process a core group of opponents have con-

sistently made their objections known. "Less congestion? – that was a tough one to swallow," said Susan Callister skeptically. Eliot Hudson added, "Why are we doing this? What is the point?"

Going over the draft plan with a fine tooth comb was slow going and the Commissioners immediately got bogged down with slight grammati-

cal changes and formatting concerns. Ann Merideth, Special Projects Manager, suggested, "This is really just to facilitate your review," explaining typos, formatting and the like did not need to be addressed at the meeting.

Going forward, the Commissioners made a few edits to the Downtown Specific Plan which will

be brought back to the Planning Commission at the May 7 meeting. According to Merideth, staff will recommend that the Commission prepare resolutions for May 21. If they adopt the resolutions on May 21, then the Downtown Specific Plan and the Environmental Impact Report will go to the City Council on June 11 for more public hearings.

## More Regulation in the Works for Massage Parlors

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

With 19 massage parlors in this small city and neighbors getting increasingly frustrated at suspected illegal activity, staff from the City of Lafayette—with input from the police department—stepped up to the plate to assemble a draft ordinance to govern the operation of massage parlors.

The draft ordinance, once finalized and adopted, will require all massage therapists and practitioners operating within Lafayette to be state-

certified and force all massage businesses to register with the city on an annual basis and post their certificates of registration in visible locations. Those with existing licenses for therapy like chiropractors, orthopedists, and physical therapists are specifically exempted.

Currently massage parlors fall into the general "personal services category" that are permitted to operate in Lafayette's commercial district. The alleged services rendered, at least

according to several websites, spell out in graphic detail exactly how personal those services are.

"We don't want to be punitive to legitimate businesses, but also don't want illegal activity," said Code Enforcement Officer Mark Robbins.

The new guidelines should discourage the alleged shadier side of local massage establishments. Although a draft ordinance was presented at the April 23 City Council meeting, some fine tuning of the language is needed before a final version is adopted. Questions linger about massage therapist house calls and unique legitimate business that may fall into a gray area. The Stillpoint Center, an integrative health center run by Michael Anne Conley, offers a variety of healing services from a number of providers. "We want to comply with the essence and the intention of the ordinance, but want our concerns to be heard," said Conley.

California already has regulations governing massage businesses, and so do select cities throughout the state. The California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC) was formed in

2008 to certify massage practitioners. At least 250 hours of training are required to be a Certified Massage Practitioner and 500 for a Certified Massage Therapist. Fingerprints, a passport photo, a state ID and a fee are also required in addition to a background check that looks for potential criminal history.

The proposed Lafayette ordinance will require owners of massage businesses to present the state certification for each employee or independent contractor who works there, and to maintain certain minimum health and safety standards, and provided contact information to the police. Once the ordinance is adopted, massage businesses will have 30 days to submit documentation, or face penalties.

Niroop Srivatsa, Planning and Building Services Manager, thanked intern Mary Fitzpatrick for her hard work putting together the ordinance. "It couldn't have been prepared so quickly without her invaluable assistance." Fitzpatrick's a UC Berkeley graduate student in Public Policy.

... continued on page A8



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## Lafayette's Green Award Winners

Every year the Green Awards single out people and businesses that contribute to a more sustainable community. Five winners, each representing a unique category, were recently selected by the Environmental Task Force and honored at a City Council meeting.

**Lafayette Resident Category:** Gint Federas took on a number of aspects of his home, replacing all indoor and outdoor lighting, installing solar panels, replacing the pool pump, installing a tankless water heater and more; the net result is significant home energy savings.

**School category:** Lafayette School District Green Team— Partnering with Sustainable Lafayette, the Lafayette School District conducted energy, water and waste audits across all campuses in 2009 and started implementing upgrades in 2010 that are already saving \$75,000 per year for the District. Gym lights were replaced, windows were replaced, and a lunch recycling program was kicked

off, with substantial assistance from students. "School Liaisons" at each school were an integral part of making Green Team so successful.

**A tie in the Business category:** Clocks, etc. changed all of the light fixtures in the store and is now offering a new line of green lighting fixtures. They're also recycling paper, shipping materials and more, supporting local artists and donating defective but useable products to ARF – the Animal Rescue Fund. ECOLunchboxes.com is a Lafayette-based, non-toxic lunch container company.

**Green Building category:** The Ecohouse Design Team took a year to transform an original 1950s ranch house into a sustainable home of the future. The very first PG & E bill for the home was only \$50. Members of the Design Team include architect Ken Hertel, designer Michael Brison Bornn, homeowner and project manager Karen Maggio and builder Mike Richardson. *C. Tyson*



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## As seen in Lafayette...



Not something you see every day, but on a recent warm Sunday afternoon the French Quarter came to Lafayette complete with crawfish and a fantastic Zydeco band to entertain guests on the back patio at Yankee Pier restaurant. A native of southern Louisiana, Andrew Carriere, and his band, the Cajun Classics, set the tone for the New Orleans Crawfish Boil theme meal that was created to welcome summer weather to Lamorinda and celebrate the official opening of the back patio. A substantial turnout of happy diners enjoyed the relaxing rhythmic vibe, spicy crawfish, potatoes, roasted garlic cloves and artichoke halves, under the shade of umbrellas, surrounded by lush flowering plants. General Manager and Partner Michael Moore said there may be future musical events over the summer, stay tuned. *C. Tyson*

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# Moraga Civic News

## Public Meetings

### Town Council

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

### Planning Commission

Monday, May 21, 7:00 pm  
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

### Design Review

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

### School Board Meeting

**Moraga School District**  
 Tuesday, June 12, 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



## Police Report

**Purse hidden on purpose, 4/29/12** A Natalie Drive homeowner contacted Moraga police complaining that her husband had hidden her purse in the house and refused to return it. She asked cops to chat with her husband and suggest the purse be returned to her. Husband admitted hiding the purse after an argument over financial issues. The purse was returned without incident.

**House vandalized, 4/28/12** A Huff Court home and a car parked in front had been egged and toilet papered, along with rice thrown all over the lawn and porch. The victim had already cleaned up the nasty mess when police arrived. There was some concern that the rice was a reference to the family's ethnic group - Asian. The victims believe the suspect(s) may be high school acquaintances of their child.

**Dreaded noise ordinance, 4/28/12** Police responded to a noise complaint on Whitethorn Drive at around two o'clock in the afternoon. Even from 200 feet away police were able to verify that it was "inappropriately extensive for the time and conditions." Residents were contacted and asked to keep it down. Only an hour later, cops received a similar complaint. This time police determined that it wasn't all that loud, but suggested the party should wrap it up.

**Facebook threat? 4/26/12** A St. Mary's College student had a disagreement with her roommate over cleaning the suite. Following the disagreement, the roommate's family posted statements on Facebook suggesting a future confrontation between the reporting person and family. The slighted and possibly sloppy roommate just wanted documentation from police.

**All kinds of trouble, 4/25/12** In the middle of the afternoon, on Country Club Drive, police pulled over a 1998 BMW for having tinted windows. A routine check with the DMV showed the car's registration was expired, the driver was operating on a suspended driver's license and finally no proof of insurance. What's more the car also had a false DMV sticker on the rear license plate. The driver signed a promise to appear and was released, however the car was taken into custody, sort of, and towed.

**Petty theft, 4/24/12** An Ascot Drive resident parked her Honda in the carport attached to her apartment at around 4:00 p.m. When she went out to the car the next morning, she discovered someone had stolen two wallets from the glovebox. Although she reports that she usually locks her car, she didn't see any signs of forced entry, and may have left it unlocked. Estimated loss approximately \$50.

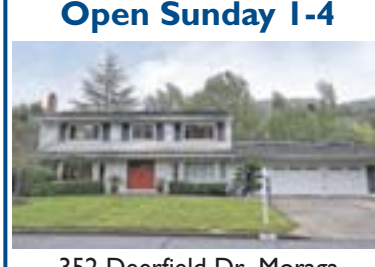
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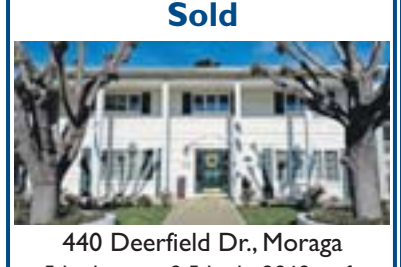
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## Tax Increase in Moraga's Future?

By Sophie Braccini

A couple of years ago the Town of Moraga picked up a common thread in Lamorinda – the need to find a lot of money to repair and maintain its roads at acceptable levels. An ad-hoc committee dubbed RECON (Revenue Enhancement Community Outreach to Neighborhoods) has spent the intervening time looking at the issue and recently presented its findings to the Town Council. The committee also requested additional funding to finalize the study and prepare for a potential November ballot initiative that would secure financing, possibly in more than one form, for Moraga's roads.

A telephone survey scheduled for this month will help the Town determine how much residents might be willing to pay for infrastructure rehabilitation and ongoing road maintenance.

According to Jerry Bradshaw, the El Cerrito City Engineer under contract with the Town of Moraga to help finalize road repair plans, the Town needs to raise \$14 million; substantially less than the \$25 million originally estimated. "At first we had planned to take the roads from an 'at risk' level (the present situation) to a 'good' level, then let them be for a few years before starting a maintenance program to keep them at a 'fair' level," Bradshaw explained. "The recommended alternative is to bring the roads only up to the Bay Area's average of 'fair' and then immediately engage in a maintenance program that would cost \$1 million a year and would keep the infrastructure at that level; this plan is less expensive," Bradshaw said at the April 25 Town Council meeting.

Even the less expensive plan will

be hard to finance. A parcel tax of \$100 would raise \$450,000 a year that the Town could bond for the roads, but the bond proceeds would be roughly \$8 million – \$6 million short of what's needed. And there would still be the cost of ongoing maintenance; that's where a sales tax could play a role. "A percent added to the local sales tax would create \$900,000 in revenue a year for the Town," explained Mayor Mike Metcalf, who serves on RECON. "It is a fair tax because people who come to shop in Moraga will contribute to maintaining the roads."

At a previous meeting Bradshaw told the Council that a sales tax increase in El Cerrito had no adverse effect on business, in spite of serious competition from nearby cities. The City of Orinda is also considering raising its sales tax to make a dent in

its infrastructure backlog.

The Town could opt for a combination of measures likely to include a parcel tax, in the form of a Community Facilities District (CFD, also known as Mello Roos), which needs a two-thirds majority approval, and a sales tax that can be passed with a 50 percent majority.

The Council unanimously approved funding for consultants who will conduct the survey, provide legal services regarding a possible CFD, and continue work on the engineering reports and maps necessary to conduct an election on a CFD. The three contracts total \$55,800.

The results of the survey are scheduled to be available in late May when the Council will further consider the funding options.

## Election Process Clarified...or Not

By Sophie Braccini

An unwritten tradition is like a gentlemen's agreement. It works as long as everyone finds it beneficial. The unwritten tradition that defined who would become the vice mayor of Moraga each year—based on the number of votes received in the general election—and subsequently serve as mayor the following year recently came to an end and will not be replaced by a written policy.

The Moraga Town Council elects its mayor and vice mayor, and the only written rules for ascending to a leadership role are general. The mayor and vice mayor must receive at least three affirmative votes, they are appointed for one-year terms, and a council member may not succeed himself/herself as mayor or vice mayor.

Early last month the Moraga

Town Council charged Town Manager Jill Keimach with finding out how Lafayette's mayoral seat is filled (read the details in our archive at www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0604/Moraga-Town-Councils-Cohesiveness-Shaken.html.) Although its written procedures are similar to Moraga's, the Lafayette City Council has an unwritten tradition that gives every elected council member an opportunity to wield the mayor's gavel.

Keimach returned to the Council on April 25 with a written proposal that reflected the Lafayette tradition. Had it been adopted, whoever had been on the council for the longest period of time without serving as mayor or vice mayor would be nominated next.

"I was never one to want to limit the Council's discretion to choose its

mayor and vice mayor, but the people have expressed their desire to have fairness and clarity," said Mayor Mike Metcalf. "What the Town Manager has drafted corresponds to that request and I'm prepared to vote for it." His motion to approve the policy failed, as it received support only from Council Member Dave Trotter.

This debate began with Council Member Karen Mendonca's December, 2011 nomination of Council Member Howard Harpham as vice mayor instead of Trotter; under the old tradition, Trotter would have received the nod. Mendonca stated, "The people elect the Council members, not the mayor. The Council needs to retain the discretion to choose the person that is best suited to lead the Council at the time." Council Member Ken Chew added, "I just didn't have a problem with

Howard (Harpham) becoming the vice mayor. The question is who can provide the leadership?"

... continued on next page

## New Rules for Public Participation

The Town Council also approved changes regulating public participation at the meetings, including the use of recording, videotaping or television equipment, which is now permitted only in the back row or side aisles; turning off electronic devices such as cell phones; keeping certain areas clear; and rules regarding disruptive behavior.

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## Moraga Town Council to Review Dog Park Plans Tonight

By Sophie Braccini

Tonight the Moraga Town Council will review not one, but three plans for providing physical separation between off-leash dogs and other park users at Rancho Laguna Park – the creation of a fenced dog park.

After nearly three years of discussion, and on the verge of suspending all off-leash hours at the Park, on March 29 the Council gave park users until May 9 to come up with a community-supported plan to share the park in a way that would meet the needs of all stakeholders, from dog owners, to sports users, to families, picnickers, and seniors. The community group that quickly formed produced a plan that will be discussed tonight. In addition two members of the group, who found themselves in the minority, have put forward their own ideas for the Council's review.

In the fall of 2011 the Town hired a consultant, Callander Associates, to help focus public input and design a park that would meet the various needs of all users. The three plans that emerged from the committee have their origins in that process but have been modified from Callander's original drawings.

After meeting 3 times, between March 28 and April 14, a committee of 15 members chaired and co-chaired by residents Cherie Grant and Dick Ayres, respectively, provided the Town with what has been called Option C (also known as the "Mickey-Mouse plan") a design that

cuts Rancho Laguna Park in two, across the field, so that off-leash dogs and sports users would all have access to grassy areas.

Two other plans were proposed by dissenting members of the committee. Plan D1 uses the same concept but adds, among other elements, turf to the north side of the park to accommodate a U-12 soccer field. This plan also includes a pedestrian path on both sides of the fence to allow walkers, with or without dogs, to use a 'loop' trail.

The third option, D2, proposes to set back the entrance and fencing of the dog park to minimize the visual impact and retain approximately one-third of the area along the north side of the park for picnic tables and barbecues since this area is considered the sunniest part of the park.

The Council will also review the Biological Resources Assessment of Rancho Laguna Park that was conducted by WRA Environmental Consultants in April. The report, which will impact the design of a dog park, indicates that the setback area set aside for a riparian corridor should be expanded to include the Mixed Riparian Woodland, which is considered sensitive habitat by the California Department of Fish and Game. In addition several nests of dusky-footed woodrats—which are on the State's list of Species of Special Concern—were found at the site.

The Council could also consider

other options, including earlier versions of dog park plans for Rancho Laguna, or moving the dog park to another Town-owned facility such as the Commons Park.

Should the Council opt to move

forward with changes to Rancho Laguna Park it will need to outline next steps, including a full CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) review, a possible phased-implementation plan, and whether to re-

duce or eliminate the current off-leash hours in the meantime.

The Town Council meets at 7 p.m. tonight in the auditorium of Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. The public is welcome.

## Election Process Clarified...or Not

... continued from page A4

It's like on a sports team—the most senior or the player who scored the most points is not necessarily the captain, it's the one who can work with everybody."

Trotter, who served as mayor in 2009 after being elected by the same Council, reiterated his opposition to not having a rule, written or not, for passing the gavel. "This is the way to

keep the process non-political," he said.

At Metcalf's suggestion the Council approved, on a four-to-one vote (Trotter opposed), a non-binding notation: "The Town desires to fairly rotate the offices of Mayor and Vice Mayor of the Town Council among the five members of the Council."

## Is this too young to go to Cal?



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## Orinda Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Tuesday, May 15, 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 22, at 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

#### Finance Advisory Committee

Special Meeting:  
Wednesday, May 9, at 6:00 pm  
Community Room, City Hall  
22 Orinda Way

#### School Board Meeting

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

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org  
Phone (925) 253-4200

#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

#### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



### Police Report

Don't skip town, 5/1/12 Police were on the lookout for a man who shoplifted from Safeway and fled on foot earlier that morning. They found a suspect matching his description at Orinda BART. Guess the guy's train didn't come in fast enough. A witness positively ID'd the fellow from a lineup. Research in to his background showed the character already was on felony probation and had a warrant for his arrest under "failure to comply." He was arrested, transported and booked into Martinez Detention Facility.

This might hurt...5/1/12 A 31-year-old male was arrested for driving under the influence, driving with a suspended license and probation violation, due to an earlier DUI arrest. He showed objective signs of being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, refused a field sobriety test and was taken to the Orinda police department. There, he refused an Alcotest and a blood draw, and became combative. He struck his head against the wall and against a file cabinet several times; it took three police to physically restrain him. They transported him to the county detention facility and requested a "forced blood draw."



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# The Taxing Condition of Orinda's Roads and Aging Infrastructure

*Will residents be asked to vote for a sales tax increase or not?*

By Laurie Snyder

Orinda's major roads improved while its residential streets got bumpier in 2011, as City leaders continued to wrestle with declining property tax revenues, aging infrastructure, and the weather tantrums of a Mother Nature apparently bent on making Orinda's hills slide at the worst possible time.

That was the overarching message at the Orinda City Council's lightly attended meeting May 1, as Council members received the annual report for 2011 from the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Committee (CIOC) and explored whether or not a proposed sales tax increase that residents appear to support, according to a recent survey, is genuinely the best route to follow after all.

Richard Nelson, in presenting the CIOC's report, wanted residents to know, "We have made significant progress in maintaining our most heavily traveled streets." He pointed out that the City was able to cut, by nearly half, arterial and collector street segments labeled poor or very poor. However, the same was not true for 69 percent of Orinda's roads – the 64.3 miles of residential streets not every Orindan sees daily, but grumbles about each time a pothole is nailed. According to CIOC's report, "These roads have an overall average PCI of 37. This places essentially all of the City's residential roads in the poor and very poor categories."

As a result, Nelson told Council members and Orinda residents that the CIOC "strongly supports efforts to increase funding for repair of our roads." Nelson also provided advice to the Council during the Public Forums portion of the next major agenda item, "Proposed Sales Tax Measure Discussion and Direction for the November 2012 Election."

According to the staff report for this agenda item, during a February 7 presentation by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) – the public polling firm hired to assess residents' support for various possible infrastructure funding mechanisms – FM3 representatives "reported that the only initiative that garnered enough support for passage is a simple majority half-cent sales tax."

However, the City Attorney's office has since advised "that a sales tax measure requiring a simple majority (50% + 1) approval ('general sales tax') cannot be committed to a specific project or single issue, rather all monies generated by a general sales tax must be placed in the General Fund and available for any and all governmental purpose. By contrast, tax revenues dedicated to specific purposes are considered 'special taxes' and must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote."

Additionally, the City Attorney advised Council members that the City would be eligible to request a full-cent sales tax hike from voters if need be.

Staff is now projecting that, "If approved by voters, a half-cent

sales tax could possibly generate an additional \$600,000 annually," and that a full-cent tax "could possibly reach the \$1.2 million mark." They also reminded the Council, however, that funding generated is subject to the spending habits of the public and is not a set amount of revenue.

The low-end estimate and potential instability worried several Orinda residents, including Pat Schmidt who advised that shopping in Orinda just simply needs to be increased across the board so that the City's sales tax revenues will grow.

Nelson said he would support any plan that brings in any additional roads funding, but also urged Council members to act more boldly, as did others who spoke.

Council Member Dean Orr said that he appreciated the perspectives of residents who expressed their desire that the City opt for "a big plan" to bring in even higher revenues, but noted that it was important for the City at this stage "to keep the needle moving" with its infrastructure improvements – even incremen-

tally.

Council Member Victoria Smith and Vice Mayor Amy Worth both referenced the Town of Moraga's upcoming poll to gauge the level of support from its residents for a half-cent sales tax increase. Moraga personnel have agreed to share their results with Orinda's leaders.

Council Member Sue Severson asked staff to also check with personnel in additional cities about their respective successful sales tax increases, and urged that Council create a comprehensive plan which places the sales tax in its true context – as one small component of the City's larger ef-

orts. Smith agreed and said the plan should also spell out how revenues will be used on roads.

Observing that residents have expressed their clear desire "to put additional resources into our community," Worth said, "We have to realize that we're going from zero to additional."

Mayor Steve Glazer acknowledged Orindans' prior support at the polls to fund Orinda's schools and library and said, "It's in our community's interest to help each other."

City Council and staff will continue discussions at a budget workshop on May 17 and another upcoming City Council meeting.

### Orinda Roads Stats (CIOC 2011 Recap)

Arterial and Collector Street Segments in Poor or Very Poor Condition (PCI <50):

• April 20, 2009	43
• November 20, 2011	34
• December 31, 2011	25

Overall Average PCI of Orinda's Residential Roads: 37

Repair and Infrastructure Expenditures:

• Drainage Improvements:	\$101,500
• El Toyonal Slide:	\$225,000
• Urgent Repairs:	\$ 36,000

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# Orinda City Council Announces 2012 Commission and Committee Appointments

By Laurie Snyder

At meetings February 21 and March 22, Orinda City Council approved the following Orinda residents to serve on the City's Commissions and Committees for 2012:

**Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission:**

- Gordon Bizieff
- Richard Nelson (reappointment)
- Jeffrey Smyly

**Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging:**

- Sue Littlehale (reappointment)

**Contra Costa County Library Commission:**

- Barbara Burkhalter
- Ben Bonham (Alt, reappointment)

**Contra Costa Mosquito Vector Control District:**

- Diane Wolcott (reappointment)

**County Connection Citizens Advisory Committee:**

- David Libby

**Finance Advisory Committee:**

- Robert Burt
- Owen Murphy (reappointment)
- Richard Westin

**Parks and Recreation Commission:**

- Rebecca Dahlberg
- Kathleen Kolman (reappointment)
- Rachel Zenner (reappointment)

**Planning Commission:**

- Louise Adamson (reappointment)
- Dave Hoppock
- Nick Kosla (reappointment)

**Public Works Aesthetic Review Committee:**

- Richard Bartlett
- Richard Burkhalter (reappointment)
- Andrea Restrepo

**Traffic Safety Advisory Committee:**

- Amer Budayr
- John Eddy (reappointment)
- Gary Moore
- Mark Roberts (reappointment)

# Team Orinda Shows Staying Power in 2012 Moraga Triathlon



Orinda's leaders showed off more than just brain power recently, flexing both physical and mental muscles as competitors in this year's Moraga Triathlon. Doing their beloved City proud were, from left: Orinda City Council Member Dean Orr (cycling), City Clerk Michele Olsen (swimming), and Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu (running). Photo provided

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<p><b>MORAGA</b> \$1,215,000 6/3.5. Traditional Living At Its Best – Additional Space Ideal for Au Pair or Inlaw Living. Cathy Schultheis 925-253-4600</p>	<p><b>ORINDA</b> \$1,018,000 4/3. Country Club Contemporary offering bright, open living spaces and gorgeous views. Alti Schmitt 925-253-4600</p>	<p><b>ORINDA</b> \$2,895,000 5/6.5. Stunning Gated French Country Estate in the Glorietta Neighborhood Completed in 2010. Maureen Wilbur 925-253-4600</p>	<p><b>LAFAYETTE</b> \$1,049,000 4/3.5. 1/2 acre lot in a court location close to town and schools. Durantini/Streeter 925-253-4600</p>	<p><b>LAFAYETTE</b> \$1,850,000 5/3.5. Beautifully updated, yard w/pool, lawns, slate patio &amp; much more! Detached guest house. The Beaubelle Group 925-253-4600</p>	<p><b>ORINDA</b> \$5,000,000 4/4. Secluded Sleepy Hollow Estate. Gracefully remodeled Mediterranean. Pano views. Lap &amp; infinity pools. Laura Abrams 925-253-4600</p>
<p><b>ORINDA</b> \$5,000,000 4/4. Secluded Sleepy Hollow Estate. Gracefully remodeled Mediterranean. Pano views. Lap &amp; infinity pools. Laura Abrams 925-253-4600</p>	<p><b>LAFAYETTE</b> \$10,000 4/5. Beautiful Calif. Rancher for Lease. 2.5 flat acres of immaculate gardens. Retro pool/Cabana, open kitchen to great room.. Tom Stack 925-253-4600</p>	<p><b>LAFAYETTE</b> \$1,675,000 5/3. Lovely Upper Happy Valley Contemporary with gorgeous views. Great floor plan. Karen Richardson 925-253-4600</p>	<p><b>LAFAYETTE</b> \$875,000 5/2.5. Updated cul-de-sac home! Two story w/stainless &amp; granite kitchen open to family rm, large lvl yard. The Holcenberg Team 925-253-4600</p>	<p><b>ORINDA</b> \$2,095,000 5/3.2. Elegant gated Orinda Estate in Country Club section with view of the water. Steve Stahle 925-253-4600</p>	<p><b>ORINDA</b> \$1,299,000 3/2. "Huge" flat back yard/fabulous views. Remodeled single level. Elena Hood 925-253-4600</p>
<p><b>ORINDA</b> \$6,195,000 5/5.5. Truly extraordinary! This majestic, private, park-like 24 acre view estate with gated security entrance. Peter &amp; Darlene Hattersley 925.253.4600</p>	<p><b>ORINDA</b> \$1,595,000 4/4.5. 1st time on market. Dramatic architecture w/0.95 acres lot approx. 4100 sq.ft. Call for private showing. Theresa Wang 925-253-4600</p>	<p><b>LAFAYETTE</b> \$1,750,000 4/3.5. Elegant 2 story trad. Grand size rooms, chef's kit, fabulous family room. Lvl lawn, patio, garden &amp; stunning views! Nancy Stryker 925-253-4600</p>	<p><b>LAFAYETTE</b> \$1,159,000 4/2. Sophisticated and stylish, limestone accents, hardwood floors, skylights, high ceilings, large decks, amazing views. The Beaubelle Group 925-253-4600</p>		

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## Civic News Lafayette

### New Police Chief Seeks a Community Partnership

... continued from page A1

Having previously worked in San Ramon as a Patrol Deputy and Detective, as a Supervising Sergeant for Oakley, and most recently as manager of the County Emergency Services Support unit, the Chief brings a unique skill set to this position.

He reports that traffic and complaints related to traffic are the number one concern of residents. When someone complains of speeders in the neighborhood, Christensen makes a point of having officers check it out to analyze the extent of the problem and looks at what the department can do to change behavior. "When tickets go up, the number of accidents goes down," he said. Call it a deterrent, but he's found that people really do think twice when they've been ticketed. "We are here to make the community safer."

When he first started the job, City Manager Steven Falk suggested the Chief go out and meet people, and more than a couple of drivers were surprised to be introduced to their new police chief when he was on patrol.

In his prior position working for Emergency Services Support, coordinating with other agencies was a key aspect of the job and it's clear he's brought that collaborative point of view to Lafayette. That philosophy is manifested in the new motto for the department: "A community partnership." Looking to foster the support of the community, police rely on attentive residents and business owners who are keenly aware of unusual or suspicious activity to report tips. "That's the best crime fighting tool we have," said Christensen.

A second aspect of this partnership is the recently launched volunteer program in the Police Department. Together with the Crime Prevention Committee, the Department is actively encouraging residents to volunteer a few hours a week doing manageable tasks that would free up officers to increase the level of service around Lafayette. The plan is to craft a short citizen's police academy seminar and possibly organize a field trip to the Martinez Detention Facility as a brief overview to educate volunteers on how the police serve the public.

Sean Larson, a professional in his thirties who helped out at Chief Christensen's last post, will be volunteering to help manage the Lafayette patrol fleet. Specifically, he'll be helping to clean the vehicles and making sure all the many pieces of equipment are complete—one less task for officers. With a limited budget, the idea is to stretch resources and fill a few hours per week with community service helpers.

While Christensen looks forward to welcoming incoming volunteers, he cautioned, "There's a major vetting process - we don't want untrustworthy people in the police department." Plan on a background check, being fingerprinted, and taking a polygraph. His own mother volunteered in the past; Christensen opined that she passed the tests.

Finally, the community partnership theme continues with the Chief directing officers to get to know all the bank managers and staffers downtown, creating a relationship. The goal of this is to explain what will happen in the, hopefully unlikely, event a bank gets robbed, to give personnel a comfort level of how police will respond to that type of situation. Ditto for the night-time patrols - they are required to meet and greet all the establishments that serve alcohol. If there happens to be a call for service, bar owners will be familiar with the protocol.

Parting advice? Christensen recommends making your house number clearly visible from the street. "If I can't find your house, I can't help you - same with fire and emergency personnel." In Lafayette the police see many crimes of opportunity, an unlocked car with a purse or laptop in plain view is an invitation. Given how safe residents generally feel, he warns against complacency. "There's nothing you can do to get your sense of security back once your home or car has been broken into." It's worth a couple of minutes to make sure doors and windows are locked. To report suspicious activity call the office number at (925) 299-3220 or dispatch at (925) 284-5010, and of course, in case of emergency, dial 911.

### More Regulation in the Works for Massage Parlors

... continued from page A2

Srivatsa explained the goal of the ordinance is not to prohibit legitimate practitioners, but to keep track of the massage businesses in town. Since this is a new program, and the plan is to work with the police department and with the businesses to ensure practitioners are certified, "it won't happen

overnight," she said. Compliments were doled out from thankful residents. "This will go a long way to separate sleazy sex for sale from legitimate establishments," said one gentleman. "This seems reasonable and makes sense," commented Traci Reilly.

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# Letters to the Editor



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Editor:

At a city council meeting about our roads, they said that 50% of Orinda's roads are in very poor condition and the city of Orinda doesn't have the funds to fix them. A tax measure(s) needs to be passed in order to repair Orinda's roads. The roads are in a horrible state; taxpayers must act quickly to repair them and pass a tax to bring in the revenue necessary for such improvements.

Orinda's roads are dangerous to bicyclists, walking pedestrians, joggers, and car tires. Many people, including my neighbor, have been injured by the uneven roads with many cracks and potholes in them while riding their bicycle. My neighbor broke his arm, chipped some of his teeth, and torn all the skin off the side of his face because he ran into a pothole while riding his bike and crashed. Walking pedestrians on several occasions have tripped in a pothole or crack in the road. If the road isn't fixed soon, there could be many more injuries and damage to automobiles and the city could be liable for these unsafe conditions.

Not only are the roads in a terrible condition, but they are getting worse and becoming more costly to fix. Today, the estimated cost to fix the roads is \$55,000,000, as stated at a previous city council meeting about our roads. We should act now to fix the roads before the cost to fix them increases dramatically.

Though Orinda should act now, the city doesn't have enough money to take care of its roads. Just to maintain Orinda's roads, the city should pay \$3,100,000 each year. Over the last ten years Orinda has only spent \$1,000,000 per year to maintain the roads. This means that they are over \$2,000,000 short each year in maintenance costs. The citizens of our city should prioritize and pass a new tax or taxes to receive enough funds to fix the roads.

You may want the roads to be fixed but not want to pay the extra taxes. There is no other way to raise enough funds to fix the roads other than extra taxes. The longer you wait until you start to pay for the roads, the more money you will have to pay. Therefore, an extra tax or taxes should be accepted and paid to fix the roads.

Orinda's roads are dangerous, causing more expense the longer we wait to fix them, and we don't have enough funds to fix them. We need to accept a tax measure or

measures to fix the roads. Some people may think the roads will be fixed even if they don't pay any money, but they are WRONG! We need you and all other citizens of Orinda to pay their share to fix the roads.

Submitted as a project for Boy Scout troop 57, by:

Steven Rein  
 Orinda

Editor:

The Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission made its annual report to the Orinda City Council on May 1. It reported that Orinda's major roads have seen significant improvements in the past several years and that all major roads are projected to be improved to the level of at least "fair" by 2015. However, none of the 60 miles of residential streets have seen any improvements and the City lacks the funds to repair the 45 miles of streets in poor and failed conditions. Further, while the CIOC encouraged the Council to develop a plan to address these residential streets, in the six years since the Infrastructure Committee report quantified Orinda's crumbling infrastructure issues, no plan has been developed. A proposed half cent sales tax would fall far short of providing any meaningful improvements.

As a means for developing a workable plan, the grassroots group FAIR announced that they created a website, www.OrindaRoadFacts.virb.com, detailing Orinda's infrastructure challenges and listing options for solving these. Orindans need to understand the issues and demand action from their leaders or our roads will never be improved.

Steve Cohn  
 Orinda

Editor:

Residents of the Glorietta neighborhood in Orinda have formed a Neighborhood Action Team (NAT) and are asking drivers using Glorietta Blvd. to help keep their kids and neighborhood safe by driving 25 mph. Speeds on Glorietta have greatly increased since the street was repaved

a few years ago. 85% of drivers are not traveling the posted 25 mph, but rather 36 mph, mandating a speed limit increase to 30 mph unless residents can get drivers to significantly slow down before the next traffic study in mid-May.

Glorietta, a minor arterial street without sidewalks, has an elementary school located on it halfway between Moraga Way and the Lafayette border. With the average speed now at 36 mph, the street is even more dangerous for pedestrians, including kids walking and biking to and from school. Statistics show that a pedestrian hit by a vehicle in a 30 mph zone is 3 times more likely to die than one hit in a 25 mph zone (General Estimates Database on Police Reported Accidents - 1999). And, driving 36 mph along the entire length of Glorietta actually only "saves" people about 40 seconds, which is not worth endangering lives.

The NAT fears that, if the limit is raised to 30 mph, drivers will exceed the new limit, creating an even greater safety hazard for pedestrians, and requiring yet another increase when the next traffic study is performed 5 years from now. The NAT is working with Orinda's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) to educate people using Glorietta about the issue. The NAT hopes that, through education, people will slow down, making maintaining the 25 mph limit possible, while improving walkability and safety.

Nan Reed, a NAT member who just ended her six-year term on TSAC, encourages people to get out of their cars and walk, to see what it feels like to have a car pass right next to you going 35-40 mph. Drivers using Glorietta should consider the Glorietta neighborhood as if it were their own neighborhood and slow down.

Thank you,  
 Vanessa Imberg  
 Orinda

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If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com) and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.



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## Community Service

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

## Working Together to Clean the Creeks

Submitted by Elizabeth O'Shea



Volunteers from the Friends of the Orinda Creeks and the Orinda Academy clean the creek.

Photo Adriane Bosworth

Friends of Orinda Creeks and Orinda Academy worked together March 23 to remove trash and invasive weeds from the banks of San Pablo Creek in downtown Orinda. Fourteen creek advocates formed teams with 38 students and four staff members from the Orinda Academy. After removing seven bags of trash and some large debris, the teams began digging out non-native black-

berry, broom, and ivy. After several hours, a full truck of weeds had been removed. The Friends of Orinda Creeks will continue to lead work parties to improve the creek banks in the coming months. Announcements of these work parties and other events can be found on the Friends website: [www.OrindaCreeks.org](http://www.OrindaCreeks.org).

## Four Miramonte Seniors Receive Gold Award

Submitted by Gretchen Latimer



Girl Scout Troop 30662 members and Miramonte High School seniors Katherine Latimer, Cecily Schmidt, Alicia Macler, and Ashley Juarbe each earned the Girl Scout Gold Award. The four completed projects involving more than 100 hours. Katherine Latimer started a pilot art program teaching photography classes in an after-school enrichment program. She taught the classes for eight weeks and finished up the class with an art show. Cecily Schmidt created a neighborhood disaster preparedness program, creating a preparedness video and

manned an informational booth on disaster preparedness at the Orinda Farmers' Market. Alicia Macler taught cooking and nutrition classes at Shelter Inc. in Antioch. Her classes emphasized healthy meals on a limited budget. Ashley Juarbe created a week-long summer camp for the children at Shelter Inc. The camp included crafts, sport activities and a family barbecue. This fall Katherine will attend Villanova University, Cecily will attend UC Berkeley, Alicia will attend UC Santa Barbara, and Ashley will attend University of Redlands.

## OIS Students Raise Funds for Shoes

Submitted by Blake Sharp



Orinda Intermediate School (OIS) students and social entrepreneurs Katherine Cane and Blake Sharp, age 13, are raising funds to help provide shoes for 4,000 homeless and low-income children in the Bay Area as part of OIS's Take Action Project. The two are selling neon shoelaces, bracelets and baked goods, and donating the money to the non-profit My New Red Shoes. With every \$12 donation, Blake and Katherine will donate a brand new pair of shoes directly to the cause (they found a great deal on lace-up sneakers). They've also teamed up with Table 24 in Orinda which will donate 10 percent of dinner proceeds May 15 to My New Red Shoes; simply mention the fundraiser "My New Red Shoes" or say, "This is for the fundraiser," or "This is for Blake and Katherine." The students will also be out front selling shoes that evening with a goal of selling 24 shoes in honor of Table 24. (A big thank you to Table 24 for its generosity.) For more information - you can email Blake or Katherine at [blakeandkatherinesnewshoes@gmail.com](mailto:blakeandkatherinesnewshoes@gmail.com).

Photo provided

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## Junior Girl Scouts Complete Bronze Award Project

Submitted by Lisa Lindquist



Front row, from left: Olivia, Maddy, Catherine, Joelle, Tori and Lily. Back row: Sara, Carissa, Sabrina, Elizabeth, Annika, Mackenzie, Isabel and Sophie

Photo Zunilda Ramos

Moraga's Junior Girl Scout Troop #30550 spent the last year planning and executing various activities for the residents at Moraga Royale and completed its Bronze Award Project April 29. The troop made scarves at Christmas, put together a book of illustrations and poems for their library, wrote letters to all of the residents, and put on a show (singing, music and skits).

# New Businesses 'Springing Up' in Lamorinda

By Sophie Braccini



Care Indeed young ladies in Orinda, from left: Dee Busos, Amrita Sanyal, Winnie Abenoja  
Photo Sophie Braccini

New businesses are coming to Orinda, the gateway east of the Caldecott Tunnel. "We chose Orinda because we want to offer our services

to Orindans, and because it's a great place to access the three Lamorinda communities and beyond," says Dee Busos, CEO of Care Indeed. A nurse

by training, the young woman started the in-home care service only a few years ago in Palo Alto, but decided to move her company as she began getting more clients east of the tunnel.

Care Indeed is not a new concept. The business services adults in their homes, mostly older adults, who need various degrees of assistance. "What is different with us," says Amrita Sanyal, who's been working with Busos since they met while working for another employer, "is that some of our caregivers are nurses who can take charge of the medical needs of the clients who need it." Busos explains that both she and Sanyal got frustrated with their inability to change the company's culture at their previous jobs. "We were tired of the high turnover of the care givers, the recruitment was not discriminate enough, personnel were not treated right and the overall service suffered as a result." That's why she decided to start her own business two years ago.

Care Indeed employs 25 nurses and 60 other employees. They answer their phone 24/7 and can tailor their service to a wide range of needs, including dementia patients who need a permanent presence.

A few blocks from Care Indeed, Dr. Laurie Langford opened her own veterinary hospital, Theater View Veterinary Clinic, at the end of April. She

has been working in Orinda for 15 years, but says, "It was time for me to become my own boss." She found a quiet place at 1 Bates Blvd., Suite 200 in Orinda where she thinks her favorite patients, local dogs, cats and 'pocket-pets' won't be stressed. But there are plenty of challenges, too. She's noticed a growing problem with fleas and ticks. "It started last year," she says. "It seems that fleas are getting resistant to the topical products that worked well before." She thinks that there is a lot of work for vets around here, with all the animals people love to keep.

A few miles away in Lafayette, Renee DeWeese and Rena Wilson met a few years ago at an audition for a production of Peter Pan. They are both actresses; Wilson has a special talent for singing, while DeWeese is a great dancer. After helping each other to ace the audition and playing together in that production, they realized their abilities complement each other. They incorporated an art education program for children and organized after-school programs in Lamorinda elementary and middle schools a year ago.

Now they are taking the next step and opening their first studio in Lafayette, the Lamorinda Theater Academy. "We are about the process more than the product," says Wilson. They teach children how to dance,

sing and act first. "We emphasize training," she adds. "It is like a foreign language, you first have to learn the language of theater."

DeWeese and Wilson are both local gals. The first was raised in Moraga and the second lives in Lafayette. They want to grow and nurture the next generation of budding artists in this area. They say the program nurtures a child's passion and helps to build their self-confidence. The summer camp programs are taking registrations and are starting to fill. The classes include tap, jazz, contemporary dance, hip hop, acting for the stage and film, audition technique, creative dance for toddlers, group voice, yoga, and private voice and piano instruction, and will begin next month. Free classes are offered the last week of June.

For more information, go to www.lamorindatheatreacademy.com. The Lamorinda Theater Academy is located at 83 Lafayette Circle, next to Lamorinda Music. Care Indeed is at 61 Moraga Way in Orinda (above Peet's Coffee), (925) 317-3080, www.homecareorinda.com. For more information about Theater View Veterinary Clinic call (925) 317-3187 or visit www.theaterviewvetclinic.com.

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

## business briefs

### Small Business Awards Luncheon



Orinda winners of the Small Business Award, Republic of Cake co-owners Peter McNiff and Chih-Chung Fang  
Photo provided

The traditional Small Business Award luncheon, organized by the Contra Costa Council, recognized individual business owners in each community May 4. In Lamorinda the Chambers of Commerce nominated Republic of Cake in Orinda, 5A Rent-A-Space in Moraga and Chevalier Restaurant in Lafayette. "Philippe (Chevalier) has many regulars that rave about his food, the service and the friendly relaxed atmosphere he has provided for diners in Lamorinda," said Lafayette Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson.

In Orinda, Candy Kattenburg, the Executive Director of the Chamber is a big fan of Republic of Cake. "The reason why we chose Republic of Cake is not only because they make delicious cupcakes, but because their new original business has made Theatre Square livelier, and because they give back a lot to the community," Kattenburg said that co-owner Peter McNiff is heavily involved with the city in any way that can improve Orinda.

In Moraga, Brad Noggle was named business person of the year and naturally the Chamber nominated his business 5A Rent-A-Space to be part of the Contra Costa County celebration. "Brad has been so intricately involved in the

Chamber activities for the past four years," said Moraga Chamber's Kathe Nelson. "He has run the Community Faire Car Show single-handedly for the last two years, he consistently reaches out to other businesses and fosters business-related networking, and he serves the community in many ways, with the Lions, with e-waste recycling events, with the Santa event."

### Shelby's AIDS Foundation Fundraiser on May 17

**2 Theater Square in Orinda, Suite 152 (925) 254-9687, www.shelbysseatbetter.com**  
From June 3rd through June 9th Shelby's Carlos Rangel will be riding his bike 545 miles, from San Francisco to Los Angeles in the AIDS/ Life-Cycle 11. "I've committed to raising \$10,000," he says. In support to Rangel's big challenge, Shelby's is organizing a fundraising event May 17 from 6 to 9 p.m. where art pieces, wine and gift certificates from Theater Square merchants will be silently auctioned at the restaurant. Additionally, 25 percent of the restaurant's sales that day will go to sponsor Rangel's ride. "The funds raised will enable the San Francisco AIDS Foundation help those impacted by HIV to get the treatment and care they need and provide targeted prevention efforts," says Rangel.

### Nifty E-Waste Recycling Center Opens in Lafayette

**3467 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette (925) 294-9086**  
Futures Explored, Inc., a non-profit corporation that provides life skills and work-related training to adults with developmental disabilities, announced that it has opened new Nifty E-Waste Recycling Centers in the East Bay, including one in Lafayette. The new centers offer individuals and businesses a convenient way to recycle unwanted electronics safely and responsibly. The recycling service is free of charge, and

drop-off centers are located next to Nifty Thrift. "Nifty Thrift stores have always been about the concept of 'shop and drop', where anyone can shop for household and personal items, and also conveniently donate items of their own, including books, furniture, jewelry, clothing and collectibles," said Will Sanford, Executive Director, Futures Explored, Inc. "And now with Nifty E-Waste, we've expanded that concept to include recycling of electronic items. It's all part of a broader effort to help the community reduce, reuse and recycle." Nifty E-Waste Recycling Center is open Mondays, noon-5 p.m. and Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

### News from the Three Chambers of Commerce Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

Tonight! May Mixer, Wednesday, May 9, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Round Table Pizza, 3637 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Taste of Lafayette. A tour of Lafayette's finest dining establishments and the opportunity to sample the signature cuisine of each restaurant, Tuesday, May 15, 5:30 to 9 p.m. The tour begins at Elam and Margaret Brown Plaza (corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Blvd.) From there, ticket holders will go at their own pace to any, or all, of the participating restaurants. The evening wraps up back at the Plaza with dessert and coffee, more music, raffles, silent and live auction. The Taste benefits the Lafayette Community Foundation and the programs and services of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Cost is \$45 per person, reserve by mail to Chamber Office or register online at Lafayettechamber.org

Social Media Strategies Workshop, Wednesday, May 16, 8 a.m., Lafayette Library & Learning

Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Learn steps to create and Optimize online business profiles. Free to Lafayette Chamber members.

### Moraga Chamber of Commerce

Moraga Community Faire, May 12 (see page B1), 11a.m. to 4 p.m., Rheem Center.

### Orinda Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Ribbon Cutting Event for Orinda Florists, May 4, 3:30 p.m., 99 Brookwood Road #2, Orinda.

Chamber Ribbon Cutting Event for All-In-Fitness, May 18, 4 p.m., 1 Orinda Way Suite #2, Orinda.

Heads up for the most patriotic 4th of July parade ever to be held in Lamorinda. Orinda Chamber is inviting businesses in the three communities to join a friendly 4th of July Lamorinda decorating contest. The winner will be honored with a banner on a float or car in the parade and will win a free ad in the Lamorinda Weekly and the Orinda News. "We want the businesses to go all out, honoring our soldiers and our vets," said Chamber Executive Director Candy Kattenburg. Decorations should be up from June 27 to July 4 and will be judged on June 30. Only one business from the three cities will be selected. "We want to have an inclusive parade, and get everybody in Lamorinda into the spirit," she added.

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

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93 Moraga Way, Orinda

## First-Ever Bay Area Games Competition a Winner at Acalanes

... continued from page A1



Most of the team from Miramonte High School, from lower left bleacher bench: Brandon Runyon/ Instructional Assistant, Kyle Koegler/Sports Medicine Student MHS, Kim Pirie/Instructional Assistant; middle bench - Rosemary Black/Teacher, Amanda Boehrer/Student, Kendall Skelton/Student; back row - Gino Paoletti/Student, Daniel McLean/Student, Sofia Martinez Wexler/Student. Photos Kevin Nguyen



An officer lit the torch to officially launch the Bay Area Games. could do it again next year."

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The Bay Area Games interscholastic competition included 50- and 100-meter runs, the standing long jump, and throwing options included softball, javelin and tennis ball, accommodating differing ability levels. Everyone was a winner.

School buses ferried students from all over Contra Costa County, San Francisco County, San Mateo County, and even a tiny sliver of Alameda County represented by Dublin High School, and the debut Bay Area Games went off without a hitch. All of the athletes, from kindergarten through 12th grade and even some students from Transition schools, where students age 18 to 22 who have aged out of high school still learn valuable life skills, were recognized for their achievements.

"We are absolutely thrilled and excited to work with the games committee," said Acalanes Principal Aida Glimme. "We hope to do this every year." The voice of Lamorinda and the Oakland A's, Dick Callahan, was the master of ceremonies. The Bay Area Games are such a big deal for Lafayette, the City Council approved

a proclamation recognizing the event.

Proud law enforcement officers and the entire Acalanes Cheer Squad – all dolled up in their uniforms complete with blue and white pom-poms – flanked the track to welcome the parade of special athletes and the Olympic torch. Logan Da Hora, an Acalanes student, along with students from two other schools had a chance to carry the lit torch.

"I thought it was fabulous," said Miramonte Education Specialist and Special Education Department Chair Rosemary Black. This was the first time her class has participated in a Special Olympics event. "Yesterday was a great opportunity for the students from Miramonte to spend the day seeing and competing with their friends from other schools. The students practiced various sporting events at Miramonte for the last month so that they would feel comfortable competing in the events at the Olympics. All of my students felt excited to have the opportunity to participate and they were really proud of themselves after each of the events, and at the end of the day asked if we

Acalanes Special Education teacher Marie Townsend said her students were very excited, even the next day. "[There was] an amazing amount of energy around the entire school," she said.

"A huge thank you to Chevron – they really stepped up to support and make the competition possible today," said Rick Collett, President and CEO of Special Olympics Northern California & Nevada who has children who are Acalanes students. "Sports is the great equalizer, it gives everyone a chance to be a gold medalist. This is about success and self-confidence, acceptance and respect."




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# MAY - JUNE COMMUNITY EVENTS

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### Inaugural Concert at the Reservoir Coming Soon



The Dominant Seven played on the new stage at the donor recognition event on April 25

The Concert at the Reservoir marks the official opening to the public of the long-awaited permanent stage on May 12 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the east side of the Reservoir, across from the kid's play area.

Dedicated Rotary members have labored selflessly for more than 15 years to construct and then deconstruct a stage to be used to put on their annual concerts, a showcase for young talented local student musicians, from which the proceeds were split between supporting local school programs and funding Rotary projects. John Sherry reports that, "Eighty percent of Rotarians dipped into their own pockets to contribute to the project," along with countless community members to turn their dream of a permanent stage into reality. "We are so happy with the way the stage turned out - coming in on budget and sooner than expected," said Sherry, thanks to fellow Rotarian Terry Ring and Ring Construction.

The stage location still allows views of the Reservoir, and is relatively close to the parking area and restrooms. Saturday's concert will feature the usual stellar line-up of musicians, from Stanley Intermediate School, Bentley, Acalanes and the Big Band of Rossmoor. Hot dogs, ice cream and more will be available for purchase along with raffle tickets. As always, the concert is free.

The Rotary Club will use the stage just one day per year, for the annual Concert at the Reservoir - EBMUD will oversee reservations every other day of the year (call to reserve the stage for special events). When not reserved for a specific purpose, park users are welcome to put on their own impromptu air-guitar rock concert or an interpretation of the Nutcracker. C. Tyson

### Taste of Lafayette -



The biggest foodie event in Lamorinda from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 15 will kick off with wine, beer and appetizers at Lafayette Plaza - the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road. Participants can eat and stroll at their own pace to the 19 participating downtown restaurants offering tastes of their signature dish, or use the complimentary shuttle to pop in on all the eateries. Tickets are \$45 per person that will benefit the Lafayette Community Foundation and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Circling back to the Plaza at evening's end, diners can enjoy coffee and dessert to cap off the night. Tickets available through www.lafayettechamber.org or by calling (925) 284-7404.

**Dancing in the Plaza** - For the first time ever, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce is hosting three dances starting at 7 p.m. on Friday evenings in June at Plaza Park, located at the corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Do Lamorinda residents have rhythm? If so, this will be the perfect opportunity to collectively bust a move for all to see. Kicking off the fun on June 15 will be a sock hop with music from the '50s, on June 22 there will be a square dance - with a professional caller - and on June 29, music from the 1970s with disco. Completely free; poodle skirts, cowboy hats and bell bottoms optional. Boogie nights have finally come to the suburbs.

**Nature walk and bird watching** - Long-time resident Ben Pettersson, experienced hiker and birdwatcher, will guide walkers on a tour of local trails every Wednesday (starting Wednesday June 20 and continuing on subsequent Wednesdays with the exception of July 4). Don't forget binoculars and a water bottle and, of course, wear comfortable, sturdy shoes. Path will be accessible to wheelchairs and scooters. Meet at the Alder room in the Lafayette Community Center at 10 a.m. (the outing should last until around noon), 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette.

## MORAGA

### Wet Celebs at the Moraga Community Faire

By Sophie Braccini



The weather was a bit chilly for last year's Community Faire.

There'd better be some warm weather on May 12 in Moraga! The 6th annual Community Faire is adding a new attraction this year, lining up some brave town celebrities to take a plunge into water warmed only by the rays of the sun. Why take the punishment? To participate in good-hearted community fun and to help raise money for the town.

Moraga Chief of Police Bob Priebe agreed to be part of it. The good-humored Chief is always game to support a cause. Some will remember that he got his head shaved in public two years ago for St. Baldrick's Day, a non-profit that raises money for childhood cancer research. He won't be the only one to get wet, Vice Mayor Howard Harpham said yes, as well as Max Luckhurst, Campolindo's baseball coach, who will be joined by his varsity team, 2011 Businessman of the Year Grant Stubblefield, Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns, and Saint Mary's College athletes.

The dunk tank will be located near the stage, and dunking will happen throughout the afternoon during the intermission between bands. "Who gets to throw the first ball will be decided by the highest bidder, auctioned off by Adam Kennedy, the MC for the day," says Faire organizer Ellen Beans. "All other throws will be free of charge."

The East Bay Municipal Utility District is sponsoring the activity with a \$600 donation. "They promised an additional \$50 for each elected council member and police chief who sits in that perilous chair," says Beans. This new activity is only one of the many other fun things planned at the Faire. Entertainment for all ages will be offered throughout the day including music, local wine sampling, food trucks, a car show, and many children's activities. "Just in time for Mother's Day, there will be opportunities to buy art, crafts and jewelry from a wide range of artists," says Faire volunteer Judy Jacobs. The Faire is also an opportunity for local merchants and businesses to showcase what they offer. Attendees will be able to complete an "Explore Moraga" Passport and win prizes.

The Moraga Faire is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rheem Center, along Moraga Road. This annual event is planned and organized by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the Town of Moraga. For more information, go to moragachamber.org/faire.

**4th Annual Moraga Senior Faire**, May 15 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Hacienda de las Flores. Organized by Senior Helpers of Contra Costa and co-sponsored by the Moraga Recreation Department, the faire will feature presentations on the impact of the senior demographic in an election year, the newest electronic gadgets for home safety, a free telephone program connecting California elders through activities and interests, and living better after age 50 through physical and cognitive exercise. Free. For reservations, call Senior Helpers at 925-376-9900.

**Free Family Movie Night**, Saturday, June 16 beginning at 8:30 or 8:40 p.m. (depending on darkness) at Moraga Commons Park. Join the Moraga Youth Involvement committee (MYIC) as they show Toy Story under the stars at the Moraga Commons Park. Bundle up with blankets and friends, enter the raffle, and enjoy concessions sold by the MYIC.



**The Summer Concert Series** starts June 21 with Moonalice - an early San Francisco rock band. The free concerts are held at the Moraga Commons Park from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. every Thursday evening until August 23. Bring a blanket and picnic, or buy hot dogs and burgers at the Park. Complete program at moragaparks.org/concert.html.

## ORINDA

**60th Annual Frank Isola Field Day**, May 12, 8 a.m. to noon, Del Rey Elementary School, 25 El Camino Moraga, Orinda. Sponsored by the Orinda Rotary Club, come cheer on Orinda's developing athletes (grades 3-5)!

**Mother's Day Concert**, May 13, 1 to 3 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon of music with mom and Tara Linda at this free concert at Theatre Square in Orinda.

**Cinderella's Ball**, May 18-20. Enjoy a performance by The Orinda Ballet Academy and Company at the Orinda Library Theater. Times: May 18, 6:30 p.m. May 19, 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. May 20, 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tickets: \$18, available at the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, Orinda, or call: (925) 254-2445.

**Orinda Starlight Village Players** will lure you in with



the Agatha Christie mystery, And Then There Were None, at the opening of Players' annual summer theatre series. Fridays and Saturdays, June 1 to 23, 8:30 p.m., Sunday, June 10, 4 p.m., Thursday, June 21, 8 p.m. Outdoor Theater, Orinda Community Center Park, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. Regular admission: \$16, Seniors: \$8. Then, join the Players for Room Service by John Murray and Allen Boretz from July 2 through August 11. For single or season tickets, call the box office: (925) 528-9225, or email: info@orsvp.org. Dress appropriately and don't forget your blankets! For more information, visit: www.orsvp.org.

**The Hunger Games Come to Orinda** - June 23, Gallery Room, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way. Compete in games, make crafts, and enjoy survival snacks. Each participant asked to bring canned good or other non-perishable food item as donation to Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. Registration begins May 1. For information, contact the Orinda Library: (925) 254-2184.

**Summer Concerts in the Park** begin June 12 - Tues-



days, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. With food and beverages available from Loard's Ice Cream, these fun-filled, free musical evenings at the Orinda Community Park are sure to be a hit with families, friends and neighbors. June 19: The Crisis (blues and rock). June 26: Bay Bridge Beat (funk, rhythm and blues). July 3: Cal Alumni Big Band. July 10: Stone Soup (classic rock). July 17: Arts in Bloom...Arts in the Park (Orinda Arts Council) plus Orinda Idol (variety). July 24: Pladdohng (Celtic rock). Sponsored by the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary and supported by the City of Orinda and Orinda Community Foundation.

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**Michelle Simi - A Doctor who Makes House Calls Despite Chronic Pain**

By Sophie Braccini



Michelle Simi (right) with her assistant, Kyle Lyall Photo Sophie Braccini

A beautiful blonde with caring blue eyes, Doctor Michelle Simi of Moraga comes across with both warmth and reserve. But beneath her smile is a level of pain she does not show, pain triggered by a rare auto-immune disease called Behçet's Syndrome.

When Simi was first diagnosed with Behçet's nine years ago, she had to abandon her full-time medical practice. But now, after finding a mix of treatment that helped stabilize her condition, she is back practicing medicine the way she wants to, taking the time to see patients as long as needed, and accepting only a limited number of them so she can take care of her family, her health, and her professional life without burning out.

Behçet's is an auto-immune disease like Lupus, but is quite rare. The name Behçet comes from the Turkish physician who first described it, explains Simi, and there are only about 2,000 cases in the United States. The range of the symptoms includes joint pain, fatigue, headaches, night sweats, mouth sores, and even stroke. "There are periods of flare ups and relapses," she explains, "so doctors can just dismiss it or think it is something else."

Simi believes being a physician helped her get a diagnosis relatively quickly, within one and a half years. "I know the system, I knew who to go

see and when to push to get more answers," she says. She underwent six months of aggressive chemotherapy for her condition, and is currently on a less toxic infusion treatment. "It is still an immune suppressant, but not as horrible as the first round of chemo," she says.

One of the turning points for Simi was getting in touch with San Francisco-based physician Mark Renneker who does a lot of research on what she calls "oddy sick people." Renneker referred her to Petaluma-based physician Brian Bouch who specializes in integrative medicine.

"Dr. Bouch had me tested for gluten allergies," she says. "I tested positive and removed it from my diet. Then I wanted to have a full spectrum done and found out I was also allergic to dairy and salmon, among other things." She says changing her diet has made a huge difference. "That's something I'm trying to stress through the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association," she says. "Food allergies are a huge contributor to inflammation in the body that may trigger or stimulate the primary disease." After changing her diet Simi dropped 40 lbs, one medication, reduced her Prednisone medication, and has not been to the hospital since.

Simi strongly believes in communicating with associations and getting

the word out to the community. "I've also learned to ask for help," she says. "My husband Todd has been a pillar during all this, and I can always call my parents who live in Alameda."

The Moraga community has been very supportive as well.

"When I had chemotherapy and I was so sick, the parents at my children's school, Los Perales, took turns bringing us dinners." During that time, her son, who was a fifth-grader, made a presentation about the disease to his classmates during Health Week and his teacher, Julie Rudolf, wore the Behçet's Association wrist band.

Now at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate, her older son's core teacher, Robin Anderson, said she would help the family promote a Walk for Behçet's that Simi is planning this September.

For now, Simi's remaining symptom is chronic pain. Besides the medication that she cannot completely avoid, she practices meditation to alleviate the pain. "I practice what is called mindfulness meditation," she says. "It is a focused technique where you get in touch with the pain and blow it out as you exhale. Another way to meditate is to imagine parts of your body and visualize cells getting healthy. The brain recognizes the healthiness."

Simi says that this biofeedback method has been tested with control groups and has shown to be effective. She practices it with some of her patients who suffer from other forms of chronic pain, such as arthritis. "Looking into integrative medicine helped me get my life back," she says. "I'm still sick, but I have good days."

Simi has been able to return to work as a physician, but in a different way: She makes house calls and is taking patients from the three Lamorinda communities.

"I want to do this on my own terms, taking the time to see the patients in their home," she says.

Behçet's Awareness Day is May 20. For more information about Behçet's go to www.Behcets.com.

**Moraga Peace Corps Volunteer Packs for Ethiopia**

By Cathy Dausman

A glance in Rachel Micklas' mirror shows her how close she is to traveling to Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer. Three months ago she covered her bedroom mirror with sticky notes to count down the days until her departure. Now that same mirror is slowly unveiling the face of the 2010 University of Oregon grad who'll fly to Washington D.C. June 4 and then on to Ethiopia.

If all goes well, she'll spend a total of 27 months overseas. Micklas' only other international travel has been a six-month stint in England where she taught pre-school. She's also been a nanny to 15 East Bay families, and feels that her experiences with children will transfer to the work she'll do teaching primary school classes in Ethiopia.

Micklas originally expected to join the Peace Corps in 2010 but a surgery postponed this "new chap-

ter" of her life for two years. So for the second time, the young woman prepares to "see life from a completely new perspective, and gain friendships that will last forever." She will join 1,134 California residents currently serving in the Peace Corps in 139 countries.

What drew this Moraga native to such an altruistic endeavor? It started six years ago. "I met one of my best friends during college orientation," she recalls. "When I met her parents they had so many exciting and intriguing stories about the Peace Corps. I didn't know much about it at the time, but through their explanation, stories, and experiences I knew it was something I wanted to be a part of." She also knew she wanted Africa. Potential Peace Corps volunteers submit a wish list of where they'd like to serve; Micklas' first two choices were Africa. She left her third choice open.

During the first three months, Micklas will live with a host family in Ethiopia to become immersed in the country's language and culture. "I want to master a new language by learning it firsthand in the region it is spoken in," she says. That language might be Amharic, Oromifa or Tigrinya. Micklas won't know until she's actually in the area she'll serve, but her best friend, now in Lesotho, South Africa jokingly assures her that "the Lion King language is real!"

Micklas is unsure what to pack. Since her final destination is uncertain, she won't know whether she'll need warm or cool clothing. She expects there'll be no internet, cable or phone service readily available, but actually enjoys "keeping the post office in business." Micklas will also bring several books for eventual ro-



Rachel Micklas Photo Cathy Dausman

tation in the Peace Corps volunteers' library (*Onward and Little Bee* are two current favorites), arts and craft supplies, perhaps to decorate her own postcards, and a soccer ball since she lettered in soccer at Campolindo High School and also played at University of Oregon.

The Peace Corps (www.peacecorps.gov) has placed more than 200,000 U.S. volunteers in countries since its establishment in 1961. Over 3,085 volunteers have served in Ethiopia; currently 101 volunteers serve there.

Micklas advises those considering joining to be patient with the application process, be honest with yourself, and know specifically what you want to do. "I want to see life from a completely new perspective, and I want to gain friendships that will last forever," she says. "I'm excited for my service in the Peace Corps and can't wait for this new chapter of my life to start."

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# Lamorinda Moms Celebrate Life with Babies

By Cathy Dausman



Lamorinda Moms members, from left: Alexander Bartoli, Reed Lusch, Angel Johnson, Samantha Johnson and Nadine Lusch. Photo Cathy Dausman

The “class” of mid-2011 is changing faster than you can change a baby’s diaper. That’s because this class is actually composed of babies born last year and their dotting mothers. Lamorinda, meet Lamorinda Moms, supporting mothers and parents of children age five and younger.

A recent gathering hosted by Laura Bartoli and her one-year-old son, Alexander, had a small turnout; their group sometimes swells to 15 mothers with children, said Bartoli, who joined Lamorinda Moms last August after moving to Orinda. Tiny walkers happily roamed from mother to mother while the younger ones sat or crawled from toy to toy. Adult conversation came in spurts between caring for the children, and touched on changes in a child’s routines, naps, reference books and comfort food.

Each mother, a first-time parent, was asked about her plans this Mother’s Day. The question elicited a quick laugh from Kate Yrueta, mother of seven-month-old daughter Ava. New dads take note: these

mothers’ wish list was for a bit of pampering, like a picnic, a massage, a spa or facial. The group says they love to watch each other’s babies grow and that the group benefits both children and parents.

In 1995, 15 Lamorinda mothers met at Moraga Commons to establish what was then known as Lamorinda Mom’s Club. According to the Lamorinda Moms’ website, the mothers envisioned “a group of women who could help each other out, make active friendships, and get to know others in the community.” Today, Lamorinda Moms has a membership of nearly 700. Each member pays \$55 annual dues (\$30 for “alumni” status—those with children over 5) and volunteers for at least two hours a year. The organization serves local charities like Families First, the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, and the Contra Costa County Food Bank.

Lamorinda Moms takes care of its own with “Mom Dins,” a gift of four to six meals delivered to new mothers. Members can be involved

in Lamorinda Moms’ monthly meeting, an online community, a play group (including special groups for mothers of multiple births and working moms), neighborhood activities, annual seasonal events, and sub-groups like Mom’s Night Out, and gardening. But it’s not all about the big picture. Small weekly playgroups may be the organization’s heart and soul.

The recent gathering included Angel Johnson with Samantha (nine months old), Nadine and Reed Lush (one year) and Yrueta and daughter Ava. Bartoli said her group has met since their children were just “little blobs.” The mothers collectively decided which day and time worked best for them. Each had learned about Lamorinda Moms either online (<http://www.lamorindamoms.org/>), or by meeting members at local fairs or talking to friends and neighbors.

As the two-hour session ended, and moms and babies packed up to leave, some were already planning their next meeting – a stroller walk – for that same afternoon.

*Happy Mother's Day!*  
*May 13th*

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# Managing Your Child's Reputation in the Digital Age

By Laurie Snyder

22 Jan  
 @ [redacted] so annoying to have to drop people off at the hospital to get their stomach pumped...twice #save@ [redacted]

22 Jan  
 night out with @ [redacted] might get a little bit #cuhhrraazzyy

22 Jan  
 Homeless men walking in the middle of the street #youneedtomove

User #2, part 1:

20 Apr  
 In orinda more people celebrate #420 than easter  
 Expand

User #2, part 2:

6 Mar  
 Mr. poling gave me a zero on a quiz because he thinks I was cheating. Only this time I actually wasn't...

2 Mar  
 Lamo rugby plays some big-ass islanders (san mateo) tomorrow. Come watch. St. marys field at noon.

User #3

18 Feb  
 The great night when ur dad hands u a 6pack of budlight lime #vacation  
 Expand

Tweeting teens can not only hurt their own images, but can inadvertently stain the reputations of family and friends. Many are unaware that they have been mentioned in questionable posts by someone they trust. (The names of the Twitter users and their friends and families have been blacked out.)

It is the age-old conundrum. How do parents let kids spread their wings – but not so much that they'll be hurt before they're able to soar? It was hard enough when parents "just" had to worry about teens driving drunk or too fast. But now, parents must deal with an added burden – the rise of social media.

In today's world, online bullies push classmates toward suicide by 'sexting' compromising photos. Naive teens Tweet about drug use, and overeager tech firms re-post everything without permission from the minors or their parents.

Think it doesn't happen here? Think again.

In April, one Lamorindan posted: "i do poppers all the time."

And an 18-year-old Tweeted, "[Bleep] the Adderall. Give me Xanax and Valium right now. I'm on the verge of a mental breakdown."

Both local residents also have profiles on Klout.com – a company that tracks Tweets and Facebook posts and builds individual profiles, which include users' Twitter photos and links to people Klout decides are users' "influencers." Klout's practices recently came under fire after parents uncovered profiles of children on the site.

Other Lamorinda students' profiles are on the site as well.

In its 2011 study, "Teens, Kindness and Cruelty on Social Network Sites," Pew Internet states that 95 percent "of all teens ages 12-17 are now online," and that 88 percent have witnessed cyber-cruelty.

As for parents, 80 percent "who use social media and who also have a child who uses social media have friended their child." However, only 66 percent have checked out what has been posted about their kids, and just 54 percent use "parental controls or other means of blocking, filtering, or monitoring."

Orinda Intermediate School counselors Jay Stevens and Heather Raser posted a resource list on the OIS web site for parents who are looking to take a more active role monitoring their kids. "While some parents simply do not allow their 12-year-old child to have access to social networking sights . . . other parents monitor their child's internet use with

extreme vigilance," Stevens says. "Developmentally, middle school students are often not mature enough to [manage Facebook/MySpace]. As a result, social networking sites can easily become breeding grounds for social drama among children."

Owen Tripp, Chief Operating Officer of Reputation.com agrees, but notes, "By eight years old, you should really be having a conversation with your kid about how to create an Internet ID."

Tripp co-founded the online reputation management company with Michael Fertik in 2006. "It was a moment several years ago where we were looking at stories of cyber-bullying," Tripp says. Disturbed by photos and posts that were destroying teens' sense of well being, they realized that "every other company was interested in more pictures, more data, more comments." Users forget, he says, that social media was "not designed with the user at the center" but built to make everyone's data publicly available for advertisers.

Now, advertisers aren't the only ones looking. One Stanford University dean told Tripp that everyone admitted has been Googled. And, according to William R. Fitzsimmons, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid to Students at Harvard College:

"The Harvard Admissions Office generally does not proactively seek information about applicants online. However, applicants often point us to their websites or to other information online to supplement their application materials. That said, we may have occasion to encounter an applicant's digital footprint. This often can be positive for applicants to the degree

that it helps demonstrate their range of interests and accomplishments, but could be negative if it raises serious questions about character or judgment."

So what should parents do? Set privacy controls for children well into their teens. Don't just friend kids; Google them. Find out what they're doing – and what their friends and others are posting about them.

The average youngster, Tripp says, has 2.1 Facebook pages – the "pigtails, apple pie" version – and the one kids actually use. Some even create third profiles. Introverted kids pretend to be athletes. Others explore their sexuality.

What teens and parents don't understand, warns Tripp, is that Facebook and other companies "fingerprint" every single account, enabling most anyone to track multiple accounts back to the same user. "So, when you're going out for a job, there's all this other interesting information that you've published about yourself."

Patty Bishop, Director of Career Planning and Placement at Saint Mary's College, confirms this. She counsels students not to post anything that would make their grandmothers blush, explaining how a senior at another campus who landed a job had the offer rescinded when the well-known firm found profanity on his Facebook page.

As for Tweeting about drug use, Bishop describes it as a deal breaker. "Do not be fooled into thinking that your Facebook isn't being looked at."

"Anyone thinking of applying to college," adds Fitzsimmons, "should always keep in mind that information posted online can last a lifetime."

## Digital Safety 101

Watch out for "foolish friends," as well as "stranger danger."

Select sensible user names and profile photos. Work with children to set privacy settings (for everything, including gaming sites). Have them friend you. Google them.

Be sure kids interact on social media only with friends they know. (Flags: Followers living more than 10 miles away, with significantly older birth dates, LinkedIn users following young teens.)

Don't allow teachers and children to friend each other.

By age 18, start a dialogue, "How can my continued involvement in your social media best set you up for success?"

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# Antique Appraisal Comes to Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



A resident brings a painting for appraisal Photo Sophie Braccini

Who has not dreamt that the old painting inherited from Aunt Bessie, or the blue china tea set found hidden behind a pile of books at an estate sale, was worth thousands of dollars? It happens. Why not to me?

The Lamorinda residents who came to the Antique Appraisal organized by the Moraga Women's Society April 27 didn't come with unreasonable expectations. They brought jewelry, stamps, furniture, silver or porcelain sets, and paintings, to get a reliable evaluation of their belongings by Michaan's Auctions. Some must have received good news, because they decided to leave their belongings with the auction house to be sold next month in Alameda.

"The man who looked at our Chinese silver tea set was much more knowledgeable and interesting than the person we had previously met at an antique road show," said Frank Comprelli after his encounter with Harry Huang, the young Michaan's appraiser who specializes in Asian Art. Huang has been with the East Bay Auction House for about a year and said he studied art and auction at Christie's in London. "I saw quite a number of interesting pieces today, mostly end of the 19th, beginning of the 20th century," he said.

The Comprellis were among the 50 or so residents who came to the event at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center in Moraga. The Women's Society had planned the event carefully, with participants making advanced reservations for 15-minute appointments in one antique category.

"Normally, when you want something appraised you have to go to the appraiser," said Moraga Women's Society's Ginny Ruble. "We learned that we could have the appraiser come to us." Most people wanted to know the true value of a family heirloom. "But I would never want to sell it anyway," said Roberta Klaproth of an antique gold watch she inherited. The experts present also shared their knowledge

about the pieces that were brought.

One of the most popular categories was the 'Personal Estate' table manned by Jane Alexiadis. Local resident Jane Low was having English stoneware appraised. "My mother had it," said Low as Alexiadis explained the meaning of the stamps on the back of the terrine, before taking a look at a pickle dish from a farm in South Dakota. "This one is very showy, with the flowers in a Japanese style that was very popular in the 1870s and 1880s," said Alexiadis. "This type is a bit out of favor. The value is around \$100." She went on to look at a "Blue Willow Theme" tea set, pointing out the bridge, the willow, and the birds typical of that style. "You should use and enjoy these every day," she added. "They are in very good shape."

In the center of the room Michael Rosenberg, the specialist of stamps and coins, was looking at an old dollar bill brought in by Judy Butler. "I have this old 1,000 Confederate dollar bill that comes from my husband's grandmother," she said. Rosenberg looked at it with his magnifying glass.

His verdict was implacable. "It's a fake," he said sternly.

"Today I saw a great stamp collection," he later added, "with very rare stamps from the first flight of the Zeppelin and a blue Hong Kong 1920 stamp that's probably worth \$2,000." The seasoned appraiser confirmed that he doesn't see as many stamp collectors as he used to. "You don't find anyone younger than 50 collecting stamps nowadays," he said.

A representative from Michaan's, Tammie Chambless, was there to collect the items people wanted to consign for future auctions. "We're consigning some great pieces today," she said, "that will be auctioned at our gallery on the first Sunday of next month."

The event was also a Society fundraiser to support local causes. "This is the first time we've done this event and it's just working out beau-

tifully," said the Society's president, Jackie Reising, who brought some personal items herself. "I had a gold necklace, silver dollars and a painting appraised, so when I pass on, I can put this information in my will and my children will know not to give it to Goodwill!" she said.

The Moraga Women's Society is considering hosting this event on an annual basis. The Society's next general meeting will be held at 10 a.m. May 21 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The "speaker," Moraga flutist Carol Alban, will give a talk about the Moraga Jazz Festival scheduled this summer, before playing her flute for the group. The community is cordially invited to attend.

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# Cinco de Mayo Art Show at Theatre Square



Photo Jennifer Wake

Patrons enjoyed beautiful weather and the artwork of local artists while dining outdoors or strolling along the walkway in front of Anahid Designs at Orinda's Theatre Square on May 5. The Cinco de Mayo art show, facilitated by Allison McCrady Fine Arts gallery owner and artist Allison McCrady featured oil paintings by Lafayette artist Nancy Rosso, who specializes in pet and cow portraits, and paintings of Paris, and silk paintings by Lafayette artist Mar-

garet Lucas-Hill who regularly shows her work at McCrady's gallery and Lafayette Gallery. Other artists included Adrienne Rogers, Bernard Weston and Micah Crandall-Bear. McCrady, who is known for her local landscape paintings, says she has been noticing a change in Lamorinda's interest in art. "People are more open-minded, wanting to mix contemporary style in their homes," she says. "It's fun, it's exciting." *J. Wake*

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# Glorietta Students have 'a Ball' with Musical Presentation of Cinderella

Submitted by Jennifer Rogers



Abby Severson as Cinderella and Matt Gill as the prince

Photo provided

Ninety-six fourth- and fifth-grade students participated in Glorietta Elementary School's 13th spring musical, *Cinderella*, on May 4 and 5. The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical is based upon the classic fairytale in which a young woman, forced into a life of servitude by her cruel stepmother and self-centered stepisters, dreams of a better life. With the help of her zany Fairy Godmother, Cinderella is transformed into a Princess and finds her Prince.

As charming as its Prince, Glorietta's presentation of *Cinderella* had all the winning theatrical ingredients of song, dance and comedy to entertain audiences of all ages. Glorietta's large-scale production included engaging choreography, innovative sets, and darling costumes. The production hit all the right musical notes with songs including "Impossible: It's Possible" and "10 Minutes Ago."

"It has been a true pleasure watching these kids put their hearts and souls into this beautiful musical production of *Cinderella*," said musical co-producer and Glorietta parent, Leslie O'Brien. "Through their tireless dedication and, at times, humor, the tech and set crews and entire cast worked together to bring this classic fairytale to life."

Ron Pickett, a professional award-winning actor, returned to direct his 14th show at Glorietta Elementary School. Musical Director Ralph Severson celebrated his 18th year. Parent volunteers of the production included co-producers Leslie O'Brien and Shelli Brudzinski, and technical director Lara Dutto.

# Carnival 4 Kids at SMC a Huge Success



More than 200 elementary students from Oakland and Concord attended the 10th annual "Carnival 4 Kids" at Saint Mary's College April 27, each accompanied by a Saint Mary's College "big buddy." The afternoon included a pretend journey

around the world, with food, carnival games, music, dancing, and a look inside police and fire vehicles and a hot air balloon. The event was sponsored by Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action. *C. Dausman*

# Tim Burton, Johnny Depp and a Vampire Soap Opera – Oh My!

By Derek Zemrak

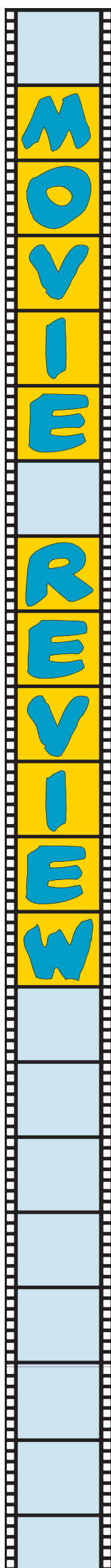


"Dark Shadows" is Hollywood's latest attempt to take a popular television series and bring it to the big screen. This was a gothic soap opera that ran on TV from 1966 to 1971, with a total of 1,225 episodes. It is interesting to note that originally "Dark Shadows" did not have a vampire story line until Barnabas Collins was introduced as one in 1967. The ratings skyrocketed!

Fast-forward to 2012: What is Academy Award-nominated director Tim Burton's (Beetlejuice, Edward Scissorhands) interpretation of the vampire soap opera? A comedy! Burton has stated that he was a big fan of the television series, running home each day from school to catch the new episode. Burton would have been eight at the time and I guess at that age, he found "Dark Shadows" a comedy. Burton cast his favorite; three-time Oscar nominee Johnny Depp (Pirates of the Caribbean, Ed Wood) as the lead, Barnabas Collins, who is solid as the sexy vampire. Depp can play any role offered to him; he is one of the best actors of our generation and way overdue to receive an Oscar! The ensemble cast includes the beautiful, three-time Oscar nominee Michelle Pfeiffer (Dangerous Liaisons) as Elizabeth Collins Stoddard; the striking Eva Green (Casino Royale) as Collins' former girlfriend – a witch who cast a spell on him years ago; and Oscar Nominee Jackie Earle Haley (Little Children) as the quirky caretaker Willie Loomis. I am not sure if Burton also ran home from school to watch "The Addams Family" but Dark Shadows was not a comedy. The film version in my mind is more of a representation of "The Addams Family;" even Barnabas has a little Morticia Addams in him.

It is always an experience to see a Tim Burton film, which needs to be seen on the big screen, as he is the master of creative, bizarre cinematography. No one has his "eye." The set decorations and 1970s period piece costumes receive big kudos! "Dark Shadows" is a highly entertaining film with some graphic vampire killings. Anyone who was a true fan of the television series will be disappointed. The rest of us will find it an enjoyable 113 minutes!

Derek Zemrak is a Film Critic, Film Producer and Founder of the California Independent Film Festival. You can follow Derek on Twitter @zemrak for the latest Hollywood news.



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# Lamorinda Teachers Make the Grade

Three Nominated for County Teacher of the Year

By Cathy Dausman



Terry Miller, Los Perales



Photos Cathy Dausman Kim Burris, Orinda School District



Mette Thallaug, Burton Valley Elementary Reading Specialist

Three Lamorinda teachers with more than 60 years of combined classroom experience were named semifinalists of the Contra Costa County Office of Education's Teacher of the Year award. They are Mette Thallaug, Lafayette's Burton Valley Elementary, Terry Miller, Los Perales Elementary in Moraga, and Kim Burris, Orinda Unified School District. The remaining teachers represent Martinez and San Ramon Valley school districts.

Three of these five teachers will be selected as finalists; the top finalist will be named County Representative in September, and will compete for the title of California Teacher of the Year. Finding a favorite among the three Lamorinda teachers, however, is like asking someone to choose just one ice cream flavor or name a favorite aunt; it's not that easy.

Each teacher submitted six application essays and was observed in the classroom by a team of four: two

teachers and two business partners. Beyond the paperwork and classroom work, the trio shined in their displays of district loyalty, a love of both classroom and students, and a sincere appreciation for administrative and parental support.

Reading Specialist Mette Thallaug has spent 22 years in education, and 20 years in the Lafayette School District. She spent the last six years at Burton Valley, and views technology as a boon to young readers' skills.

Thallaug admitted the application process was "a lot of work," but that it also allowed for plenty of self-reflection. She said her kindergarten students were more distracted by the classroom visitors than she was during her observation time—teachers get used to that, she said. Thallaug knows there are "many" good teachers, and that the program seeks to find someone who will be a good spokesperson for education.

Terry Miller has taught for 21 years. She began her career in Stockton, and then moved to the Moraga school district 15 years ago. She's been at Los Perales the entire time, and is earning a master's degree in the Teacher Leadership program at Saint Mary's College. Miller previously taught first grade and now teaches kindergarten. She has her students to think of their classmates as "kinder friends" and speaks warmly about her Bear Cub (class mascot) school family. She loves to team teach with small groups and finds she is constantly refining curriculum. Miller's former first-grade students may know her as "Ms. Jones."

Kim Burris is a Literacy Coach for all five Orinda schools and has

taught "only in Orinda" for 19 years. She began by job-sharing a third-grade teaching position that lasted 13 years, and allowed her to experience what she called "the best of every world."

Orinda had multiple literacy coaches for various grade levels when Burris first started working; she is now their only literacy coach. She revels in the opportunity she has to teach, observe and meet with students and parents, and said her job is "never the same every year." And she quickly credited everyone else involved in teaching. "I am only who I am because of a fabulous team," she said.

The California Teacher of the Year program began in 1972 and is open to pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers in public and private schools. Contra Costa County's public schools alone employ nearly 8,000 teachers to educate 169,000 students. The first year's county winner was Joseph Davis, Jr. from the Acalanes Union High School District. Since then, four other teachers from Contra Costa County have been named state finalists.

### New Campolindo Principal

In other Lamorinda education news, the Acalanes Union High School District Governing Board approved the appointment of John Walker as Campolindo High School principal effective July 1. Walker was assistant principal at San Ramon Valley High School; he also taught at St. Mary's College High School in Berkeley. He replaces the retiring Carol Kitchens. A special welcome/reception is planned May 10 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at the Campolindo library.

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## TEEN SCENE

### Consider This: It's all in the Past

By Steven Zhou

As we inch closer to the beginning of summer, whether you're a seventh-grader or a senior in high school, we look back and reminisce about another school year come and gone. For some, the memories of the past are filled with joyful experiences, while for others, there's the taint of regret. Our experiences are history and, good or bad, they shape the people that we are today. Sydney Liu, a junior at Campolindo, recognizes the influence of her past on her present: "I find that during the moment, I can feel proud, confused, hurt, or regretful, but now, years later, I look back without regrets. My past created my personality."

Whether experiences have been positive or negative, the key is to learn from everything and move on. The former CEO of Yahoo, Carol Bartz held a mantra of "fail fast forward." This mentality is one we can all consider as we furiously travel through our teenage years towards college and adulthood. We may have experienced unparalleled success in scholastic ventures and extracurricular activities yet also suffered devastating disappointment in other areas. A good friend of mine was rejected from the one college he had dreamed of attending throughout his high school career. However, the setback actually guided him to a university he now loves even more. Looking back at the experience, one can truly appreciate the effect that our past has on molding our decisions, feelings, and thoughts in the present day.

Heidi Homma, a senior at Miramonte, looks at her own memories with satisfaction, saying that "due to taking risks and coming out of my comfort zone, sometimes I felt remorse, but they were all learning experiences that will remain in my memories always." We grow and learn by involvement;

without both the pleasure and the pain, we can never understand what it means to cherish every moment of life.

Lamorinda youth are invited to share how their school experiences have shaped them on Saturday, May 12 at the Moraga Community Faire as Express Yourself Teen Radio hosts live recordings. This is a free opportunity for community teens to express to global listeners what the end of school or graduation means to them. For example, the current seniors on our Star Teen Radio team are feeling the aches of time flying by too quickly. We have been producing the show, now number one on the network, for over six months, yet it feels like yesterday when we were figuring out the basics of operating Skype, struggling through the bumps of human and technological challenges.

I readily admit that the nostalgia of the past few years has bitten me, especially as I prepare myself for graduation next month. The memories of fifth grade, middle school, and each of my high school years will continue to define my individuality and the way I make choices in the future.

Consider this. The wins, losses, triumphs, disappointments, laughter, and tears of school elections, games, awards, applications, relationships, etc., may all be in the past, but without them, there is no present.

Miramonte senior Steven Zhou is the administrator and host for the #1 YA global radio program, Express Yourself! He has received a scholarship to attend Pepperdine University this fall.

Teen Scene is YOUR voice. If you have something to say or have writing skills and want to be part of our Teen Scene team, email our Teen Coach, Cynthia Brian, Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com.

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

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## Local Reservist to Command U.S. Base in Africa

Submitted by Robin Bertelsen



Captain Kevin Bertelsen

Photo provided

A Navy Reservist from Orinda will soon take command of the United States' only military base in Africa. Captain Kevin Bertelsen, will take command of the Navy Expeditionary Base Camp Lemonnier in the small East African country of Djibouti in mid-May.

Camp Lemonnier is the only U.S. military base located in Africa supporting operations geared toward building security, sovereignty, and stability in the region. It supports various counterterrorism and regional capacity building activities. The base gained notoriety recently when it was at the center of the commando raid on January 25 by a Navy Seal team to free an American and a Danish aid worker taken hostage by Somali pirates.

Captain Bertelsen is a Naval Aviator, commissioned in 1987, flying the P-3 Orion Submarine Hunter while on active duty. He has previously commanded two Navy Reserve units, at Naval Station Newport, R.I., and at Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Wash. He recently returned in September 2011 from a two-year recall to active duty with the US Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa, serving in both Djibouti and Kenya. This recall to active duty came as a surprise: No Navy reservist has ever been selected to command an active U.S. Navy base. Captain Bertelsen will serve as the Base commander until May 2013.

Captain Bertelsen has lived in Orinda since 2003. He has two sons. His oldest, Spencer, is a junior at Southern Oregon University, and his youngest, Carter, is a junior at Miramonte, where he plays varsity lacrosse. Captain Bertelsen's wife, Robin, is a social media marketing consultant as well as an active member of the EFO Board.

## Moraga Chess Champ Wins Again



Joshua Cao smiles with his trophy at recent CalChess Championship. Photo Linhai Cao

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate eighth-grader Joshua Cao took another win at the 37th Annual CalChess Super State Scholastic Championship April 20, but for Cao it was just another trophy. The 14-year-old has been playing chess for

the past five years and has amassed a room full of trophies. With a chess rating of over 2,000, Cao has the title of "expert" and has spent the past three years winning thousands of dollars at chess tournaments across the country.

Cao began playing chess at age nine as part of the Berkeley Chess School and began to compete at age 10. "He has won a lot of prizes and a lot of money," said Cao's mother Linhai. "Every week he has a one-hour chess session online with a grand master from Serbia and he goes to monthly tournaments."

In January, Cao won more than \$700 at the Golden State Open at the Concord Hilton, and he won more than \$3,000 when he took second place at a 2010 tournament in Las Vegas. During his spring break, Cao traveled to Philadelphia to compete.

"Normally, he doesn't go to kids' tournaments because they don't give him money," his mother said, laughing. "He's always played against adults at national competitions."

Cao won first place at the CalChess Championship, playing in the highest graded section normally reserved for high school age players. *J. Wake*

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## Questions to Ask Your Vet

By Mona Miller, DVM

I believe that one key to a successful treatment plan for medical/surgical illness is communication between veterinarian and owner regarding value of diagnostic tests, treatment options, financial expenditure, time commitment and emotional energy involvement. Each situation is unique with its own set of limitations that affect success. In some cases, it is clear-cut – for example, it might not be in the budget to consider extensive treatment. In other cases, it might be the pet who limits treatment by not taking medication well. I would like to address some questions that I think vets and clients can ask each other in order to help with the decision-making process.

### Questions to ask your vet:

"What are the costs involved?"

What is affordable to one person may not be in the budget for another, and it is helpful for your vet to know if you have financial limitations. Not all diagnostic tests are expensive, nor are all treatment options. When I was training as a (younger) vet, I worked with a gentleman who had the \$50 plan and the \$500 plan to offer his clients; nowadays, those numbers might need to be adjusted for the 21st century, but the idea is the same.

"Is this easy to diagnose?" Some tests are fairly comprehensive and you will get a lot of information about what is normal or not in a short time frame. If all is normal, this might be a problem that is not easy to diagnose, but you will have discovered this in the initial blood/urine test results.

"Is this possibly easy to treat?" and "What will follow-up care entail?" These questions sometimes cannot be answered without at least starting the diagnostic process, so be patient with the process. Some diseases require treatment and a recheck and success is a cure. Others might require long-term medication, with regular rechecks and success is management.

"Is there another way to get medication into my pet?" Not all dogs and cats take pills easily and it can be frustrating to struggle with this at home. Often there are different forms that can be provided – injections, chewy flavored pill pockets to hide a pill in, flavored liquids or a skin ointment that allows absorption of the medication into the bloodstream.

Questions your vet might ask you:

"If there is something reasonable to do for your pet, would you want to do it?" What is reasonable for one person might not be for another, so the details that emerge when answering this question might help your veterinarian understand what limitations you face, and what your overall philosophy is.

"Do you want to know what is going on?" This question can stand by itself, not necessarily paired with "what's the treatment?" question. Sometimes, the value of knowledge for its sake alone is important, and can provide an idea of what to expect as the disease progresses. My best example is with cancer. Diagnosing cancer doesn't necessarily mean you will choose to treat it, but you might want to know what to expect as the cancer progresses and to have an idea what timeframe of good quality lies ahead.



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

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# Great Food and Good News for Chevalier

By Susie Iventosch



Chef Philippe Chevalier preparing his "Herb-crusted Rack of Lamb" Photo provided

My father-in-law treated me to a most delicious meal at Chevalier Restaurant in Lafayette a few weeks ago. As we were perusing the menu, the waiter arrived at the table to tell us all about the evening's specials. One mention of the herb-crusted lamb chops, and the decision was made ... for both of us! The lamb was cooked to perfection and served with Chef Chevalier's potato gratin Dauphinois, which was one of the best renditions of this dish I have ever tasted in my life!

After the meal, Chevalier made his rounds to greet his guests, which is always fun. When he stopped by our table, he mentioned that he had just received the exciting news that his restaurant was named Lafayette's Small Business of the Year.

"I was very happy and excited to be recognized the best little business in Lafayette for 2012," Chevalier remarked. "It proved to me that I have the support of the city behind me and I am so honored and appreciative to the Chamber and to the local community for their support."

This award is a countywide event organized by the Contra Costa Council each year. According to Lafayette Chamber of

Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson, each participating Chamber nominates several businesses from its town and then the local chamber boards vote in their winners.

"Through a lot of adversity, Philippe has been able to succeed in a tough economy among a lot of competition, and he has stayed true to French cuisine and cooking methods," Lifson pointed out. "We are so fortunate to have Chevalier call Lafayette home."

Chevalier Restaurant has received three Michelin Bib Gourmand awards and has been recognized as one of the 10 Best Restaurants of the East Bay by Diablo Magazine. Chef Chevalier hopes to be able to open for lunch in the near future, and remember to check out his summer cooking class/demonstrations on the third Saturday of each month. The atmosphere is very casual and classes take place in the garden when weather permits. Students sample each dish along with wine pairings, if desired.

For more information, please visit: [www.chevalierrestaurant.com](http://www.chevalierrestaurant.com) or call (925) 385-0793. Chevalier is located at 960 Moraga Road in Lafayette.

## Chevalier Restaurant's Herb-Crusted Rack of Lamb with Wine Reduction Sauce and Potato Gratin Dauphinois



Photo provided

### Herb-Crusted Rack of Lamb

(Serves 6)

2 racks of lamb, some fat removed and season with salt and pepper

Put 2-3 tablespoons olive oil in a large frying pan. Place racks, fat side down in pan and cook over medium-high heat until slightly browned, approximately 2 minutes. Turn and brown other side for the same amount of time. Remove from pan and place racks in roasting pan and cook at 400 degrees for 25-30 minutes, depending up on desired doneness. Remove from oven, pat crumbs on "fat" side of rack and continue to bake for another 2-3 minutes, or so, until crust is nicely browned.

Slice into individual chops and drizzle white wine reduction sauce (recipe below) over chops.

### Herb-Crust

- 1 cup bread crumbs, made from toasted baguettes broken into fine crumbs
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh tarragon
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh thyme
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary
- 1 clove garlic, finely minced

Mix all and pat over fatty side of racks after initial baking.

### Wine Reduction Sauce

- 1 cup white wine (Philippe uses Chardonnay)
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped shallot
- 2 teaspoons herbs de Provence
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh tarragon
- 2 cups veal or lamb stock

Place first five ingredients in a saucepan and boil over medium-high heat until reduced by half. Finish by stirring in 2-3 tablespoons unsalted butter and salt and pepper to taste. Drizzle over chops and serve immediately with potato gratin Dauphinois and vegetables of your choice.

### Potato Gratin Dauphinois

- 5-6 Russet or Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and sliced into 1/8-inch slices
- 1.5 cups (or so) heavy cream
- Salt, pepper and nutmeg to taste
- 1.5 cups freshly grated Parmesan

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Butter a 9x13 casserole and place one layer of potato slices on the bottom (one medium to large Russet potato per layer). Drizzle 1/6 of the cream over potatoes and sprinkle with salt, pepper and nutmeg and 1/6 of the Parmesan cheese.

Repeat process six times, ending with Parmesan. Cover tightly with foil and bake for about 45 minutes. Remove foil and continue to bake for an additional 5-10 minutes, or until cheese is beginning to brown.

Cut into 2- to 3-inch squares and serve alongside rack of lamb.



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](http://www.amazon.com), and [www.taxbites.net](http://www.taxbites.net).

Susie can be reached at [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com).

This recipe is available on our web site [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)

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



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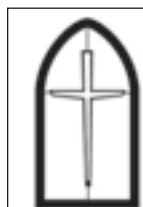
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Jenn Forney

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#### ART

**Moraga Art Gallery's new show, "Beautiful America,"** features the oil paintings of gallery member & local Moraga artist Ginny Ruble, as well as guest artist Linda Hanford whose work reflects her love of the nature, landscapes, and seascapes of California. The show runs through June 2.

**Saint Mary's College Museum of Art Exhibits:** Master Artist Tribute IX: Richard McLean; River of Words Art & Poetry Exhibition; William Keith and the California Oak, 11am - 4:30pm, Wednesday - Sunday through June 10 at the Museum of Art, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Cost: Adults \$5, Free for K-12 students and Saint Mary's students and faculty.

**The Valerie Colvin Group will be on exhibit** in the Orinda Library Art Gallery in May.

**"E for Escape," a Small Group Exhibition at the Lafayette Gallery.** When artists escape, it's to their studios to meditate in the creative process. "E for Escape" features the results - a unique collection of wonderful and whimsical works of art by a small group of five artists - May 15 through June 2 at the Lafayette Gallery, 50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. The Gallery is also hosting Artist's Market Saturday, May 19 from 11am-5pm in the picnic area and parking lot in front of the Gallery as well as a free reception from 2- 4pm with wine, hors d'oeuvres and live music. Stop by the gallery, and escape into an exotic place: the creations of our local artists! For more info, call (925) 284-2788 or visit www.lafayettegallery.net.

**Town Hall Theater in conjunction with the Lamorinda Arts Alliance is**



pleased to present a solo show by watercolor artist George Ehrenhaft through May 26. His landscapes include places near and far - from Lafayette Reservoir to Kathmandu. The art show is free and can be seen most week days after 3pm and before performances at the Town Hall Theater, 3535 School Street, Lafayette, (925) 283-1557. For more information on George Ehrenhaft, visit www.mesart.com/gehrenhaft.

**New Diablo Valley College Library Exhibit.** Diablo Valley College print-making students and instructors will be exhibiting their work through May 22 at the DVC Library.

**Golden Gate Audubon Society presents "A Celebration of Birds and Art."** Celebrate the beauty of birds and art at the annual Birdathon dinner and art auction for Golden Gate Audubon Society May 10 from 6- 9pm in the Brazilian Room, Tilden Park, Berkeley. The Birdathon dinner and art auction raises funds for Golden Gate Audubon's work protecting Bay Area birds and their habitats, and educating the next generation of environmental leaders. The cost for the art show is free, dinner is \$35.00. RSVP is required. For more info, visit http://birdathon.dojiggy.com/pages/index.cfm?455721500D750B0405727005021324452459440F7C7E7007097B021F5B5C50200846, call (510) 843-2222 or email ggas@goldenateaudubon.org.

#### MUSIC

**Music ranging from Rachmaninoff to Godzilla will be performed** by Maestro Duane Carroll and the Contra Costa Wind Symphony in a concert billed as "Sublime to Silly" May 12, 8pm, Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets (\$10-\$25) are on sale at the Leshar Center, (925) 943-7469 (www.lesharartscenter.org).

**The Contra Costa Children's Chorus will perform** "Hope for Resolution" Friday, May 18, 7pm and Saturday, May 19, 10am, Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Featuring diverse music from around the world, both concerts will enchant and impress you with the talent and range of these young singers. Tickets: Adults \$15, Children 14 & under \$5. For more info and tickets call (925) 945-7101 ext. 2, or visit www.brownpapertickets.com, and www.childrenschorus.org.

**The Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra is having the final concert** of its



2011-12 Season on Sunday, May 20 at 7:30 pm at the Leshar Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek. The program will feature the Villa Piano Trio, including violinist Roy Oakley, cellist David Wishnia, and pianist Nancy Bachmann in Beethoven's Concerto for Piano, Violin and Cello, commonly known as the "Triple." Tickets are available for \$10-\$30 at the door, by phone (925) 943-SHOW, or online at www.LesharArtsCenter.org.

**The Contra Costa Performing Arts (PAS) is having a concert** including vocal, chamber and piano classical music May 25 at 10:30am, the Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. This Friday morning concert opens with a Poulenc sonata for violin and piano, followed by six songs for the tenor voice. The song composers include Handel, Gluck, Schubert and Schumann. Jan Koetsier's Dresdner Trio for oboe, horn and piano appears next. The program concludes with Debussy piano preludes. Free. For more information please visit www.ccpas.org.

**Gabriel Faure's transcendent and popular Requiem** will be performed May 27 at 4pm at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda, by the Chancel Choir and Orchestra under the direction of David Milnes. The performance will be given in honor of the Reverend Frank and Margaret Baldwin, who are retiring from the church after 14 years of service. Everyone is welcome. For more info, please call (925) 254-4906.

**Lafayette's Annual Jazz Café. There is a fabulous** lineup featuring: The Stanley Groove Merchants, The Dominant 7, The Stanley Thundering Herd, The Gypsy Chix, The Stanley Jazz Messengers and The Acalanes Jazz Ensemble. There will be scrumptious food, dessert, coffee, and beverages available for purchase. The event is a fundraiser for the Stanley Middle School Jazz department. There will also be drawings to give away fabulous prizes. The event will be held June 1 at 6pm in the Stanley Middle School Auditorium, 3455 School Street, Lafayette. General Admission \$10 per person and children under 6 are free.

**Amici Lyric Opera presents soprano, Elena Yakoubovsky,** in an encore performance of her praised Russian Album solo recital Friday, June 1, at 7pm, Lafayette Library Hall, 491 Mt.

Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Cost: \$15 Seniors/Students, \$20 General. For tickets and info, call (925) 964-9994 or visit www.amicyricopera.com.

#### THEATER

**Wagner Ranch Elementary School proudly presents** its annual spring musical, *Seussical Jr.*, Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2. *Seussical Jr.* is based on the Broadway production that combines the story lines of Dr. Seuss's most beloved books. Show times are 4pm and 7pm on Friday, June 1, and 3pm and 7pm on Saturday, June 2. Tickets can be purchased at the door or on-line at www.shotix4u.com. The prices are \$12 reserved and \$9 general seating. For more information, visit www.orindaschools.org/wagnerwagner.

**The Moraga Police Department is partnering with the New Rheem Theatre** to present a special showing of Marvel's "The Avengers" Friday, May 11 at 6:30pm with a portion of the proceeds donated to Special Olympics. The doors will open at 5pm for a reception prior to the movie including a raffle, pizza, beverages, t-shirts available to purchase, and police officers working at the concession stand. The \$15 cost includes admission to the reception and movie as well as a raffle ticket. Tickets will be available for purchase May 1 at the Rheem Theatre, contact Lindsay Pirkle. For more info, visit police.moraga.ca.us or www.sonc.org/events/our-fundraisers/letr-marvel-movie-night.

**Company C Contemporary Ballet presents a Spring Program** full of energy and romance May 25-27, Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Cost: \$23-\$45. For more info, visit www.companycballet.org or call (925) 708-0752.

#### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**The Moraga Historical Society will host a presentation** by two direct descendants from the first Spanish expedition to bring settlers and their families to establish residence in the Bay Area Thursday, May 17, 7:30pm, Hacienda de las Flores, La Sala Room. The Lieutenant of the expedition, Jose Joaquin Moraga, was the grandfather of Jose Joaquin de la Santissima Trinidad Moraga, the grantee of the Laguna de los Palos Colorados Land Grant, for whom the Town of Moraga was named.

**Commonwealth Club presents: Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger.** In this follow-up to his New York Times bestselling memoir *Highest Duty*, Sully engages nearly a dozen distinguished Americans to explore the nature of leadership, what it means, what it takes, and how it can be fostered and developed in all of our lives, May 21 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall, 5:45pm check in, program at 6:30pm. The cost is \$20 standard, \$12 for members, \$7 for students (with valid ID). For tickets visit www.CommonwealthClub.org or call (415) 597-6705.

**Clare Cooper Marcus, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at UC Berkeley,** introduces her compelling memoir, *Iona Dreaming*, May 24 from 7:30-9pm at the Community Hall. If you believe in the importance of an examined life and seek a more authentic life, share an evening with us. Free. Books will be available for sale and signing after the event.

... continued on next page

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**Building Jewish Bridges presents Celebrating Jewish Diversity.** The event will be a family-friendly evening with music, kids' activities, and food. Join us to chat with our speakers and participants May 12, from 6:30-8:30pm at Temple Sinai, 2808 Summit St, Oakland. The cost is free however you must pre-register. For more information please visit [buildingjewishbridges.org](http://buildingjewishbridges.org), call (510) 845-6420 ext. 11, or email [dawn@buildingjewishbridges.org](mailto:dawn@buildingjewishbridges.org).

**Self-Discovery and Aging, Creative Writing Workshop.** Write to explore issues around aging, emotion, perception and get support to write on any topic May 21 and June 4 from noon-2pm at the Lafayette Community Center in the Elderberry Room. Workshop sessions include writing prompts, feedback, encouragement, and information. Sessions are \$1 for Members and \$3 for Non-Members.

**Astronomy Program. Join the Mt. Diablo Astronomical Society** to see stars, nebula, galaxies, clusters, the moon and planets through member telescopes May 10 from 8-10pm at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Bring kids, binoculars, warm clothes (temperatures can drop), snacks, and water. No need for a flashlight but if you must bring one cover it in red plastic. The astronomy program is weather-dependant.

**Please join Trust in Education for a FUN RAISING evening** Friday, May 11, including wine and appetizers, silent auction and comedy. Proceeds go towards funding education in Afghanistan. Founder Budd MacKenzie will give an update and acclaimed comedian Mark Lundholm will perform. Event starts at 6:30pm, Veteran's Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Adults \$60/Students \$30. For tickets, call (925) 299-2010 or visit [www.trustineducation.org](http://www.trustineducation.org).

**There are still a few seats available for the 5th annual Campolindo Hall of Fame Dinner** May 12. This year Coach Macy is honoring the 2011 NCS Championship Team and the 1986 NCS Championship Team. See article page x. Contact Val Durantini at [v.durantini@sbcglobal.net](mailto:v.durantini@sbcglobal.net) or (925) 283-8662.

**Be the Star You Are's booth at the Moraga Faire** May 12 features two live broadcasts of Express Yourself!™ Teen Radio. For a small donation of \$20, businesses and the general public are invited to record a short promo for their company, products, service, etc. In addition, teen bands are invited to record a song. For sign up info, email [btseyateenradio@gmail.com](mailto:btseyateenradio@gmail.com). Visit [www.BTSYA.com](http://www.BTSYA.com), go to EVENTS.

**Drivers Safety Refresher Class.** Refine driving skills, develop safe defensive techniques, possibly lower your insurance premium, and get tips on avoiding stress and accidents May 17 from 10am-2pm at the Lafayette Community Center, Cedar Room. This abbreviated refresher course is reserved for those who have taken an AARP driving course within the last four years. Cost: \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for Non-Members. Please call (925) 284-5050 to determine if there is a vacancy.

**13th Annual Lafayette Kitchen Tour:** Saturday, May 19, 10am-3pm. The tour will benefit Shelter, Inc. which provides affordable housing and a range of counseling, education and employment services to low-income families in Contra Costa County. Tickets are \$40 (\$30 tax deductible). A boxed lunch is available for an additional \$12. Buy tickets in advance through a Lafayette Junior, in person at Douglah Designs 3586 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Premier Kitchens, 3373 Mt. Diablo Blvd. or at [www.lafayettejuniors.org](http://www.lafayettejuniors.org).

**On May 19, Capoeira Equilibrio is hosting a Batizado,** a traditional Capoeira promotion ceremony where young students play capoeira with an instructor or master to earn their first cordao (belt). Located at Walnut Creek's Civic Park Assembly Room, the event commences at 10am and is open to the public. A \$10 donation is requested for attendance, all proceeds will benefit the non-profit California Against Slavery. Following the ceremony, at 12:45, the participants and masters will march to the Leshner Center for the Arts for a street roda—Capoeira in the streets, just like one might see in Brazil! The street roda will be from 1 to 1:45pm and is sure to be exhilarating entertainment for all.

**Royal Doulton Collectors' Club Meeting and Sale Saturday,** May 19, 10am-2pm at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, Davies Room. Everyone who enjoys Royal Doulton collectibles is welcome; admission is free. Guest speaker Anita Venezia will share estate sales selling tips. Club members offer a large selection of Doulton collectibles for sale at great prices. Contact Gayle at (925) 686-6974 or [royaldoultonwest@yahoo.com](mailto:royaldoultonwest@yahoo.com).

**Need a Job? "Responding to God's Sustaining Love"** explores what is involved in making good career and life choices May 20, 2pm at the Christian Science Church, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda. Brian Talcott, of Berkeley, will discuss how to find guidance. Free. All are welcome. For more info, please call (925) 254-4212 or visit [www.csorinda.org](http://www.csorinda.org).

**POISE Family Park Day: Orinda families who have a child** in Special Education can enjoy an afternoon of friendship and fun! Meet other families and reconnect with friends, while the kids run and play Sunday, June 3, 2:30-4:30pm, Dalewood Park, Orinda (Corner of Dalewood Dr./Sundown Terrace). Please bring your own snacks, drinks and a blanket. No RSVP needed. For questions or suggestions, e-mail [cabennett\\_98@yahoo.com](mailto:cabennett_98@yahoo.com) or visit [www.orindapoise.org](http://www.orindapoise.org).

**Celebrate the Summer Solstice with a walk on a sacred labyrinth** in the early evening hour. Music will be playing as participants walk the Chartres style labyrinth June 22 in preparation of summer at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. The Chapel will be open for prayers and there will be ongoing readings. For info, call (925) 283-8722.

**Hospice of the East Bay is pleased to offer a variety** of support groups and workshops for adults, children and teens experiencing grief after the death of a loved one. Classes are offered at Hospice's administrative offices: 3470 Buskirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill. Support Groups for Adults include: Adults Who Have Lost a Par-

ent, Widow and Widowers and Drop-In Bereavement Support Group, Grief Class for Adults, and Understanding Grief. Bereavement Services are provided free of charge to all community members in need; however, donations are greatly appreciated. To register, please call Hospice of the East Bay: (925) 887-5681. Pre-registration is required. You can also find the most current Bereavement Services calendar at [www.hospiceeastbay.org](http://www.hospiceeastbay.org).

**Bi-Monthly Caregiver Support Group.** If you are a family member helping to care for an older adult, join our support group to find balance and joy as you manage your responsibilities. Drop-ins are welcome. The support group meets May 21 and June 4 from 1:30-2:30pm at the Lafayette Community Center in the Elderberry Room. There is no charge for Members; \$1 for Non-Members.

GARDEN

**Lafayette Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale.** Join us all at the Lafayette Garden Club's Annual Fundraising Plant Sale May 10 from 10am-noon at Our Saviors Lutheran Church Meeting Hall, 1035 Carol lane, Lafayette. The plants are propagated and grown by garden club members and available to the public once a year. Lafayette Garden Club has been in Lafayette for over 40 years and is very active in local gardening endeavors.

**The Montelindo Garden Club will host Barry Hoffer** as their speaker on the topic of Japanese Maples Friday, May 18 at 10:30am, the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Barry and Sue Hoffer are arborists and owners of Maples for All Seasons in Pleasanton, California. The Hoffers have been involved in the growing, care and pruning of Japanese maples for over 15 years. Barry Hoffer regularly teaches classes on Japanese maples and both Barry and Sue Hoffer are officers in the Northern California Japanese Maple Society. The program is preceded by a plant sale and social hour at 9am; the public is cordially invited.

Please submit events to:  
[calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)

Upcoming Special Events at:



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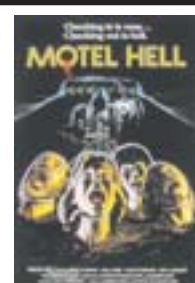
Saturday, May 12, 7:00PM  
Orinda Theatre



MORAGA MOVERS MONTHLY CLASSICS

Wednesday, May 16, 4:00 PM  
Rheem Theatre

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Oscar Winning Performance  
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Friday, May 18, 9:00 PM  
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Tickets- \$15 advance or \$20 on the day of event.

For a limited time only, all regular movie tickets are \$7 on Tuesdays.

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**Daisies Enjoy Campout with Moms**

Submitted by Julie Oxner

Ten Sleepy Hollow Lamorinda Moms and their kindergarten "Daisies" enjoyed their first campout at Lafayette's Twin Canyon Girl Scout Camp April 14-15.

The Campout began with banner making, tree climbing, dinner, and of course a campfire. S'mores were enjoyed by all along with a talent show. After a peaceful night of rest the Moms and Girls enjoyed breakfast, yoga, and a few walks along the "Brownie Trail."



Sleepy Hollow Daisy Troop Attendees, from left: Campbell Lovell, Allison Oxner, Elle Rodriguez, Marlena Steinbach, Natalie Aiken, Eva Patrick, Abby Shang, Claire O'Connor, Audrey Peatross, Grace Bell. Sleepy Hollow Daisy Troop—"Decorating the camp banner"



Moms Back Row, from left: Beverly Jane Peatross, Julie Oxner, Wendy Patrick, Christina Shook, Mary Pat McMahon. Front row: Lisa Rodriguez, Lisa O'Connor, Wendy Shang, Kathryn Bell, Allison Lovell Photos provided



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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Fifty Years of Bay Area Baseball: The Leftie from Lafayette is Still At Bat

By Cathy Dausman



Rob Omo with his trophy collection.

Photo Cathy Dausman

Calling someone modest and competitive may seem a contradiction in terms, until you meet Rob Omo. Omo, an Acalanes High School and St. Mary's College graduate, is an electrical contractor by day. But strip the wire cutters from his hands and hand him a baseball glove, and you learn something else about the man. Although he calls himself only "a moderate fan," Omo clearly loves baseball, and baseball has loved him back.

The former southpaw pitcher began playing in Lafayette Little League as a seven-year-old. He progressed through Babe Ruth, Colt, and American Legion leagues and played for Acalanes High School.

Omo lettered in both baseball and football during high school years, where he played running back, wide receiver and strong safety. He also ran track.

During home baseball games, if Omo wasn't starting pitcher, his baseball coach allowed him to run track, suit up again and return to the diamond. In 1972, AHS won the state baseball championship, and Omo was named MVP.

Omo pitched for two years at Diablo Valley College, and continued playing football. But when he attended St. Mary's College he was only allowed to punt. "My coach didn't let me carry the football because I was on a baseball scholarship," Omo explained.

After college Omo signed with the San Francisco Giants. He pitched in their minor league in 1978 and 1979, returning after a first season knee injury. Omo was told to report to spring training for his third season, but instead was let go. At 24 he was deemed "too old" to play the game.

It was the start of Omo's seventh inning stretch off the field. He began working as an electrician, married, and became a father. When life threw him a curve ball in the form of a divorce, a chance meeting with a buddy pulled him back to the diamond. His friend was playing Tri Valley Men's Senior Baseball League (MSBL) and encouraged Omo to join.

It was "a good distraction," said Omo. Although he no longer pitches (he stopped in 2001), he's still playing competitive hardball, mostly in the outfield, with the Tri Valley League, as he's done since 1995.

"It's a hoot," says Omo, who plays for the Martinez Indians and the Greenwood Ridge Dragons. He was the first inductee in the Tri Valley League Hall of Fame. He says his batting average is still over 400.

Omo has preserved his life in baseball with photos and memorabilia. He keeps his first professional game ball (he pitched a 1-0 shutout against the Burlington Brewers, April 30, 1978), owns a tournament jacket and five MSBL World Series Championship rings. The highlight of his baseball season is his chance to play in MSBL tournaments on professional spring training fields in Arizona. He knows life is sweet, but it also can be short; there are two Tri Valley team members who have died playing the game they so love.

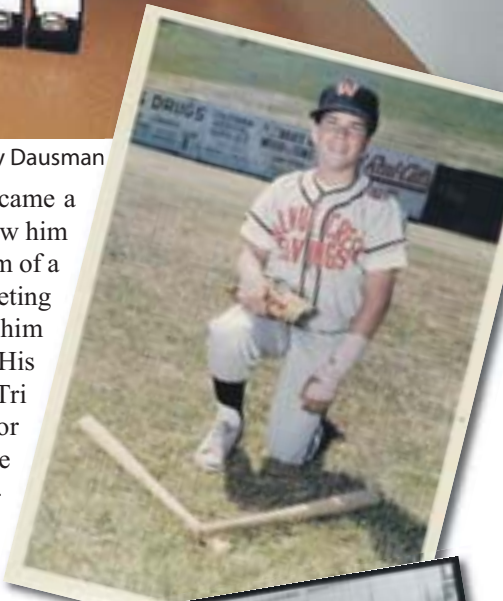
"I was only in the minors, 'A'

ball, for two years, but I am still playing," Omo said. "So, for a guy playing in his mid-50's [that's] not bad."

**Men's Senior Baseball League** (<http://www.msblnational.com/>) was founded in 1988. Their nearly 50,000 members field 3200 teams across the U.S.

**Tri Valley MSBL** (<http://www.tvmsbl.com/main.htm>) holds 13 national World Series Championship titles and is the Bay Area's only all wood bat MSBL league.

Tri Valley games play on college fields throughout the Bay Area.



Stealing second base.

Photo provided

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS



# Campolindo Football Honors 1986, 2011 Teams

By Lou Fancher



2011 team



Coach Kevin Macy

When the Campolindo High School football program packs into Pleasant Hill's Back Forty BBQ for the 5th Annual Hall of Fame Dinner, guests will experience the huddle firsthand.

That's because ticket sales are booming for the Saturday, May 12th event, according to head coach Kevin Macy. After a NCS Championship-winning season, fans are excited to celebrate.

"Typically, ninety percent of the ticket sales happen in the last three weeks before the dinner," he explained. "This year, ninety percent happened in the first 20 days."

Finishing the season with a 13-1 record and a huge victory at the O.co Coliseum during the NCS Championship, caused Macy to break with tradition. Instead of inducting three individuals from past teams and three individuals from the present team at the dinner, the entire 1986 and 2011 teams will be honored.

"We were such a long shot, just like the team in 1986," Macy said of his decision to induct two entire teams. "It was just a perfect fit for this event."

In 1986, the Cougars were 10-3 for the season. Challenged by their coach, they built a rock solid defense that helped them earn the NCS Championship title, to the surprise of many.

"We never gave up or threw in the towel at the beginning of the season. We were supremely confident in our ability to shut down our opponents' offense. If we could give our offense enough chances with the ball, they would score for us," said Brad Schoenberger, co-captain in 1986.

The annual dinner originated five years ago, when Macy, dissatisfied with the timing of a season-ending banquet and realizing a simple award ceremony wasn't adequate, came up with the Hall of Fame idea.

"It's a way to acknowledge past players and our present kids and to kick off spring practice, to send off the seniors. It energizes the new families and kids."

Seated behind a desk piled high with math papers, Macy is willing to talk about organizing the dinner, but he's far more eager to speak about his core principles in leading student athletes.

"I don't do anything fancy, I'm just around more than anybody else," he said, downplaying his straightforward approach to the game and 17 years at Campo. "You want to guide, but it has to be kid driven. They're not going to make those big plays, if you don't have the buy-in."

This year, Macy called for all the buy-in his Cinderella team could muster and they came through. Establishing a buy-in began at practice.

"First, we set up our practice so we're not in that environment where we're trying to have our kids beat up on each other to prove who's tough," Macy said. "There's the kids that can supply some energy during the week of practice, then there's kids that can bring something different that other kids can't on game day. Those leaders elevate the team...and it's not always the best athletes."

Macy said the game has changed, with finesse reigning over bulk and solid, strategic planning leading to wins. What hasn't changed, he insists, is what the players learn in the locker room.

"It's the one sport that takes a while to get out on the field. There's a natural debriefing time when there's three different levels suiting up and they have to move en masse. Nowadays, with so many things to isolate them, they have to put everything away and create their own sense of entertainment."

Schoenberger remembers that same, determined camaraderie from his championship season. Overcoming bruises, smashed fingers, split chins and fatigue formed an unforgettable bond, according to Schoenberger.

"It took a good five to ten years to come down off the high from that football season," he joked.

Macy believes the deferred gratification of a football season turns the clock back and establishes old-fashioned values like hard work, team effort and respect for process.

He laughs, admitting that he's always said there are no Cinderella stories in football.

"You can have an upset, but you can't pull out the magic week after week," he suggested, adding, "now that there's a story out there—ours—I guess I have to change what I say."



1986 team

Photos provided



## CLAM Records Top Dives

Submitted by Marie Estorge



Joe Zacharin



Dana Piercy



Miranda Gold

Photos provided

The rain held off and CLAM had a meet on April 26 against De La Salle/Carondelet. Dana Piercy, of Acalanes, won first in the Future Champions category. Joe Zacharin, of Campolindo, earned first place in the boys' junior varsity event.

Athlete	School	Division	Total	Points
<b>Girls - Future Champions</b>				
Dana Piercy	Acalanes	FC	55.50	1
Annaliese Martis	Miramonte	FC	51.80	2
<b>Girls - Junior Varsity</b>				
Addison Naton	Campolindo	JV	145.35	5
Kelly Martin	Miramonte	JV	139.80	6
Kate Seperack	Acalanes	JV	136.45	8
<b>Boys - Junior Varsity</b>				
Joe Zacharin	Campolindo	JV	139.75	1
<b>Girls - Varsity</b>				
Maren Kjell	Campolindo	V	411.30	2
Morgan Matranga	Campolindo	V	361.50	3
Miranda Gold	Acalanes	V	357.80	4
Alyssa Parsons	Campolindo	V	309.05	5



# SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

## SMC Women's Tennis Qualifies for Post-Season Tourney



**S**aint Mary's women's tennis is headed to the NCAA tournament for the third consecutive year. The Gaels earned an at-large bid for the second straight year. Currently ranked #41, the Gaels will play #28 Yale on Friday, May 11 at Stanford's Taube Tennis Center.

The Gaels finished the regular season 7-1 and earned a #2 seed in the WCC tournament but fell in the second round to the eventual champion, San Diego.

It is only the second time in SMC Athletics history that a program has participated in three consecutive NCAA tournaments.

The tennis program had four players named to All-WCC teams this season. In addition to earning All-WCC Second Team Doubles honors, sophomore Jenny Jullien and junior Catherine Isip were named to All-WCC First-Team Singles, and senior Anna Chkhikvishvili was named All-WCC Second-Team Singles. Sophomore Jade Frampton also earned doubles honors.

C.Graveson



Photos Tod Fierner

## SMC Softball Plays for Post-Season



Britany Linton

Photos Tod Fierner

**T**he Gaels won the Pacific Coast Softball Conference Coastal Division Title last week. Saint Mary's was picked to finish fourth in the division, but they swept LMU to clinch the title for the second time in three years.

The Gaels will now host a playoff against Portland State, the winner of

the PCSC Mountain Division, on May 11 at Cottrell Field at 3:00 p.m. The winner of the best-of-three series will earn the automatic berth to the NCAA tournament. The Gaels beat Portland State 2-1 earlier this season.

Saint Mary's finished 25-21 with a program best, 15-4 conference record. C.Graveson

## Saint Mary's Rugby Advances to Semifinals

Submitted by Tony Samaniego



Photo Michael Geib

**S**aint Mary's men's rugby hosted Utah in the Men's National Collegiate Division 1 quarterfinals. The Gaels played a physical game against the Utes on May 5 and pulled out a 25-15 win.

Scoring in the first five minutes, the Gaels took control early. Utah answered back to pull within two, 5-3. Saint Mary's recovered the momentum and held on to earn a 15-3 lead at halftime. Despite a late effort by the Utes,

the Gaels maintained control and recorded the win.

Saint Mary's hosts Arkansas State in the semifinals on Saturday, May 12 at 1:00 p.m.

## Moraga Triathlon Results



Jason Campbell won first place.

Photo Kevin Nguyen

Moraga hosted its annual Moraga Triathlon on April 28. Here are the top finishers:

### Female Winners

Place	Name	Time
1	Courtney Joyce	1:16:45
2	Christine Lum	1:17:08
3	Marie-Claire Schillinger	1:19:14

### Male Winners

1	Jason Campbell	1:01:30
2	Gary Schullenberg	1:04:43
3	Steve Fung	1:05:11

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# SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

## Campo, Acalanes battle for DFAL Title

By Brandon Duran



Photos Dennis Lee

As the North Coast Section playoffs approach, both Campolindo and Acalanes are hoping to repeat as NCS Champions. Campolindo finished first in the Division II tournament and Acalanes earned top honors in Division III. Although the post-season tournament will separate the Lamorinda rivals, the DFAL title is still up for grabs and both schools, along with Dougherty Valley, are in the hunt.

With a chance to gain a share of first place, Acalanes (14-6-0, 6-3-0 as of the press deadline, May 6) traveled to Campolindo (15-3-1, 6-2-0) on Tuesday, May 1 looking to avenge the 12-1 loss they suffered to the Cougars in their first meeting.

Before the game Campo head coach Max Luckhurst spoke about the Lamorinda rivalry, saying, "It's great. These kids all grow up to-

gether through little league, and club teams. They hang out and talk all the time so the rivalries are just fun."

Luckhurst added that although the rivalries are fun, all the games are tough. "There's not one game in the DFAL that's bigger than any other, because anybody can beat anybody."

Campolindo ace James Marvel was on the mound for the Cougars, with a few collegiate scouts on hand to watch the Duke-bound pitcher work. Marvel, with some impressive heat and a nasty curve, struck out five and had no problems in the first two innings. Trouble found Marvel, in the third inning, when the Dons exploded for five runs off six hits, giving the Dons the 5-0 lead.

Andrew Merken, the junior righty, put on an impressive display of pitching for Acalanes, only

allowing one runner on base through four innings.

Marvel settled down and retired nine of the next ten batters, before he was replaced for the final inning by junior Tyler Luckhurst.

Offensively, the Cougars couldn't get much going. In the sixth inning their two leadoff hitters reached base safely, but the following three went down in order. Merken didn't overpower Campo, but instead forced groundball, and pop-fly outs to blow through their batting order. He kept the Cougars from scoring and secured the 5-0 victory for the Dons.

He finished with a complete game victory, giving up four hits, and zero earned runs. Marvel received the loss for the Cougars, giving up eight hits, and four earned runs. Campo found their bats against Petaluma on Thursday, May 3, winning 20-8. The win

moved them to second place in the DFAL. Campolindo, second in the DFAL, takes on top-dog Dougherty Valley on May 10.

After the game Acalanes head coach Justin Santich-Hughes spoke highly of his pitcher's performance. "He did great. He threw a lot of strikes, stayed away from them, and used his sinker. He probably threw 95% fastballs today."

Santich-Hughes was happy with the win but remained focused on closing out the season.

"We can celebrate this one for a little bit, but we have Dougherty Valley on Thursday. We control our own destiny now. If we don't end up in first, it's our fault."

Acalanes couldn't string together back-to-back wins, losing to the Wildcats. The loss dropped the Dons to third place in the DFAL. Acalanes hosts Miramonte on May 15.

### Miramonte:

Senior experience has played a significant role for each of the Lamorinda teams this year, especially for Miramonte. Seniors Paddy O'Brien and Drew Jackson have stepped up as leaders of the Miramonte squad. The Mats have fallen back in the DFAL standings, but have maintained a solid record overall, 12-7-0.

Coach Vince Dell'Aquila of Miramonte noted the strength of the DFAL.

"The division two teams in our league are very, very good. I believe our league is going to give everybody a run for their money in North Coast".

Last Thursday, Miramonte lost to Alhambra, dropping to last in the league.

With five games remaining, Coach Dell'Aquila talked about the NCS playoffs, "There's a lot of good teams. At that time of year everyone elevates their game, but I think there is a lot of luck involved [in winning it all]."

Miramonte closes out the season with games against Acalanes and Campolindo.

## Lamorinda Rugby Wins Championship

Submitted by Matt Taylor



Cameron Drake on the attack with Sam Peri, Tim Meier and Beau Davis in support.

Photos Karen Drinkwater

Lamorinda Rugby Club's varsity and JV teams reached the Northern California Rugby playoffs Final Four and played in Rio Linda on May 5 and 6. The varsity defeated Sacramento on May 6 to win the Championship.

After winning the league, the varsity handily won its quarterfinal match against San Mateo on April 28 at St. Mary's College 66-7. Joey Rotticci scored a hat trick. Cameron Drake and Connor Rosenbaum added two more tries apiece in the team's 10-try effort.



## Lamorinda Weekly

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

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- Lemonade Entrepreneurs
- Moragas Johnny Redwood Seed
- Moraga Grandma Creates the ABCs of Asperger's Syndrome
- Social Stereotypes-Don't Judge the Book by Its Cover
- Alleged Victim Now Suspect Say Moraga Police
- Moraga Town Council's Cohesiveness Shaken
- Two Independent Lafayette Retailers Plan to Close Doors
- Lafayette Juniors Kitchen Tour Returns with Six Unique and Stylish Kitchens
- Lamorinda Teens Perform at Junior Bach Festival
- Cinco en Seis Moraga's Cinco de Mayo celebration to take place on May 6

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) and click the link below the story.

# Campo Boys' Golf Takes Second at DFAL Tournament

Submitted by Bob Latham



From left: Joey Mediate, Sam Firth, Robert Young, Manny Manzone; Front row: Jim Coon, and Matt Alderete  
Photo Andrea A. Firth

The Campolindo boys' golf team started strong at the DFAL League Tournament held on Monday, April 30th at the Poppy Ridge Golf Course in Livermore. Campolindo had one of their best finishes in years, earning a team score of 385, just three strokes behind league powerhouse Dublin High School. Miramonte shot 411 for third place and Acalanes shot 427 for sixth.

Campolindo sophomore Matt Klein

earned second place honors in a one-hole playoff over Acalanes' junior Ryan West. Both shot 75.

Campolindo freshman Robert Young fired a 76, tying for 4th place, and took home the 6th place ribbon after a playoff. Sophomores Manny Manzone and Jim Coon shot 77 and 78 respectively, followed by junior Sam Firth with a 79. Matt Alderete rounded out the Campolindo squad's scoring with an 84.

# Lamorinda Monarchs Sweep Weekend Tournament

Submitted by Lynn Byrd



Photo provided

The Lamorinda Monarchs 14U eighth grade baseball team took its game on the road to Reno last weekend May 5-6. The Monarchs finished with a perfect 5-0 mark over the weekend. Mac Lardner pitched a complete

game and struck out eight in the championship matchup against the SV STORM on Sunday afternoon. Lardner and Daniel Glorioso were named tournament Co-MVP's, but it was truly a team win.

# Moraga Baseball Association

Submitted by Jin Meng

May 5

Mustang Division

Giants 9, A's 1

Giants Highlights: Michael Holloway 1-for-2, 2B, RS; Charlie Craig 2-for-2, 2 SBs, 3 RS; Corey Goldman 1-for-2, 2 SBs, RBI, RS, 3 IP, 1 ER, 3 H, 4 K's; Kellen Clancy RS, 1 IP, 0 ER, 1H, 5 K's; Jake Crumbaugh 1-for-3, RBI, RS, 1 IP, 0 ER, 0 H, 3 K's; Drew McGill 2 SBs, RS. A's Highlights: CJ Rago 3 IP, 1 ER, 1 H, 7 K's; Cayden Hein 2B, RBI, 2 IP, 4 ER, 4 H, 3 K's; Grant Harper 1-for-2, 2B, 1 IP, 1 ER, 2 K's; Easton Means SB, RS; Matthew Wong 1-for-2, 2B; Jackson Rusconi 1-2, SB.

Pinto Division

A's 11, Cubs 10

A's Highlights: Garrett Bornfleth 3-for-3, 1 RS; Dylan Rusconi 4-for-4, 3 RS, 1 RBI; Nicholas Buck 3-for-3, 1 RS

Cub highlights: Vincent Castillo 3-for-3, 3 RS, 1 RBI; Andrew Pak 3-for-3, 2 RS, 2 RBI; Quinn Panos 3-for-4, 1 RBI

Giants 16, Pirates 8

Giants Highlights: Luke McCurdy 3-for-3, Run, 3 RBIs, 2 2B; Nate Powers 3-for-3, 2 Runs, 4 RBI, 3B; Luke Olsen 2-for-3, 2 Runs, RBI; and Logan Robeson 3-for-3, 3 Runs, RBI, 2 2B

Pirates Highlights: Vito Crudele 3-for-3, RBI; Xavier Esquer 2-for-3, 2 Runs, 2 RBI, 3B; Ryan Kang 2-for-3

May 2

Pinto Division

Giants 22, Cubs 16

Cub's Highlights: Tyler Panos 3-for-4, 2 Runs, 2 RBIs; Cooper Lenahan 3-for-4, 2 Runs, 3 RBIs; Tyler Garcia 4-for-4, 2 Runs; Charlie Lopez 3-for-3, 1 Run, 2 RBIs

Giant's Highlights: Michael Coane 3-for-4, 2 Runs, 1 RBI; Wiley Winkler 2-for-3, Run, 3 RBI, 2B; Shan Brinton 3-for-3, 2 Runs, RBI, 2B; Brendan O'Donnell 2-for-3, 2 Runs

Red Sox 16, Athletics 10

Red Sox Highlights: James Murray 4-for-4, 3 Runs, 1 RBI; Riley Bird 3-for-3, 3 RS, 3 RBIs; Charlie Burke 2-for-3, 1 RS

Athletics Highlights: Adam Harper 3-for-3, 2 RS; Dylan Rusconi 2-for-3, 2 RS, 2 RBI; Luca Rago 2-for-3, 2 RS, 3 RBI

May 1

Mustang Division

A's 12, Pirates 2

Pirates Highlights: Michael Evans 1-for-2, RS, 2 IP, 2 strikeouts; Chase Giglio 1-for-2, RS; Ryan Fritch 1-for-2, RBI, 1+IP; Rex Curtiss 1-for-2, 2SB, RBI; Graham Becker 1 2/3 IP, 4 strikeouts; Luke Ahearn 1-for-2, 2B.

A's Highlights: Alex Claire 1-for-3, 2 RS; Grant Harper 3-for-3, 2B, 3B, HR, 2 RBIs, 2 RS, 3 IP, 1 ER, 2H, 9 K's; CJ Rago 1-for-2, 2 RS, 1 IP, 0 ER, 3 K's; Cayden Hein 1-for-2, 3B, 2 RBIs, RS, 2 IP, 1 ER, 2H, 4 K's; Jackson Rusconi 2-for-2.

April 28

Pinto Division

Cubs 19, Red Sox 16

Cubs Highlights: Connor Fritch 4-for-4, 3 Run, 1 RBI; Tyler Garcia 3-for-4, 2 Run, 3 RBI; Kyle Brennan 3-for-3, 2 Runs

Red Sox Highlights: Riley Bird 3-for-4, 3 Runs, RBI; Nico Mossotti 4-for-4, 2 Run, RBI; Evan Olson 3-for-4, 3 Runs, RBI

April 25

Giants 19, Red Sox 8

Giants Highlights: Nate Powers 3-for-4, 1 Run, 4 RBI; Luke McCurdy 4-for-4, 1 Run, 1 RBI; Shan Brinton 3-for-3, 1Runs, 3 RBI, 2B

Cubs Highlights: Ian Concepcion 1-for-3, 3 Runs, RBI; Alex Ayers 2-for-3, 1 Run, RBI; James Murray 2-for-3, 2 Runs

April 21

Mustang Division

Yankees 28, Red Sox 7

Yankees Highlights: Peter O'Donnell 2-for-4, BB, 3RS, 3SB; Blake Pollock 3-for-4, 2RBI, BB, 3RS, SB; Josh Fleming 1-for-4, 2RBI, 2BB, 2RS, SB

Red Sox Highlights: Mark McCurdy 2-for-3, 3RBI, 3B, BB, 2RS, SB; Dan Wheeler 1-for-3, RBI, RS, BB, 2SB; Andrew Fenske 1-for-3, 2B, RBI

April 17

Pinto Division

Pinto A's 17, Pinto Pirates 5

Pinto A's Highlights: Caleb Fleming 2-for-3, 1 RBI, 2 RS; Garrett Bornfleth 2-for-3, 1 RBI, 2RS; Donovan Castilla-Liu 2-for-3, 1 RBI, 1 RS  
Pinto Pirates Highlights: Joe Walgenbach 1-for-2, 1RS; Tommy Richards 2-for-3, 1 RBI; Justin Meyers 2-for-3, 1 RBI

# Saint Mary's Baseball Hangs in There

By Alex Kozela



Photos Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's baseball team took the field at the beginning of this season in February brimming with confidence. It was the dawn of a new era, as the Gaels christened the beautiful new Louis Gusto Field, the first project in a \$30 million effort to revitalize on-campus athletic facilities.

But then injuries took over.

"We've had six or seven guys out for most of the year, and that never makes things easy," said Gaels' head coach Jedd Soto.

He's had to do a fair bit of juggling lineups this year, as key players like senior pitcher Mike Anderson, and his replacement, sophomore Kurt Jahnke, and senior infielder Troy Channing, and his replacement, junior Shawn O'Brien, have all been out for stretches of the season.

Soto acknowledged that injuries notably affect stability and continuity in the team.

"As soon as someone goes down, their role changes," he said. "But you know, despite the injuries, I am proud of their effort. I think the guys have done a really good job at winning ball games, with missing some of the better players in our team. I give them credit for battling despite some adversity."

The Gaels, coming off of two disappointing losses to Gonzaga in a home stand last weekend, now stand at 22-23 overall, with a 6-12 WCC record.

"I think we're better than we show. I think we're definitely better than how we've been playing," said junior infielder Patrick Wisdom. "I expected us to do really well this season, but

we've had ups and downs and that's part of the game.

The Gonzaga series was reflective of how close the Gaels are to that next step. After winning the first game of the series 6-4, they fell 4-3 and 7-5.

"It was the same thing as [the Gonzaga series] last year. We were in every game, it came down to the last pitch on Saturday and Sunday, and unfortunately we were on the wrong side of that," said Soto. "But they continue to go out and battle."

While the results haven't been as positive as players and the coaching staff may have liked, regardless of the team's record, the new field is a positive that is here to stay for years to come.

"It's an honor to be the first team to play in it," said Wisdom. "It's exciting every time we come out here, and we're excited what it can bring."

Soto said the team, which previously played next door, is still adjusting to the new facility.

"It plays different than the old field. The wind blows harder. We need to figure out how to get the grass mowed short enough so it catches a little bit. It changes your offense. We're just getting acclimated to it, and I think next year we'll be more settled in," said Soto.

The Gaels close out the season with a series at Portland May 11-13 before their last three games, a home stand against San Francisco on May 25-27.

"We've got a good club, so hopefully we finish out the season strong," said Wisdom.



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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 06 Issue 5 Wednesday, May 9, 2012



The Home Designer ...read on page D7

## Life on the Creeks

By Sophie Braccini

Lamorinda resident Martin Spittler probably described it best, “Creeks are really ‘Beauty and the Beast’ for most homeowners.”

Beauty for the sylvan quality of the environment they nurture, but potential beasts if storms overwhelm local drainage systems. A creek in a back yard can be a wonderful feature, but it is part of a natural or engineered drainage system that the individual homeowner rarely controls. Still, most of these homeowners would choose their piece of property again.

Many Lamorinda residents live near a creek – some a permanent feature that creates challenges, others ephemeral subsidiaries that run in winter and are often less trouble. Those who live close to the open space that surrounds Lamorinda have to take charge of potential hazards.

When Tom and Virginia Steuber bought their Lafayette home that borders Briones Regional Park, they knew that the beautiful natural creek meandering down from the surrounding hills could flood their property. They hired an engineering firm to build a collection and piping system large enough to catch the worst storms.

What they did not anticipate was that mud and brush would come down with the water, instantly clogging the drain entrance. “I will always remember that morning of New Year’s Eve in 2005 when we woke up and discovered our



Wild creek coming down Briones toward Virginia and Tom Steubers' home.

Photos Andy Scheck

entire backyard and two-thirds of the swimming pool buried under four to 18 inches of mud,” says Steuber. Since then, her gardener installed rows of poles that catch the debris along the way.

To balance the tempestuous nature of the creek in the back of her prop-

erty, Steuber created a peaceful artificial creek in front, with a pond. The serene atmosphere of that decor is very close to what Zoe and Jim Klippert experience in Moraga with a garden bordering an ephemeral creek.

“It’s never gone any higher than the

base of the little redwood,” says Klippert pointing to a young tree in the lower tier of the bank of the creek. Their creek is quite tame; it drains some adjacent open space and joins shortly after the Klipperts’ property to the larger Moraga Creek. ...continued on page D4

## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded



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**Sold, 17 El Camino Moraga,  
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City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	23	\$450,000	\$2,150,000
MORAGA	9	\$173,500	\$1,615,000
ORINDA	10	\$472,500	\$1,400,000

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**

- 3361 Betty Lane, \$450,000, 3 Bdrms, 1154 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 4-2-12;  
Previous Sale: \$176,500, 07-08-86
- 25 Billington Court, \$1,049,500, 5 Bdrms, 3366 SqFt, 1979 YrBl, 3-30-12;  
Previous Sale: \$1,095,000, 03-08-00
- 426 Castello Road, \$746,500, 6 Bdrms, 3069 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 3-30-12
- 18 Del Rio Court, \$650,000, 4 Bdrms, 1685 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 3-29-12;  
Previous Sale: \$550,000, 07-09-02
- 663 Glenside Drive, \$830,000, 4 Bdrms, 2162 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 4-3-12
- 3289 Helen Lane, \$871,000, 4 Bdrms, 2131 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 3-30-12;  
Previous Sale: \$750,000, 08-17-04
- 3269 La Canada, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 2298 SqFt, 1941 YrBl, 3-30-12
- 2 Leeward Glen Road, \$1,400,000, 5 Bdrms, 3285 SqFt, 1975 YrBl, 4-6-12
- 790 Los Palos Manor, \$2,150,000, 7 Bdrms, 6985 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 4-3-12
- 730 North Pond Court, \$700,000, 4 Bdrms, 2483 SqFt, 1997 YrBl, 3-29-12;  
Previous Sale: \$965,000, 05-28-08
- 754 Old Jonas Hill Road, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2510 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 4-5-12;  
Previous Sale: \$930,000, 08-26-09
- 1136 Orchard Road, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2504 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 4-5-12;  
Previous Sale: \$560,000, 08-26-08
- 3819 Palo Alto Drive, \$1,475,000, 2 Bdrms, 3469 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 4-3-12
- 2577 Pebble Beach Loop, \$555,000, 4 Bdrms, 1894 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 4-11-12;  
Previous Sale: \$295,000, 04-15-97
- 3398 Ridge Road, \$848,500, 4 Bdrms, 2088 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 3-29-12;  
Previous Sale: \$770,000, 06-24-09
- 3040 Rohrer Drive, \$827,500, 4 Bdrms, 1728 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 4-3-12
- 3565 Silver Springs Road, \$1,571,000, 4 Bdrms, 2246 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 4-11-12;  
Previous Sale: \$1,675,000, 11-21-08
- 800 Solana Drive, \$1,165,000, 4 Bdrms, 3509 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 4-5-12
- 3969 South Peardale Drive, \$1,230,000, 3 Bdrms, 2280 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 4-3-12
- 27 Southampton Place, \$965,000, 4 Bdrms, 2924 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 3-30-12;  
Previous Sale: \$475,000, 12-22-95
- 3283 Theresa Lane, \$650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2463 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 4-6-12
- 1062 Via Baja, \$1,340,000, 4 Bdrms, 2947 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 3-30-12;  
Previous Sale: \$970,000, 05-23-02
- 4 West Creek Court, \$527,500, 3 Bdrms, 1427 SqFt, 1975 YrBl, 4-11-12;  
Previous Sale: \$589,000, 11-01-04

**MORAGA**

- 2135 Ascot Drive #13, \$295,500, 2 Bdrms, 1539 SqFt, 1969 YrBl, 4-3-12;  
Previous Sale: \$485,000, 10-27-06
- 1973 Ascot Drive #B, \$173,500, 2 Bdrms, 964 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 4-2-12;  
Previous Sale: \$125,000, 08-29-91
- 34 Campolindo Court, \$805,000, 4 Bdrms, 2029 SqFt, 1972 YrBl, 4-6-12
- 29 Francisca Drive, \$355,000, 2 Bdrms, 1211 SqFt, 1985 YrBl, 4-10-12;  
Previous Sale: \$150,000, 07-31-86

... continued on page D7





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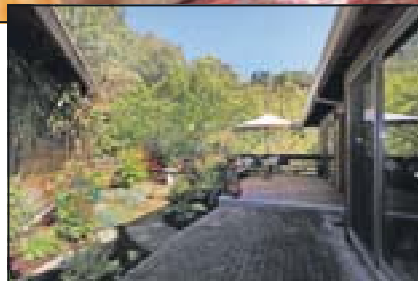
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# Life on the Creeks

...continued from page D1



*Al Steuber shows where the creek erodes the bank in his garden*

In this setting, property owners own both sides of the creek. Forty years ago, their neighbor decided that it was wasted space and built a culvert with the advice of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and flattened the whole backyard; a rare move for someone with a creek, but that has proven quite harmless to the property.

This radical way of controlling a creek is rare for individual homeowners, but according to Spittler, it was done extensively when the cities were developed. He still remembers the Orinda creeks he played in with his friends that now run through concrete tunnels under shopping centers or freeways.

As far as homeownership is concerned, maintenance of the creeks mostly means stabilizing the banks. "You can see that where the creek turns, the outside bank gets eroded much more quickly," says Lafayette resident Al Steuber (Virginia's father-in-law) pointing to a portion of the year-round creek that borders his property. The natural tendency of the creek would be to go straight, so especially when the volume of water is high, consistently hitting that curb slowly erodes the side. Planting native trees so roots hold the bank and in-

stalling large rocks on the side are some things that help. That's what Klippert did and in the process, he opened a beautiful area in his backyard.

Once nature is stabilized and hopefully controlled, the fun part of integrating the natural water feature into the garden begins. The Prestons in Moraga had a non-accessible bank riddled with ivy and blackberry. "We didn't 'discover' the creek until we were remodeling in 1999," remembers Bobbie Preston. From the start the Prestons wanted to restore and use their side of the creek the natural way.

"We had 30-plus truckloads of tree chips dumped on the hillside to create a plantable area," she says. "The Watershed Creeks Council helped us replant the creek side with natives such as nine-bark, flowering currant and willow, and we also added Cleveland sage, and California fuchsia." Tom Preston built the stairs, terraces and decks that are used by the three generations who come to their home. "He used recycled wood from our neighbors' fence for the terrace, bricks from our old fireplace for the path," says Preston. The result is charming.

What Spittler did with his ephemeral



*A simple flight of stairs built by Tom Preston accesses the creek bank planted with native grasses.*

creek is equally appealing, offering to the eye and the meditative visitor a natural oak and pine woodland where local wildlife loves to come.

The Lebermans in Orinda also rave about the uniqueness of having a creek on their property. Their challenge is that they must cross the creek and a bridge shared by three homes to reach their house. "We rebuilt it together five years ago," explains

Susan Leberman. "It was quite a project, but you don't want to end up with your car at the bottom of the creek." The Libermans have a second pedestrian bridge on their property.

All these homeowners agree that having a natural water feature in your yard is as wonderful as the abundance of wildlife that comes with it – whether they are owls and bats, or deer and raccoons.



*Natural beauty abounds in backyard creeks.*

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## FHA Loans: What Are Those?

by Andi Peterson Brown

Quite a few friends and clients have recently asked me to explain what FHA loans are. The term is always thrown around, but it oftentimes isn't accompanied by any sort of explanation. Given that FHA loans are becoming increasingly popular here in the Bay Area, it is an important concept to know.

FHA loans are not loans made by the FHA but rather loans that are insured and guaranteed by the FHA. The Federal Housing Administration is not a lender. It is a federal government agency that offers mortgage insurance on loans originated by agency-approved lenders. This insurance protects the lender in case the borrower defaults on the loan.

FHA loans are known primarily for their low down payments. A borrower need only put down 3.5% and can borrow up to \$729,750 in high-cost zip codes such as our own. Many people think FHA loans have tougher standards than regular loans, but that is typically not the case. Because of the insurance, FHA loans have upfront and annual premiums that conventional loans do not have, but these added costs can be folded into the monthly payments. Current FHA interest rates are under 4%.

FHA loans are always fuel for debate. Should a borrower have more skin in the game than 3.5%? Some say yes, some say no. Regardless, these loans have existed since the 1930s. For well-qualified borrowers who don't have the conventional down payment, they can be a great option.



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# The Home Designer

## Interior Style Just Steps Outside

By Brandon Neff

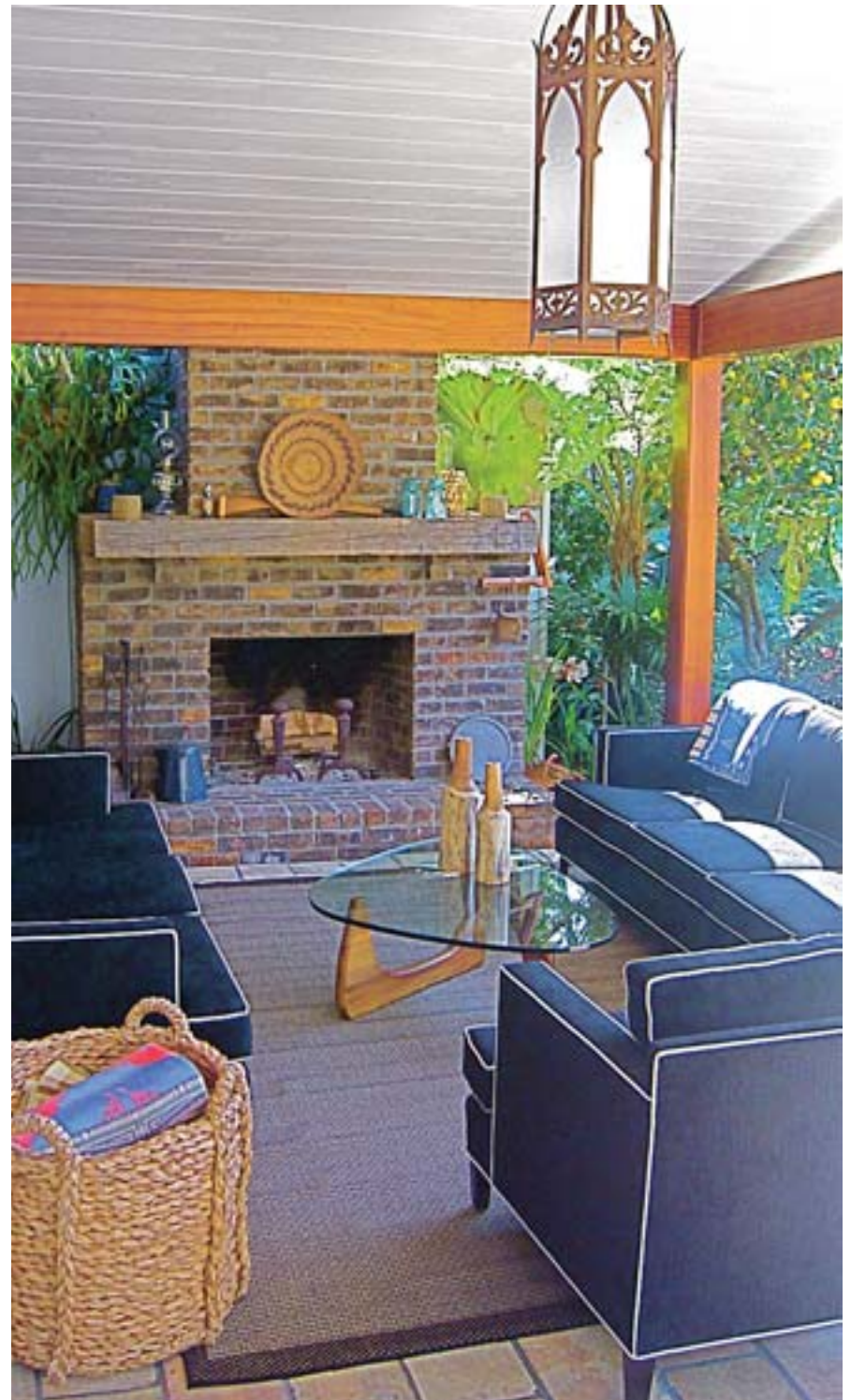
It's official! Summer is almost here. And with the season comes the joy of taking life outside. Somebody hand me a frozen cocktail! If you're like me, you love the longer days, the warmer nights and the prospect of savoring more outdoor time with friends and family.

In recent years, I've seen a trend in clients asking for my help to create more comfort and luxury in their backyards, patios and poolside. In fact, I just finished designing an outdoor room for a client complete with a reclaimed brick fireplace, antique Castle stone paver floor and a roof enclosure inspired by a Hawaiian lanai. He's thrilled to have an outdoor space for casual entertaining while adding valuable square footage to his home's equity. Once just an eyesore dividing his family room from his pool, his new enclosed patio is a feature that stands alone as a focal point drawing guests year-round.

Exterior room enclosures, for example, have come a long way since those corrugated plastic lean-tos and jerry-rigged solariums that littered every home throughout the last half of the last century. Today, enclosures, and even patio covers come in a wide variety of options including either full coverage or lattice styles, French doors, electrical raceways for lights and ceiling fans, insulation, skylights and even low-E vinyl windows. The key is to assess your space and budget, and to be clear about how you want to use the new room.

An enclosed sunroom went from ho-hum to holy cow! with the addition of a custom banquette, sisal rug, window treatments and a wrought iron chandelier.

... continued on next page



*Vintage meets modern: reclaimed brick, French pavers, durable fabrics and an antique ceiling pendant come to life in this outdoor living room.*

*Photo Brandon Neff Design*

Now my client, in her lovely Lafayette cottage with views to the creek, has a glamorous space to entertain rain or shine, or to simply relax in with a good book.

Given that we're bathed in good weather more days than not this time of year, I'm surprised more people aren't living large outside. The biggest reasons most homeowners don't take advantage of their existing outside living space are that they're either poorly designed, don't offer protection from the sun or don't incorporate any of the standard creature comforts abundant inside. I'm here to tell you that a well-planned sunroom, enclosed porch or patio cover will change how you live in your home. When choosing what type of enclosure or addition would work best for you, here are a few things to keep in mind:

**Maintenance.** Do you want low, or no maintenance? There are many types of building supplies out there – reclaimed wood, synthetic and recycled materials, as well as embossed aluminum styles

that offer long-lasting durability. Some products even come with a limited lifetime warranty. Additionally, find out which options are best at lowering your energy costs and if any qualify for home energy efficiency improvement tax credits.

**Climate Control.** Whether you're looking for an open-air or an enclosed space think about ambient room air and how you'll control the temperature. A simple ceiling fan will afford you, and your guests, a cool breeze even on those hottest of days. Additionally, if you're looking to create an environment for entertaining large groups within an enclosed solarium, perhaps consider adding functional skylights that serve to add both natural light, and venting.

**Hardware & Software.** Never before have there been more choices in easy-to-care-for furniture, fabrics and upholstery designed specifically for outdoor use. Furniture made from sustainably harvested teak or all-weather wicker offer maximum style with minimal care. Also, look for exciting fabrics this

summer from dozens of manufacturers offering sun resistant, mildew hampering and stain repellent choices in more colors and patterns than you can imagine. Innovations in decking materials make it easier than ever to extend your living space. Vinyl, recycled, composite, pressure treated and Ipe are leading the way in providing lower cost, higher performing products for homeowners across the county. Never heard of Ipe? I suggest you check it out. Ipe is a hardwood harvested in South America that offers long-wearing beauty with minimal maintenance – a simple power washing can restore its natural good looks, and it has been awarded a Class A product rating.

**Hit The Deck.** Gone are the days of having to re-seal and re-stain your deck. Today, we have synthetic materials made to look like wood that offer the homeowner year-round function with minimal headache. These products are great for the environment and great for the pocketbook. With everything you need to create a custom look from rail-

ings, balusters, stairs and posts, modern decking can be a great do-it-yourself project.

Truly, living well outside is one of the great pleasures of life in California, so customizing your outdoor room is key to making the most of it. Now, where's that cocktail?



*Brandon Neff is a Bay Area based Interior Designer. He can be reached at [BrandonNeffDesign.com](http://BrandonNeffDesign.com) or at [brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com](mailto:brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com).*

## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded ...continued from page D2

### MORAGA

301 Lakefield Place, \$1,615,000, 5 Bdrms, 3962 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 4-10-12; Previous Sale: \$730,000, 07-12-95  
 471 Millfield Place, \$1,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 3644 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 3-29-12; Previous Sale: \$1,335,000, 07-14-06  
 7 Moraga Valley Lane, \$1,160,500, 4 Bdrms, 2802 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 4-11-12; Previous Sale: \$1,591,000, 09-16-05  
 230 Sheila Court, \$760,000, 5 Bdrms, 2290 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 4-5-12; Previous Sale: \$68,400, 01-03-74  
 1753 Spyglass Lane, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 3-29-12

### ORINDA

40 Camino Don Miguel, \$625,000, 3 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 3-29-12  
 12 Del Mar Court, \$1,170,000, 3 Bdrms, 2656 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 4-9-12; Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 07-13-05  
 8 Los Arboles, \$530,000, 2 Bdrms, 1108 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-4-12  
 11 Orchard Road, \$1,232,000, 4 Bdrms, 2788 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 4-10-12; Previous Sale: \$975,000, 09-08-08  
 52 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,071,000, 3 Bdrms, 2502 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 3-29-12  
 49 Robert Road, \$1,400,000, 5 Bdrms, 3840 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 3-30-12; Previous Sale: \$502,000, 07-25-97  
 78 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$925,000, 5 Bdrms, 1818 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-5-12  
 136 Spring Road, \$472,500, 2 Bdrms, 1667 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-10-12; Previous Sale: \$720,000, 01-03-05  
 100 Underhill Road, \$562,000, 3 Bdrms, 1887 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 3-30-12  
 50 Valley Drive, \$1,015,000, 4 Bdrms, 2195 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 4-10-12; Previous Sale: \$183,000, 07-19-79

## Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

### LAFAYETTE

Moraga Boulevard, 94549, BWI Limited, 04-02-12, \$561,000, 1504 sf, 3 bd  
 Willow Drive, 94549, RWW Properties, 04-09-12, \$595,197, 2234 sf, 3 bd

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**21 Knickerbocker Lane**  
Cul de sac location w/serene views. Beaut 3bd/2ba updated w/decorator touches. Hdwd floors, dual pane windows, remodeled kitchen & baths. Flat lot & cozy decks. Close to town.  
**Offered at \$794,500**



**71 Ardilla Road**  
Country cottage charm of exceptional character. Enjoy a beautiful tranquil wooded pvt setting. Truly special 3bd/2.5ba w/updated kitchen, sunroom, formal LR & DR. A real gem!  
**Offered at \$869,000**



**221 Hall Drive**  
4bd/3ba 3000+ sf home with 2 family rooms, great .6 acre site. Fabulous opportunity! Update and reap the benefits.  
**Offered at \$929,000**



**50 Donna Maria Way**  
Freshly remodeled & enhanced 4bd/3.5ba approx. 2790 sf home. Grand scale "Great Room" w/spectacular deluxe modern kitchen, hdwd flrs, dual panes. Lg master, great outdoor living w/decks & patios.  
**Offered at \$1,295,000**



**109 Bear Ridge Trail**  
Dramatic 4bd/2.5ba contemp by award-winning architect, uniquely pvt wooded setting. Unobstructed views everywhere. Unequaled indoor/outdoor excitement w/more than 1800 sq ft of decking on 3 levels.  
**Offered at \$1,850,000**



**6 Rich Acres Road**  
Uncompromising quality in this 5bd/5ba new construction. Elegant architecture & exceptional attn to detail. Almost 1 ac of pvt park-like lot w/lawns & oak trees.  
**Offered at \$1,999,000**



**502 Miner Road**  
Beaut remodeled 5bd/3.5ba trad hm in one of Orinda's finest neighborhoods. Park-like 1 ac lot w/fruit trees, roses, lawns, rock garden, gazebo, blt-in BBQ, sports court.  
**Offered at \$2,389,000**



**1 Tappan Way**  
Simply exquisite custom built 5bd/3.5ba home with hardwood floors, 10 ft ceilings, chef's kitchen, French doors, many upgrades all in a private setting.  
**Offered at \$2,495,000**



**18 Las Piedras**  
Meticulous attn to detail in this 4bd/4.5ba Craftsman retreat on 1+ ac. Over 5700 sf incl det 1bd/1ba guest house. Hi ceilings, cherry cabinets, granite, hdwd, study w/pvt deck, theater.  
**Offered at \$3,300,000**



**26 Ross Drive**  
Turnkey 4bd/2ba cul de sac rancher w/hdwd floors thruout, gourmet kitchen/fam rm combo w/island, updated baths, fenced bckyd w/lawn & deck. Top schools!  
**Offered at \$859,000**



**567 Merriewood Drive**  
Beaut remodeled & expanded 4bd/3ba 2600 sf rancher in Burton Valley. Extensive upgrades & fab features. See photos at www.567MerriewoodDr.com.  
**Offered at \$1,225,000**



**8 Hawks Hill Ct.**  
Absolutely stunning pano views of Mt. Diablo, hills & Carquinez straits. Custom built in 2006 w/master suite, LR, DR, FR on main level, 3 more bdrms & 2nd fam rm downstairs.  
**Offered at \$1,389,000**



**110 Camelia Lane**  
Serene country retreat in Happy Valley. Stunning 5+bd/4ba contemp w/expansive windows, glass flrs, numerous decks w/natural outlook. Cook's kitchen, lg 2nd fam rm, hi ceilings, hdwd flrs.  
**Offered at \$1,395,000**



**3946 So. Peardale**  
Updated desirable 2400+ sf 3+bd/3ba lovely Upper Happy Valley ranch style hm w/designer touches on beaut lot. Open beam ceilings, formal dining, fam rm. Qtr sawn white oak floors.  
**Offered at \$1,395,000**



**1225 Monticello Road**  
Desirable Happy Vly Glen contemp 5bd/3.5ba on pvt 1.31 ac. Entertainer's delight, Tuscan style kitchen/fam rm, 3 view decks, gorgeous pool. Tastefully remodeled thruout. Ofc w/sep ent.  
**Offered at \$1,795,000**



**1937 Beacon Ridge Court**  
Gated Beacon Ridge townhome. 3bd/3 full baths, kit w/adj fam area. Prem ct loc. End unit w/pano views backs to open space. Beaut light home, grt floor plan, hi ceilings. Pool/tennis.  
**Offered at \$649,000**

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